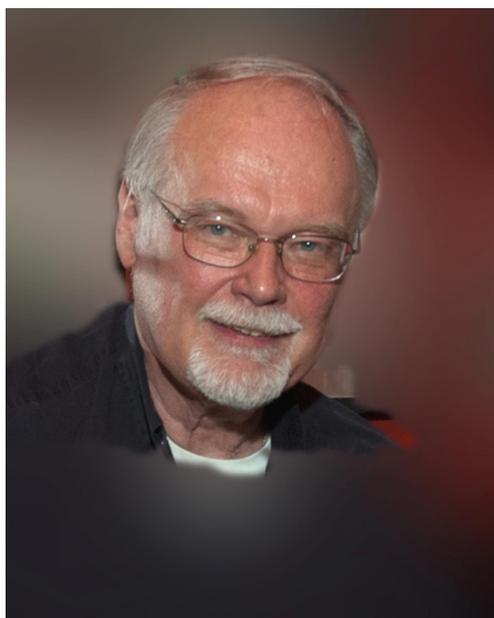


# Your Vestry Candidates

Damon Doucet, *Junior Warden*



## Curt Nilsson

I was born in Chicago and raised on a farm on the northwest side of the city. I lived there from 1948 until we moved in 1958. I went to Augsburg College in Minneapolis and spent a year in Germany (1969-1970). After graduating, I spent a year in seminary at United Theological Seminary, New Brighton, Minnesota. After that, I had an assistantship at U of I, Urbana, where I earned a Masters degree in Germanic linguistics. I was accepted into their Ph.D. program but left after the first year to pursue a career in photography. My primary hobbies and interests these days include history, photography and singing and playing folk music. Since joining St. Matthew's, I regularly serve as an usher at the 10:30 service, and I very much enjoyed being a part of the music program at our Vacation Bible Camp.

## Molly Purse

My name is Molly Purse and I live in Lombard with my fiance Sean and our animals. I have been working as a Kindergarten teacher in Aurora for the past two years. I am passionate about traveling and spending time in nature. As we have had more time home these last few years, I have been really enjoying cooking and baking.

My family has been with St. Matthews for many years. I have so many fond memories from sitting with my grandma, to youth groups, to joining the pageant. I have served as an acolyte for over 15 years. In recent years I've stepped more into a leadership role, alongside my dad, that supports youth participation in the service. Serving on the vestry would be a great opportunity to collaborate with other members and engage in more parts of the church.





### **William A Widmer III**

I was baptized and confirmed at Grace Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

I started attending St. Matthew's in the early 90s, then, as now, I am a committed 8 o'clock service person. I'm not anti-choir (my first paying job was as a boy soprano) I like the quiet contemplation. I have acted and continue to act as a Lector and Intercessor. I served a previous term as a member of the Vestry. Our three children were baptized and confirmed at St. Matthew's. I just retired after spending more than 50 years representing

Unions, Employee Benefit Funds and Workers. I was Counsel to the Chicago Federation of Labor for more than 20 years. I mention those experiences because I believed and believe that protecting the rights of people and attempting to improve their lot in life is a form of the Gospel in action.



### **Deborah Williams**

Deborah is a longtime member of St. Matthew's. She has served as an adult leader in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd children's formation program and as a vestry member, and she currently serves as clerk of the vestry. She is a member of the green team, altar guild, and stitchers group, a loyal follower of Don Scott's Bible study, and a regular participant in the St. Matthew's-St. Mark's lunch ministry. She coordinates the altar bread team and eagerly awaits the resumption of that ministry.

Deborah grew up in Atlanta with a strong German Lutheran background. After attending the University of Illinois Urbana for an MA in history, she found her way to Evanston. She is retired from a career as an editor of medical and academic publications. Her children, Jon and Will Koomjian, grew up at St. Matthew's and have since migrated to the Pacific Northwest. She particularly enjoys gardening, reading, knitting, and visiting new-to-her parts of the world.

Deborah believes that the rich heritage of St. Matthew's, extending back almost 150 years, grounds us in a sense of place and purpose. At this important point in our history, we need to prayerfully and thoughtfully consider the work God is now calling us to do, both inside and outside our parish community. During the past year, the vestry supplemented the St. Matthew's mission statement, "Welcoming all in community, joyfully doing God's work in the world," with "Welcoming our neighbors near and far" as the focus of our immediate efforts. The vestry also adopted a well-defined process of identifying and assessing experimental efforts to accomplish these goals. As a vestry member, Deborah will enthusiastically encourage each of these efforts and is already developing one such experiment.