



I am Mike Martino and I have been blessed with the honor to be considered for a position on the St. David's Vestry. My wife Jeanette and I have been attending St. David's since 1996 and we still remember that "rocky road to heaven" that ended at the door of this church. During the past 20-plus years we have witnessed the transformation of a mission church, meeting in a single room, to what we have today, an established faith community. Along the way we experienced the highs and lows over the years, but most of all it has been the people who have made St. David's a caring and a warm community. I hope to have a part in preserving what is offered here for generations to follow.

I am originally from the Pittsburgh area and attended the Virginia Military Institute and the University of Pennsylvania where I received a Masters Degree in Organizational Dynamics. Recently, I retired after 40 years primarily in the railroad industry. I worked for two Federal agencies, a trade association, several railroads, and the Greatest Show on Earth (yes, I ran away and joined the circus). Throughout my career I held various positions and have been on two Boards of Directors for non-profit organizations. My experience on these Boards has given me insight into how to operate with a variable income stream. I would very much like the opportunity to share my experiences in support of St. David's.

Growing up in a Catholic household, church was always a part of our life. Church was where you would meet your friends and other family members so it was just another part of life. My first year at VMI, cadets were required to attend church services every Sunday. Looking back I can now see that this requirement was integral in the development of one's character. Unfortunately, today organized religion is not part of many people's lives. We see empty pews where they were once filled and moral compasses have gone awry. It is my hope to have a role in bringing our covenant community to those who do not have a shared spiritual experience in their lives.

Over the years, I have supported various ministries at St. David's, including the Restoring Eden Garden and the Flower Guild when they needed assistance.

Earlier, I mentioned that it has always been the people whom we have met through this community that have made St. David's special. Many are close friends today. There was one friend who grew up in the Church of England and would relate that to be on the Vestry, where she grew up, you almost had to be born into that position. Though I do not possess direct lineage to the Church of England, I am honored to be considered for a Vestry position. I hope to be able to serve St. David's in growing this church and promoting what this faith community has to offer to the people of Loudoun County.