

✠ ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Beyond The *Red* Door



Meet our Trustees

By E. Ray Walker

St. Stephen's governance is pretty straightforward: the vestry, the rector and the trustees.

The roles of the vestry and the rector are evident. But what about the trustees? And, who are our trustees?

The canons of The Episcopal Church do not address the role of trustees. However, that role is spelled out in these documents:

—The constitution and canons of The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia (Canons 11-16 Diocese of Virginia: Canon 12 Section 6, and again Canon 15 Sections 1 & 7). Also, the fiduciary responsibility is articulated in detail in the St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Trust, the 1990 document that governs the Atkins Trust.

—The Code of Virginia, Title 57, Chapter 2, Article 2. "Property Held for Religious Purposes."

Episcopal churches are unincorporated associations, incapable of holding title to real property. Therefore, the Code of Virginia requires court-appointed trustees to hold the title.

The church, represented by the vestry, must apply to the court for the appointment or removal of trustees. Virginia Code § 57-8 covers the appointment of trustees. Most parishes, including St. Stephen's, appoint three trustees.)

Virginia Code § 57-15 also requires that church trustees be appointed "for the purpose of making any conveyance or encumbrance of real property."

Trustees appointed pursuant to § 57-8 have bare legal title and no power to manage or control the property. They are subject to the will of the governing body of the church — the vestry. If the vestry determines that the property should be conveyed or encumbered, the trustees must execute all documents necessary.

Virginia Code § 57-11 provides for suits by and against trustees, but those lawsuits are tied directly to the real or personal property held by the trustees in trust. Trustees have no personal liability in any lawsuit against a parish.

Finally, trustees currently are appointed for life by the vestry, per the bylaws and canons. They may be replaced at any time subject to the local circuit court's approval. However, there is some disagreement on this matter. The 1990 Trust agreement gives sole discretion of the trustees to replace themselves, with the vestry having no input. This is one of a few critical areas the church and lawyers are trying to clean up. Stay tuned.

Our three trustees are uniquely qualified for their roles at St. Stephen's, bringing knowledge of the church and community, as well as business experience, to this crucial position.

That said, let's meet our trustees.

AMY McCABE

Amy McCabe is the newest St. Stephen's trustee. After stops at locales all over the U.S. roadmap, she and her family landed in idyllic Culpeper in 2012. After all that travel, Amy insists they have no plans to leave charming 'Peptown. Her journey to Culpeper involved stops in **Seneca, S.C.**, where Amy was born and raised; **Boone, N.C.**, where she earned degrees in communications and marketing from Appalachian State University; **San Jose, Calif.**, where she had a job in marketing; **Monterey, Calif.**, where she had the very good fortune of meeting her future husband, Jim; **Yuma, Ariz.**, where Jim, a Harrier pilot, was stationed. ("Yuma was not a hotbed of activity at that time, so I went back to college to earn master's degrees in management and human resource development from Webster University"); **Miami**, briefly, where Jim was a pilot for American Airlines; **Wilton, N.H.**, where son Samuel was born; also, Amy worked in the financial field with Putnam Investments and Fidelity Investments; **Martinsburg, W.Va.**, for two years; **Cape Coral, Fla.**, for seven years.



Whew!

At this point, because Jim's job took him away from home regularly, Amy pivoted and started a career in teaching to be on the same schedule as Samuel. She taught multiple business courses to high school students and made lifelong connections with many of her students and colleagues.

In 2018, the family had the privilege of receiving Bradley into their home and officially adopted him in 2020. Bradley is in third grade. His parents "are ever thankful for the unexpected blessing of their second son!"

First son Samuel graduated from Culpeper County High School in 2021 and the U.S. Air Force Academy in 2025.

The family has been members of St. Stephen's since 2012, and Amy did a four-year term on the Vestry.

Amy taught economics and finance at Culpeper County High School for eight years. While teaching, she earned her doctorate in economics from Concordia University. She is taking classes at Liberty University and is pursuing a certification in financial therapy.

Meanwhile, she works for the nonprofit Next Gen Personal Finance, whose goal is to ensure that every high school student in the United States receives at least one mandatory class of personal finance prior to graduation.

One thing people may not know about Amy — she has been a private pilot since 2001. She says she "loves to fly, but it's been a while. Maybe when I get some spare time. ..."



BILLY YOWELL

And we thought we had busy lives.

For 53 years, Billy has been active in the life of St. Stephen's, including Vestry terms as Junior Warden and Senior Warden. Calling him a church treasure is a massive understatement.

In 1988, he was elected to the Culpeper Town Council. He has served as vice mayor since 2004. As a member of the Town Council, Billy has served on many crucial committees.

In addition to his work at St. Stephen's and the Town Council, Billy has served on numerous boards, including the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club and United Way.

Now retired, Billy remains an avid observer of financial markets.

In addition to doing his best to make the world a better place, at church and on the Town Council, he is known to play an occasional round of golf. In fact, he says, "I hit a hole-in-one on my 35th birthday." Oh, happy day!

He and wife Julie have four sons, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

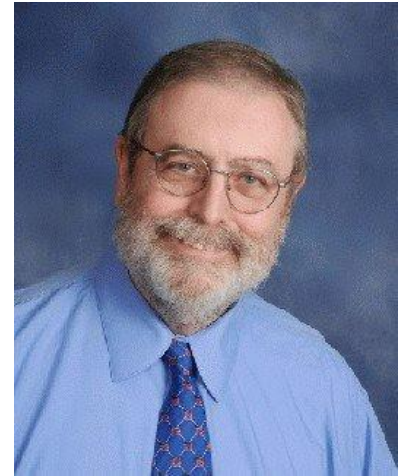
HAROLD BOYD

Harold is a Texan by birth, an educator by training, a Democrat by passion, and an Episcopalian by faith.

In other words, a gumbo with distinctive seasonings.

He was born in Big Spring, Texas, to William Deeds Boyd and his wife, Elizabeth Horn Boyd.

Harold's father, known to friends as Padre, enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1941 and served in the Atlantic and Pacific theaters during the remainder of World War II. After his war service, he attended the Church Divinity School of the Pacific and was ordained into the priesthood of the Episcopal Church in 1948.



He retired from the Naval Reserves after 38 years of service with the rank of lieutenant commander.

As an Episcopal priest, Padre was called to service at — among other places — St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Orange County, Va., and Aquia Episcopal Church in Stafford, Va.

For better or for worse, Harold was a PK, “preacher’s kid.”

After graduating from Orange County High School, Harold enrolled at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg and earned a degree in political science and history, which landed him a teaching position in Manassas Park and later with Spotsylvania County Public Schools. He retired after 30 years in the classroom.

Away from the classroom, Harold was deeply involved with politics, serving as a presidential elector for the 7th Congressional District in 2008 and 2016 for the Democratic Party. He was chairman of the Culpeper County Democratic Committee for nearly three years.

Harold and Donna Stevens Boyd were married for 42 years, until her death in 2012. They have a daughter and a son, Denise and Ashby, and three grandchildren.

In 2015, he married Marsha Hamilton.

At St. Stephen's, Harold served as a local and regional youth leader for 25 years, and also as a lay reader, senior warden, treasurer, and trustee for the church and Atkins trusts.

Little-known facts about Harold:

—He once worked as a lineman for VEPCO.

— As a teen, he worked summers at Shrine Mont, the Episcopal conference center and retreat in the Shenandoah Valley.

—He has never missed voting in a primary or regular election — local, state or federal.

-SSEC Junior Warden Billy Green contributed to this report