

2024 St. Michael's Vestry Candidates



Russell D. Howell (Russ) – Senior Warden

I have been a member of St. Michael's Church since December 2018. I joined the AVL team in the summer of 2020, and I have served as a member of the Finance Committee since early 2022. I was elected to the Vestry in January 2022 and subsequently as Senior Warden in January 2023.

I have been an attorney since 1977, with experience including Deputy Chief Counsel U.S. Dept. of Energy, Office of Special Counsel, Partner in private practice, and Managing Counsel of Litigation ConocoPhillips. I was active in United States Figure Skating as President and board member of The Skating Club of Houston aka Starz of Houston FSC and was a hotline phone counselor for Crisis Intervention of Houston and then a board member.

I am a cradle Episcopalian, and I served as Senior Warden and Vestry member at Emanuel Episcopal Church in Houston in the late 1990s. I am married to Kelly, and we have one daughter, Allison. My hobbies include skiing, snowshoeing and hiking – previously also sailing and scuba diving. It has been a pleasure serving as Senior Warden for the past year, and I am excited about the opportunity to continue contributing in this way.



Dan Raider – Junior Warden

My wife, Beverly, and I began attending St. Mikes in 2014. My spiritual journey consists of both the Southern Methodist Church and the Lutheran Church. It was only when I found St. Michael's that I found my true spiritual home.

I retired in 2011 from the Colorado Springs Fire Department after 40 years in the fire service. My career spans a variety of positions within the department including paramedic, lieutenant, Captain, battalion chief, deputy chief, and finally acting fire chief. My emphasis on emergency medicine led me to become an emergency department registered nurse as well as a paramedic and a flight nurse for Centura's flight for life program in Colorado Springs. I hold a master's degree from the University of Colorado in public administration.

I was elected to the Vestry in 2023, and I served as one of the Junior Wardens for the past year. I seem to have found my purpose at St. Michael's by helping in and around the Church, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve in this capacity in the year ahead.



Steve Shively – Junior Warden

I have been a member of St Michael's Church since November 2021. I joined the AV team in the spring of 2022, Laundry Love in June of 2022, KAIROS in September of 2022, and became the Mercy's Gate liaison in April 2023.

I was a soldier for 32 years before retiring in 2005. Upon retirement, I entered the civilian workforce as a business development executive until retiring again in November of 2021. I am still trying to figure out what I want to do when I grow up.

My prior volunteer work includes being a planner for and on the event staff for every Feast of Saint Arnold's beer festival since its inception which raises money to support Westside Cares. I have ten years of event T-Shirts to prove it!

I am a cradle Episcopalian, and I enjoyed serving as an acolyte during my high school years. I am married to Mary Beth (MB) and we have one son, CJ. My hobbies include scuba diving, photography, travel, and enjoying a good party. I have been helping with more building and maintenance related projects around the church in recent months, and I enjoy contributing to life at St. Mike's in this capacity.



Veronica Bélanger – Vestry Member

I have been a part of the St. Michael's community with my husband, Tom, and two kiddos, Aria(6) and Ethan(3), since 2018. We joined because of the immediate community we felt as soon as we walked through the door.

I am from Buffalo, New York, and have lived in Colorado since 2008. I am the founder of The Mompreneur Network, a professional referral networking community for women and working Moms.

Since joining the St. Michaels community, I have been helping with Sunday School and youth group. I also joined the AVL team during the pandemic. I help with the pageant when I can and actively participate in the parents' group. I am excited about the opportunity to bring my past experiences to the Vestry and to serve St. Mike's in this way.



Mark H. Borchert – Vestry Member

I was raised in the United Church of Christ in Wisconsin and became an Episcopalian upon marrying my wife, Jane, at St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Aurora, CO. I have been a member of St. Michael's since October 2002.

I was in the U.S. Air Force from 1978 until 2002 and was a Defense Contract Team Manager from 2005 until 2022. My experience included computers,

networks, Communications Security, and leading teams with varying specialties including satellite support and communications planning.

My prior volunteer work includes supporting the Special Olympics State Games in Nebraska and Winter Special Olympics in Colorado. I've served meals to the homeless in Denver, volunteered in support of IHN (Interfaith Hospitality Network), and coached many kids' sports programs in several states.

I am married to Jane and we have one son, Isaac. My hobbies include skiing, hiking, and hunting – previously also scuba diving. I enjoy being around St. Michael's and helping however I can, and I look forward to the opportunity of being a member of the Vestry.



Cindy Carr – Vestry Member

I have been a member of St. Michael's since moving from Houston, Texas to Falcon in 2017. I am a member of Daughters of the King (prior president, current secretary), a Saint John's Bible docent, Deposit Committee member, and I participate in the Friday Book Study. I have previously been a Stephen Minister and Leader, a former Sunrise Singer and former Bell Ringer. I have volunteered with Family Promise (formerly known as Interfaith Hospitality Network) and Lord's Dinner.

I am a cradle Episcopalian originally from Indiana, and I am married to Steve. I served on the Vestry and as Senior Warden at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, Houston. I am a retired operating nurse RN (inpatient and outpatient) and prior to nursing, I worked as computer systems analyst for ExxonMobil.

I love the leadership and members here at St. Mike's! I look for the Holy Spirit to lead my life and look forward to continuing that as a member of St. Michael's Vestry if elected.