



# 2025 Vestry Election Nominees

In January 2025 we will elect five new Vestry members: four to serve a three-year term and one to serve a one-year unexpired term. The Vestry Election will be held as part of the Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 26, 2025, at 9:15 AM.

The 2025 Vestry Nominees are: Sarah Brown, Michael Cooper, Gary Farlow, Abbey Fuller, Lori Jacob, Tammy Muth-Davis, Lou Patten, Tammy Randolph, Charles Serebutra, and Greg Thomas.



## Sarah Brown

Sarah Brown is thankful for the consideration for the Vestry at St. Luke's. She and her children found a church home here in 2013 and were confirmed in 2017. She is a teacher at Cleveland High School and an empty nest mom to her sweet tabby.

Sarah has served on Vestry once before, served as an EYC Advisor, chaperoned several local and out of town youth group trips, hosted Coffee Hour, participated in Home Gatherings and Education for Ministry (EfM). She currently serves in several church service roles including Greeter.

St. Luke's holds a very special place in her heart. She has been on the receiving end of a rich Christian fellowship and supportive Church community. If given the opportunity to serve on its Vestry, Sarah would work to foster opportunities for others in the church and community at large to experience spiritual encouragement.



## Michael Cooper

Michael Cooper relocated to the Cleveland area in 1995, with his wife Nancy and son Kyle.

Michael graduated from Texas A & M University in 1980 with a degree in Engineering Technology. Following a career in the mining, petro-chemical and nuclear industries Michael changed careers. He has been a Financial Advisor for over 25 years. Michael continues in this business in Cleveland partnering with his son Kyle.

Michael and Nancy have been confirmed members since 2019. Michael was a member of Pastor, Parish, and other committees at previous churches.

Michael and Nancy have enjoyed the fellowship of St. Luke's Home Gathering groups. It has been a special joy to watch their son and daughter-in-law and granddaughters grow and thrive in their faith and service in this parish.

St. Luke's is a very important part of Michael and his family's lives. The love and caring offered to all is especially meaningful. Michael is honored to be a nominee for the Vestry. If elected he will do his best to serve St. Luke's in any way.



## Gary Farlow

Gary was born and raised in Salisbury, Maryland where he graduated with a degree in Geography and Regional Planning from Salisbury State College. He and Sandy moved to Tennessee in 1978 to attend graduate school at UT's Graduate School of Planning. His career included jobs as a City Planner with the City of Knoxville, City of Maryville Planner, and Director of Planning for Blount County. He also worked in the field of Economic and Community Development with the Blount County Chamber of Commerce, Greeneville Chamber Partnership and most recently with the Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce.

Gary, Sandy, and their family moved to Cleveland in 2002 when he accepted a position with the Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce as their VP of Economic Development. He retired as the Chamber's President and CEO in 2019. Gary and Sandy first attended St. Luke's on Thanksgiving Day 2002 and fell in love with the church and its welcoming congregation when Dan and Bobbie Crook insisted we join them for the Thanksgiving luncheon in the Parish Hall instead of going to Cracker Barrel for lunch. Gary said, "We knew immediately that we had found our new church home."

The Farlows have been members of St. Luke's for a little over 22 years. Gary has been a member of St. Luke's Vestry (two terms), Choir, Finance Committee, Stewardship Committee, Men's Group, and Chaired the Fund-Raising Committee for St. Luke's Organ restoration. He is a graduate of the Education for Ministry program (EFM) administered through the School of Theology of the University of the South at Sewanee and also serves St. Luke's as a Lector and Chalice Bearer. Gary considers St. Luke's to be the most loving, vibrant and active church in which he has ever been a member. He says it would be an honor to serve on the Vestry again and be a part of the continuing growth of our ministries.



## **Abbey Fuller**

Abbey Fuller has been a member of St. Luke's since 2010 and was confirmed in 2012. Abbey is the daughter of Michael and Shelia Fuller, the sister of Eliot Fuller, and is engaged to Duncan Waddell.

Throughout middle and high school, she was actively involved in St. Luke's EYC. During this time, EYC provided multiple opportunities to represent St. Luke's which included acolyting at the National Cathedral in 2015 and serving at multiple Happenings. In college, Abbey joined the Trailhead Ministry.

Abbey has a passion for youth ministry. She served as a coach for Girls on the Run at St. Luke's in 2021 and loved being able to educate and develop relationships with younger members of our parish and community. Abbey has worked in the Nursery since 2021, and was officially made the Nursery Supervisor in 2022. She loves to be able to care for and have a small part in our parish's children's lives.

Abbey accepted the invitation to be the Vacation Bible School Coordinator in June 2024. She stated how rewarding the entire process was and how grateful she was to have so many volunteers. Abbey has a passion for leading the youth of the church and she emphasized how important it is to use VBS as an opportunity to reach more members of our community.

Abbey is currently in the nursing program at Cleveland State Community College and will graduate May 9th, 2025. She has a passion for critical care, and found her purpose in caring for others and advocating for equal health care opportunities for all.

Abbey is proud to be a member of St. Luke's because of the accepting community it has displayed. St. Luke's is a diverse parish and she believes each member is valuable and necessary to spread God's love.

Abbey is humbled to receive this vestry nomination. She says, "St. Luke's is a vital part of my life and spirituality and I would be honored to serve our parish in this capacity."



## **Lori Jacob**

Lori Jacob began attending St. Luke's in 2022 with her husband Brian and their children. Lori and Brian were received in 2023 and are very active in the life of the parish.

Lori graduated from Union University in 2007 with a BA in Christian Ethics and Sociology. She is passionate about Christian formation and enjoys reading and discussing Biblical studies. She has brought these interests to St. Luke's Adult Formation ministry where she has led several Adult Bible Study classes on Sunday mornings and co-leads the Women's Bible Study. Lori also serves as a Lector and loves the opportunity to read Scripture aloud to the congregation.

Lori's greatest joy is in being a stay at home mom to her two children, Audrey and Ethan, who both delight and exasperate her on a daily basis.

Lori loves St. Luke's and the life that she and her family have found here and would be honored to serve the parish as a member of the Vestry.



## **Tammy Muth-Davis**

If elected to the Vestry, Tammy believes it is her responsibility to support St. Luke's mission by prayerfully seeking God's guidance for decisions and actions concerning the present and future state of the church, community, and family.

An Episcopalian for 28 years, she is a Cursillista who made her Cursillo in 1999. Since then, she has served on multiple weekends as staff and Lay Rector for ETEC 27 and as a board member for the ETEC Community.

In 2015, Tammy and her husband, Stephen, moved their membership to St. Luke's, marking 10 years as members this year. They were drawn to St. Luke's for its children's ministry, adult education opportunities, strong outreach programs, and the warmth, welcome, and fellowship they experienced.

During their time at St. Luke's, Tammy has served in many capacities, including hosting Coffee Hour, supporting Loaves and Fishes, teaching Sunday School, serving on a discernment panel, participating in youth events, contributing to the Women's Retreat committee, engaging in Home Gatherings, and supporting the hospitality team. She has also served as a Lector, Chalice Bearer, Acolyte, Altar Guild member, Usher, and Greeter. Additionally, she has helped decorate the church for Christmas, Easter, and other feast days to enhance the worship experience in the beautiful space.

Tammy asks the congregation to prayerfully consider their vote and listen to God's guidance, expressing honor in being nominated. She is confident that God will place her where she can best serve Him and feel blessed to worship alongside the community, experiencing Christ's love through the relationships she has formed.



## **Lou Patten**

Lou is a lifelong Episcopalian and member of St. Luke's, having been baptized at St. Luke's as an infant. He currently serves as Chairman of the Mission for Ministry Committee, and has been Stewardship Chairman for many years. Lou serves as an Acolyte, Lector, and Chalice Bearer, is a long-time participant in the Men's Prayer Breakfast, and is Chairman of the Buddy and Jane Patten Scholarship Committee. He has served St. Luke's in many capacities throughout the years as a member of the Vestry and Senior Warden, and on the Finance and Personnel Committees.

Lou and his wife, Debbie, are regular attendees at the 9:30 service on Sundays, and often at the 12:10 Thursday service. His sister Janey Patten and her family are also very active in the life of St. Luke's, as were their parents, Jane and Buddy Patten when they were living. Lou is an Associate Partner with Cornerstone Insurance Group, and has been active in many local and state community organizations through the years.

"I am honored to be nominated for St. Luke's Vestry. If elected, I believe my history with the parish and my business background will be helpful in meeting the responsibilities of the Vestry."



## **Tammy Randolph**

Tammy Randolph grew up in Des Moines, IA and is the youngest of 9 children. She has been married for 37 years, has two adult children and two grandchildren. Her grandson, Silas, attends St. Luke's with her and is active in Jr. EYC and serves as a Lector and Acolyte.

Tammy and her family have lived in several parts of the country as they moved with her husband's job but have always considered Cleveland to be home and were very happy when they were able to return to Cleveland in 2005. Tammy has been employed at the Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce for nearly 20 years and serves as the Director of Investor Development and is the Administrative Support for the Bradley-Cleveland Industrial Development Board.

Tammy has been attending St. Luke's since 2006 and was received into the Episcopal Church in 2007. She completed EFM, Education for Ministry, in 2014 and then served as a Mentor for the class at St. Luke's until it went on hiatus. She started Loaves and Fishes, St.

Luke's outreach to the Cleveland Emergency Shelter, in 2014 and facilitated it until 2019 when she returned to school to get her associate's degree at Cleveland State Community College.

Over the course of time here at St. Luke's, Tammy has served as an EYC Advisor, participated in the Parish Life Committee, Home Gathering groups, served as an Acolyte, Lector, Chalice Bearer, Usher, Altar Guild member, and most recently the Prayer Shawl Ministry. She served as Senior Warden during the organ renovation.

As St. Luke's migrated to online services during COVID, Tammy has been serving as an Online Greeter to enhance the community feel to the online members.

As part of her Diocesan involvement, Tammy attended and served as an adult staff member for several Happening weekends. She attended and served on several Cursillo teams, including as Lay Rector for Cursillo #42, and served on the Secretariat for East Tennessee Episcopal Cursillo. She was a member of the Search Committee for the 5th Bishop for the Diocese of East Tennessee that resulted with the ordination of Bishop Brian Cole. Last summer, she joined the youth as chaperone and volunteer for the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

Tammy says, "I have been blessed to be a member at St. Luke's and am honored to be nominated for Vestry. This is a wonderful, loving, thriving parish and I will do my best to serve St. Luke's in any capacity I am called."



## **Charles Serebutra**

Raised in a Christian home, Charles experienced a profound spiritual awakening amidst a mid-life crisis. Divorce and despair threatened to extinguish his faith, but the love and support of his fellow believers reignited his hope. He discovered a profound grace within his suffering, transforming his pain into a renewed purpose: to share the message of God's love with the world.

Before joining St. Luke's, Charles began sharing this message of love and hope in several ways: by leading men's prayer and Bible study groups; by mentoring children's spiritual and character development through youth ministry and sports; and by volunteering with charitable organizations like the United Way, Habitat for Humanity, and Legal Aid of East Tennessee. Now, with a compassion for those struggling with homelessness, he frequently supports the Loaves & Fishes ministry. He desires a deeper connection with St. Luke's and is grateful for the Christian fellowship of the Men's Prayer Breakfast.

Charles brings to St. Luke's 26 years of experience as a corporate lawyer at CBL Properties. He possesses strong leadership, strategic thinking, and problem-solving skills honed in the corporate world. As a leader in the legal community, he serves on the Association of Corporate Counsel Chattanooga leadership committee and previously taught business law at UTC. His academic background – an MBA, JD and Economics degree – equips him with strong financial management, stewardship, and conflict resolution skills. As the father of two teenagers, he understands the importance of faith and family. Charles welcomes the opportunity to serve St. Luke's in any meaningful way.



## **Greg Thomas**

Greg is honored to be nominated to serve on the Vestry after a relatively short time at St. Luke's and in the Episcopal tradition (2023). Greg is a native of Kingsport, TN and graduate of UTK where he received a BS Degree in Business Administration and an MSP degree in urban planning. He worked in local government in Georgia and Florida before moving to Cleveland with his wife Nancy and their three children in 2000. Greg retired from the City of Cleveland in 2023 where he served in various planning and grant writing roles.

Greg has served as a Baptist Deacon in two churches, where he had ministry and administrative duties. He presently serves on the Board of City Fields Community Development Corporation which addresses housing and other needs in Cleveland's lower income neighborhoods.

Greg and Nancy are currently participating in St. Luke's Education for Ministry (EfM) class to equip themselves for ministry in their retirement. Greg is interested in how St. Luke's ministries can serve needs in Cleveland and beyond.