



**STACY THORPE
Candidate for Deanery/
Diocesan Delegate**

I have been an active member of the Diocese and St. Mary's for several years. Serving nine years on the Standing Committee and over 15 years as delegate to Diocesan Convention and

Deanery meetings, I was the first female Vice Dean of the South Central Deanery and have also spent several years providing Safe Church training throughout the diocese. I have served as the Director of Children's Ministries here at St. Mary's for three years, and Holy Spirit for twelve years. Passionate in Children's Ministries, I have spent most of my life working with and for children, including my involvement creating the Episcopal Children's Charter for the Church. My national consulting work includes the creation of liturgy, workshops, conventions and presentations. In the summer of 2012, I will represent Alaska as one of our Lay Deputies to General Convention, in Indianapolis, IN for my fourth convention.

2) What do you value and love at St. Mary's?
I love the diversity and the friendliness of the people and the worship services. St. Mary's is home for such a wide variety of people. I love how ALL are invited and ALL are welcome. St. Mary's has a way of meeting people where they are. Not trying to change them to "conform," but instead, finding ways to support and nurture.

3) Where do you believe God is calling us as a community of faith in the years ahead?
I believe God is calling St. Mary's to be that beacon of hope for the wider community. I hope in doing so, we listen to the wisdom of our church elders, yet put faith in the formation of our younger generation. We must not lose sight of the fact that to be healthy, we must have continual growth. We must really be cognizant and supportive of the things that are working, and be willing to acknowledge the things that may need more attention. And somehow in the mix, realize that to

bring in new families, we need to offer not only a comfortable and welcoming place for the parents, but a nurturing environment for "our" children. Because let's face it, every child that walks through St. Mary's doors is a child of God... and instantly becomes a child of ours! That is just part of who we are!

**CATHY KINCAID
Candidate for
Southcentral Deanery**



1) Tell us about yourself:

I am a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Anchorage. I administer the prayer group list, am a lay reader, and volunteer for FISH food pantry. I help with healing prayer during communion and have completed four years of EFM study.

2) What do you value and love at St. Mary's?
Everyone is welcome at St. Mary's and made to feel their worth from the get go. It is family right from the start and there is a role for every member. The children flourish in this atmosphere, and I've watched them grow up poised and confident, their faith shining. Elders are respected and cherished.

3) Where do you believe God is calling us as a community of faith in the years ahead?

We are called to go forward right where we have always been, caring for the marginalized and disenfranchised, showing them the love of God and inviting them to be one of us. Growing in the love of God and each other.



**MAGGIE WILKINSON
Candidate for Delegate
to South Central Deanery
and Diocesan Convention**

I have been a member of St. Mary's since 1970 and

am a past delegate to the Diocesan Convention. I have served on the Worship Committee for the Vestry for nearly 20 years chairing it for 4 years. I have taught Sunday school, been part of several committees on discernment, participated in Discovery Weekend, lead the Praise Singers, Edited the Monarch Newsletter for 6 years and am currently a Mentor of EfM. I have attended many classes here including training in Stephen Ministry and am a proud member of the Bazaar team and of the Society of St Simeon and St Anna. I believe that to make a difference in one's own life and the lives of others one must be involved at some level. I am now retired and am discovering fulfilling ways in which I would like to involve more of my time. The St Mary's community is all of us together and I would be proud to be your Deanery and Diocesan Convention representative.

2) What do you value and love at St. Mary's? I love St. Mary's constant commitment to follow Jesus' command to Love One Another and the many ways this is expressed. I am proud of St Mary's involvement in the community as well as in the church and the modeling from our leaders to live our baptismal vows, especially "to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves". St. Mary's is my home and my family. I have been fed physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually by each of you who make up this family. Through association with St. Mary's I have grown and become a strong follower of Jesus Christ.

3) Where do you believe God is calling us as a community of faith in the years ahead? I believe God is calling the community of St. Mary's to continue to provide an outreach of care to the disenfranchised, the hungry and homeless and to act on the call to welcome everyone regardless of dress, stature, position. To find that place of peace that builds a safety net that really means ALL Are Welcome. This means also that ALL are involved in the process. Communication is at the heart of this message. How we communicate with others and about others could be a whole new study for me.



**ELIAH "BERRY"
CANTWAREBURH**
(pronounced "Canterbury")
**Candidate for Deanery/
Diocesan Delegate**

I am the Verger here at St. Mary's, which means I am an assistant to the clergy staff. I have been a member at St. Mary's for 4 years, and was a delegate last year. While serving as a delegate, I was the chairperson of the Courtesy Committee at the convention.

2) What do you value and love at St. Mary's? The people's love, care and support while I've been here at St. Mary's has been overwhelming.

3) Where do you believe God is calling us as a community of faith in the years ahead? I believe God is calling us to forge ahead as a community of faith showing God's love to God's creation, not only at St. Mary's, but also in the Anchorage area and Alaska.



CARMEN SPRINGER
**Candidate for Delegate
to Convention**

I was born in the Mat-Su valley, but have recently returned to Alaska after having spent most of my life outside. I moved to Anchorage this past

spring after returning from the Peace Corps where I was serving in South Africa. I have been a member of St. Thomas of Hanover, NH, where I was on the Vestry and involved with the youth and young adult ministries. After that, I belonged to St. George's of New Orleans and worked for the Diocese of Louisiana as the Campus Ministry Intern for Tulane and Loyola Universities at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit. While I have never been a delegate to convention from a parish, I did attend the Louisiana Diocesan convention in 2008 and spoke on the importance of campus ministry in an effort to protect the program from being cut from the diocesan programming.

As someone who has been welcomed into the St. Mary's community in the past year, I have felt blessed to be surrounded by people engaged in such a living faith in the wider community. I love the presence of social involvement, intellectual engagement and the celebration of diversity that happens at St. Mary's, allowing for both living into where we are now and questioning that which we do not understand.

3) Where do you believe God is calling us as a community of faith in the years ahead?

St. Mary's has a strong history of ministry to our community - as broadly as that is often defined - and I believe that is something that should be celebrated, continued and strengthened. I also see the work of building up our parish community and strengthening our internal understanding and relationships as important work for the years ahead.

NANCY SYDNAM (no picture)
Candidate for Delegate

I have been a member of St Mary's since 1956 and have seen this church make excellent decisions along the way. It was a small church then but one with a huge heart. As I see it now it is a large church with that same huge heart. It has always been open to questions and has replied in what I call a questing style—always looking for truth.

2) What do you value and love at St. Mary's?
All the wonderful people and the excellent Sunday school classes. I have always felt the heart of any church was to be found in the Sunday School classes. WE now have such a diversity that choices can be difficult . (that is meant as a compliment)

The friendships made here seem especially deep and long lasting

3) Where do you believe God is calling us as a community of faith in the years ahead?
In exactly the direction we are heading now.

NIEL THOMAS (no picture or bio)
Candidate for South Central Deanery

RASHMIKA PATON (no picture or bio)
Candidate for South Central Deanery

SUSANNAH OLNES (no picture)
Candidate for Delegate South Central Deanery / Diocesan Convention

Hello, I am a mother, wife, pediatrician and Episcopalian. I became an Episcopalian in 2003 when my husband and I took our first positions with the Indian Health Service in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Soon after we arrived, we visited a small church called St. Basils. The service turned into lunch at a near-by restaurant. The people were so inviting even though I had no religious back ground and my husband was Catholic. By the end of lunch, we felt as if we were part of the church. Nine years later, we can say we are truly Episcopalians. I have taught Sunday school for the last 5 years. My husband has been a member of the vestry. We have moved 3 times and attended 3 different churches since I was baptized and confirmed. We have 3 children and my husband and I are both physicians and work a lot. However, we have managed to attend church, have the children attend Sunday school, and also attend adult education. I recently became part-time, which now affords me time to participate more fully in our church.

2) What do you value and love at St. Mary's?
I began attending St. Mary's in 2006 and immediately felt at home there. We left Alaska in 2007-2011 for my husbands work and attended St. Johns in Chevy Chase, Md. Although, that church was very nice, we did not see many non-caucasians or others from outside of the Chevy Chase/Bethesda area. At St. Mary's we see that the people during services are from all over Anchorage and often from a remote village visiting Anchorage. St. Mary's is welcoming to all. That is what I love about St. Mary's.
I value that St. Mary's provides religious teaching and worship that meets the needs of all of us in

our family. I value the education and wisdom of not only the clergy but the members of the church. I know this is where we need to continue growing in our faith.

3) Where do you believe God is calling us as a community of faith in the years ahead?

That is a difficult question. I am not sure where God is calling us as a community of faith. I feel that has to be answered by more than one person at St. Mary's. For me, I feel that St. Mary's emphasis on outreach is a very important part of where God is calling us as a community of faith now and in the years ahead. I am uncertain about evangelizing but I do feel that by our actions in the community, we will share God's calling with our community and therefore be inviting them to be with us.

It seems that God is also calling us as a community to look at why there are declining numbers of practicing Christians. Perhaps God is calling us as a community of faith to re-evaluate how we are speaking and how we are influencing others in terms of our faith. I feel that Episcopalians need to be able to voice what their faith means to them in a way that does not offend Christians and non-Christians in and out of our church.

What is the Meier Lake Board of Directors?

Meier Lake Camp and Conference Center is a diocesan-owned-and-operated camp located in Wassailla. The Board of Directors carries out fiscal and program planning and publicity on a year-round basis. The Board meets at Meier Lake Center once a month, and Board members work on projects and camp business throughout the year.

This position is a two-year term, serving from January 2012 to January 2014. Marty Quimby is standing for re-election.



MARTY QUIMBY Candidate for Meier Lake Board of Directors

I am Martha (Marty) Quimby and I have been serving on the Meier Lake Board for approximately six years. During that time I have seen many improvements in the

conference center as well as a pro-active support from the Board. I would like to continue with action as a member of the Conference Center Board.

What is St. Mary's Creative Playschool Advisory Council?

The Playschool Advisory Council's membership is open to seven parents of currently enrolled students at St. Mary's Creative Playschool, and five members of St. Mary's Episcopal Church. The Advisory Council does everything it can to ensure that the teachers and staff need not be distracted from their work with the children to do the "business" of the Playschool. Their responsibilities include:

1. Provide input into the development of the Playschool budget
2. Set policy for and award scholarships
3. Provide guidance, advocacy, and support for the teachers and staff
4. Enhance the financial health of the Playschool through fund raising events, programs, and stewardship of resources
5. Maintain a close and mutually beneficial relationship with other programs and ministries of St. Mary's Episcopal Church.