

Parish Selection Committee Slate 2022

Wardens

Joan Peters – People’s Warden

Joan Peters retired in 2016, after 24 years as Director of National Corporate Donations at CIBC. She was introduced to St. James Cathedral in 2002 by her husband, George McNeillie, who has worshipped at St. James since 1980. Joan and George were married at the Cathedral in 2007. Joan has volunteered for various roles and supported several projects since joining the Cathedral. Over the past year, she has been honoured to serve as People’s Warden and prior to that as Deputy People’s Warden for 3 years. Joan has supported several Committees, including the St. James Cathedral and Community Refugee Committee and Social Justice and Advocacy Committee. She is a Sidesperson and looks forward to volunteering at the Drop-In when restrictions permit.

Kate Uchendu – Rector’s Warden

Kate is a small business owner; she operates a COBS Bread Bakery in Scarborough. Prior to becoming a small business owner, Kate worked as a Nurse Practitioner. She continues to be a medical member of the Consent & Capacity Board where she adjudicates on issues of mental health and health care consent. Kate was born and raised in Nigeria and relocated to Toronto in 2003. Prior to moving to Canada, she worked in banking and finance in Nigeria. Kate started over in Toronto by commencing a bachelor’s degree in Nursing at the Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, University of Toronto in 2004. She completed a master’s degree from the same program in 2011. She has worked in a variety of settings including public health (Toronto Public Health), community care (long term care outreach), and acute care (Toronto General Hospital). She has also instructed nursing students in the Faculty of Nursing at University of Toronto. Kate has been an active member of St. James Cathedral since 2012, and she is a member of the Sidespersons ministry, Health Council, and Cathedral Council.

Parish Members

David Crawford

David worked in the Australian public sector, which included diplomatic postings as First Secretary to Pakistan (1992-94) and South Africa (1994-98). Prior to that he was a tutor in history at the University of Sydney and in 1999 he moved to the private sector. As David’s father was an Anglican priest in the diocese of Sydney, David worshipped in his parish of All Saints, Parramatta, and later at St Albans, Epping (also in Sydney). In London, England, he attended St Paul’s Cathedral. In the past, he has served as a member of synod, council member, server, sacristan, lay reader and lay assistant. David is a lawyer previously practicing in Sydney and London prior to coming to Toronto. At St. James

Cathedral, he is a Sidesperson for the 8:00am service, previously served on the Cathedral Council and the St. James Cathedral and Community Refugee Committee, and is also a pro-bono lawyer providing legal advice on refugee matters through a non-profit group.

David Hedley

David held joint positions as a staff physician and scientist at Princess Margaret Hospital for 30 years, until his retirement in 2020. He has spent a long career exploring the boundaries between basic science and human cancer. For most of that time he was agnostic, believing that reductionist science can ultimately explain our existence. About a dozen years ago he underwent a sudden conversion back to active Christianity during a church service, and after a lot of prompting by the Spirit ended up at St James for the 11:00am Palm Sunday service in 2010. He has been a regular at the 11:00am ever since, as well as a frequent attender at Evensong, which he loves. As well as the scriptures, he reads extensively in the Christian literature, including many of the old classics as well as modern writers and thinkers. He now feels able to reconcile Christian faith with science, recognizing that science provides only approximations to truth, not absolute Truth, but when used well, is of enormous benefit to humanity.

Carol Kysela

I am Carol Kysela. The Cathedral Church of St. James has been my parish home for the past 11 years. I came from St. Thomas's Huron Street, another wonderful parish where I had been since 1980. Immediately upon coming to St. James', I was struck by the feeling of a "big tent" from an architectural perspective and an inclusive attitude within the congregation. The respect for liturgy and excellent homilies were important to me as well as the sense of social responsibility. The slightly faded décor in contrast to the soaring ceilings, stained-glass windows, and wonderful music gave me a sense of both home and mystery. That remains so today.

My husband, Ed McDonough, and I have one son who has left the nest but is still located in Toronto! Before retiring my professional career was based around project management for systems development at a large insurance company. Ed and I now enjoy gardening, crossword puzzles, organizing various kinds of projects...most often including food or photography! One of the things we have loved about being at St. James' is how much opportunity there has been to participate in parish life.

I worship at the 9:00am eucharist, regularly acting as reader or intercessor, but I have also very much welcomed the opportunity to participate in the rotation of offering morning prayer which started during the pandemic. I grew up in the tradition of the Book of Common Prayer (Episcopal end of things, as I grew up in the States) and will always love Cranmer's incomparable English. Tuning into the Monday morning sermon discussion group with David Danner always delights me with how wide and rich the interpretation of the sermon is within our community.

The Cathedral welcomed an Education for Ministry seminar group 9 years ago and since then I have been a mentor for the program and its administrator. The program attracts students both within the Cathedral as well as from across Toronto. I also participated in the St. James adult education committee for some exciting years as well as the 11:00am Sunday school rotation (always exciting in its own way!) Now I am one of the lay leaders for the current Lenten program, “Becoming the Story We Tell”.

Fundraising projects have been part of our life at St. James. Ed and I with the EFM group started the annual Palm Sunday Hot Cross Bun fund raiser to support the footcare clinic and Drop-In that we hope it will be back this year. It required about fifty volunteers, so we got to know people from different congregations at St. James. I co-chaired the Affordable Art Affair event to raise funds for the St. James’ Community Refugee Committee during the crisis of 2018.

Recently I served on the Visioning Committee to produce our “Priorities for a Time of Transition: Vestry 2022 to Vestry 2025”, getting to know even more about the cathedral family and its history. That experience and the struggles of our community, the clergy, and the people in the congregation, both, before and during the pandemic, have reinforced my belief that groups of people centred on Jesus’ way can be life giving, both in their humble, gritty, difficulties and in their persistent desire to create beauty and serve others.

Sandra Mowat

Sandra was born and raised in St. John’s, Newfoundland, and has been an Anglican all her life. She grew up attending St. Thomas' Church in St. John’s, and in the course of several moves in Ontario over the years has also been an involved parishioner at St. George’s Cathedral, Kingston, St. Matthew’s Church, Ottawa, and the Church of St. Peter & St. Simon and St. George’s On The Hill, both in Toronto. She earned a Bachelor of Nursing degree from Memorial University of Newfoundland. Sandra enjoys volunteering and works effectively with others; she has served on Council, has been a member of the Outreach committee, is a member of the gardening group and is a sidesperson. Sandra’s husband David is a current member of the 11:00am choir, and her son Peter was a member of the professional choir for many years. Leisure activities include golf, travel, studies in art history, reading biographies, and outdoor pursuits.

Christoph Pike

Christoph was born in St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Economics at Memorial University. On graduation in 2016, he moved to Toronto to pursue a law degree at the University of Toronto. During this time, Christoph experienced a renewal of faith and joined the congregation of St. James Cathedral. He obtained his law degree in 2019 and was called to the Bar of Ontario in 2020. He currently practises law in the areas of civil and commercial litigation at Torkin Manes LLP. In his spare time, Christoph enjoys studying history, playing the violin, trying to improve his French language skills and hiking with his fiancée, Claire.

Paul Seddon, ODT

Paul Seddon has been attending St. James Cathedral since 1978, and was appointed Honorary Verger in 2004. He began his long and faithful association with the Cathedral starting as a server on Tuesdays, before also adding Wednesdays at the 12:30pm Eucharist, and then, in 1979, he started serving as a member of the Cathedral Servers Guild at the 8:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am, and 4:30pm services. Paul was appointed Head of the Servers Guild in 1988, and Verger in 1991. He was later appointed Lay Chaplain to the Bishops of Toronto by the Most Reverend Colin Johnston. Paul was admitted as a member of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto in 2017 for his faithful lay ministry and contributions to the life of the Church. For the past 22 years, he has worked for Ryerson University in the Shipping and Receiving Department.