

Vestry Candidate Profiles

On Saturday, Nov. 3 and Sunday, Nov. 4, the congregation will elect four members of our parish to serve three-year terms, beginning in January 2019. Candidates were asked to provide some basic biographical information about themselves, including their involvement in the parish, and asked to tell us how Jesus helps them make decisions, and how they see St. Andrew's fulfilling each of the six aspects of our purpose and mission statements:

We exist to worship God and be good stewards of his creation. Our mission is to transform the world through Christ — one heart at a time — by bringing all people into membership in the family of God, welcoming them fully by assimilating them into the life of the church, discipling them to follow Jesus and equipping them for ministry.

With the exception of minor formatting changes, their responses are printed below as they were provided to us.



James Menke, MD, MS

How does Jesus help you make decisions?

I bring most of my decisions to Jesus in prayer. I say most, and like most people, I don't bring enough to the Lord for help in making decisions. I am continuously working on this — a work in progress so to speak. Daily Bible study is something that helps me keep on track. In addition, I have been aware of the plan God has for me since my second year in college, and most of the time I don't resist too much, and when I do He nudges me. He has done marvelous things in my life and I bring my thanks to him daily.

How do you see St. Andrew's fulfilling each of the six aspects of our purpose and mission statement?

I see our worship in it's various forms to be an expression of love for our God that allows for a wide variety of participation. This command is second only to evangelism. I think we are doing well with our worship, but struggle with the demand of Jesus that we share the Good News. I think our leadership does fairly well with assimilation, discipling, and equipping our parish for ministry. Jesus commands us in Matthew

28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." This is not just a command of our parish leadership; it is meant for all of us and each of us needs to take this seriously and participate in this process. As I write this I am doing a study on the demands that Christ has for the world, and it is getting pretty clear that He makes demands on everybody, nobody is exempt, and we have to figure out how best to respond to His demands.

How long have you been a member of our congregation?

If we include St. Matthew's, I have been a member of this congregation since 1981.

What ministries are you, or have you been, involved in at St. Andrew's?

Vestry, Prayer Intercession, Order of St. Luke, adult teaching, youth teaching and youth group leadership, tech ministries, diocesan representative, discernment committee member and chair, search committee membership, small group leadership, and hospital ministry.

What do you do outside of the parish (vocation or avocation)?

I am a pediatrician who specialized in the intensive care of newborn infants. I just retired from clinical practice, and work for Nationwide Children's Hospital and build and configure their electronic medical record.

Family

Spouse: Jacqueline Menke



Jim Oxenham

How does Jesus help you make decisions?

One of my favorite verses in the bible is Matthew 7:7-8, which states “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” (KJV)

When I am faced with a hard decision, many times I find that when I ask God for guidance, I will happen upon a verse either in my Bible or online that seems to apply to my circumstances. This always feels to me like an answer to my prayer, and I do my best to allow the Holy Spirit to direct my actions.

How do you see St. Andrew’s fulfilling each of the six aspects of our purpose and mission?

At St. Andrew’s, I believe that we live out our statement of “come and see” in everything we do. We are good stewards of God’s creation, helping those in our community who are in need through our partnership with programs such as the Common Ground Free Store. We also practice stewardship by taking collections weekly, many of which go to specific causes that are most in need of support. We evangelize through events like our Harvest Festival, offering visitors a chance to meet clergy and church members, and to experience the community here at St. Andrew’s.

We provide parishioners with opportunities to serve in various ministries, such as the nursery and youth ministries, prayer intercessors and the prayer chain, handbells and choir, and Via de Cristo, to name a few. Members are encouraged to get involved in discipleship with small groups, Bible studies, and other groups, such as Daughters of the Holy Cross and The Brotherhood of St. Andrew. Our church hosts many fellowship events throughout the year, including the Lenten soup supper series and the Rally Sunday pancake breakfast. There are also regular youth group events, providing our younger members with a chance to learn and grow in their faith, and to enjoy that dedicated fellowship time.

We experience worship and communion during our weekly services. We offer two different service styles, allowing church members to worship in whatever way makes them feel closest to God. We work to provide a comfortable, intentional worship environment which fosters the growth of our relationship with Christ as individuals, and as a congregation.

I believe that our “come and see” statement is not just a catch-phrase; it’s an open invitation.

How long have you been a member of our congregation?

Three years.

What ministries are you, or have you been, involved in at St. Andrew’s?

- Tech Ministry Team
- Harvest Festival Planning Committee

What do you do outside of the parish (vocation or avocation)?

I am an IS Systems Analyst in the pharmacy department at Nationwide Children’s Hospital.

Family

Amanda Oxenham, spouse; Bella Oxenham, child.



Eric Whitehead

How does Jesus help you make decisions?

In short, through prayer. When I'm inconsistent with prayer, I do find I struggle to find God's voice. Secondly, many choices facing us have a parallel in scripture, and sometimes the words of Christ jump off the pages of one of the gospels. If the situation merits, I will also seek wise counsel within the church.

How do you see St. Andrew's fulfilling each of the six aspects of our purpose and mission?

One of the things our family noticed right away at St. Andrew's was how the church made decisions that stemmed from the mission of the church, uncluttered by popular sentiment or national trends. For example, since we believe that part of our purpose is to be good stewards of God's creation, then our traditions like the animal blessing are a natural extension of that purpose. Rather than switching to whatever service format the other local mega-churches may be offering, we offer multiple styles of worship, including one weekly service without any music at all.

Another thing we noticed about St. Andrew's was that there wasn't a focus on membership for numbers' sake. The 101-401 classes help people understand what the church believes, to help people realize the strengths that God created in them and how they can use them to edify the body. And our small groups serve as great fellowship, but they are also the inroad to one of the most vital purposes of the church: discipleship. God created us as social beings, not islands of anonymity, and I believe that sharing our time, our lives, our families in the study of God's Word and prayer is His model for avoiding spiritual isolation.

How long have you been a member of our congregation?

My family joined St. Andrew's about 9 years ago.

What ministries are you, or have you been, involved in at St. Andrew's?

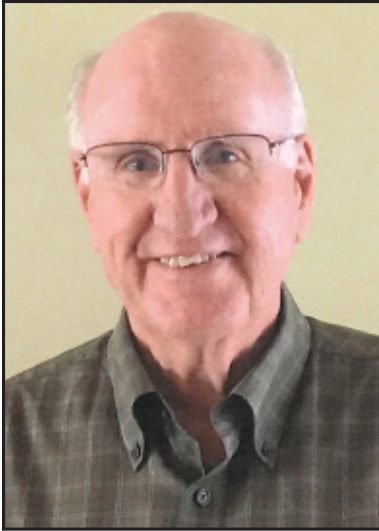
I currently serve as one of two contemporary Worship Pastors here at St. Andrew's. In addition, I serve on the Harvest Festival committee and have served as Junior Warden and Senior Warden during my two 3-year terms on Vestry.

What do you do outside of the parish (vocation or avocation)?

I am a co-founder of a local high-tech startup, and I also speak at industry conferences around the midwest. I am also currently on the Board of Directors of the Bible Faith Lutheran Mission to India, a position I assumed in 2007. I've been involved as a volunteer in the mission since 1993, and have served on four short-term missions to India.

Family

Tally, Taylor, Baxter, Keever, and Sommer.



Peter Wilkinson, PhD

How does Jesus help you make decisions?

I fundamentally believe our task is to Love God/Jesus and Our Neighbors As Ourselves.

Every time I make a decision, I check in and make sure what I am planning to do is consistent with these beliefs.

As an aside, I used to wonder about the “As Ourselves” task, I ultimately concluded that we are “Made By God” and we certainly should love what God has created. I also believe that if you Love Yourself, you have something of value to give away.

How do you see St. Andrew’s fulfilling each of the six aspects of our purpose and mission?

- Membership — I fully believe in the Great Commission and the task of helping people join Jesus and respond to his calling and challenges
- Assimilation — In a previous church experience, I ran a survey on why people joined the church. The response was quite simple: they believed in the mission/message and people were friendly. The clergy has the mission/message task, the congregation has the friendship task. Sounds simple but the friendship task can be challenging and takes overt work and we need to be constantly mindful that judgement is not our job — Judge Not Lest You Be Judged
- Discipleship — I believe this is fundamentally “living and following the Word.” It goes back to the comment above about following the two great commandments in everything we do
- Equipping For Ministry — I believe this involves making people aware of ministry opportunities and helping them join and participate

How long have you been a member of our congregation?

Three-plus years.

What ministries are you, or have you been, involved in at St. Andrew’s?

Outreach: Common Ground Free Store — Weekly contributions, bi-monthly store support, member of the Board; member of the recently-formed ReachOUT Team.

What do you do outside of the parish (vocation or avocation)?

- Support Veterans as a mentor for Veterans with PTSD in Franklin County Veterans Court
- Committee Member for the Central Ohio Veterans Stand Down
- Volunteer, Columbus Honor Flight
- Support State and Federal Veterans benefits through the Military Officer Association of America (MOAA) Central Ohio Chapter, Past President, Monthly Newsletter Editor
- Member, Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame
- Support Dublin Special Olympics
- Support the Reading Buddies program for kids in preschool through 3rd grade.
- Colonel USAF (Retired)

Family

Wife — Terri

Kids — Sean, Shannon, and Scott

Grandkids — Mia, Tyler, Kellen, Charlie, MacKensie, and Isabell