

## St. John's Vestry Candidates 2022

### Bob Alter



Robert O. Alter (“Bob”) has been an active member of St. John’s Episcopal Church since 2013 when he moved back to Tampa. He was born and raised in Dallas, Texas, where his family were active members of Episcopal Church of The Transfiguration. He was baptized, confirmed, and served as an Acolyte at the Church, and attended the Parish Day School.

Having served as an Usher for the past eight years, Bob has also served as a Canvasser for Every Member Canvass; has been involved with Cornerstone Kids, through SJEC’s Outreach Ministry – primarily around the annual Christmas Program/Party and Gift Distribution; and, as a volunteer activity leader during the St. John’s Vacation Bible School. Most recently, Bob completed the requisite training, and served with other Parishioners during Kairos Prison Ministry #30, at Sumter Correctional Institute.

Bob graduated from Arizona State University in 1981 and started his career in Public Accounting with Arthur Andersen & Co in Houston, Texas, before beginning his Commercial Real Estate career and moving to Tampa in 1986. After 10-plus years in Tampa, Bob was recruited to Denver, CO; with stints thereafter in Fort Worth, TX and Atlanta, GA; ultimately choosing to return to Tampa in 2013, to begin the next stage of his career – with JLL, and for the past five years, Redstone; and, his life – with his cherished St. John’s Community.

Bob is blessed to have son Wood (30), who lives in Atlanta, and daughter Addie (27), in Denver; his oldest – son, Ross (born in Tampa in 1988) – joined the Lord in 2013. They were all baptized at All Saints’ Episcopal Church in Fort Worth, TX, and attended Episcopal school (Fort Worth and Atlanta) through graduation.

## Doug Arthur



Doug, a lifelong Episcopalian, first joined St. John's when he moved to Tampa with his parents in 1979. He and his wife Suzanne, also a lifelong Episcopalian, have two daughters Caroline (14) and Kate (13), both baptized at St Johns. Both girls are active in EYC.

Doug graduated from the University of North Carolina, and received his MBA from Georgia State. After working in financial services in Atlanta, he returned to Tampa in 1999 and re-joined St. John's. He and his family (pre-COVID) attended the 9:15 a.m. service.

Doug is also active in the community. His civic work presently includes volunteer service at Gracepoint, a behavioral health organization where he is presently Chair and has served as Vice-Chair and Treasurer. Former civic work includes serving as Treasurer of the Tampa Metropolitan YMCA, and President of A Brighter Community. Doug has served on several other civic boards that work primarily with child and youth development.

Professionally, Doug has spent his career in financial services with a large segment of it at The Bank of Tampa. Doug presently has his own corporate finance advisory firm, serving middle market companies in the Southeast.

## Roddy Belfatti



Roddy is a 4th generation Episcopalian and a West Palm Beach native. She was baptized at Holy Trinity Church in West Palm and when her family moved to Knoxville, TN in middle school, she became very involved at the Church of the Ascension. She spent 6 years in the choir and lead many Happening retreats at Suwannee. While at Florida State University she attended the Chapel of the Resurrection and volunteered with the Episcopal University Center. After graduating from Florida State University in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science in Criminology and Minor in Business, Roddy moved to Tampa where she found a home at St. John's Episcopal Church.

She has attended St. John's for over 24 years. During her tenure at the church she led the Lay Eucharistic Visitors for 10 years and volunteered for 14 years, was a Stephen Minister to several members of the church, served as a Canvasser for the Every Member Canvass, led Holy Conversations during COVID, participated in the women's bible study as well as being a faithful volunteer for Angel Tree. Roddy and her husband Ralph were married at St. John's in 2006. Her two daughters, Addison and Hailey, were both baptized at St John's and participate in Youth Group and Sunday School.

Roddy is a Managing Director at Bank of America. She manages the State of Florida and Mid-South Treasury Markets for the Global Commercial Bank. She is responsible for the sales teams growing and managing \$6.5B in liquidity and \$180MM in Global Treasury Revenue. Roddy has been with Bank of America since 1998, originally joining the NationsBank private banking team in Tampa. She moved to the commercial bank in 2001 and helped roll out the Global Govt. Treasury Management Proposal team where she then joined the Global Corporate and Investment Bank.

During her time in Tampa she has served on many boards. She is a sustaining member of The Junior League of Tampa, Girl Scout Troop leader of West Central Florida, volunteer for Jr. Achievement and Habitat for Humanity, and started the Dave Noyes Scholarship fund.

## Steve Fluharty



Stephen P. Fluharty is a life-long Episcopalian. After retiring from the military, he joined St. John's and has been a member for over 46 years. He and Lynn were married at St. John's in 1976. Both their children were baptized and confirmed in the church and attended St. John's School. He has served on the Vestry twice, once as the Junior Warden. In addition, he was Chairman of the Stewardship Committee as well as the Church and School's Endowment Committee. Stephen has been an usher for over 40 years. He is a member of the Bishop's Cabinet, which is charged with raising money for the addition and improvement of facilities at DaySpring. His son, Thomas and his wife Kelly were married at DaySpring where both their daughters were baptized. Matthew, his youngest son and his wife, Julia, were married at St. John's in 2020. He has seen many changes over the years and is excited for St. John's next chapter. Stephen is involved in several non-profit organizations which focus on young children and young adults as well as disadvantaged youth. He is honored to be considered to join the Vestry and looks forward to serving if selected.

## John Giordano



John Giordano, his wife Ruth, and their family (Elizabeth Mackie, Mallory Curtin and Sam) have been members of St. John's since 1991. He has been a member of the Vestry on two occasions, serving from 2002-2004 and again from 2012-2014. John was the Senior Warden in 2014 and a member of the St. John's School Board of Trustees during 2014. He was previously the co-chair of the Church's Christian Education Commission and a Trustee of the St. John's Endowment Fund serving on the Board of the Endowment Fund from 2008-2020 and as the Chairman of the Endowment Fund from 2017-2020.

John is a business lawyer and has been with the Bush Ross law firm for 37 years. In addition to the above, John's volunteer activities have included: Sunday School teacher at St. John's; member of numerous "Every Member Canvass" campaigns; legal counsel to The Junior League of Tampa and a longtime member of The Junior League's' Community Advisory Board; member of the Board of the Council for Educational Change; member of the Board of Young Life Tampa, president of Plant High School Academic Foundation, and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of St. Mary's Episcopal Day School.

John and his firm have performed "pro bono" legal services for the Church over the years and John has been active in various other church activities and ministries at St. John's.

## Donna Gem



Donna Gem was baptized and confirmed at St. Andrew's in downtown Tampa. There she sang in the children's choir, and later was part of the adult choir for many years.

Donna has been a very active member of St. John's for over 38 years. Throughout those years she has participated and led a variety of different lay ministries, which have included: Sunday school teacher, past Vestry member (2017-2000), Newcomers' Class leader, Discovery Weekend Team member, Cursillo weekend, Lenten program leader, Angel Tree Ministry Coordinator, Stephen Minister, and volunteer at Faith Café. Currently Donna serves as a Verger, Lay Reader, Lay Eucharistic minister, and is a leader of the Invite-Welcome-Connect ministry (IWC).

Donna (fka, Donna Meagher) and husband Alex were blessed to be married by Fr. Randy Hehr in 2012. They will be celebrating their 10th anniversary in March. Together they have a beautiful, blended family, which includes four grown children and six grandchildren. Donna is especially proud of her son Kevin Kellar, who continues to be very active at St. John's as a Lay Eucharist visitor, and most recently was the captain of St. John's 2021 EMC campaign.

Outside of her ministries at St. John's, Donna has held a 30-year career in electronic payments and FinTech. She is a subject matter expert in encryption for the card payments industry, and is passionate about helping to ensure credit and debit card security for merchants and consumers.

In her free time Donna enjoys volunteering for Wnet (Women's Network in Electronic Transactions), cheering on our local sports teams, and spending time with her family and friends.

## Betsy Graham



Betsy and her husband Drew began attending St. John's in 1998, a few years after moving to Tampa. Raised in the Presbyterian Church, she was confirmed at St. John's in 2011 - the same year as her oldest son. Her involvement with St. John's includes serving as a Sunday School teacher, assisting with Every Member Canvass, and helping to organize the Circle fellowship group. Most recently, she was a member of the Rector Search Committee.

Her three children - Jack, Ben, and Charlotte - were baptized and confirmed at St. John's and participated actively in the life of the church as acolytes and lay readers. Ben's time as a chorister took the family on several memorable choir trips to New York City and Washington, D.C. All three attended St. John's School from Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and, during that time, Betsy served on the St. John's School Board for six years, five of those as Treasurer. Betsy has considerable experience working with non-profit organizations and is a past President of The Junior League of Tampa. She recently completed a term on the Board of the Tampa Bay History Center, held a variety of positions on the Berkeley Parents' Club Board, and currently serves on the Board of High Risk Hope. Betsy graduated from Princeton University and received an MBA from Columbia University.

She is excited to have the opportunity to serve the church during this exciting new chapter in St. John's history.

## Stephen B. Straske II



A Tampa native, Steve was raised in the Catholic church, and – after marrying Janice in 1992 – joined the Episcopal church in 1994 in New York City. After working in private practice for tax law in NYC for four years, and after having their first daughter Elly baptized at St. John’s in fall 1994, they moved home to Tampa in 1995 and immediately became members of St. John’s. Steve and Janice have raised daughters Elly, Davis, and Mary Stephen at St. John’s, attending Sunday services much more regularly once getting through the toddler years. Since 2000, Steve has worked as corporate counsel for the Ferman Group of retail automobile and motorcycle dealerships.

Steve is a former Senior Warden and vestry member at St. John’s (2004-2007) and continues to serve as a lay reader and as a trustee of the endowment fund. He would welcome the opportunity to serve the parish again as a vestry member as we welcome our new rector.

Steve has served on the Diocesan Council and the finance committee for the Episcopal Diocese of SW Florida (2009-2016). Since 2013, Steve has chaired the west central Florida committee of the Georgetown University alumni admissions program, and he and Janice are members of the Ignatian Family Circle, an advisory board to the Georgetown Office of Mission and Ministry that conducts religious services for the six faiths represented on campus, student and faculty retreats, and other interfaith activities. Steve has been active in support and leadership of other professional, charitable, and civic organizations, including Camp Merrie-Woode (Sapphire, NC), St. Mary’s Episcopal Day School, the Tampa Yacht & Country Club, and the Tampa New Automobile Dealers Association