

Greta Pike-Barnes

As a native of Washington, DC, I grew up in an incredibly diverse environment, giving me an appreciation for people from every walk of life – from race and ethnicity to socioeconomic status, gender identity, religious leanings and beyond. And growing up with a church home that represented all those people instilled in me the belief that God created us all in his image and called us to love each other as we are. Christ Church also represents the beauty in diversity of God's people which is part of what drew me to join the congregation.

Before coming to CEC, I'd only ever belonged to the church I grew up in, Church of the Pilgrims – a More Light Presbyterian church in the Dupont Circle neighborhood of DC. It is the church where my parents met, got married, baptized and raised me, and even where my now-husband would end up proposing to me, knowing it's also where we'd get married. But more than being just a building in which to worship, Pilgrims embodied the love of Christ by taking care of the community, members and strangers alike.

While I grew up watching this and helping in these efforts, nothing would prepare me for being the beneficiary of this faith in action and experiencing it myself while my family was in crisis when I was in high school. Experiencing God's love manifested through those around me was a defining period in my faith journey, further solidifying my desire to walk the path of a Christian and bring as much light to others as had been brought to me.

Joining the vestry at Christ Church provides a way for me to be involved in the congregation in a meaningful way, helping support the congregation as it navigates the issues that confront it. With a strong faith and a global perspective, I'm confident that my voice would contribute to the discussions in a meaningful way.