

Saint Benedict the Moor Parish Council Members Biography



Martha Barksdale

Ministries/Organization: Gospel Choir, Art and Environmental Committee, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, Community Sunday Committee and Sodality

Native Washingtonian and raised near the community of St. Benedict. After moving to the Maryland suburbs, recently moved back into DC. Educated in the DC Public School System and received accounting degree from The University of the District of Columbia. Retired from the federal government after 33 years of service. Martha enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, reading and activities that require brain stimulation! Devoted 42-year parishioner of Saint Benedict, who is a member of the SBM Gospel Choir as well as 5 other ministries/organization at SBM.

As a member of the SBM Parish Council, Martha would like to see the Priest take an active part in the spiritual growth of the current members and to attract new and young members to the Church. Martha is also interested in seeing maintenance, improvements and upgrades to our Church and other SBM facilities. Martha also emphasizes the importance of participation in parish activities and will also be there to help out!



Winston Hill

Ministries/Organization: Minister of Hospitality

Long-time 45-year parishioner born and raised in Washington, DC. Retired from the federal government after 40 years of service including his service to our country in the U.S. Army.

Winston would like to continue to see the Church and its facilities kept up to date. Also, interested in fund-raising to make these things happen...and is willing to pitch in and help or whatever it takes to get the job done!



Kimberly O'Neal McKinley

Ministries/Organization: Faith Formation/RCIA, Parish Council Secretary

Kimberly has been a member of St. Benedict since the age of 2. In her early years, Kimberly has been a member of youth choir and became a catechist as a teen. She is currently member of the Sodality, a Proclaimer of the Work, and serves as Director of Religious Education where she is involved in the Faith Formation/RCIA. As a member of the Parish Council, Kimberly would like to assist in helping our Parish membership to grow, evangelize, address the needs of our youth/teens and expand our faith formation program.



Evelyn Quander Rattley

Ministries/Organizations: Sodality and Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, Ladies of Charity, Proclaimer of the Word

One of the founding members of Saint Benedict, Evelyn has spent the last 72 years as an active member of the Parish. In her early years, Evelyn helped with the Girl Scouts, CYO Instructor, Sunday School teacher, and Sacristan in addition to her dedication to the SBM Sodality, Ladies of Charity. Evelyn is still an active, vibrant member of the Parish. She is a member of the Sodality, Ladies of Charity and Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist.

Evelyn would like to see the parish youth become more involved and participate in outreach programs, such as essay contests, poetry reading, drama, dance, choir...and the list goes on. Evelyn encourages all young people to take advantage of some of the opportunities available. Evelyn feels that patience, time, effort along with lots of prayers and God's help could work miracles to encourage our youth.



Reginald Taylor

Ministries/Organization: Holy Name Society

Reginald Taylor is a native Washingtonian and a product of the DC Public School system and Howard University. Reginald has been married since 1962 and is a father and grandfather and a member of St. Benedict the Moor since 1947.

Reginald would like to see a lay person as a Deacon stationed at St. Benedict the Moor parish that would assist the priest and parish a more visible role providing evangelical leadership to the members of St. Benedict and the surrounding community. Reginald is concerned about the state of our facilities and grounds and would like to see regular preventative maintenance.



Michelle Lee-Mitchiner

Ministries/Organization: Gospel Choir, Ladies of Charity and Community Sunday

Michelle has been a member of St. Benedict for over 30 years. She has been a member of Finance Council and past Parish Council boards. Currently, Michelle is a member of the Gospel Choir, the Ladies of Charity and the Community Sunday Committee.

As a member of the Community Sunday Committee, Michelle continues to focus on Parish events to promote and encourage a strong sense of family, unity and fellowship among our members.



Zecarias Abraham Habtezghi

Ministries/Organization: Ge'ez Rite Catholics/Tigrigna Choir

Zecarias has been a member of St. Benedict for over 2 years. He completed his high school education in a catholic missionary, the Congregation of the Mission (CM). He graduated from Asmara University in 1997 majoring in plant science. After graduation he joined Ministry of Agriculture as plant science expert and worked for about 10 years .

Zecarias would like to see more spiritual formation programs and retreats for adults and youth.



Yvonne Neal

Ministries/Organization: Gospel Choir, Sodality, Liturgy Committee, Art and Environment and Food Bank

Yvonne has been a member of St. Benedict for over 51 years. She is one of the original members of the St. Benedict Gospel Choir and still sings almost every Sunday. In addition to her service as the head of the Art and Environment Committee, she is a member of the Sodality, participates in the Liturgy Committee and serves the needy as member of the Food Bank.



Valoria Baylor

Ministries/Organization: Sodality, Proclaimer of the Word, and Golden Age Club. Valoria has been an active member of St. Benedict since 1979. As a retired educator and a 3rd generation Washingtonian, Valoria loves her city and her Parish. Valoria is currently involved in the following ministries: Sodality, Proclaimer of the Word, and the Golden Age Club. Valoria would like to see regular maintenance to take care of our Church and Imperial Room.

Sherlene Duckett

Ministries/Organization: St. Vincent de Paul and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Sherlene has been a member of St. Benedict since 1971. As a retired federal government employee, Sherlene is now busy as a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother...but saves time for her Parish. Sherlene is an active member of the following ministries: Proclaimers of the Word, Alter Servers, Sacristans, Food Bank, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Sodality and the Ladies of Charity.

Sherlene would like to see improvements and repairs to our Church and other plant facilities.

Cynthia McFarlane

Ministries/Organization: Ladies of Charity

Cynthia is a native Washingtonian and has been a member of St. Benedict the Moor since 1997. In her earlier years, Cynthia attended Holy Redeemer Catholic School and Church. She is a graduate of the DCPS system and Tennessee State University. Since joining St. Benedict the Moor, Cynthia has been an active member of the Ladies of Charity. Formerly, she taught CCD and worked Bingo.

As a active member of the Parish Council, Cynthia would like to continue to see the Parish grow through evangelization and fellowship. She would also like to see the Church to continue to be financially secure in order to maintain property and its facilities.