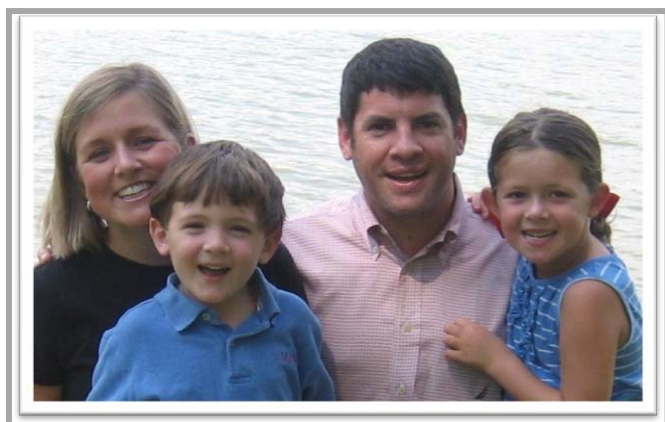


## 2012 Vestry Nominee Bios



**Laura Akers:** I am a life-long Episcopalian who grew up in Shreveport, LA and was a member of St. Mark's Cathedral. I attended Millsaps College in Jackson, MS and graduated with a degree in Elementary Education. I went on to the University of Mississippi and earned my Masters of Elementary Education. I married my husband, Jason, in June of 2000 and we moved back to Jackson, MS where I taught kindergarten for four years at St. Andrew's Episcopal School. In September of 2004, we were blessed with the birth of our daughter, Alexis. I stayed home to take care of Alexis and a couple of years later we were once again blessed with our son, Jess.

We moved to New Orleans in 2008. Jason had visited St. Paul's before the kids and I moved down and he always spoke of how welcoming everyone was. We immediately fell in love with the St. Paul's community and it became not only our church home, but the place where our children attend school. I have enjoyed getting involved with the St. Paul's community through working with the Parent's Association of the school and helping out with the children's ministries at church serving as a Sunday School Teacher and Vacation Bible School volunteer. Jason and I also serve as greeters at church. Our family feels very blessed to have St. Paul's in our lives and enjoy giving back to the place which has given us so much.



**Alistair Salisbury:** I was born and grew up in Derby, England. I had a conventional, happy, stable, but largely secular upbringing in a family of four children. Both of my parents, now retired, were teachers. I left home to attend university in Newcastle upon Tyne where I gained an engineering degree. After graduating I worked for Rolls-Royce in my home town, before moving to London to work in an Engineering contractor in 1989. In London I met my wife Tanya and we were married in 1994. Tanya awakened my faith and we attended the local Anglican Church in Fulham where I was baptized and confirmed, also in 1994.

Another life changing event occurred when I joined Shell in 1996 and took up an assignment in Syria, where we stayed for six very enjoyable years. This assignment broadened my outlook in many aspects-religious, culturally and professionally. We were members of the local Anglican Church which served the English speaking foreign community. The hospitality of our Syrian friends and Syrians in general meant we were, for example, able to experience the splendour of Orthodox ritual first hand, as well as learning about and observing Islamic practice. In 2003 we moved to Nigeria, again with Shell, a challenging but enjoyable assignment where we made many good friends.



**Perry Lee:** A native of Orangeburg, South Carolina, Perrey is a proud "cradle Episcopalian," with maternal and paternal family roots in the church. The daughter of a busy construction corporate executive who moved the family across state lines upwards of 10 times by the time she was sixteen, Perrey learned very early the consistent comfort offered by the Holy Eucharist.

Perrey attended high school and college in Alabama and majored in Psychology at Auburn University. She pursued graduate education in St. Louis Missouri, but, true to form and in line with her nomadic background; Perrey left school to drive a boat on a construction project in North Carolina. From there, she moved to Oklahoma, then back to Missouri, before she settled in New Orleans in 2007.

Perrey has had an active church life as well. She was a busy member of the ECW at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Grove, Oklahoma, and served as a Lay Eucharistic Minister, Chalice Bearer, and Lector at Christ Church in Cape Girardeau Missouri. While at Christ Church, she also served a three-year term on the vestry as Junior Warden, Secretary, and finally "part-timer." She was integral in the church's renovation projects and re-commitment to downtown Cape Girardeau. She has worked at various times as a social worker, admissions coordinator, and activities director for several nursing homes, a stay at home mom, a landscaper, the owner of a small advertising business, and then a business, public relations, and box office manager for the performing arts at a local university. She finally pursued her dream of becoming an attorney in 2010, when she graduated with honors from Loyola University – New Orleans College of Law. She is now a second year associate at Blue Williams in Metairie.

Perrey has two sons, Nathan (12) and Alex (11), who are both Acolytes at St. Paul's, and is recently engaged to her boyfriend of five years, Kyle Barnett, a legal journalist working in New Orleans.

## 2012 Vestry Nominee Bios



**Stephanie Mabou:** I was born in Shreveport. My father has worked in television news production since I was born, and my mother stayed at home to raise us until she began volunteering and eventually working at my school. I was in church nearly every Sunday morning of my life; if we weren't able to attend service, my father would find a spiritual radio or television program for us. Some of my fondest memories from my childhood are from him reading to us a Bible story or the book of Proverbs; he did this every night before we went to bed. My parents were very devout, and I have them to thank for raising me in the faith from such a young age.

I went to Louisiana College and majored in Biology, intending to attend medical school upon graduation. I met Cass, who would eventually become my husband, on the first day of college. We both began to question our faiths

around the time that we got married a year and a half later, and found the answers in St. Michael's Pineville, a small Episcopal Church. We began attending the week after we were married, and in no time at all, the church became very dear to us. A year later almost to the date, we were confirmed in the Episcopal Church. While in college, I was a member of the Student Government Association and a regular contributor to the *The Wildcat*, the school's monthly newspaper; my column was focused on faith and religious issues, and was called *De Corpe*—translated from Latin, it means “About the Body.”

After college, I felt increasingly dissatisfied with the direction my life was headed, and took some time to reflect and figure out some of the questions that had been plaguing me. We moved to New Orleans in 2008 after visiting the city on vacation and falling in love with it. We bought a house, and I went back to school at UNO to take a few courses in chemistry. In the mean time, I considered a few graduate programs and had almost decided to go back to school to get a masters in Public Health. My intention was to concentrate on Community Development, specifically in the field of mental health. However, I happened to have a powerful conversion experience, after which I realized that I was discerning a call to ministry.

Since then, I've begun working for Episcopal Community Services, the outreach arm of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana, as an Americorps VISTA. I work in Disasters Preparedness and Response and most of my work centers on capacity building; my favorite part of the job is getting to meet all of the wonderful people that live here in South

Louisiana. I enjoy writing in my spare time, especially about faith, identity, and spiritual development. I also play piano and sing in a band, participate in the handbell choir at St. Andrew's, and take Education for Ministry at St. Augustine's. Discernment has been the hardest and yet most rewarding endeavor that I've ever undertaken, but I feel so very blessed every day to have been given the gift of my call. I'm excited for the chance to serve my community as a vestry member, and I feel very grateful for having been given the opportunity.



**Thomas G. Fierke General Counsel:** Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company and State Chair Emeritus, Louisiana Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Mr. Fierke's academic background includes a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Metallurgical Engineering from Iowa State University, a Doctor of Laws (J.D.) from the University of Minnesota, and a Masters of Laws (LL.M) in Tax from Boston University. He was a Distinguished Military Graduate (DMG) at Iowa State University and commissioned Regular Army (RA) in 1971. Jumpmaster and Special Forces qualified, he served on active duty in a variety of locations and units until he left active duty in 1980. These assignments included six months before and six months after the revolution in Tehran, Iran.

He has been with Lockheed Martin Corporation and its predecessors since 1982, when he left government service. Currently, he is the General Counsel of Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company, Michoud Operations in New Orleans. Michoud Operations' principal product is the

External Tank for the NASA's Space Transportation System (Space Shuttle). It employs approximately 1700 in Louisiana.

From 1980, until January of 2002, when he retired, he was an active Army Reservist, whose last assignment was as the Staff Judge Advocate of the 377th Theater Support Command. He is an honor graduate of the Army War College and the Army Command and General Staff College. His highest military award is the Legion of Merit, which he first received for commanding the 2d Legal Services Organization. He is a Desert Storm veteran.

The Secretary of Defense appointed Mr. Fierke, State Chair, Louisiana Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), which position he held for the maximum two three year terms. He is the new State Chair Emeritus. He held positions of increasing responsibility with ESGR since 1988, including being State Ombudsman from 1996-2001. He is a charter member of the New Orleans Mayor's Military Advisory Committee (MMAC.) Mr. Fierke is also a board member of the Regional Chamber of Commerce, and is a sixteen-year board member and past officer of the local chapter of American Corporate Counsel Association (ACCA). He is admitted to practice law in Illinois, New York and Massachusetts.

He and his spouse, Debbie and two children live in New Orleans, Louisiana.

## 2012 Vestry Nominee Bios



**Don Romero:** I was born in New Orleans on January 21, 1947 to Roman Catholic parents. I am married to the former Carmen Lynne Pradillo of Metairie, La. We have 4 children: Tammy, Jennifer, Donald, and Joey who are all grown; also, 5 grandchildren with 1 great grandson on the way. My wife and I currently reside in Metairie. I am retired and she teaches Spanish and General Science at Archbishop Chapelle High School.

In 1972, I graduated from Delgado Jr. College with an Associate of Business Studies degree and Loyola University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Commerce 2 years later. I have American history graduate studies from Roosevelt University in Chicago. Also, I am a graduate of the New Orleans Police Academy and Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. Further, while in the military I completed many courses and schools pertaining to all areas of Logistics to include purchasing, accounting, budgeting, inventory control, leadership, and management. I have been retired

from the U.S. Navy since 1994, and the Immigration Service since 2002.

My hobbies include traveling in our RV, horseback riding, boating, and fishing. I especially enjoy the Mardi Gras season and am a Lt. in the Krewe of Zeus and belong to the Urban Cowboys Riding Club.

In 1997, I left the Roman Catholic church and was received into the Episcopal faith the following March 1998. Most of my time since then has been at St. Augustine's. I was active there as a lay Eucharistic minister, usher, greeter, and lector. I also became a member of their Men's Club, Angola State Penitentiary ministry, completed one year of EFM, did some work with the CASA program, and was a retreat captain for the bishop. I came to St. Paul's in June 2010. I have enjoyed being here very much.