## **Vestry Slate 2024**

In addition to the clergy who are called to serve them, Episcopal parishes are governed and led by the Wardens and Vestry who act as the agents and legal representatives of the parish in all matters concerning its corporate property and the relations of the parish to its clergy.

Trinity has nine Vestry members who are elected at the Annual Parish Meeting for three-year terms. To provide continuity of leadership, three members of the Vestry are elected each year. Vestry members are allowed to serve two three-year terms in a row before they have to take a year off. This provides an opportunity for fresh leadership to emerge and with that fresh leadership, new energy and ideas to arise.

Continuing members of the Vestry are Donna Steppe (Senior Warden), Jeffrey Albright (Junior Warden), Dennis Degnan, Karen Keune, Jamie Paul, and Leah Reed-Dailey.

At their December meeting, the following slate of nominees was affirmed by the Vestry. Members of Trinity who are qualified to vote will elect three persons at the Annual meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2024 following the 10:00 am Trinity@316 service. Parish by-laws do not allow absentee ballots or proxy votes.



**Kimberly Kefalas-Siu**. I have been a member of Trinity since Spring of 2022. I am an aspiring writer, wife, mom to three, and a staff attorney with the Lucas County Court of Common Pleas. My husband, Merwin, and I were looking for a way to fill a spiritual and community hole in our family's lives. Trinity has been even more of a blessing in that regard than we ever could have imagined. We have rarely felt so welcomed. I was received into the Episcopal Church last year here at Trinity and our two younger children, Kai and Matthias, were baptized. Our family truly have found a home here. I am so happy and honored to have the opportunity to serve on Vestry and help to preserve and grow the same welcoming spirit and God's love in our community for others to experience.

**Becky Koskinen.** I have been blessed beyond measure to be a member of Trinity for 5 years. When I walked in, I was home. I witnessed a church led by faith and love and a community based on respect, compassion and dignity for all. I've been involved in our Sunday Community Breakfast, have served as a Worship Leader, and a volunteer in numerous outreach efforts and events, and I still wanted more. I prayed and told myself to sit back and listen to God (something I am not good at). I wanted to plug in and serve in a deeper capacity. Vestry has been challenging and humbling, and it is my honor to serve another term, if elected. I will continue to bring commitment, passion, and work to leave the positive footprint known as Trinity Episcopal Church: Progressive, Inclusive, Creative, Downtown.

Kelly and I have been married for seven years (together 25 years) and have raised three wonderful and caring children; Andrew (Katy). Benjamin (Katie) and Allie (Blake). We are absolutely over the moon to have three happy and healthy grandchildren and one more on the way. There is nothing better than being Grandparents. May we as a church continue to wonder, dream, move forward as a united front.



Gary R. Franklin. I am a native Toledoan, born and bred, and attended parochial elementary school and high schools. After a career as a community college administrator, my current avocation is genealogy, researching my family history and rediscovering their stories. Our family was Baptist, but while attending graduate school and after considerable thought, I joined the Episcopal church and have been active ever since. I find, for me, the Episcopal Church's mix of tradition with its current efforts to welcome all into the community of Christ appeals to me, comforts me and motivates me. While living in the Greater Washington, DC, area, I became an active volunteer at my home church, the Washington National Cathedral for over 25 years. When I determined to move back to Toledo, due to my father's advancing Alzheimer's, I researched the parishes in Toledo online to see what type of activities they supported. Trinity seemed to have the strongest community outreach program, which had been my emphasis in service at

National Cathedral. I have been a member ever since and have tried to find ways to serve Trinity and the community we serve.

While at Trinity, I have taken advantage of many volunteer opportunities and served as Senior Warden. I look forward to continuing to serve on the Vestry as we navigate this transition period, bringing an understanding of our parish's recent history as well as its rich past and working with a diverse vestry with new and different perspectives and ideas. We have worked through many obstacles to achieve great gains in the last several years, especially in addressing long-deferred facility issues as well as growing a congregation in flux. I believe, with all of us chipping in, the best is yet to come for Trinity.