**Vestry Bios 2021**

Our Vestry members were asked to respond to the following:

What brought you to Christ and The Epiphany Church?

In what capacities do you serve at C&E?

What do you do when you’re not at C&E?

**Wendy Bellmore**

What brought you to Christ and The Epiphany Church?

I was raised in the Episcopal Church and came to C&E when I moved to East Haven. As children, we worshiped at St Thomas in New Haven, and later at St Peter’s in Cheshire.  I have always been able to find an Episcopal Church no matter where I have lived.  One of my favorites was a tiny church the size of our chapel. Called St Philip in the Field, it was located in Sedalia, CO.

In what capacities do you serve at C&E?

I have served many years as Senior Warden, and more recently as Property Warden. I have also served as vestryman, deanery representative, and convention delegate, and led Bible Study. I also serve on the Diocesan Companions In Mission Committee and chair the Travel Grant Sub-Committee.

What do you do when you’re not at C&E?

I am an active member of the American Legion Post 88, East Haven Lions Club, Shoreline Community Garden Club and Branford Garden Club where I serve as Horticulture chair. I am an Advanced Master Gardener, and mentor UCONN students. This year I am Location Coordinator for Wreaths Across America for East Lawn and Greenlawn cemeteries in East Haven. I watch my grandson in CT twice a week and will be in MA to watch my grandchildren when our newest family member is born. I love to read history and a good murder mystery.

**George Coulombe**

What brought you to Christ and The Epiphany Church?

I became a member of C&E approximately 13 years ago when my wife was hired as the music director.  Prior to that C&E was like a second parish.

In what capacities do you serve at C&E?

I currently serve C&E as Senior Warden, Bookkeeper, Lay Reader and Chalice Bearer

What do you do when you’re not at C&E?

When not at C&E, I am a volunteer driver for Hospice and Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers, read mystery novels, do Sudoku and crossword puzzles, veg-out on TV, but mostly I enjoy jigsaw puzzles.

**Kristina Langlan**

What brought you to Christ and The Epiphany Church?

I believe God led me to C&E via my ex-husband Steve Langlan, who also blessed me with 3 wonderful step-children and our son Charles.

It wasn’t until my son Charles was being confirmed that I decided to become received in the Episcopal church and was blessed enough to share that moment together with him.

In what capacities do you serve at C&E?

For about the last 15 years or so I have served on the vestry in many different roles and I am currently the vestry clerk.

What do you do when you’re not at C&E?

I work two jobs and try to spend as much time (as a teen allows) with Charlie as this is his senior year of high school and I’m mentally preparing myself for the empty nest -LOL

I am truly blessed to be part of such a wonderful FAMILY at C&E who has always been there for me and my family throughout the years- I love each and every one of you.

**Carol Link-Ude**

What brought you to Christ and The Epiphany Church?

Born into Christ and The Epiphany

In what capacities do you serve at C&E?

Directress of the Altar Guild, vestry member, Feast, Festivities and Fund Raising Commission

What do you do when you’re not at C&E?

Volunteer with VNA Hospice, avid book Reader

**Richard Mead**

What brought you to Christ and The Epiphany Church?

I am at Christ and The Epiphany to share worship with my sister and her family. I just got tired of sitting alone in my former church, even though I had many friends there besides Jesus.

In what capacities do you serve at C&E?

In my church life, I have served in every capacity except Treasurer, including bringing communion to home bound parishioners, a task I enjoyed very much.

What do you do when you’re not at C&E?

My wife Lynn and I have two children (boy and girl) and five grandchildren. Before my retirement, I owned Dick’s Paint and Wallpaper in Branford. During my life I have had many memorable jobs from being a bellhop in a hotel to being a professional golf association member. One thing that really brightens my day is when I see the success of my four golf students and they reach out to me to speak about their game or send thanks. As you might expect in the summer months you can usually find me on the golf course while in the winter months I am part of a setback card league.

**Susan Shultz**

What brought you to Christ and The Epiphany Church?

I have been an Episcopalian all my life. After growing up at St. James New Haven, my parents and I moved to Christ and The Epiphany about a decade ago. At the time we had some inclusivity issues and wanted to be in a more tolerant parish. We have been very happy here and grateful for the accepting and welcoming members.

In what capacities do you serve at C&E?

Currently I am the Treasurer, a lay reader and choir member. While on furlough I am also helping in the church Thrift Store.

What do you do when you’re not at C&E?

I am a software specialist with Tickets.com. When not working I enjoy camping, seeing friends, and reading (fantasy, sci-fi and mystery). I also sing in the Greater New Haven Community Chorus and serve on the Board as Technology chair.

**Audrey Sundwall**

What brought you to Christ and The Epiphany Church?

I am a life - long member of Christ and the Epiphany, having been born into Christ Church, East Haven where my Grandparents and Parents were members.

In what capacities do you serve at C&E?

My most important service is being a member of the Vestry. I also am a lay reader and usher during church services and  enjoy crafting Christmas ornaments and masks for the Thrift store and Fair.

What do you do when you’re not at C&E?

I am a retired elementary teacher from the East Haven School System. Since retirement, I have accompanied my younger son to college, and will continue with law school since he needs someone with him due to his disability. And no - I didn't get another college degree, and I don't intend to get a law degree!

**Astrid Swanson**

C&E Website Vestry Bios

Astrid Swanson

a. What brought you to Christ and The Epiphany Church?

b. In what capacities do you serve at C&E?

c. What do you do when you are not at C&E?

My late husband Ron was a member of Christ and The Epiphany from birth. Our

church has always been a second home to both of us. I serve my church as a Vestry

member, take care of the outside !ower pots, sweep the inside stairs, and work at

the Thrift Store. I just retired in July from Yale University after 45 years working in

the Cardiology and Oncology departments. My favorite pastime is in the kitchen

cooking and baking

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What do you do when you’re not at C&E?

I retired in 2020 from Yale University after 45 years working in the Cardiology and Oncology departments. My favorite pastime is in the kitchen cooking and baking.

**Diane Villano**

What brought you to Christ and The Epiphany Church?

A desire to join a worshipping community after the tragedy of Sandy Hook.

In what capacities do you serve at C&E?

I chair the Communications Commission, post the weekly messages on our sidewalk sign, and serve as lay reader and usher.

What do you do when you’re not at C&E?

I’m a computer programmer at Yale University, I upcycle vintage items into contemporary décor, and I sell my handmade crafts at art shows and on my Etsy shop.

9/24/2021