

Board of Trustees

2020-2021 ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

St. Mark's Episcopal School was created in 1960 as an educational outreach ministry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. We are governed by a separate Board of Trustees, comprised of current and former parents and community leaders. The Board of Trustees of St. Mark's Episcopal School is a dynamic group of individuals that focuses on the long-term strategic goals and financial position of the school and the selection and support of its Headmaster, Garhett Wagers. The board entrusts the normal, day-to-day operations of the school to their sole employee, the Headmaster, and uses its position to approve the annual operating budget oversee the financial operations of the school.

We would like to formally welcome the following individuals, newly elected to the St. Mark's Board of Trustees:



Emily Baker Amelio

A native Houstonian, Emily Baker Amelio, grew up in West University, just a few blocks away from St. Mark's Episcopal School. Emily graduated with a degree in History and Romance Languages from Bowdoin College. After a brief stint in finance on the West Coast, she returned to Houston to pursue a master's degree in French Studies, with a focus on history and historiography, from Rice University. From 2002-2008, Emily taught European and World History courses to students in grades 9-12 at St. John's School. In 2008, she received a master's degree in Counseling Psychology with a specialization in adolescent development from the University of Houston. In 2011, following time at home with her young twins, she returned to St. John's School to teach Psychology and to serve in the role of Testing Coordinator for the Upper School. In the past few years, Emily has enjoyed spending more time with her family and volunteering at St. Mark's. She has served in the roles of Room Parent, Parent Guild Vice-President, and just finished her term as Parent Guild President. In addition to her volunteer work at St. Mark's, Emily donates her time as a Lead for the Central Houston Chapter of Be SMART for Kids, an education program that promotes responsible gun storage in homes. Emily continues to live in West University today, as do most members of her large, close-knit family. She and her husband, Gerardo, will celebrate their twentieth anniversary this year. They have two children, Julian and Catalina, who are currently in the 6th grade at St. Mark's. The twins have attended the school since the Preschool 2s program and consider St. Mark's to be their second home.

Stephen Banks

Stephen Banks has been an active member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church since 1988.

He served on the vestry for four years and as senior warden in 2010. Steve has been involved with venture capital for over thirty five years. Most recently, Steve joined Austin-based Brian Smith in the founding of S3 Ventures and participated in the start-up funding of S3 Ventures in 2007. Steve was involved with S3 Ventures



first four funds that managed over \$100 million. Steve retired as a Venture Partner with S3 Ventures in 2015. He served BCM Technologies,

a subsidiary of Baylor College of Medicine, as president, beginning in 1988 and led the company through 2003. Prior to his time at BCM Technologies, Steve was at The Hillman Company for eighteen years, where he served as vice president of venture capital. Steve earned a Bachelor of Science in physics from the Massachusetts' Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1962 and an MBA from the Harvard Business School in 1967. He taught a venture capital course at Rice University's Jones Business School from 1992 through 2005. Steve was active in the Houston entrepreneurial community both as a member of the Houston Angel Network, Houston Tech Center, The Rice Alliance and The MIT Enterprise Forum from 1988 to 2015.



Curtis Clerkley Jr.

Curtis Clerkley Jr. was born and raised in Corpus Christi; he attended and graduated from St.

James Episcopal School (Church of the Good Shepherd). Upon graduation from high school, Curtis attended Texas Tech University and graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture degree. After moving to Houston in 1981, Curtis became a member of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church and served on the vestry for two terms. During one of

this vestry terms, Curtis was the Vestry Representative to the School Board. Curtis attended Trinity Episcopal Church for over 15 years and is a current member at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. He understands the importance of education as both of his parents were long time educators in Corpus Christi ISD and at Texas A&M Corpus Christi. In 1986, Curtis co-founded an architecture firm, specializing in multi-family housing. Curtis sits on the Foundation Board of Directors for Texas Tech University and is very active with the University. The College of Architecture has created a foundation in Curtis' name. The Curtis Clerkley Architecture Academy introduces lower income, junior and senior high school students to Architecture, Interior Design and Construction. He is also a Lifetime Vice President with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and volunteers with the American Institute of Architects, Affordable Housing Congress and Alumni of The FBI Citizens Academy. Curtis has three sons, four wonderful grandchildren, and a dog, Hero.



Dr. Kristin Koush

Dr. Kristin Koush was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona, and attended Georgetown University, where

she earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology, before earning her M.D. from Georgetown's School of Medicine. She completed her Pediatric Residency at Texas Children's Hospital / Baylor College of Medicine and served as the Chief Resident. Kristin has worked as a Pediatrician with Texas Children's Pediatrics since 2008 and sees many St. Mark's students as her patients. She has been selected by peers as Houstonia Magazine's Top Doctor since 2013. Kristin and her husband, Greg, have been members of St. Mark's Episcopal Church since 2011, and their two children, Claire and Andrew, are in 4th and 1st

grade at St. Mark's. Kristin has served as the Parent Guild Spirit Night Chair and the Coordinator of Comfort Meals for the church, and currently sits on the COVID Medical Advisory Team for our school. Kristin is a passionate parent who is excited for the opportunity to join the Board of Trustees. When she isn't working, Kristin enjoys traveling, hiking, photography, golf, supporting the Houston Astros and Texans, and cheering on her kids in Youth Athletics.



Mani Sohal

Mani Sohal is a proud grandmother of two St. Mark's students; Sehaj Doshi, '21, and Syon Doshi, '23. Living

in the same Bellaire neighborhood as her grandchildren, she is a strong supporter of the St. Mark's Episcopal School community. Mani is engaged in programs on the St. Mark's campus, most significantly the annual Heritage Festival, where she has fed students and faculty delicious homemade Indian food, taught the students traditional Punjabi Bhangra dances, including dancing to the beat of the dhol, (a large drum)! It is this passion with which Mani raised her children and is now helping to support her grandchildren in their student community. Graduating with a Masters in Business Administration in 1979 from the University of Houston with a focus in accounting, Mani was treasurer of the Houston Independent School District until she retired in 2007. In her role, she managed cash and investments for the school district, the fourth largest school district in the United States, with an annual budget of \$1.2 billion. During Mani's tenure, H.I.S.D. steadily grew their investment portfolio, resulting in among many other funds, funding for school programs for resource limited students. Mani and her husband, Harjit, celebrate their 50th anniversary this year! They are proud to have spent 46 of those 50 years in Houston. They moved to town in 1973, and along with a few other families, built the first Sikh Gurudwara in Houston. As a member of the Sikh faith, where service to others is a fundamental principle, Mani volunteers her time in various projects with the Sikhs of Houston.

John Villamil

John Villamil is the Senior Director of Counsel for Scotiabank. Before joining Scotiabank in 2016, John was the general

counsel of Santander Private Wealth in Miami, Florida. John handles a variety of legal and regulatory matters for Scotiabank including investment banking, negotiating agreements, regulatory matters, litigation management, drafting and review of transactional documentation, and treasury and bank deposit products. John earned his Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas State University. He earned an MBA with a dual concentration in International Business and Finance from the University of Miami, and he also holds a J.D. from the University of Miami. Outside of work, John serves as the Content Director of the Energy Committee of the American Bar Association. He also rendered attorney pro bono services, including Guardian ad Litem appointed by the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Miami-Dade County. John was raised in Spain, Egypt, Italy, Nigeria and Argentina and speaks Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese. John is married to Maria, also a lawyer. They have two



boys. Martin is a 5th grader at St. Mark's Episcopal School, and Sebastian a sophomore at Strake Jesuit. At St. Mark's they have been strong supporters of the school's Annual Fund and volunteered at grade level activities. John and his family have been residing in Houston for over four years. They enjoy living in Houston and find it to be a great place to live and raise a family.

We are also delighted to welcome **Marisa Zapata**, our Vestry Representative, and **Rista Ackermann**, our Parent Guild Representative, who will each serve on the Board of Trustees for the next year.

Departing Trustees

On behalf of the entire St. Mark's community, we extend our deepest thanks to the following trustees who are rolling off of the board this year. We are extremely grateful for their unwavering support, counsel, and service to our school.

Ron Bankston, Bob Biehl, Eleanor Cannon, Gury Doshi, Sean Fitzpatrick, and Nathan Phelps (Vestry Representative).



The 2020-2021 St. Mark's Board of Trustees

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Headmaster

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Stephen Banks

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Mani Sohal

John Villamil

Rista Ackermann
Parent Guild Representative

Jean Marie Howard
Board Clerk

Marisa Zapata
Vestry Representative

