

My relationship with St. Paul's spans 49 years. It is a bond that has shaped my life and that of my family on so many levels.

In the early 1980s, a former member of the Vestry encouraged me to pursue a career in banking. That career, now in its 35th year, continues. I am not a banker in the traditional sense. Instead, I have been engaged in a practice with both national banks and now a regional bank to provide advice concerning finance, investments, governance and fundraising to nonprofit organizations.

My experience has provided me with broad understanding of what successful nonprofit organizations do, both financially and strategically, to sustain their missions. It has led me to board service with the MCV Foundation, the Westminster Canterbury Foundation, the St. Paul's Abundance Board, the Richmond Forum, and many speaking and teaching engagements throughout the Mid-Atlantic.

My vision for St. Paul's is of a dynamic and diverse downtown ministry that engages minds through education and scholarly debate, inspires community with strategic and spiritual outreach, and leads boldly into the future, addressing important issues of our time with courage, compassion and fiscal responsibility. My candidacy is rooted in my belief that St. Paul's already has these components and can build on the wisdom that comes from a rich and remarkable past---to meet this vision.

I am honored to be considered for the Vestry and to have an opportunity to give back to St. Paul's by contributing my skills, experience and passion.

Ellen Elizabeth Spong