



# **2018 Pastoral Council Candidates**

*The election will take place at St. Patrick's on  
Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>*

Please see the bulletin for absentee voting instructions

*The Mission of St. Patrick's Catholic Community is to proclaim and live the Gospel message of unconditional love, healing and reconciliation through prayer, celebration and action on behalf of justice as a sign of hope for all God's people.*

*Spirit of life, Spirit of wisdom,  
be active among us, the people  
of St. Patrick Catholic Community.  
Bring us together and keep us together  
in unity of mind and heart  
as we search for ways  
to live the Gospel  
in our present and in our future.  
Lead us and inspire us  
in fulfilling our mission  
as disciples of Jesus  
in this community of believers,  
now and always. Amen.*

### **The Top Five Parish Priorities Identified in the House Meetings**

1. Communications. Parishioners want a better use of all forms of social media to keep all of us informed about ministries and what's going on within the parish. Also, the need to use social media to let the wider community know about St. Patrick's.
2. Our social outreach. Parishioners want us to build on St. Patrick's legacy of reaching out to the poor and those on the margins--in direct service and also on behalf of justice.
3. Music ministry. Parishioners want us to bring on a Music Director and also a choir.
4. Ministry to the younger members of the parish--including teenagers and also our young adults.
5. Our spiritual growth as a parish-- through small-group reflections and Scripture study.

Also, equally mentioned as a #5, is renovation of our buildings on the campus of St. Patrick's.

# CHRIS CLAUDE



My faith history starts when I was baptized Catholic because my dad said “just in case they are right!” My dad was Catholic and my mother was Lutheran. Both of them were brought up in religious homes, but did not carry their faith into their adult years. Because some of my extended family was Catholic, I did attend mass a few times a year normally during the holidays. I did not think much about my faith until after I graduated college and moved to Memphis. I went to mass periodically but with no regularity. I guess you could say I was a lost soul in search of myself spiritually.

I was amazingly lucky to have lived a blessed life up until 2007 with everything going my way including work and never losing a loved one. Everything changed in 2008 when I went thru a very tough time attending 10 funerals in 20 months including family members and a divorce. Therefore

decided to join the RCIA class at St. Louis and started my journey. I am deeply entrenched in my faith now and have been ever since late summer of 2008. I rarely miss mass and attempt to live a deeply faithful life. I was also lucky enough to get a second chance at love. After going thru the Annulment process I married Fara Captain in St. Patrick’s Church on July 12th, 2014. We were blessed with a daughter (Sofia) on September 2nd, 2015. While Fara is not Catholic, she fully supports my faith and raising Sofia in a Catholic environment.

Fara and I hosted one of the house meetings and I was inspired with those who attended and our conversations. With my career in engineering sales, management and business ownership, I feel I can bring unique leadership gifts to help St. Patrick’s work on our five areas of focus:

Communication, Social Outreach, Music Ministry, Ministry to Teens & Young Adults and our Spiritual Growth as a Parish. Furthermore, my engineering and construction background should help us with the challenges of renovating our buildings. My gift to the Music Ministry may be to leave that area to those more talented. As anyone who has sat near me at Mass may attest, I am tone deaf. I feel my experience as a mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Memphis can be applicable to both our Social Outreach and Young Parishioner Ministries. Communication is one of my passions even if it is not a strength yet. I am continually improving communications in my marriage and my company and hope to share my insights with our parish.

I completely understand if my faith history or time constraints prevents me from being considered for this position, but I also want to be open and honest about who I am and where I came from. I want to be able to give back to the Church, but I have a very hectic schedule. Therefore, I agreed to the nomination to be on the Parish Council because I feel it is an area where I can lend a voice, lead and contribute.

Thank you for considering me for our Parish Council. No matter what you all decide, I will always be here as a loyal member of St. Patrick’s supporting our Mission!

Sincerely,  
Chris Claude

# CARLA DENNIS



I am Carla Dennis. I am a cradle Catholic, a forever Memphian, and an educator for 45 years. I was a member of the Parish Pastoral Council for 8 years at St. Therese Church and I'm currently serving on the School Board of Immaculate Conception Cathedral School. I've been a member of the parish at St. Patrick for only 5 months but St. Pat's is now my home.

Enjoying the great diversity of our parish, I envision the Pastoral Council being the outlet for our parish family to feel comfortable expressing their needs and concerns. I would like to participate in the process of channeling everyone's individual gifts and talents in order to make St. Patrick's Parish a better place to express and live our faith. With God's help and our good will and dedication, we can achieve the top 5 priorities and accomplish any other projects.

# MICHAEL DONOHOE



Mike Donohoe...focused on Serving St. Patrick's History

- Born, raised, and an active Catholic
- Benedictine High School (Corpus Christi Academy, Corpus Christi Texas)
- Jesuit Trained (Wheeling Jesuit University, Wheeling, West Virginia)
- Distinguished Military Officer (Retired, 24 years US Coast Guard)
- 9+ year parishioner at St. Patrick's
- Past Chairman, St. Patrick's Parish Pastoral Council
- 20 years Memphis based Professional Consulting; locally, nationally, internationally
- Past Board Chairman, Mid-South Chapter American Red Cross

Professional / Community Skills

- Organizational Development
- Strategic Planning
- Team Building

- Matching "talents" with opportunities
- Outcome "metrics" a priority critical to assessment and sustainability
- Realistic visionary...with great track record of visions becoming reality
- Kissed the "Blarney Stone" on multiple occasions...Smile...just a light note!

Parish Priorities: Our success as a Parish in achieving our "Priorities" is dependent upon our individual commitments and the broad-based participation of our parishioners to the community. Here are a couple thoughts on our five Parish Priorities:

• Communications:

- ✓ I'm available via cell phone and email...talk to me! ✓ Improved, dynamic Parish website
- ✓ Regular updates on "team" activities
- ✓ Possibility of a St. Patrick's APP?

• Social Outreach

- ✓ Vibrant Community Center
- ✓ Neighborhood Assessment
- ✓ Community Ministry Opportunities

• Music Ministry

- ✓ Funding a Music Director
- ✓ Music Alternatives; stuff we like and enhances our Worship ✓ Music volunteers; voices, musicians, genre

• Ministry to Young Members

- ✓ Young adult / Youth "focus Groups"; What can we do to meet the need?
- ✓ Two young adult events in 2018
- ✓ Two Youth events in 2018
- ✓ Establishing a "Young Member Action Team" to grow and sustain the programs

• Spiritual Growth

- ✓ Formation of Small Groups; fellowship, scripture study, community service ✓ Daily "Scripture" email or text message...share it, live it!

# DON FARRELL



## **A little bit about me:**

a. I grew up in Brooklyn NYC, have lived in the Memphis area since 1986....moving downtown 11 years ago. First attended St Mary's in 2007 and then St Patrick's for the past three years.

b. I have started two companies, both being training companies. The first one became the largest in the world with over 283 associates, licensees in 44 countries and well over 10K clients. We found the way to guarantee success for the client, or we did not get paid, that's how sure we were in getting the right results.

## **Gifts and talents:**

a. In business we track everything. We track because we strive for continual improvement and with many business leaders, it's in our DNA. I think I can bring leadership skills, strategic and tactical skills, organization skills, communication skills, have a passion for results and work well from an organized plan.

b. I usually root for the under-dog. I've attended all 3 downtown Catholic churches and as Father Val says, we are at the crossroads of poverty and prosperity, so in some ways we are the under-dog. We need our 5 top priorities executed at a very high level and then do more, so we are the top dog in our expectations and in our deeds. Doing more than people expect should be our goal and would like to help St Patrick's get there.

# YVONNE FOURNIER



I first came to St. Patrick's on Mother's Day, 1980. It was a time when hope had gone awry. Yet, remembering the strength my faith was for me throughout my life, I knew I had to give my son a chance for the same. I left mass that Sunday with the voice of the Holy Spirit saying, "You are home." That year, I started my private practice in strategic education and parenting. 30+ years later, I know that what others call disability, is their own inability to see the gifts in others. My goal has been to strategically move my students to find their strengths and abilities within, to let go of the shortsighted goal of success and instead build the kingdom by being the change only they were meant to become. This too, was the message of my 32- year nationally syndicated column for parents.

The Parish Council will set the pathways for love in our community as it goes forth to care for others. The five priorities set by the St. Patrick's Church community will become the pillars of strength for the work ahead. As a member of the Parish Council, my foremost intention will be to nurture and develop each pillar from the start, and without priority, to assure every person that their voice is heard, and their message is translated into action. I am a licensed pharmacist with a master's in public health with a major in analytic demography (futurism) and a doctorate in curriculum and instruction with a focus on policy and language analysis. Born in New York City, I moved with my family to Puerto Rico when I was in high school. I am fluent in Spanish. I have taught statistics, research and philosophy in college. For 15 years I consulted with corporations on developing and implementing strategies for systemic change. I am now retired and consult. I am a Founding Member of The Woman's Foundation, Past President of the YMCA of Greater Memphis, Past President of Porter Leath, Past Board and Executive Committee of CBU, past member of St. Patrick's Parish Council. My husband, Dr. Manuel E. Soto-Viera, developmental pediatrician, Director of Pediatrics at the Child Development Center, passed away in 2010. My son, Manolo Soto-Fournier, M.D. radiologist, is currently in Baltimore completing a fellowship at John Hopkins. He, and his wife of two years, are expecting their first child (a boy!) as I write this. I am ready to serve St. Patrick's as part of the Parish Council or in any other way the church/community needs.

# MONICA JUMA



My name is Monica Juma and I am a family medicine physician at University Clinical Health in Covington. I grew up in San Jose, California. My husband, Stephen and I moved to Memphis in 2011. I was working at the Church Health Center as part of my medical school rotations when Dr. Morris said, "If you are really Catholic you need to check out St. Patricks." I'm so grateful for his suggestion as St. Patrick's has been such a wonderful inspiring community and has really strengthened and grounded me. It's really felt like home. I'm so grateful to be surrounded by such a loving and inspiring group.

I would be excited to help collaborate to make the five priorities come to life at St. Patricks. I'm particularly excited about social outreach. I'm continually inspired and in awe of St. Patrick's history and the work that parishioners continue. As

far as communication, I can help with social media and connecting with young adults who may be interested in becoming involved. My husband and I were part of the young adults group when we started and have been excited about the discussions to restart such a group. Being in medicine has given me the appreciation of the importance of listening, strengthening relationships and understanding each others values and needs to collaborate to make a difference.



# KEVIN KIMBERLY



As a “Cradle Catholic” born and raised in New Orleans, my faith has been a very important part of my life since birth. My relationship with Christ and my place in the Catholic community strengthened when I began altar serving in 3rd grade, started attending a Catholic school in 6th grade, and had the wonderful opportunity to attend the University of Notre Dame for both undergraduate and graduate studies. Through these experiences, I realized Church was much more than just attending weekly Mass. At Notre Dame, I began serving as a Eucharistic minister and lector, finally entertained my interest in singing and choir, and immersed myself into more service. Upon graduating, I moved to Memphis as an ACE (Alliance for Catholic Education) teaching fellow to begin my career in education. At the end of my two-year teaching commitment, I decided to stay in Memphis and continued to work in Catholic

schools for almost a decade as a teacher and principal. Outside of my involvement in Church, I am a big fan of college football, traveling, flip-flops, dancing, food, and the insane voice of Carrie Underwood.

We are certainly in the midst of some exciting times at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church. The tradition of the parish is rich, and its future is bright. It speaks to the entire parish, both longtime and newer parishioners, that the five overarching priorities and goals resulting from most of the house meetings were similar; this unity will be essential as we move forward together. As a participant in the process, I learned a lot from listening, and I believe that is a gift I can share in helping to bring these priorities to life via the Parish Council. I’ve always believed that perspective must be informed and not just merely opinion, thus listening and learning will remain a priority for me as a member of the Parish Council. I am also a doer by nature, and I plan to continue my involvement at St. Patrick’s, particularly in the liturgical, social outreach, and music ministries. In order to improve communication and social outreach while helping to build the community within and around St. Patrick’s, I plan on modeling these actions themselves so we can become the one body in Christ we are called to be. By reaching out to all, it is my hope that we can together gain insight into the needs, desires, and hopes of the parish and together build and strengthen the St. Patrick community.

# JAN KIDDER



Dear St. Pat's brothers and sisters,

(I do love the way St. Paul begins his letters.) I am returning to the St. Pat's family after several years of attending other Catholic churches in Memphis. My first Sunday "visiting" here this past September felt like coming home. (Not to mention that Ro immediately drafted me to be a lector, and saw to it that I fell in love with the atrium.) Coming home this time, I was overjoyed to be welcomed back by many people I knew—as warmly as though I'd never left—and to discover that the family had added many new members. This is, for me, the essence of the St. Pat's community: always the same Spirit, even in new and different members. I believe that the Holy Spirit led me back here, and I am eager to serve the St. Pat's family in any way I can. It is obvious to me that the Spirit is moving powerfully in the parish at this time—the beautiful mix of long-time members, new members, and returning members shows we are *all* being re-NEWed!

I am equally certain that the Holy Spirit is guiding the house meeting process and the discernment of how we will build up the Kingdom together, as well as the formation of the new parish council and how it will provide leadership and organization. Many themes from the house meeting notes resonated deeply with me, and if the Spirit brings me to the council, I would work enthusiastically to carry them forward. My "day job" is as a Montessori teacher at the Lipman School of the University of Memphis, so the Montessori-influenced Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is close to my heart; I am currently volunteering as needed in the atrium, and I intend to take the catechist training as soon as it is offered again in the diocese. I would like to address the concerns about Mass times, voiced in the house meetings, in dialogue with the parents of children in CGS, to find a solution that works for all. We are, as one house meeting participant said, "one church, not three." I want to encourage others to attend Mass at different times than their usual one, when possible, and to promote "whole-church" community-building events—celebrations, retreats, classes, etc.—that will bring us even closer together. As a teacher myself, I know that I know my class and their families as well as most anyone else in their lives. I think we should work in close partnership with, and take the lead from, teachers and families at St. Patrick School, in our outreach to those who live in our neighborhood. And "my" kids (in my class) have taught me that children are usually willing and eager to serve; one of my kindergartners at Lipman, for instance, was involved with her own church's program similar to Room in the Inn, and talked about volunteering with homeless families as naturally as she talked about sleepovers with friends. I would love to invite the children of the parish and school to become involved with this, and other ministries at St. Pat's. I also heard strongly, from the house meeting summaries, the desire of the adult members of the parish to know more about the ministries already in place at St. Pat's. Although I am no webmaster, I have written a classroom blog, and I have considerable experience interviewing others and leading focus groups for research studies; I would love to use these skills to highlight and publicize St. Pat's ministries and ministers in written, photo, and video form. My group facilitation skills have been honed on 3- to 6-year olds (which is rather like herding cats), so they are pretty strong. I want to work hard to establish small sharing groups—Bible study, book clubs, potluck groups, etc.—throughout the parish, for I believe this is the best way we can serve and love one another. One final thing I bring to the table is just a love of music: I can carry a tune—my voice is not good enough to be a cantor or choir member, but I love to sing and I encourage others to sing—if only to drown me out!

Yours in Christ,

# PAT PAPACHRISTOU



Candidate for St. Patrick Parish Council: Pat Papachristou

I have been an active member of St. Patrick Church since the early 1970's. My family and I have been blessed by being members of St. Patrick faith community. Both my children, Mark and Angela, were baptized, made their first Communion, and were married at St. Patrick Church. I loved the welcoming atmosphere that has always been part of St. Patrick's community. I am interested in giving more of my time and energy to help reach our parish goals. I am a listener who wants to represent the different perspectives I hear. I began teaching Social Studies at Immaculate Conception High School for girls. Later I taught Economics at the University of Memphis and Christian Brothers University. As a life-long educator, I know the importance of having grass-root involvement in discussing our common future together, as we

move forward with establishing our priorities. I enjoyed being a part of the house "meetings" and was delighted with the huge turnout at our Saturday Brunch. It was interesting to see the overlap of the five main goals we had for our parish.

As a candidate, I promise that if elected to the parish council, I will be a champion for getting our established goals implemented. I will attend our meetings and represent the views of our community in search of the path that will help us grow as a faith community. In our "house meetings groups" there were many suggestions that could help us become a deeper faith community. A number of these did not cost much money and would build community between the new members and old members. I am interested in working to bring our community together by doing social activities around with different age groups. Game nights and "Uno" parties might be simple things to do.

# JEN SNEED



Hello St. Patrick's family and friends, My name is Jennifer Sneed. I am a native Memphian and a former "IC Girl"—I attended Immaculate Conception Cathedral School from the preschool class through to my junior year of high school in 2006. I am a 2011 graduate of Christian Brothers University, and a former Lasallian Volunteer (2011-2013), meaning I worked alongside the De La Salle Christian Brothers as a lay person for two years in the Bronx, New York, one of their numerous international ministries. After volunteering with immigrant senior citizens, I returned to Memphis in 2013 for law school with the goal of aiding immigrants *and*

seniors. God is ever-faithful about providing when asked, and in 2017 I joined Bourland Heflin law firm as a probate attorney, working directly with the elderly and immigrant children. After returning to Memphis, I also had the opportunity to be intentional about choosing my new home church, so after visiting several churches, I became a member of St. Pat's, coincidentally only a few short weeks before the diocese announced that Father Val—my priest since grade school—was joining St. Pat's as well!

As a young attorney, my life is a constant study in helping people utilize their resources to achieve the most effective and efficient solutions, and this is a skill I believe will help address each of St. Pat's 5 Priorities. My experience as intermediary between my clients, the courts, and various government and community entities has given me an understanding of the most effective means of communicating vast, detailed amounts of information to multiple people, which I would use to help our parish stay informed of all of the many wonderful projects that are always in the works. I have also been active in our parish ministries, so I have been able to witness firsthand how the programs work from conception to execution, and also what other programs we could introduce in coming years. Without revealing my age J, I think I am in a very good position to bridge the gap between our older and younger parish community members and help create engaging programs and projects for our younger members. I have also participated in the reflective sessions that are held Sundays between the morning masses, and while circumstances have limited my attendance, I would like to help increase awareness and attendance at those sessions, as well as creating new sessions to accommodate various schedules and generational groups. Finally, I've I am a very out-of-practice 2nd soprano, so while I may have retired my voice, I am still very committed to using my ear and other skills to helping coordinate a new choir.

Thanks so much for your consideration for Parish Council!

-Jen

# ALAN STILES



To St. Patrick's Parish,

Alan Stiles is my name. I have attended St. Patrick's church since 1965. I have served in many capacities such as collecting the offerings in the 5:00 service. I am currently a semi-retired teacher of math. I tutored at St. Patrick and St. Augustine schools.

As far as priorities are concerned I would like to sing in the choir like I have previously. I hope to continue working in the food pantry. I also attend prayer and bible study programs. During the Easter and Palm Sunday programs I have ridden "donkeys" and marched to the Civil Rights Museum. Hopefully I would like to continue these activities. I presently protest the Planned Parenthood activities.

Thanks for the opportunity.

# ELLEN WEIRICH



Although I am new to St. Patrick, my family's roots are in this church so, for me, being a part of St. Patrick has been a very special homecoming. As a child, I spent much of my time listening to my grandparents' stories about what it was like to grow up on South Fourth Street and attend St. Patrick Church and School. Even then, St. Patrick's community provided a welcome environment for them just as it had done for their own grandparents, who had emigrated from Ireland and Italy in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, during a time when immigrants were often not welcomed.

It is St. Patrick's welcoming spirit, its strong sense of community, its eagerness to embrace people from all different backgrounds, and its dedication to social justice that inspire me each day, and I would like very much to contribute to the church that opened its arms to my family so many years ago.

As a member of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for almost 40 years, I have volunteered my time in various ministries. In my early twenties and thirties, I helped to start some of the first young adult groups at IC, I volunteered my time with IC's high school youth group, and I worked with other parishioners to start some of the first diocesan-wide Theology on Tap discussions that focused on social justice. I have also been a member of IC's Haiti Mission Team for quite a few years, and I served on the Parish Council at IC as well. Outside of church, I am a Spanish teacher at St. Mary's, a member of the Midtown Memphis Rotary Club, and a volunteer at Multi-National Ministries.

I am truly humbled to have been nominated as a candidate. As a new parishioner, if I were elected to the Parish Council, I would strive to listen and learn from long-time parishioners how best to continue the parish's mission, I would work to ensure that our young people have strong youth groups and young adult groups, and I would support and volunteer in St. Patrick's community outreach programs.

# TERRY WOODARD



I have been a member of St. Patrick's since 1998. This was the same year that my husband, Philip, and I became "EMPTY NESTERS" and moved downtown. I am an artist and my greatest strength is vision. I can see things as they could be. With a vision of a vibrant neighborhood I became very involved in our community, South Main and served in many different ways. In 2000 I helped to co-find the South Main Art Trolley Tour. In 2003 I became the president of the newly formed South Main Association and a member of the Center City Commission's Design Review Board. In 2010 I became the president of the Downtown

Neighborhood Association. In 2014 I became a member of the Downtown Memphis Commission's board of director and in 2015 I was elected the treasurer of the board of the Downtown Memphis Commission. My leadership roles have taught me much about working together to achieve goals.

After much pray and consideration I have decided that if I am elected to the Parish Council I will study and make note of ALL of the requested goals. Then I will work with the council to approach the top five goals that were selected by the parish, I will approach each goal with a five-step process.

Step 1 - Make a specific plan for each goal to include talents needed, hard cost and a timeline.

Step 2 - Meet with the house meeting leaders and identify people and their talents and/or their availability to in-kind donations and match them to the needs that have been identified.

Step 3 - Make a budget to measure labor or hard cost that cannot be donated.

Step 4 – PRAY, then meet with the finance committee to see if it is attainable. If it is doable I will move on to step 5.

Step 5 - List why the approved goal is relevant to the parish and make a timeline before presenting the solution to parishioners.

During this process the council should be able to obtain a database for future needs that will identify parishioners and their talents as well as their availability to in kind donations.

As a parish, *let us pray that we discern well* our newly-elected members of the Parish Pastoral Council.

***Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful!***