



ST. LUKE IN THE FIELDS
487 HUDSON ST. NYC 10014

Candidate Statements for Warden & Vestry Elections 2026

About Warden & Vestry Elections

For the warden elections for 2026,
parishioners will be asked to elect one candidate for a 2 year term.

For the vestry elections,
parishioners will be asked to elect 3 candidates
to fulfill 3 year terms.

Candidates' statements and videos will also be posted
on St. Luke's website.

There will be a special opportunity to meet and greet candidates at
coffee hours on Sundays January 4 and 11, 2026.

The Annual Parish Meeting and announcement of election results
will be on Sunday, February 1, 2026.

Elections this year will once again be held online.
Election packets will be sent to parishioners in good standing via
email and snail mail.

Please look for your ballot on or around January 6.
If you have any questions about the elections, please contact the
Parish Office (asyedullah@stlukeinthefields.org | 212.924.0562).



Michael Cudney (*current incumbent*)

Years at St. Luke's: 14

I want firstly to say what a privilege it has been to serve as a Warden at St Luke's for the past two years. A tremendous amount of dedicated work has brought us to this point in our history as we are making huge strides ahead in our working bringing the Gospel work to our community.

It has also been an honor to work with the clergy, members of the Vestry, along with those who have volunteered their time and talent to various committees over the 14 years I've been a member of St Luke's. As Warden I've participated in the Strategic Planning Committee, which developed our plans for the new Mission Center building. Following that I've served on the Capital Campaign Committee, as the committee worked to raise funds for the building. Past committee work includes Nominating, Stewardship and Discernment. I also help coordinate the scheduling of our liturgical volunteers.

Additionally, I attend every month the regular meetings of the Finance Committee. St Luke's has been fortunate to have a group of dedicated individuals who have helped us steward the gifts we have been blessed with. Another monthly meeting is RAC – the Rector's Advisory Committee – at which my fellow Warden, Theresa Goldsborough and our Treasurer, David Moody, and Mo. Stacey, discuss issues that arise and affect the life of the parish.

Looking ahead, I see us continuing the work of our Mission Building project, and I very much hope that, if re-elected, I might still be serving as Warden when we are able to move into it and increase our many ministries that serve the neighboring community.

It has been very gratifying to see the numbers of people in our pews continue to grow. While I am a regular 11:15er where you will find me on the altar or in the Sacristy each Sunday, I also will occasionally attend the 9:15 service where I can witness firsthand the families and children who have been drawn to our community of faith.

I've been retired from the classical music business now for almost 10 years, and it has given me the freedom to be at St Luke's at various times to help whenever I can. Serving as Mass Assistant at our regular daily Mass at noon gives me particular pleasure.

Even though I have been fortunate to be able to give time to St Luke's, in my non-church time I enjoy reading, walking in my wonderful neighbor of Inwood, and researching my family tree. I've lived in Inwood for over 40 years with my husband Keith, and our son Artemis lives not far away in Harlem. Thank you for your time in reading this, and it would be an honor and privilege to receive your support for my re-election as Warden.



Grady Tarplee (*vestry incumbent*)

Occupation: Lawyer (with increasing daily regret)

Years at St. Luke's: 4.5

Activities at St. Luke's: Acolyte; Sunday School; Vestry.

Statement:

In the past four years at St Luke's, from when I first was welcomed on an August Sunday until today, I am reminded every day of just how fortunate I am to have been called to this community in Christ. Beyond its opportunities for parish members, St. Luke's fosters a genuine community to be a part of on Sunday morning and throughout the week. The individuals I have met here highlight just how present Christ is when two or more are gathered in His name. This is especially true with the support I received from St. Luke's during my stint overseas a while back, where I never felt isolated from the community.

St. Luke's engagement both internally and with the surrounding community and families shows just how essential the Vestry is for identifying and addressing the needs of its parish and non-parish community members – chiefly, by making every person's voice, both on and off the Vestry, worthy of consideration and being heard. This is especially true as St. Luke's enters a new and hopeful phase of mission growth, one where we can provide a lasting area of community interaction.

Furthermore, St. Luke's has an incredible number of gifts at its disposal, found in each of its members, and already does a fantastic job in discerning those gifts. My hope for the Vestry is that it continues in its work identifying, developing, and ensuring the personal and communal success of those gifts to the greater glory of God.

I am thankful to be considered as a Vestry candidate for 2026, and I pray for the continued success of St. Luke's, its Vestry, and all its members for 2026 and beyond.



Malachy Duffy

Years at St. Luke's: 5

Activities at St. Luke's: As a member of the Acolytes Guild, I regularly serve on the altar on Sunday at the 11:15 service and on other occasions. I have especially valued my time serving during Holy Week. I have been an active participant on the Mission Building Campaign serving on the Steering Committee. I also worked as a volunteer in all three phases of the contributions solicitation process. Additionally, I served as chair of the Kick-Off Campaign Event working closely with Father Ancona, and our terrific staff members Amina Syedullah and Hannah Sohn to create, despite challenging weather, a June event that

was well attended and well received. I also spoke in support of the Mission Building at a meeting of the Landmarks Committee of Community Board 2.

In my work as a journalist (I have been an editor and/or writer at publications including Food & Wine, Travel & Leisure, Town & Country, The New York Times) and as president for 10 years of my 142-apartment New York co-op, I have learned how important it is to gather as much information as possible when involved with a project, ask those questions that will illuminate the issues as best as possible, and—most important—listen to what others have to say. I would hope that I could apply these skills to help the vestry and the wardens in many ways. I also know how to package information in efficient and compelling ways, and would hope that could be useful to St. Luke's. And more generally but related: having worked as a journalist for many years, having grown up as the oldest of six children, and having lived and worked for several years in a country with a very different culture and difficult language—Japan—I've learned how important it is to try to have an openness to people and ideas and apply what I learn as productively as possible.

I came to St. Luke's at a time of turmoil in my spiritual life. After much difficult consideration, I decided to leave the church in which I had been raised and a parish in which I had been active for decades. After a few "test drives" at several Episcopal churches, I visited St. Luke's on a Sunday. A member of the vestry introduced me to Mother Stacey, who spoke to me at length and who arranged for me to see the inside of the church (then closed for work). As soon as I entered, I felt an enormous sense of peace. I knew I'd found my new spiritual home. I would hope that I could help others find that same peace and joy at St. Luke's.

As you might guess from my professional life, I have a deep love of travel and have been lucky enough to have visited every continent (but still have a list of places I want to go). I enjoy cooking, eating out, trying new wines and spirits—but am always happy with a tuna salad sandwich. I am blessed to have tiny cottage and garden up the Hudson and am working on creating a place for pollinators with native plants. I have a wonderful family, and it is a foundational joy to me that we all enjoy each other's company. And I have to say, I love living in Greenwich Village. I was born in the city, and living in the Village was always a dream.



Anthony Lanzillo

Hi, I'm Anthony Lanzillo, and I've been a parishioner at St. Luke's for the last three years. When I first started attending services, I was struck not just by the liturgical practice, but by the friendliness and welcome offered by parishioners. I immediately felt at home. It's this welcome that draws me back each week, whether to Eucharist or to Arts & Acceptance, and which calls me to the Vestry.

In high school, I was the youth delegate to my church's Vestry, and I feel called to lay leadership for similar reasons: a chance to share a younger perspective on parish life and decision making, and to better understand all of the work that goes into making this block a welcoming place for hundreds of people a week. After all, the next three years have some big changes on the block. Once we build the mission building, we need to fill it—with church programs, outreach programs, and community events. I will use my experience in community outreach to aide the Vestry and the congregation in planning for the use of the new mission building—and to invite all members of our West Village community into our life and space.

Some other things about me: I'm a long time singer, and a very big fan of the St Luke's choir. I'm a NYC transplant: I grew up outside of Chicago—Midwest is the bestwest—and in a family of four boys—so I'm very good at conflict resolution. And I love literature, of all stripes—you can always give me books recs!

Please say "Hi" if you want to get to know me better, and I thank you for the opportunity to run for the St. Luke's vestry.



Justin Meno

Years at St. Luke's: 2-years

Activities at St. Luke's: Usher @ Sunday Service 11:15

Statement:

Hello, my name is Justin Meno and I have been at St. Luke's for 2 years. I serve as an usher at the 11:15 service. It would be an honor and privilege to be able to support St. Luke's in any capacity. With a background in business and finance, I believe I can help steward St. Luke's strategically, financially, and operationally towards sound practices and the ability, most importantly, in the mission of serving each other and others with humility. Giving back and helping others is truly at the root of every position.

I care deeply about the St. Luke's community and mission. It has been a spiritual home and has grounded me in humility and selflessness. I can see how much St. Luke's impacts others to provide love, strength, and resilience in handling life's highs and lows.

I truly enjoy helping others. I am passionate about finance, governance, and strategy with over 20-years in business. I hope to have a family one day and raise them in the kind of loving and supportive community that is St. Luke's. Three things to know about me are: 1) my compassion, 2) open-mindedness, and 3) reliability.



Valerie Komor

Years at St. Luke's: 31

Activities at St. Luke's: Liturgical Guild, Mass Assistant, Stewardship Cttee, Capital Campaign Cttee, Co-Chair Spiritual Emphasis Cttee, Catechumen Sponsor, Theology Reading Group

Statement:

I am honored to have been asked to run for a second Vestry term.

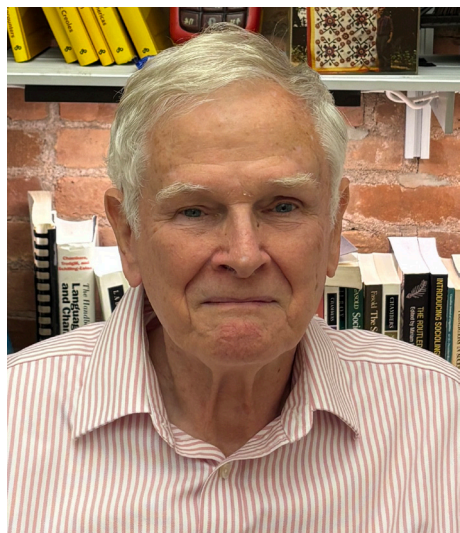
“Love bade me welcome.” These are the memorable opening words of George Herbert’s sonnet, “Love,” published in 1633. An Anglican parish priest, Herbert knew that this has always been the most difficult of invitations to accept, because it presupposes that we understand we are beloved by God to begin with. And therefore, “worthy to be here,” at the eucharistic feast and at the table of life itself.

At St. Luke in the Fields, I have been continuously welcomed by Love. Coming to this table has strengthened me to serve.

During Passiontide last year, I sponsored one of the catechumens for baptism. All I could offer was my presence, and some of Eliot’s poetry, and that was enough! Presenting her to the bishop was a joy. Last summer, I began assisting at weekday Eucharist, where I find not only comfort but community.

This past year, the Vestry has been engaged in raising funds for and approving the designs of our proposed Mission Building. I hope I can continue to support the Vestry, clergy, and the Wardens, through personal advocacy and in other ways, as we move toward the building’s realization. In form and substance, it is a beautiful space and so necessary to house our expanding mission.

I am grateful to the Nominating Committee for allowing me the chance to continue to give back some part of the love I have received over the years in such abundance.



John Singler

Years at St. Luke's: 2

Activities at St. Luke's: Acolyte Guild; Co-Leader, Antiracism Discussion Group; Antiracism Change Team.

Statement:

People take many paths to membership at St. Luke in the Fields. For me, it was a New Year's Resolution. I had been a member of another Manhattan parish for over thirty years, but my soul and my Christian witness stagnated. For 2023, I set out to find a new parish, a vibrant community where clergy and laity joined together in Christian service. I became a one-person search committee, and, like a search committee, I came up with a short list. Finally, in September, 2023, I made an appointment with Mother Stacey to tell her of my decision to join St. Luke in the Fields. I have never regretted my choice.

St. Luke's commitment to justice and social outreach matters to me. One Sunday during my church-searching, I was at St. Luke's, and Mother Stacey commented that anti-racism was something that everyone in the parish should be concerned with. I am now a co-leader of the Antiracism Discussion Group and a member of the Antiracism Change Team. I'm also a member of the Episcopal Diocese Anti-Racism Task Force. I like the range of social outreach programs at St. Luke's, and I will work to promote and bolster them.

Serving on the vestry now carries a dual responsibility. One part involves sustaining and growing St. Luke's in its present vibrancy, and the other doing everything possible to bring the Mission Building to fruition.

I served on the vestry in my previous parish, so I have a sense of what membership entails. That includes financial oversight, and from my career I have a range of experience with financial stewardship. Beyond that, I would like to think I bring two special talents to the vestry. One is a commitment to listening to others. The second is energy. The hymn "God of Grace and God of Glory" has the line "Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore." We have work to do, and I've been striving, at St. Luke's and in the city.

I got to know the Episcopal church when I was in Liberia. I had grown up Roman Catholic in a small Illinois town. When I was in college, I became fascinated by modern Africa. Upon graduating, I went to Liberia as a Lay Mission Volunteer for the Roman church. That didn't work out, but I wasn't ready to leave Liberia. That's when I got a job teaching at the Episcopal High School. It was a joyous job—eager, gifted students in a well-run school in a welcoming town midst stunning natural beauty. I was there for four-and-a-half years as teacher, librarian, and church organist. Half a century on, I remain connected to many of my former students.

Two aspects of my early years in Liberia have been central to my entire adult life. One is that teaching English turned me to language, leading me ultimately to a career as a university linguistics professor. The second occurrence is that I became part of a Liberian family. Ultimately, the family christened me “Big Pa,” and I am father, brother, uncle, grandfather, and great-grandfather. (A Liberian child can have more than one mother and more than one father.) As a gay man with no biological children, my Liberian family has provided me with a profound set of emotions—great wells of joy tempered by the anguish of Liberia’s civil war and then the impact of Ebola.

I had intended to be a professor in Liberia, but the country’s collapse into civil war made that infeasible. Instead, I ended up at NYU. I flourished there as I have in New York more generally. I see myself as a hardcore New Yorker, immersed in theater and art and architecture and savoring New York neighborhoods, with their mix of cultures and cuisines.

Quilting is a tradition that African Americans carried to Liberia when they immigrated there in the nineteenth century. My last big research project involved studying the linguistic interaction of a group of Liberian quilters. To my own amazement, I became the quilters’ connection to the US market. If you’d like to see their work, go to their page on my website <https://johnvictorsingler.wordpress.com/liberian-quilts/liberian-quilts-liberian-quilts-for-sale/> . While you’re on my website, you can also check out my collection of miniature Ghanaian coffins.

The Church of St. Luke in the Fields

The Reverend Caroline Stacey, *Rector*
212.924.0562 | cstacey@stlukeinthefields.org

The Reverend Andrew Ancona,
Senior Associate | 212.924.9327
aancona@stlukeinthefields.org

The Reverend Aidan Stoddart,
Associate | 212.924.0562
astoddart@stlukeinthefields.org

The Reverend Victoria Lewis,
School Chaplain & Associate
212.924.5960 | vlewis@stlukeinthefields.org

David Shuler, *Director of Music & Organist*
212.633.2167 | dshuler@stlukeinthefields.org

The Reverend Thomas Miller,
Assisting Clergy

The Very Reverend Patrick Malloy,
Assisting Clergy

ADMINISTRATION

Craig King, *Director of Business and Financial Operations* | 212.633.7817
cking@stlukeinthefields.org

Amina Syedullah, *Communications Manager*
212.647.1837
asyedullah@stlukeinthefields.org

Devon Cooper, *Senior Accountant*
212.924.1523
dcooper@stlukeinthefields.org

Andrew Forell, *Archivist*
212.924.0562a
aforell@stlukeinthefields.org

Jonathan Fernandez, *Facilities Director*
212.924.3080
jfernandez@stlukeinthefields.org

Elana Steinberg, *Thrift Shop Manager*
212.924.9364
esteinberg@stlukeinthefields.org

Hannah Sohn, *Outreach & Development Manager* | 212.414.7442
hsohn@stlukeinthefields.org

Karyna Martin, *Parish Office Administrator*
212.924.0562
kmartin@stlukeinthefields.org

ST. LUKE'S SCHOOL

Tracy Fedonchik, *Head of School*
212.924.5960 | www.stlukeschool.org

ST. LUKE'S VESTRY: Vestry@stlukeinthefields.org

Theresa Goldsborough & Michael Cudney,
Wardens

Melissa Cocco-
Fernandes
Bruce Goerlich
Michael Hudson
Samuel Jordan
Valerie Komor

Abby McConnell
Jack Spencer
Grady Tarplee
Naveen Thacker,
Clerk

Non Voting

David Moody, *Treasurer*
Doug Houston, *Recording Secretary*

December Vestry On Call:

Michael Cudney 917.374.9138
Michael Hudson 917.208.0383