

PALMER MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**Vestry & Lay Delegate Nominees
FOR THE ELECTION DURING THE ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2022, AT 12:30 PM**

**EARLY VOTING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM**

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Upon the unanimous recommendation of the medical and public health professionals at Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church who have been advising the Rector throughout the current pandemic, and in consultation with the Senior and Junior Wardens, the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, January 23, will be held at 12:30 PM online rather than in person. With one exception, we will follow the same guidelines that were used last year and that were provided by the Episcopal Diocese of Texas for holding an online Annual Meeting. So the Annual Meeting will take place in a webinar format on Zoom, which means that registration ahead of time is required. Several reports on the parish will be presented orally at the Annual Meeting, and the entire Annual Report will be available on Palmer's website at palmerchurch.org.

The only difference this year is that, per the Diocese, we are able to resume offering early voting on the previous Sunday, January 16, from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM, either online or in person, for those who cannot be present for the Annual Meeting or who do not have enough devices for multiple voters in their households to use for voting during the Annual Meeting. There will be a special email from the church on Friday with detailed instructions about how to cast an absentee ballot online and also with a link to video presentations of the Vestry candidates. For those who are unable to cast their absentee ballot online, parishioners representing the Vestry will be at the Welcome Table in front of the Church from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM in order to make available early voting with a paper ballot.

The following persons are nominated to serve on the Vestry of Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church and to serve as Lay Delegates from Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church to the Annual Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas. All nominees have consented to their nominations and have given assurance that, if elected to the offices or positions for which nominated, they will serve faithfully.

Vestry Nominees

(Five persons are to be elected to serve three-year terms, 2022-2025.)

Elizabeth Wilby (Bet) Hunter
Andrew Montgomery (Andy) Williams
Pamela Jill Barber Harvey
Marie Olivia DeCrescenzo (Marie) Wehrung
Margaret McIntosh (Margie) French-Dieter
George Van Kirk (Kirk) Waldron
David Andrew Candler
Catherine Ruth Thompson
Thomas A. (Tom) Jackson
Abigail Ruth Follmar

Lay Delegate Nominees

*(Two persons are to be elected to serve two-year terms, 2022-2023, and two persons will serve as Alternate Delegates for one-year terms, 2022.)***

Helen Lawrence Toombs
David Landis
Catherine Lynne (Cathy) Troisi
David Lee Palma
Kathy O'Keefe Herrin
J. Victor Lamas

***Each year the Parish sends four Lay Delegates to the Annual Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas. Denise Zwicker and Catherine Beebe, Palmer's two Lay Delegates elected in 2021, will complete their two-year terms with their service in 2022.*

VESTRY NOMINEES

NAME: Elizabeth Wilby (Bet) Hunter

ADDRESS: 4026 Turnberry Circle, Houston, TX 77025

NAME(s) AND AGE(s) OF CHILDREN: Sarah Miller, 27, and Bill Hunter 28

EMPLOYER/OCCUPATION: Banker, SG Americas Securities LLC

EDUCATION: St Johns High School, Houston; University of Kentucky, BA in Economics, Minor in Math; Executive MBA, University of Houston

PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS: Finra Securities Licenses Series 79, 63, 24

HISTORY OF PALMER MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION: I was confirmed at St Mark's Episcopal here in Houston, and my family moved to Palmer in the early 1970's when I was in middle school, and I started "aiding" Josephine Strobel with preschoolers on Sundays. Charlie Wyatt-Brown married my husband and me in 1992, and my son Bill was baptized here in 1995; Sarah was born in New Orleans. I taught Sunday School here, from ~1999 to ~2008, and have been on the Finance Committee since 2013, and the Board of the Palmer Endowment since 2016, and also served on the Membership Task Force this past year.

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY: I was born in Tokyo, Japan, but we moved to Houston when I was 3 when Dad took a position at Rice. Palmer is ingrained in my adolescent and adult memories. Professionally, right after undergrad, I started in a bank training program in Houston and have been in commercial and now investment banking ever since. I love Palmer deeply, and many people have heard me say that "Palmer saved my life", as thanks to the spiritual teaching and support from so many in this parish, I was led into a profound and personal relationship with Jesus Christ at a time of great confusion and hurt and worry in my life.

HOW YOU WILL HELP PALMER ACHIEVE OUR MISSION TO KNOW AND SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST: I see great potential for Palmer as we come out of the pandemic, as people are hungry for fellowship. Ideas include small interest groups, and/or service days to help with campus maintenance/cleaning/grounds/gardening care. I think the parish needs at least quarterly discussion forums with the Rector and Senior Warden, with the goal of a more broad based and early stage communication

between the parish and the Clergy, Staff, and Vestry. With the wonderful turnout here at Palmer on Christmas Eve, we know that Palmer can bring people in, and live into our Mission: "To Know and Share the Love of Jesus Christ".

NAME: Andrew Montgomery (Andy) Williams

ADDRESS: 4515 Silverwood Drive, Houston, TX 77035

NAME OF PARTNER/SPOUSE: Ruth E. Piller

NAME(S) AND AGE(S) OF CHILDREN: Miranda, 24, Olivia, 23

EMPLOYER/OCCUPATION: Self/attorney

EDUCATION: BA, Journalism and English, Texas A&M University, 1980; JD, University of Texas, 1989

PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS: Board certified, Personal Injury Trial Law, Texas Board of Legal Specialization; Associate, American Board of Trial Advocates

HISTORY OF PALMER MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION: I came to Palmer in 1996 and fell in love with the music and with the spirit of service that pervaded the parish. I am a long-time member of the choir, where my job is to avoid messing up the beautiful sound made by people who can really sing. I have also served as a lector for many years.

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY: I was managing editor of Texas A&M's student newspaper and went to work as a journalist. I came to Houston in May 1981 as a reporter for the Associated Press and then The Houston Post, for whom I covered the Harris County criminal courts. I watched lawyers try cases every day, thought "I can do that," and went to law school. Since 1989, I have handled personal injury and business litigation for both plaintiffs and defendants.

HOW YOU WILL HELP PALMER ACHIEVE OUR MISSION TO KNOW AND SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST: Palmer is in a crucial period during which we will have to make decisions relating to our membership, facilities, resources and mission. I have the experience and training to assist in evaluating some of the options that are under consideration regarding managing our resources. As a Vestry member, I will do everything I can to help Palmer continue bringing the light of Christ to the community through our beautiful liturgy and tradition.

NAME: Pamela Jill Barber Harvey

ADDRESS: 222 E. 12th St, Houston, TX 77008

NAME OF PARTNER/SPOUSE: Jack Harvey

NAME(S) AND AGE(S) OF CHILDREN: Abraham Harvey, 12, Charlie Harvey, 11

EMPLOYER/OCCUPATION: Gulf Energy Information, VP Finance & Operations

EDUCATION: High School: Coombe Dean Comprehensive, Plymstock, Plymouth, UK.
College/University: London Metropolitan University; Master of Business Administration

PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS: Associate Member of Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

HISTORY OF PALMER MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICATION: My legs were sprinkled with holy water on the marathon route in 2005! Jack and I joined the community in 2006 and were married by Rev. Kristen Sullivan in February 2007. Our children were both baptized at Palmer. I have served as Treasury for the ECW and served on the Women's Retreat Committee for two different retreats. I served a four-year Vestry term starting in 2013 during which time the Palmer pre-school and the Way Station were closed down and a new Rector was chosen. I was a Lay Delegate in 2019 and 2020. The role I am probably most known for is as the Safeguarding Records Administrator and a Safeguarding God's Children trainer; I have served in these roles for Palmer since 2013.

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY: I was born in Dunfermline, Scotland in 1974. My father was an engineer in the UK's force of nuclear submarines and with his job moved to Plymouth, England where I grew up. I qualified as an Accounting Technician in a Plymouth based college then moved to London in 1998. Further studies qualified me as a Chartered Management Accountant. While working at a large publishing company based in central London I was allowed the opportunity to study for a Master's degree in International Business. In 2003 shortly after, my employer bought Gulf Publishing Company (now known as Gulf Energy Information) in Houston, and I accepted the role of Finance Manager to replace the retiring CFO. I met my husband Jack in 2005 while training for the 2006 Houston Marathon. We have since been blessed with two children.

HOW YOU WILL HELP PALMER ACHIEVE OUR MISSION TO KNOW AND SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST: I strongly believe that Palmer Church's vision should be one of community outreach. God moves through the Palmer community to bring all types of people together, and I believe these diverse people should be linked by a common goal of providing a safe, rewarding and fulfilling spiritual life for those we touch. By example and by encouraging participation I would love to see the Palmer Church attendees to become members and participate in any way they can. This is the way I see God working in our community, using our hands to do good works, using our mouths to encourage awareness and tolerance and using our hearts to be kind to all God's creatures around us.

NAME: Marie Olivia DeCrescenzo (Marie) Wehrung

ADDRESS: 5706 Kuldell Drive, Houston, TX 77096

NAME OF PARTNER/SPOUSE: Len Wehrung

NAME(s) AND AGE(s) OF CHILDREN: Olivia, 22, Gaby, 20

EMPLOYER/OCCUPATION: Rice University / Talent Development

EDUCATION: MS Human Resources - Texas A&M University - Central Texas; AB Biological Sciences - Smith College

PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS: ACC (Associate Certified Coach); SPHR (Senior Professional In Human Resources); SHRM-SCP (Senior Certified Professional In Human Resources)

HISTORY OF PALMER MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICATION: Member since 1995. Adult Choir member from 1995 - 1999. Married at Palmer in 1996. Baptized Olivia and Gaby at Palmer in 2000 and 2002. Sunday School teacher (2004-2015). Palmer Girl Scout troop leader (2007-2015). Small group participant (since 2011). Vestry (2015-2018). Serve Sunday ministry co-lead (2021-present)

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY: I'm a high energy Texas transplant from NYC. By day I make a difference at Rice by monitoring and managing risk related to human resources, and ensuring employees have the skills they need to move themselves and the university forward. By night I make a difference at home as a dedicated wife and mother. I also make a difference to my coaching clients and the coach community. I'm passionate about my family, my work in talent development, my connections with special people in my life, and my coaching. For fun I run, practice yoga, and knit.

HOW YOU WILL HELP PALMER ACHIEVE OUR MISSION TO KNOW AND SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST: Growing up in the Roman Catholic church, we used to sing a hymn whose words included "they'll know we are Christians by our love." Living my life consistent with that is the first way I will help Palmer achieve our mission. Another tangible way I will help Palmer achieve our mission is by becoming clear about the needs that exist in our Palmer community (and beyond), and taking action to help address those needs. Finally, I will help us achieve our mission by engaging with members and visitors, supporting families and ministries that serve them (a passion of mine), and showing up (and encouraging others to do the same).

NAME: Margaret McIntosh (Margie) French-Dieter

ADDRESS: 240 W 24th St, Houston, TX 77008

NAME OF PARTNER/SPOUSE: Jeff Dieter

NAME(s) AND AGE(s) OF CHILDREN: Sarah Dieter, 24, Jack French, 23, Lauren Dieter, 21, Nina French, 20, Marjorie French, 17

EMPLOYER/OCCUPATION: Rice University, Biophysics Graduate Program Manager

EDUCATION: BA English/Biology, Rice University 1992, PhD Biochemistry 1999, UT GSBS

HISTORY OF PALMER MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICATION:

Joined Palmer in Feb, 1994, Confirmed Nov. 1994

Verger 1995-current, Head Verger 2015-2019

Teacher/Leader for HS Sunday School/EYC 1995-1999

Chalice bearer & Lector 2007-current

Worship Committee, 1996, 2015-2019, Chair 1997-1999

LEM 1998-1999

Stephen Minister 1998-1999

20's & 30's Group founding member, 1995, member 1995-1999

Diocese of Texas Stewardship Team member 2002-2007

Palmer Stewardship Team member 2002-2007, 2010-2012, Chair 2007, 2010-2012

Vestry 2003-2005, 2012-2015

Palmer Outreach Ministry Coordinator 2005-2007

Christ Church Calgary (Anglican) Stewardship co-chair 2008-2009

Sunday School teacher 2010-2012

Holy Spokes MS150 member 2006-current

Youth Acolyte trainer/scheduler 2014-2018

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY: After completing my PhD and two postdocs in the early 2000s, I realized I didn't want to be a professor and spent time away from research before taking a position back at Rice in 2010. My current position allows me to support graduate students around the country, dabble in grant writing, learn about bee swarms, robotic snakes, and synthetic cells at meetings around the world.

After 19 years of marriage and a divorce, I recently celebrated my fifth year of marriage with Jeff Dieter, for whom I will be forever thankful. Also, my kids are awesome.

HOW YOU WILL HELP PALMER ACHIEVE OUR MISSION TO KNOW AND SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST: I would like to see Palmer do more. We have this Reconciliation Ministry – let's do more with it! We're a member of the Cross of Nails, how can we do more with that? Are we still doing Taize? Let's do that again! I want to find ways to bring new people to Palmer through means we currently have, and think of some new ways too. Let's host concerts for Rice Shepherd School students. Can we host a farmer's market on Saturdays? What can we do to connect with the world around us, serve them, and invite them to join us?

NAME: George Van Kirk (Kirk) Waldron

ADDRESS: 6223 Golden Forest Drive, Houston TX 77092

NAME OF PARTNER/SPOUSE: Donna Joan

NAME(S) AND AGE(S) OF CHILDREN: Kristen Leigh, 47

EMPLOYER/OCCUPATION: President and Owner of Kirk Waldron Equipment, Inc., Sitework Contractor

EDUCATION: The Harvey School, The Lawrenceville School, The University of Houston

HISTORY OF PALMER MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION: Lifetime Palmer member since 1942, Vestry member 10 years, Junior Warden 6 years. Present committees: Finance, Worship, Building and Grounds. Captain of the 11:00 ushers and greeters for over 30 years. Very active in the maintenance of the campus for many decades. Have done numerous Outreach programs. Organized the acquisition and installation of the change ringing bells from Whitechapel Foundry in London, Founding member of the Palmer Change Ringers. Member of the Palmer Church Construction oversight committee for the construction of the Bridge Building.

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY: I'm a cradle Episcopalian. Grew up in Palmer and was a boy acolyte under Fr. Stanley Smith. Attended preparatory schools in New York and New Jersey, and the University of Houston. United States Air Force for 6 years. Fr. Charlie married us in 1968. Was a V.P. of Spaw Glass Construction Co. for 20 years. Started my own sitework construction company in 1988 and completed hundreds of projects for 25 years. Presently semi-retired but still active in administration of major projects.

HOW YOU WILL HELP PALMER ACHIEVE OUR MISSION TO KNOW AND SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST: By providing a steady guiding hand for the future of the Parish by utilizing my experience and knowledge of our community. I think growing the Parish is fundamental in our future and knowing and sharing the love of both Jesus Christ and how that permeates through our community is the good news that we have to offer and we have to get that news out. Our experiences with Covid has caused our Parish to draw back from services and we need to encourage their return and help allay fears of participation.

NAME: David Andrew Candler

ADDRESS: 14507 Broadgreen Dr., Houston, Texas 77079

NAME OF PARTNER/SPOUSE: Amanda

NAME(s) AND AGE(s) OF CHILDREN: Evan, 12, Zoe, 10

EMPLOYER/OCCUPATION: ExxonMobil / IT Product Manager

EDUCATION: BBA in Information & Operations Management, Texas A&M University (2002); MS in Management Information Systems, Texas A&M University (2004)

HISTORY OF PALMER MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICATION: My wife and I joined Palmer in 2008 soon after we were introduced to it by a Facebook like from fellow parishioner Kip Krause. Both of our children were baptized here, and we served as coordinators of the host families in the St. Bede's Family Service for several years until the program ended in 2015. Through the years, we have been active members of the parents of young children Sunday discussion group, have participated in Serve Sunday activities at the Star of Hope and New Hope Housing. I was a Sunday school teacher for the kinder/1st grade group in 2018 and 2019, and I have served on the vestry since May 2021 when I stepped into Randy Byrd's open position.

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY: I grew up in Terrell, Texas as an active member of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd. In high school, I was a staffer/leader in Happening, a Christian experience program presented by teenagers, for teenagers with help from clergy/lay adult leadership. I attended Texas A&M University, where my wife and I met in class our senior year. After grad school, I moved to Houston and joined ExxonMobil, where I have spent most of my career in IT. My family is very passionate about sports, and much of our personal time involves coaching, playing, and watching sports together.

HOW YOU WILL HELP PALMER ACHIEVE OUR MISSION TO KNOW AND SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST: On the vestry, I will do my best to support and further utilize Palmer's welcoming and inclusive style as a vehicle to help achieve our mission. I will openly and thoughtfully listen to the needs of current Palmers and our broader community, reflect on what I hear, and provide my honest and candid opinions and recommendations during vestry discussion. When decisions are made, I will fully support them and help educate others about what we are doing and why. I am especially interested in positively influencing our youth programs and ministries serving those in need in the community.

NAME: Catherine Ruth Thompson

ADDRESS: 1119 Allston Street, Houston TX 77008

EMPLOYER/OCCUPATION: University of Texas Health Science Center Houston, Healthcare Risk Manager

EDUCATION: Westchester High School; UT Houston School of Nursing - Bachelor of Science, Nursing; UT Houston School of Public Health - Master's Public Health

HISTORY OF PALMER MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICATION: Member 2003; Bookstore; Healing Hearts; Greeter; Holy Spokes; Stephen Ministry; Vestry 2010; Domestic/International Missions; Inclusion Ministry; Social Justice Committee; EFM; Outreach Council; Clergy Search Committee; Blood Drive; Palmer Place Apartments; Funeral Guild volunteer; Reader; Chalice bearer; DOK.

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY: Born in Lafayette, LA; Moved to Houston 1962. Raised Presbyterian. Competitive swimmer 17 years; completed 20 marathons; completed 5 MS 150 rides. UT Austin ('75-'79).

Graduated UT Houston SON (BSN '81). Prior employment at St. Luke's Hospital as an OR nurse, Kelsey Seybold Clinic in cardiology and general medicine and at a law firm as a nurse legal reviewer. Graduated UT SPH (MPH '94). Employed at UTHSCH (1987-present; Healthcare Risk Manager). Volunteer/fundraiser Arthritis Foundation (Volunteer of the Year). Houston Marathon Medical Committee, 2009-present.

HOW YOU WILL HELP PALMER ACHIEVE OUR MISSION TO KNOW AND SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST: God wants each of us to embrace and remember our own stories and understand and accept who we are. In doing so, this will help each of us share the grace and unconditional love given to us within our church community and beyond. There have been so many new stories over these past, very challenging two years that hopefully we will use to share and grow in the love of Christ. As individuals with intelligence, feelings and many gifts, we know our responsibilities to society and the church. Specifically, we can step outside of ourselves into compassionate service to society, building up the church and honoring and respecting our fellow man. We are also diverse which offers many shapes of compassion and love for others. We have a spiritual side that enables us to be in relationship with God. And, we are social beings, thus we seek communities for support, and provide support to those communities, which take on many forms. As a church, our potential depends on the faithfulness of our leadership, as well as the community as a whole. As multiple faceted beings, we can share this love beyond Sunday, whether spiritual, financial, physical and/or educational. God's vision then is that we, in relationship with God, and each other, faithfully give of ourselves each and every day to all whose paths we cross regardless of the path and personal characteristics of those that we assist.

NAME: Thomas A. (Tom) Jackson

ADDRESS: 4810 Austin Street - Unit A, Houston, TX 77004-5682

NAME OF PARTNER/SPOUSE: Kay

NAME(S) AND AGE(S) OF CHILDREN: Arden Jackson McLean, 47, and Kate Jackson Potter, 44

EMPLOYER/OCCUPATION: University of Houston-Downtown - Lecturer, Accounting and International Business

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Business Administration - Texas Tech University, 1966 and Master of Science-Accountancy - University of Houston, 2014

PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS: Certified Public Accountant

HISTORY OF PALMER MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION: Kay and I were introduced to Palmer by our daughter, Kate Potter, and her husband Watson in 2002. From our first visit, we felt that we had found our church home; a place that would make a difference in our lives and where we could make a difference in the lives of others. We officially became members on September 1, 2003, when we moved our letter from Saint Martin's. The spirit of community is alive at Palmer and we are proud and excited to be a part of it. I have had the pleasure of serving our church community as a vestry member from 2004 - 2006, member and chairman of the Finance Committee from 2003 - 2006, as a Greeter, and as a Lay Eucharistic Minister.

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY: Kay and I married in June of 1971 and called Corpus Christi our home until 1998. While in Corpus, we owned and operated an industrial electronics distribution business. We moved to Houston when presented with the opportunity to acquire another electronics firm headquartered here. After thirty-three years in the electronics industry, we sold our last company in 2008. For the past ten plus years, I

have enjoyed the opportunity to impact our next generation of leaders as a professor of accounting at the university level.

HOW YOU WILL HELP PALMER ACHIEVE OUR MISSION TO KNOW AND SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST: I believe that God calls us as a church community to do three things. First, to provide a meaningful and spirit-filled environment for worship. Second, to provide stimulating programs and educational opportunities for a better understanding of God's plan for us. Third, we must be a catalyst for apostolic action. God has challenged us to provide leadership in providing a loving and intellectually fulfilling environment that will attract, enrich, and bring joy to all with which we are associated. We must accept that challenge and commit ourselves to take Christ to our community. As a Palmer vestry-person and communicant, I will be active in all three areas.

NAME: Abigail Ruth Follmar

ADDRESS: 7943 Knight Road, Houston, TX 77054

NAME OF PARTNER/SPOUSE: Scott Follmar

EMPLOYER/OCCUPATION: Jacobs / Architect / Construction Manager at Houston Methodist Hospital

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Environmental Design, Master of Science (Construction Management)

PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS: AIA

HISTORY OF PALMER MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICATION: I have been a member of Palmer since moving to Houston in 2002. Almost immediately, I got involved with the young adults group and helped lead the 20s & 30s group. That led me to many other opportunities such as Stephen Ministry, stewardship committee, evangelism and newcomers, Holy Spokes, alms counter and lector. My most recent focus has been as chair of the outreach committee and organizer of several Serve Sundays. I also have had the honor to serve on two vestries (2005 through 2007 and 2013 through 2015).

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY: I grew up in Abilene, attended Texas A&M and lived in BCS for many years. I am an architect and construction program manager for Jacobs serving Houston Methodist Hospital. I grew up in the Episcopal Church and have been blessed with several wonderful church homes during my life. With support of family and friends, many of whom are Palmer's, I met and married Scott Follmar 5 years ago. Liz Parker not only blessed us in the nave, but also baptized our two grandsons. I love family time, cooking, reading, running, quilting and spending time on the coast in Sargent.

HOW YOU WILL HELP PALMER ACHIEVE OUR MISSION TO KNOW AND SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST: I have always loved the simple and clear mission of Palmer and believe we should use it as a check when considering new programs and major decisions. By nature, we are always evolving and the recent pandemic has forced our whole society to change. Palmer is not immune and has proved to be nimble to quickly adapt. With so many changes, it can be hard to know what the future holds. With my previous vestry experience, I have been part of major parish transitions, including visioning sessions that have helped us refocus and move forward and will use that experience to maintain our mission while still growing.

LAY DELEGATE NOMINEES

NAME: Helen Lawrence Toombs

ADDRESS: 2102 Bartlett Street, Houston, TX, 77098

EMPLOYER/OCCUPATION: Rice University, Associate Director of Development

EDUCATION: B.A. by Rice University, 1979; J.D. by University of Houston School of Law, 1982

PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS: Attorney

HISTORY OF PALMER MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION: Cradle Episcopalian and native Houstonian, I transferred my letter to Palmer almost exactly 30 years ago. During that time I have served as lay delegate to several Councils: 1999, 2000, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2010. Also as clerk of the vestry (1995-2012), a member of the finance committee (1998-2009), and facilities chairman when Palmer hosted Council in 2003. For almost the entirety of my letter's being at Palmer I have been active with the altar and ushers' guilds, and a Daughter of the King.

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY: Saying that I am a lifetime resident of Houston is my biography, really. I thoroughly enjoy living, studying, worshipping, and working in this neighborhood. And for each of these areas of life I've always been active as a volunteer. I'm active with four civic associations for my neighborhood, with my class's activities at Rice, and (when I was actively practicing law) with professional organizations (including holding offices). Further, active with Palmer since I transferred to this parish of my ancestors, and active with the Diocese of Texas, on several boards, since 1999.

HOW YOU WILL HELP PALMER ACHIEVE OUR MISSION TO KNOW AND SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST: My work with both Palmer and the diocese are part of advancing their missions, with each of my activities and each day with prayer and loving my neighbors as myself. My service for Palmer as lay delegate serves the work of Council and the diocese.

NAME: David Landis

ADDRESS: 1206 S. Shepherd Dr., Houston, TX, 77019

NAME OF PARTNER/SPOUSE: Dario Gonzalez

EMPLOYER/OCCUPATION: Chevron / Commercial Analyst

EDUCATION: BA, George Washington University

HISTORY OF PALMER MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION: I started attending Palmer when Dario and I moved to Houston at the beginning of 2015. After doing some church shopping among the local Episcopalians, we decided Palmer was the right place for us. Since joining the church we both have been active in the young adults groups as well as acolyting on Sundays. Since 2018 I've been a member of the Stewardship Committee and at the beginning of 2020, I joined the Worship Council as the adult acolyte master.

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY: I've lived in Houston for the past seven years with my husband Dario, greyhound Hunter, and cat Peli. Before Houston, Dario and I attended George Washington University in Washington DC, where we met. GWU has no football team, so I find it hard to engage in the intense rivalries the Southern schools enjoy! Outside of work I enjoy being active: running at Memorial Park, taking Hunter on long walks, and playing occasional rounds of golf. I am also passionate about food, both when eating in unique restaurants, as well as when cooking and baking.

HOW YOU WILL HELP PALMER ACHIEVE OUR MISSION TO KNOW AND SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST: If selected as a Lay Delegate, I will seek to represent Palmer's diverse congregation. While Palmer lacks diversity in some ways, I feel our strength lies in our diversity of thought and openness to different perspectives. If selected, I will seek to represent the broad spectrum of opinions and lifestyles our church supports.

NAME: Catherine Lynne (Cathy) Troisi

ADDRESS: 3812 Ruskin Houston TX 77005

NAME OF PARTNER/SPOUSE: Ric Stoll

NAME(s) AND AGE(s) OF CHILDREN: Greg, 39; Jessica, 36; Carrie, 34

EMPLOYER/OCCUPATION: UHealth School of Public Health, Associate Professor

EDUCATION: B.A., Chemistry, U of Rochester; M.S., Biochemistry, Michigan State University; PhD, Epidemiology, U of Michigan

HISTORY OF PALMER MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICATION: We've been members of Palmer since 2004, originally brought here by the music but staying for the community (and the music!). During this time, I've served as an acolyte and a lay delegate to Diocesan Council and participated in Women's Bible study, Women's Retreat Planning Committee, Way Station, and the Dinner Discussion Group. I also serve as the "resident epidemiologist" during this pandemic, consulting with the clergy about how to keep Palmers safe. However, I am most proud of helping to create and establish (and currently coordinating) Palmers Assisting Reentry (PAR), a ministry to those recently released from prison.

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY: I grew up in upstate New York, moving to Houston after graduate school. My training is as an Infectious Disease Epidemiologist and I've worked most of my career in academia with a stint in the real world at the Houston Health Department. We have three children in Austin, St. Louis, and Brussels, with six grandchildren. I love to sing, performed for many years with Revels Houston and Masterworks Chorus, and am now singing with Houston Saengerbund. My other hobbies are reading, knitting, swimming/ biking/walking, and playing with my cat, Moussimo. Someday I'm going to learn to play the ukelele.

HOW YOU WILL HELP PALMER ACHIEVE OUR MISSION TO KNOW AND SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST: Embedded in my public health profession and philosophy is the idea of social justice, that is, fairness as it manifests in society. As a lay delegate, I would view and vote on policies and programs through this lens and use this concept to further the diocesan efforts in this direction. Jesus ate with the despised taxpayers, sinners, and prostitutes. While the Episcopal Church has made much progress in this area, we have a ways to go to reach the "beloved community". I would like to help us get there.

NAME: David Lee Palma

ADDRESS: 4014 Fatta Dr. Dickinson, TX 77539

NAME OF PARTNER/SPOUSE: David Madrigal

EMPLOYER/OCCUPATION: Memorial Hermann Health System / Talent Acquisition Recruiter

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Houston Clear Lake & Master of Business Administration in Human Resource Management from Fitchburg State University.

PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS: PHR (Professional in Human Resources) & SHRM-CP (Society for Human Resource Management - Certified Professional).

HISTORY OF PALMER MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICATION: I started attending Palmer in the fall of 2017, confirmed in November 2018, and married at Palmer in April 2019. I have served as an acolyte (Crucifer, Thurifer, Sever and Chalicebearer) since September 2019 and been active in the Palmer Pride Parade Team since its inception. I was also a member of the Membership Task Force Committee and attended the Parish Retreat in 2020. I recently completed (November 2021) the Community of Hope training in order to further serve our homebound members as a Eucharistic Visitor.

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY: I am a native of the Houston/Pasadena area and the youngest of three brothers. I graduated from a Christian school which I attended since the third grade and grew up in church my whole life. I was raised initially in the Assemblies of God denomination and later attended a non-denominational church, both of which I felt I never really belonged. I met my husband David Madrigal in 2017, who has been a member of Palmer since 2001, and started attending services with him. It was quite a change coming from my religious background to a liturgical church, but once I allowed myself to be open, I knew Palmer was the place I was supposed to be.

HOW YOU WILL HELP PALMER ACHIEVE OUR MISSION TO KNOW AND SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST: I am proud to say that I am a member of Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church. It is a place where all are loved and welcomed. It is not just a tag line but it is something that is felt when you walk in the doors. Palmer has been the most open and loving church I have ever attended, and I want others to experience that as well. I was never active in my previous churches and never felt spiritually fed until Palmer. For this reason, I am gladly active in our church serving as an acolyte and Eucharistic Visitor. I enjoy building meaningful relationships with members of our church. For the first time in my life, I am truly part of a church community and I already feel I am an ambassador for Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church and would be honored to serve as a Lay Delegate representing our church.

NAME: Kathy O'Keefe Herrin

ADDRESS: 4607 Mimosa Dr., Bellaire, TX 77401

NAME OF PARTNER/SPOUSE: Keith Herrin

NAME(s) AND AGE(s) OF CHILDREN: Neall Herrin Robinson, Arden Herrin, Jason Pfister, and Tyson Herrin.

EMPLOYER/OCCUPATION: General Dentist

EDUCATION: U of Houston BS in Biology 1981, UT School of Dentistry, D.D.S. 1985, UT Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Oral Biomaterials M.S. 2000.

PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS: General Dentist, Associate with Dr. Steven Vaughan at Contemporary Dental in Bellaire, Past President of the Greater Houston Dental Society, Delegate for the Texas Dental Association for the past 10 years.

HISTORY OF PALMER MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION: I joined Palmer and the Episcopal Church in 1989, and raised my children at Palmer. I have been a member of Palmer's Altar Guild for 20 years, Chair for 3 years, currently, Week 1 Team Leader. I have been Co-Chair of Hospitality Guild for at least 8 years, and was a Member of Palmer's Vestry 7-10 years ago. I was a member of Women's Bible Study for many years, helped to form an Interfaith Study Group, and volunteered with Jerusalem Peacebuilders. I am currently a member of Palmer Caregivers Group.

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY: I am a native Houstonian, and love Houston and all it represents. I attended University of Houston, UT Houston School of Dentistry, and immediately joined the faculty at UTSD, where I worked for 20 years. During my 40's, I decided to enter private practice, which has been my focus now for almost 20 years. I am married to Dr. Keith Herrin, retired dentist, and together, we have 4 children and 8 grandchildren. I joined Palmer right after marrying Keith in 1989 and it has been one of the best decisions of my life.

HOW YOU WILL HELP PALMER ACHIEVE OUR MISSION TO KNOW AND SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST: Since I have been caring for various elderly family members recently, the pandemic has forced me to stay closer to home. However, I am a volunteer by nature and have always enjoyed the various ministries I have been involved in at Palmer. I would like to continue to volunteer in ways that work for me in this phase of my life. My experience as a TDA delegate will help me to understand my job as your representative, and will allow me to advocate for all that being a "Palmer" and an Episcopalian represents. If elected, I look forward to serving Palmer in this new, exciting way.

NAME: J. Victor Lamas Jr

ADDRESS: 5239 Inker Street, Houston, TX. 77007

NAME OF PARTNER/SPOUSE: The Reverend Jeff Bohanski

EMPLOYER/OCCUPATION: Money Management International / Accounting Assistant

EDUCATION: Associate in Applied Science in Business Management

HISTORY OF PALMER MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION: I have been a member of Palmer for over 25 years. I am currently the Director of the Altar Guild and have been for over 4 years. I am also the Lay Leader of Worship Council, an Acolyte and Verger, a Community of Hope member for over 15 years, a Lay Eucharistic Minister and Pastoral Care Volunteer. I am also a past Vestry member and have participated in various pastoral care programs such as The Wemmicks (Care for the Elderly) and The Mourner's Path.

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY: I am a native Houstonian and have lived in Houston all my life except for two years when I lived in Jakarta, Indonesia (as an Expatriate with ExxonMobil). I completed my 37- year career in Information Management with ExxonMobil in 2017. I am currently working as a part time Accounting Assistant with Money Management International. When not working, I love and enjoy serving and assisting at Palmer. I also enjoy spending time with my family – my husband, sisters, nieces and nephews. My hobbies include gardening, reading, raising tropical fish and collecting music and memorabilia.

HOW YOU WILL HELP PALMER ACHIEVE OUR MISSION TO KNOW AND SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST: If elected as a Lay Delegate, I would be honored to represent Palmer. I would attend pre-Council meetings to educate myself on the budget of the Diocese of Texas and other information to help me be an informed delegate. I would strive to uphold key initiatives that support respecting the dignity of every human being.