

VESTRY CANDIDATES 2018

Madeline Bohr



In 2016 I joined the Vestry to replace a vestry member who had to retire from the position due to a heavy workload. I was graciously accepted into this group of very special people and have not regretted my decision. Since then, I have had the privilege of serving St. Augustine's congregation. I have discovered that the Vestry's concerns are also mine: to use the resources we have effectively and carefully, to make St. Augustine's a better place for all of us, and to ensure that our community reflects the teachings of Christ in everything it does. I have learned a lot during my term on the Vestry and would be happy to continue my work with this very special group of people.

Colin Clibon



I was born and raised in Union Star, Missouri, a rural community in the Midwest. I graduated from the University of Missouri in 2011 and last summer I completed my master's degree in International Relations from the University of Oklahoma. I am a six-year Army veteran, currently serving as a commander in United States Army Garrison Wiesbaden, leading the Soldiers who most directly serve the United States military community here in Wiesbaden. My wife Victoria and I have attended St. Augustine's since we arrived here and since September 2016, and I have served as an usher. During my Army career, Victoria and I have always found a welcoming community in the local Episcopal church. I have previously served as a head greeter and usher at one congregation and attended men's prayer group meetings at another. After thoughtful consideration and prayerful contemplation, I have decided I would like to serve in the Vestry here at St. Augustine.

While my family instilled in me a belief in hard work and social justice, I was raised not attending church most Sundays. My family's inconsistent attendance was split between various Protestant denominations, including Baptist, Methodist, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian, Church of the Nazarene, and non-denominational churches (I even attended a Mennonite summer revival in central Missouri once). I started attending the Episcopal church during my Senior year of high school and found the dignity and solemnity of the formal service a welcome change from the churches I had attended previously. The inclusive message and church doctrine reflected and continue to reflect my own understanding of a loving and welcoming God.

I am humbled by the invitations I have had to serve St. Augustine and if selected, I am committed to serve ably. St. Augustine has been a welcoming community for my family and giving back to that community would be an honor. Serving as a leader in a multi-national faith community in a foreign country is a chance of a lifetime. I would like to offer whatever organizational and leadership skills I've gained as an Army officer, whatever benefits my fresh perspective can bring, and expand my efforts to serve the church.

Graham Elliot



I first came into a vague awareness of there being a God who, in some way, wanted to connect with me personally, during my confirmation service in St Peter's Church, Onchan in the Isle of Man, where I was born and grew up. I was about 14 years old. During my adult years my fascination with birds, the wildness of the Irish Sea and the sky at night would often have my imagination going off into the confusing possibility of there being a God who had created all that I could see, hear and feel, and all that I couldn't.

These thoughts finally came together in 1982, having learned, and accepted, that God loves me personally. I was about to enter into my second marriage, having been the indisputable cause of the failure of my first marriage, and could only see that without God's help, change would not be possible. A prayer of repentance, of acceptance of God's forgiveness, with a desire to be led forward by the Lord brought me into that personal relationship with the Lord that I had been resisting.

My working life in the military (10 years); as a community police officer (13 years); training and practising as a Local (lay) Preacher in the Methodist Church; Bible College education (Belfast B.C. - 3 years); working in Northern Ireland in various aspects for peace and reconciliation (23 years); training and practising in counselling; a parent of 6 children, grandparent and great-grandparent (including foster/adoptive parent); a commitment to the poor and the beaten down; my personal experiences of bereavement – all these experiences have given me valuable insights into how the world works, how we humans relate to each other, who I am and a profound need of the Lord at every level of life, personal and otherwise.

I stepped away from the church in Northern Ireland for 15 years, having decided that my efforts were better directed into community, rather than the mish-mash of church in-fighting I was experiencing at the time. (It's important to note here that many individuals and churches were, and still are, working courageously and sacrificially, toward peace and reconciliation.) During this time I allowed my relationship with the Lord to drift, but after a number of years of quiet reflection, prayer, faithful Christian friendships, receiving God's forgiveness and experiencing some direct ways in which he has guided me, I have a strong, comforting, at times challenging, sense of the Lord being in my life.

When I walked into St Augustine's the welcome and sense of acceptance was irresistible. From the moment I first entered the church, I felt a quiet 'voice' simply asking me to stay and pray, and it is in response to that still, small voice that I have remained. The ministry in St Augustine's is encouraging me, teaching me and helping me to look forward. I believe our church, both people and building, have great potential to continue being a witness to God's grace among the people of Wiesbaden, and beyond.

Kristin King



I have been attending St. Augustine's as a visitor since 2014, and officially joined the church this year. I was raised in a family of long-time Presbyterians (my grandfather, twin sister, and brother-in-law are all ordained in the PCUSA), and grew up highly active in my home church in Corpus Christi, Texas and throughout Mission Presbytery and PCUSA. If there was a role in the church, an event to attend, a conference to lead, a committee on which to serve, we were there. I learned early that great churches and faith communities are built by hard working people being led by God's love, and that I loved to be involved in that work!

My faith started with learning bible stories at home as a child, continued around a Sunday School table with adults who poured into me, grew as I shared and learned in youth group as a teenager, and blossomed singing worship songs and swimming in clear rivers in the Texas Hill Country at the Presbyterian summer camp, John Knox Ranch. As a camper, then counselor, then director, my greatest summers were spent experiencing and sharing God's love in the midst of his creation.

Before moving to Wiesbaden in December 2014, my family found our church home at First Presbyterian Church in Bryan, Texas, where I first attended as a college student at Texas A&M University. Both of my children, Colleen (age 10) and Aaron (age 5) were baptized there. In that church, I also experienced some of the most tragic and most wonderful days of my life, as it was where we held the celebration of life for my first husband, Chris Cooper, who was killed in an automobile accident in 2009, and then my marriage to William King in 2011, which was the beginning of a new life for me and for Colleen. My faith, family, and my church has always been the bedrock that supported my life, no matter the circumstances.

At St. Augustine's, my family has found a community of welcome, grace and faith. As we have become more involved this past year, through attending Burns Night, singing in the Messiah, and volunteering at the Christmas Bazaar, our appreciation for the dedication, service and love within the church has continued to grow. As a member of the vestry, I would participate with a heart for teamwork, ideas for growth, and a willingness to do whatever work is needed. I truly look forward to the opportunity to be of service.

Robert Vukovic



My name is Robert Vuković. I was born on September 22nd, 1978 in Frankfurt am Main as a child of Croatian immigrants, so I have both German and Croatian nationality. I was baptized and confirmed in the Roman-Catholic Church.

I studied Catholic theology in Fulda and Munich and I have done several pastoral courses in the Catholic Diocese of Honolulu, Hawaii. Later I worked in the pastoral ministry and parish administration of the Diocese of Fulda, Germany.

I have lived in Wiesbaden-Bierstadt since June 2012. My first meeting with the community of St. Augustine of Canterbury was in Lenten 2016 and since Christmas 2016 I have become a regular visitor to my new church home. You all made me feel welcome and at home. In October 2017 I was received by Bishop Pierre into the communion of the Episcopal Church and now I hope I can invest my abilities and talents to serve God's people and this great communion as a member of the vestry.

Waseem Zahoor



Dear parishioners of St. Augustine's, my name is **Waseem Zahoor Masih**.

I was born in Gujranwala, Punjab, Pakistan on 7 February, 1990. I came to Germany as an asylum seeker in the summer of 2016 and have been attending St. A's ever since.

I come from a Catholic background but I was a member of a Presbyterian/Pentecostal church.

In April 2013 a Christian village called Francisabad, 5 km from where we lived, was attacked by Islamic people. It was Easter. They objected to our worship. They used mosque loud speakers to gather other Muslims and mobs attacked our churches, shops owned by Christians and they damaged Christian homes, injuring women and children.

So we went out to demonstrate for freedom of worship but we got arrested. They said our demonstration was illegal but we hadn't broken any laws. They kept us for about 5 hours then released us.

In 2015 two of our churches in Lahore were attacked by terrorists. There were about 15 Christians killed. We demonstrated again but then I was accused of blasphemy against Islam. Someone had walked into a Police Station and made a statement against me. It is a very easy thing to do. No proof is needed. But we were not against Islam. We just wanted the freedom to worship the same as Muslims have that freedom. We also wanted protection for Christians and our churches.

It was impossible for me to defend myself. I was helped by some very kind people to stay in Pakistan for another year. I could not stay with my family. I was able to avoid arrest.

I have been helped a lot by Fr. Chris and many people in St Augustine's. This is not church, it's family. When I came to Germany I asked the Lord for Christian people who would love me. I remember I was in the American Arms place. I was praying on my knees, crying, very tired. One day I walked past the church and I saw Cameron at the door. I asked him if it is a Catholic church. He said not really. But I saw that it was English speaking, so I thanked God and came to the service.

Now, I feel I am able to support St. A's in in our common mission to preach the Gospel in this city of Wiesbaden and to give something back to this community which has loved me and my fellow Pakistanis beyond the telling of it. Thank you for your love and your trust in me.