



# The STAR



November 2022

## Annual Congregational Meeting &

# Vestry Election

## November 13, 2022

**SPECIAL EDITION**

# Meet the Candidates

Epiphany's annual business meeting will be at 11:30am on November 13. During the meeting, we will hear a financial update from our finance committee, as well as "state of the church" reports from the rector and associate rector.

The chief business item of our meeting will be the election of three new vestry officers to serve three-year terms beginning on January 1, 2023. We have four qualified candidates for these three positions.

Our goal will be to complete the annual meeting in about an hour.

**Please plan to attend!**

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*Encountering God, Building a multigenerational congregation, Equipping every member.*

**Name:** Fred Apelquist  
**Preferred Name:** Fred  
**Family Members:** Married with 4 children, 3 grandchildren  
**Occupation:** Retired from U.S. government



**A. How would you describe your relationship with God and how you have come to this point in your spiritual journey?**

It seems presumptuous and arrogant to say I feel I have a close relationship with God but it is harder to imagine not having one. By reading two chapters of the Bible virtually every morning, I feel the blessing of His presence. I do not feel Him talking directly to me in words, yet through daily contact with His creatures – and creation – I feel a blessed connectiveness which is hard to articulate but easy to feel. This connectiveness (personal relationship?) has only grown over time and I attribute this to my wife, daily Bible readings, and interaction with folks at Epiphany primarily through our Home Group and the Men's Ministry (Band of Brothers).

**B. In order for the parish to get to know you, describe your history with the Church of the Epiphany, including how long you have been attending, what ministries you are or have been involved in.**

My family began attending Epiphany in 2003 and we have been involved in various ministries: Small Groups, Fellowship (coffee), Hot Meals, Loaves and Fishes, and delivering thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets to the community. In addition, I have been engaged with the Band of Brothers, Lay Eucharistic Ministry (LEM), and, many years ago with Battleground, which was a young boys' ministry. Also, a few years ago I was a member of the Vestry assigned to work with the church's Small Groups.

**C. What are your hopes and dreams for Church of the Epiphany?**

That we will be a beacon for helping others find God and a mirror to show His face.

**D. How will your life experience and abilities contribute to our leadership?**

As with everyone else in this church, my work, family, and personal experiences reflect the joys and challenges of being in the human family regardless of belief or background. With God's help I will recall these experiences and hope they will direct me towards showing God's love to others and working with Epiphany members to seek, hear, and apply God's wisdom for our church.

**Name:** Jane Burkett  
**Preferred Name:** Jane  
**Family Members:** Single  
**Occupation:** Senior Data Analyst/Consultant



**A. How would you describe your relationship with God and how you have come to this point in your spiritual journey?**

I don't remember ever not having faith in Jesus. I was raised in a family that was very active in the Episcopal Church. In college I had a couple of spiritual experiences that led me to feel significantly more emotionally connected to God. This love and appreciation for God and what He has done for not just me but all of us continued to grow until I began to feel called to attend seminary at Nashotah House. For several years I struggled with this call, since I didn't have a clear call to ordained ministry, but after several years I gave in to God's insistent prompting. My relationship with God was deeply nurtured by the seminary environment of daily eucharist and morning and evening prayer, the godly example of the faculty, deep theological study, and service. After graduating, I still had a hunger to study Scripture, so I earned a master's in Biblical Studies at Duke Divinity School. After completing that degree, I moved to Northern Virginia.

**B. In order for the parish to get to know you, describe your history with the Church of the Epiphany, including how long you have been attending, what ministries you are or have been involved in.**

I started attending Epiphany about 5 years ago. I am a member of a home group, LEM, and altar guild, and I have taught an adult Sunday school class. I am also a member of the diocesan Board of Examining Chaplains.

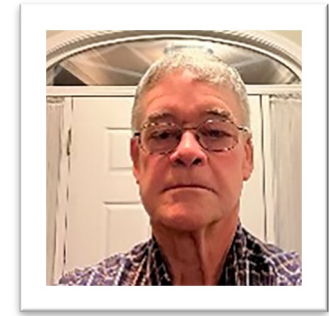
**C. What are your hopes and dreams for Church of the Epiphany?**

That Church of the Epiphany will continue being a community where people of all ages deepen their walk with God. In particular, that children will be given a firm foundation in the faith that will sustain them as they leave home, that adults will be inspired to live as witnesses to Christ in their daily lives, and that Epiphany will foster friendships and opportunities to show care to our members and surrounding community in our increasingly isolated and fractured society.

**D. How will your life experience and abilities contribute to our leadership?**

I have experience with both church and business that I can draw on to serve Epiphany. Over the years I have served in a variety of roles in church, including as acolyte, lector, teacher to both children and adults, stewardship committee, choir, lay eucharistic visitor, and delegate to convention. Outside church, I served two terms on my HOA board, and I have managed multiple projects at work, juggling budgets, schedules, tasking, and people. I have excellent organizational skills and enjoy working in a collaborative environment.

**Name:** Donald Holt  
**Preferred Name:** Don  
**Family Members:** My wife Gail; on weekends granddaughter Lily  
**Occupation:** Retired (corporate sales), work part-time at Cox Farms, Chantilly.



**A. How would you describe your relationship with God and how you have come to this point in your spiritual journey?**

A clearer focus on who King Jesus and his Kingdom is today. The two underlying events are seeing all of scripture (including the Old Testament) as God's grand narrative describing who He is, who we are, and who we are created to be by serving King Jesus. The other event is understanding faith as ultimate and final allegiance to King Jesus and his Kingdom. The ACNA Book of Common Prayer's psalter and collects help me focus on the particulars of these two events day by day. Weekly liturgical worship starts and ends each week.

**B. In order for the parish to get to know you, describe your history with the Church of the Epiphany, including how long you have been attending, what ministries you are or have been involved in.**

I began worshipping at Church of the Epiphany in 2018. I sing in the Chancel Choir thankfully surrounded by musicians who are really gifted. I support the Youth Program as invited to teach children what it means to follow Jesus their King. I am a member of the Missions Committee and participate in the Men's Friday Morning study. I also serve as one of two laypersons on DoMA's Great Commission Committee.

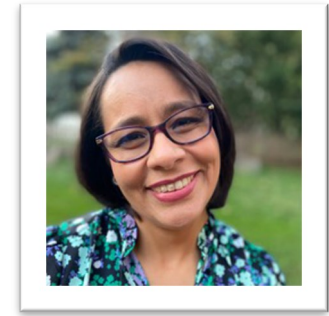
**C. What are your hopes and dreams for Church of the Epiphany?**

First, I resonate with Church of the Epiphany's multi-generation church family. Second, I believe we live in a diverse community where we have the opportunity to open our doors to persons from all different backgrounds and cultures to assure them that Jesus calls them to be forgiven, blessed, and lead by Him to a glorious future. We can welcome these persons into a beautiful worship service that invites them to ask questions and consider our respectful responses and invitation to follow Jesus with us. We can meet them in a variety of small groups where we can share talents and faith to grow together.

**D. How will your life experience and abilities contribute to our leadership?**

I have served in non-Anglican church leadership roles in the past as well as managed corporate sales teams. I see my skill as asking questions that clarify issues before us as well as bring various perspectives together for prayerful decisions.

**Name:** Maria Luisa Torabi  
**Preferred Name:** Malu  
**Family Members:** Husband-Shervan, Joanna 11, Daniel 6  
**Occupation:** Owner of a Custom window treatment workroom



**A. How would you describe your relationship with God and how you have come to this point in your spiritual journey?**

I am grateful for God's grace and for His love that continues to draw me closer and closer to Him. I grew up in a Catholic home and went to an Evangelical school but most importantly I saw how my grandmother loved Jesus. That devotion for God was contagious and later I received Jesus as my Lord in high school. After becoming a mom, I joined the local Community Bible Study which helped me to stay in God's Word during my busy years of taking care of my young children. I have seen the most growth in my faith during this time and I'm thankful for that so that I can continue to raise both of my children teaching them about God.

At this point in my journey, I can confidently say that I am God's servant and I trust that God will lead and equip me in the way I should go.

**B. In order for the parish to get to know you, describe your history with the Church of the Epiphany, including how long you have been attending, what ministries you are or have been involved in.**

I was first introduced to the Church of the Epiphany in the year 2000 when I was an Au Pair for the Reed family. I became a member in 2004 or 2005. One of the first ministries I was involved in was the Women's Bible Study lead by Kimberly Benson and later when she moved away, Pat Meyer; I took over the leadership of this group and hosted it in my house until my daughter Joanna was born in 2011. At the same time, I participated in the Hot Meals program preparing food for the homeless. I also participated in a mom's Bible study, and I have been a helper in the nursery and a Sunday School teacher. Currently I am a helper in Sunday School and just signed up again to help in the Hot Meals ministry, which I plan to involve my kids in.

**C. What are your hopes and dreams for Church of the Epiphany?**

For us to continue to love and serve The Lord and to be a place where people can encounter God. I would love to see more members returning to our Church, especially families with teens and younger children.

**D. How will your life experience and abilities contribute to our leadership?**

The Lord has put me in leadership positions in the past, like an organizer and co-leader in the Women's Bible study and as a teacher in the Community Bible Study children's ministry and Sunday School. I also take care of my family and children in addition I have owned and managed my business for over 10 years.

My hope is for the Lord to use my talents and abilities and to continue to equip me in what He wants me to do to serve his Church.



**Annual Meeting**  
**November 13, 2022**

Fred Apelquist

Jane Burkett

Don Holt

Malu Torabi

Vote for up to three candidates!



**Church of the Epiphany Anglican**

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