

## **St. Thomas' Annual Meeting 2022 Voting Guide**

In 2022 we are again gathering in person. Our annual meeting will take place shortly after the 10.30am service on Sunday, 30 January. Though the target start-time is noon, that time may move up or back depending on the needs of the day.

Nominations will continue to be accepted up to and at the Annual Meeting. But our goal is to avoid last-minute nominations that have not been thought through and prayed over. In the pages of this guide you will find the list of people who, with prayer and discernment, have offered themselves for these ministries ahead of time.

Please consider carefully and prayerfully the roles and people discussed in this guide. Who best reflects your vision of St. Thomas' and our Convocation/Diocese in 2022?

**Annual Meeting – 30 January 2022 – Noonish**



**By-Laws**  
**St. Thomas Episcopal Church**  
**Glassboro, New Jersey**

**ARTICLE I**

**Annual Parish Meeting and Special Meetings of St. Thomas Church**

*Section 5. Qualification of Voters.* The persons entitled to vote at any meeting of the Parish, shall be:

- (a) Baptized;
- (b) At least 16 years of age;
- (c) Of good moral character;
- (d) Adherents of the Protestant Episcopal Church;
- (e) Regular attendees at the services of the Parish, meaning thereby those who are more frequently present than absent;
- (f) Regular contributors to the current operations of the Parish; and
- (g) Ineligible to vote or hold office in more than one parish in the Diocese of New Jersey.

*Section 6. Call for Candidates.* No less than thirty (30) days prior to each annual meeting the rector or designee shall announce the officer positions that are open for election at the next annual parish meeting and place a call for candidates. Such announcement and call shall be either verbally stated at Parish services or published in the service bulletin.

Candidates are encouraged to submit a biography to the rector or designee that will be published preceding the election.

**Qualified persons may be nominated at the annual meeting. Nominations will remain open until the presiding officer of the meeting determines that no further nominations are being offered.**

## St. Thomas' Vestry (Vote for three)

What does it mean to serve on the Vestry? The function of the Vestry is outlined by the canons of the Episcopal Church, the Diocese of New Jersey, and New Jersey state law. Serving on the vestry means being a legal representative of the parish and bearing responsibility for the conduct of the business of the parish. A vestry person's responsibilities include Stewardship and the development of resources to enable St. Thomas' to carry out its function as a place of spiritual invitation and the formation of disciples.

A vestry person is a **leader** whose job includes *discerning* the call of God to our parish, *developing* strategies to pursue that vision, and *cultivating* in the parish enthusiasm and commitment to that vision. Vestry persons are involved in the various ministries of the church, and are always looking for and lifting up to celebrate examples of what God is doing in our midst.

Candidates for vestry are required by canon to be "adult communicants in good standing" (which means over 16 years of age, registered as a member of the parish, attending regularly, and giving according to one's pledge). Vestry are elected at the annual meeting to serve three year terms.

Expectations for vestry persons are that they will:

- Treat one another and all the parish with love and respect
- Abide by the canons and bylaws governing our parish, as well as the norms established by the Vestry
- Partner with the clergy and people in God's mission
- Attend monthly meetings (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, 7.30-9.30pm)
- Attend an annual retreat (Superbowl *Saturday*, 9-4)
- Contribute to committee work outside of meetings
- Obtain and maintain current Safe Church training
- Attend weekly worship, occasionally visiting other services
- Participate in formation, coffee hour, other parish events
- Lead the parish in practices of Prayer, Stewardship, Hospitality, Service, and Love

# St. Thomas' Vestry Candidate Information

## Donna Freidel

*Member since: 2001*

*Why do you seek to serve on the Vestry?*

**As a life-long active Episcopalian, I believe I can be an asset on the Vestry. I have strong knowledge of our Diocese's Constitution and Canons as a member of that Standing Committee, and my experience in that as well as several Diocesan committees including Budget and Finance, Diocesan Council, and Standing Committee, gives me insight and information that would be of benefit to our parish.**



*What do you see as the greatest opportunity and challenge facing St. Thomas'?*

**I see the greatest opportunity that of growth and spreading the good news in the large student population in Glassboro, but also in providing a welcoming spiritual home to many who feel rejected due to intolerance in other faith communities.**

**I see a challenge in meeting the needs of newcomers while still respecting and meeting the needs of long-time parishioners. We need to explore new ways of responding to new challenges while honoring and respecting our history and traditions in today's changing world.**

*What are your areas of interest as you serve on Vestry?*

**I believe I would do well working on grants to enable us to meet new needs, and on improving our accessibility and inclusiveness. I also would like to work on the grounds, preserving and improving on the beauty of our grounds.**

## Carl Kinsley

*Member since: 1973*

*Why do you seek to serve on the Vestry?*

**As a member of St. Thomas' for well over 40 years, I care deeply about the future of our parish. I have been honored to serve on your Vestry for the last 3 years and am looking forward to continuing to build on the progress we have made.**



*What do you see as the greatest opportunity and challenge facing St. Thomas'?*

- 1) As COVID numbers decline, when and how to safely and responsibly transition back to normal activities, while respecting everyone's individual concerns and apprehensions.**
- 2) Addressing our aging campus infrastructure, while maintaining a balanced budget with sound financial policies that will allow St. Thomas' to continue to serve our community for generations to come.**

*What are your areas of interest as you serve on the Vestry?*

**During my recent 3 yr. Vestry term we were able to complete numerous property improvement projects, many of which I had the privilege to oversee (kitchen renovations, Wi-Fi upgrades, parking lot clearing & re-stoning, etc.) I look forward to continue working on infrastructure enhancements.**

## Sarah Ternay

*Member since: 1984*

*Why do you seek to serve on the Vestry?*

**I would like to seek a second term on Vestry because I am fascinated by the inner workings of what keeps St Thomas running. My fellow Vestry members have shown me over the past 3 years what it means to be outstanding disciples and stewards to Christ. I will continue to work towards that goal and be a voice of the people when called to do so.**



## **St. Thomas' Wardens (Vote for one)**

St. Thomas' has two Wardens who serve as the executive committee of the Vestry and, for the purposes of New Jersey law, officers of the corporation. Our Wardens, the Junior and Senior, are elected on alternating years, each serving two year terms. The Junior Warden often concentrates on the care of St. Thomas' buildings and property. The Senior Warden facilitates the business of the Vestry and assists the Rector with the business of the parish.

Presently our Senior Warden is Eric Cephas. Joe Rizzuto has served two terms as Junior Warden with distinction. Our bylaws require someone new be elected to the position of Junior Warden.

### **St. Thomas' Warden Candidate Information**

#### **Wayne Rowbotham**

*Member since: 1983*

*Why do you seek to serve on the Vestry?*

**Over the past 20 years I have served multiple terms on vestry, and two terms as Jr. Warden because I love St. Thomas' and all that it represents. I want to contribute my talents to help keep St. Thomas' strong into the future.**

*What do you see as the greatest opportunity and challenge facing St. Thomas'?*

**The greatest opportunity is growth. Through growth we will thrive. The biggest challenge is also growth, especially in the age of Covid. We need to grow and thrive while also protecting each other's health and wellbeing.**

*What are your areas of interest as you serve on the Vestry?*

**My interests have always been working with building and grounds, and special projects. It all fits well with my background as a civil engineer.**



**St. Thomas' Vestry - Unfilled Term (1 yr remaining)  
(Vote for one)**

In 2020, a vestry member resigned. That unexpired term (2020-2022) was then filled in 2021 by Wayne Rowbotham.

In 2022, Wayne is offering to serve as Junior Warden. That means that, besides our usual three Vestry elections, we will likely need a fourth to finish out the term Wayne was filling. Jim Gibbs has an expiring term this year, and has offered himself for election to finish the year that will potentially be left open by Wayne.

**Candidate Information**

**Jim Gibbs**

*Member since: 1997*

*Why do you seek to serve on the Vestry?*

**During the last three years it has been a challenge for me as a member of the vestry, as well as a member of the congregation. That being said, I hope to continue my desire to remain vigilant to our commitment to diversity and inclusion. I was able to obtain a small grant to help correct the crumbling concrete along the sidewalk leading to the parish hall. Louise and Dot would be happy! I will continue working with one of our outreach ministries, Kitchen of Hope, and to listen to all members of our congregation of their concerns.**



## **Diocesan Convention Delegate (Vote for three)**

St. Thomas' will elect three delegates for Diocesan Convention. The delegate with the most votes will lead the delegation.

Diocesan Convention is a time when representatives from around our Diocese gather to share in the polity of the Church, upholding the common mission and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. All are welcome to join us as we worship, conduct business, view and listen to presentations. Delegates have voice and vote to take part in the decision-making of the Diocese.

The 238th Diocesan Convention will be a one-day online meeting on March 5, 2022. All voting for candidates, resolutions and the Budgets will be performed electronically.

Delegates are expected to attend a pre-convention hearing: hearings will be offered online and possibly in-person on various days in the latter part of February. For more information, see:  
<https://dioceseofnj.org/238th-diocesan-convention/>



## **Diocesan Convention Delegate Candidate Information**

### **Becky Foster**

*Member since: 2008*

**I am willing to be a delegate because I enjoy hearing about what the different churches in the diocese are doing and also sharing with them about all the great ministries at St. Thomas’.**

### **Donna Freidel**

*Member since: 2001*

*(see information under Vestry Candidates)*

### **Bobby Kramer**

*Member since: 2001*

**He brings a strong interest in the Episcopal Church’s role in fostering social justice.**

## **Convocation Delegates (Vote for six)**

The “Convocation” is a group of Episcopal Churches in South Jersey who choose to work together by virtue of our geographical proximity. This year our convocation will be electing a new Dean as Fr. Burgess has been called as the Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield (Illinois). Our convocation is composed of the following churches:

- Bridgeton, Church of the Resurrection
- Clarksboro, St. Peter’s
- Glassboro, St. Thomas'
- Millville, Christ Church
- Mullica Hill, St. Stephen’s
- Paulsboro, St. James
- Penns Grove, Our Merciful Saviour
- Pennsville, St. George’s
- Pitman, Good Shepherd
- Salem, St. John’s
- Swedesboro, Trinity Church
- Wenonah, Holy Trinity
- Williamstown, St. Mark’s
- Woodbury, Christ Church
- Woodstown, St. Luke’s

St. Thomas’ will elect six delegates to Convocation. These will be responsible to attend quarterly convocation meetings. Meetings are typically on a weeknight. This is a great time to network with other nearby churches and to engage in mission as the larger Episcopal Church of south Jersey.

# Convocation Delegate Candidate Information

## **Cole Banning**

*Member since: 2018*

Yes, I'm willing and happy to continue to serve in this capacity.

## **Eric Cephas**

*Member since: 2010*

It is an honor to represent St Thomas and help to have our voice heard as part of the Convocation.

## **Becky Foster**

*Member since: 2008*

I am willing to be a convocation delegate because I enjoy hearing about what the different churches in the diocese are doing and also sharing with them about all the great ministries at St. Thomas'.

## **Gretchen Owen**

*Member since: 1968*

I am interested in the activities that are going on in our convocation and what to also promote our church's outreach within the convocation.

## **Rachael Owen**

*Member since: 2000*

I want to be a Convocation delegate because I want to serve St. Thomas' through this new season as well as learn more about what's going on in other churches around our area.

## **Stephanie Wolfgang**

*Member since: ca. 2018*

I have been thinking a lot lately about additional ways to serve. This seems like a good opportunity to do that and also to learn more about, and participate in, the larger Episcopal community in New Jersey.

# 2022 St. Thomas' Annual Meeting Ballot

Don't fill this in until voting begins at the Annual Meeting!

**Vote for Vestry** (circle three):

Donna Freidel \_\_\_\_\_

Carl Kinsley \_\_\_\_\_

Sara Ternay \_\_\_\_\_

**Vote for Junior Warden** (circle one):

Wayne Rowbotham \_\_\_\_\_

**Vote for Vestry for Unfilled Term** (circle 1)

Jim Gibbs \_\_\_\_\_

**Vote for Diocesan Convention Delegates** (circle three):

Becky Foster \_\_\_\_\_

Donna Freidel \_\_\_\_\_

Bobby Kramer \_\_\_\_\_

**Vote for Convocation Delegates** (circle six):

Cole Banning

Gretchen Owen

Eric Cephas

Rachael Owen

Becky Foster

Stephanie Wolfgang

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