

April 2019

Meet the Search Committee | St. Mary's by-the-Sea

Brita Bruemmer

My family has been part of St. Mary's since 1997. On a typical Sunday I get to sit with my husband, one or both daughters, my mother, and my sister. I have helped to develop children's liturgies, taught Godly Play, and led Youth Group service projects and trips. My husband and I have run the church's annual "Parish Camp" for 17 years. I have participated in programs that include the local community, and I was honored to go on service trips to Mississippi and Honduras. I am a Family Physician, and I love my part time job at the Big Sur Health Center. My husband and I met on a bike ride and we continue to enjoy running, biking, and swimming.

Don Fennell

After retiring two years ago after 35 years in public sector psychiatry, I enjoy my semi-retirement while working part-time at the counseling center at CSU Monterey Bay and enjoying all the beauty our area has to offer. I have been on the diocesan Commission on Ministry for the past twelve years and serve as delegate to convention. I now also have time to work with Christian Social Concerns in our food bank, as well as continuing as St. Mary's coordinator to IHELP, an interfaith program to provide food and shelter to homeless men.

Lindsay Synstebly

I started at Saint Mary's when I wanted to have my sons baptized. The first time my mom and I attended Saint Mary's we knew we were exactly where we were meant to be. Over the years I have worked in the Toddler Room, Godly Play, and currently I am the Treasurer. My husband Eric and also volunteer with IHELP Women.

I am a Customer Service Supervisor for a Public Utility on the Peninsula.

Michelle (Mickey) Welsh

I have been a member of St. Mary's for over 30 years. I have served on vestries and as senior warden under two Rectors. I am a recently retired civil rights and employment law attorney, and I am currently serving on the personnel committee. My partner and spouse, Kathy, has also served on vestry and has sung in choir. We have been blessed with the support of St. Mary's and its people throughout the years, and we are committed to keeping St. Mary's a welcoming community for all people.

Rebecca Bruemmer

I came to St. Mary's with my parents (Brita, who's also on the search team, and Steve) in 1997 at the ripe old age of 13 months, and I've thought of it as a second home ever since. I've been part of youth group, acolytes, prayer shawl ministry, two trips to Our Little Roses in Honduras, children's choir, regular choir, Integrity USA, and volunteer groups for plenty of events. I met two of my best friends at St. Mary's and I love being part of an intergenerational community, including 3 generations of my own family. In my time at the University of Washington, I attended Catholic and Episcopal churches, and I regularly participated in UW's Lutheran/Episcopal, United Methodist, and Jewish campus ministries. Outside of church, I'm an environmental biologist working to restore the former Fort Ord and I love rock climbing, playing the piano, and reading fantasy novels while crocheting blankets.

Robert Daunt

I have been involved with St. Mary's since about 1994 when our son was three. His growing up within the parish family initially influenced my involvement in the Church's activities and ministries. When we were first invited to participate in St. Mary's annual Antiques Show (now retired after a sixty-year run), we took a shift emptying wastebaskets with our three-year-old carrying the new wastebasket liners for us. In the years that followed, I participated in teaching Sunday School, Youth Group activities, Parish Camp, the Vestry, Church maintenance projects, and other Parish activities. Two years ago, I served on our Rector Search Committee. At the present time I am serving on the Vestry, am Junior Warden, and the Vestry liaison on the Rector Search Committee. Professionally I am a retired business lawyer and spent most of my forty-year professional life working with small and medium sized businesses in the field of computer technology.

Sarah Schramm

I am a native of El Paso, Texas and a graduate of Meredith College with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work. Throughout my career, the needs of disadvantaged individuals have come first: battered spouses, abused and neglected children, and, most recently, homeless and disadvantaged people. My husband, a retired Navy Officer and I have lived all over the United States, including Norfolk, VA, Guam, and Washington DC. I have served in community and church organizations throughout those years. I am a mom to a rising high school freshman and a rising middle schooler. Throughout both homeschooling for a time and utilizing public schools has given me a unique perspective on the needs of children and how education and community come together to support the young. In addition to duties on the Search Committee, I serve as the coordinator for Christian Social Concerns outreach at St. Mary's-by-the-Sea.