

Karen Smith



What do you like best about St. Paul's?

I like that St. Paul's is a dynamic and growing parish. When I look around, I see people of all ages and backgrounds. I am excited that we have so many ministry opportunities. Dan and I are blessed to be welcomed back into St. Paul's community after having been away for 11 years. Old friends and new friends have become our extended family who have supported us in times of celebration as well as times of loss.

What are some of your current and past parish ministry involvement and leadership positions at St. Paul's?

When we first came to St Paul's in 1999, we eagerly immersed ourselves into the parish community. I was a Eucharistic Minister, attended Cursillo in 2000, elected to the Vestry in 2001 and served as Junior Warden in 2002. I was a member of the Stewardship Committee in 2000, as well as a member of the Capital Campaign in 2001. I have always been involved in the many Outreach ministries at St. Paul's. Since returning to Cary in October 2014, I took up where I left off by serving as a Eucharistic Minister, joining Julian and Merton study groups, and volunteering whenever and wherever needed. In addition, I am a member of the Ministry Resource Leadership Committee (MLRC). We have also supported many Outreach ministries, including ASP, Hermano Day, St. Nicholas, and Men's Group fundraisers.

What are some of your past ministry involvement and leadership positions at your former church or parish?

When Dan and I were living in Northern Virginia, we attended Christ Church in Alexandria from 1989 to 1999. I was active in a number of Outreach ministries, including Christ Child Project, mission trips to Honduras, and Carpenter's Shelter. I served as the leader of the Eucharist Ministers and Lay Readers for 3 years. I also planned and coordinated the annual Shrine Mont Parish Weekend for 5 years. While living in Yorktown, VA from 2004 to 2014, I was a Vestry Member at Grace Church for 3 years and also served an additional year to fill a vacated position. I was the head of the Worship Committee working the clergy to plan and coordinate the Music Ministry, Altar Guild, Eucharistic Ministers, and Acolytes. I developed and taught 2 courses (Pathways to Grace and Doorways to Grace) to new and current parish members on what the Episcopal Church is all about. I completed 2 years of Education for Ministry (EFM) and I became a member of the Daughters of the King (DOK).

What would you most like to see accomplished during your three years of service on the Vestry?

I would like to help St. Paul's see continued growth by attracting new members, especially families. I think the Visioning Process we are undertaking will allow us to understand the needs of our members going forward. I believe there are opportunities for the numerous ministry

groups to coordinate their activities to achieve greater efficiency, and I would like to assist in making that happen. I would also like to see more joint activities between our youth and our seniors.

What community groups and events are you involved in?

I am not actively involved in community groups and events, as I have dedicated most of my free time to supporting St. Paul's ministries. I do, however, plan to volunteer at Dorcas Ministries in the near future.
