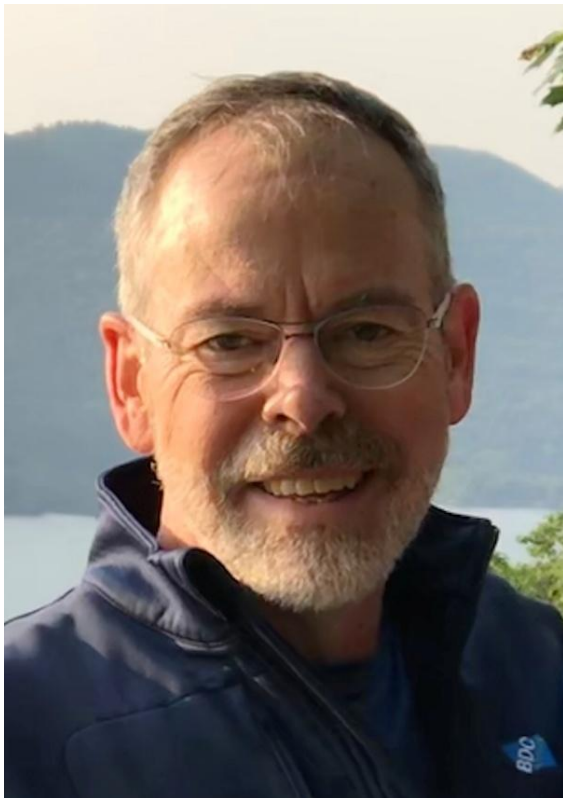


Dave Ceponis

(Treasurer)

Dave & his wife moved to Baltimore in 2020 when their first grandchild was born. Now they have 3! It was good time to move since the pandemic had started & Dave retired from his financial planning career of 30 years. With his extra time, he likes to bike, play a little basketball & kayak. He writes poetry with his spare time & volunteers at the hospital, visiting patients to just chat & say hello.



Bill Eggbeer

Bill has been attending CotS since 2018, and is a life-long Episcopalian. He has lived in Canton since moving here with his late partner, Jo, in 2016. He is retired, having spent the last 20 years of his career as a partner at BDC Advisors, a health care strategy consulting firm. He has served on vestries in previous churches, served on board of Five Talents International, an Anglican-affiliated economic development NGO, and currently serves on the board and as Treasurer at the Creative Alliance in Highlandtown.



Bert Buckwalter
(Secretary)

I grew up in Lancaster County, PA. I have been involved with a number of Christian faith traditions over the years. The things that are most important to me is a faith community that seeks to emulate the life of Jesus while he walked this earth. That includes extending a welcome to all, building a community of people that care for each other, encourage growth, have compassion for the poor and the sick. I feel fortunate to have found a community of believers at CotS that exemplify these characteristics. I spent more than 30 years in Colorado. In many ways, that was a journey to understand my faith and how it manifests itself in me. I also found a community there that helped anchor me in difficult times. Colorado, Maryland, or Pennsylvania, I believe our smaller

community groups are ultimately part of the same family, we are all connected and charged with the same task... make the world better.



Christine Merola (Senior Warden)

I am a preacher's kid, but luckily for me my dad was a *cool* priest—my dad is an Episcopal priest who raised snakes in Florida, raised *me* on a love of monster movies, and regularly had science experiments as part of sermons (including electrifying pickles and lighting things on fire, to the chagrin of the local fire department). Perhaps because of this, I grew up loving the Episcopal church with a passion, as a place where questions were welcomed and celebrated—a place to explore, grow, and play. Lest you think my entire life-story has been solely Episcopal in

nature, I first moved to Baltimore in 2011 for Lutheran Volunteer Corps to work at a mental health non-profit, before moving to California to pursue my doctorate in clinical psychology at Fuller Theological Seminary. I also went to Calvin College in MI for undergrad, which was part of the CRC tradition. When it comes to church, I love liturgy and sacrament. I love the mystery inherent at the heart of things. I love the old prayers, and finding moments of transcendence even within the mundane. When the world increasingly seems senseless, I am so grateful to be rooted in theological traditions and local community to keep me grounded.

Also, I am a HUGE nerd, and I love video games, art, books, RuPaul's Drag Race, and Jesus (not necessarily in that order). I am so excited to venture onto this journey with you all!



Veena Thamilselvan

Hi my name is Veena Thamilselvan! I grew up in Farmington Hills, Michigan and moved out to Baltimore for college. I've been a part of COTS for the past 4 years or so. I joined COTS when I was a student, and loved the sense of care and connection- the fact that our community wanted to connect with me, knowing that I may be a transitory student. I've since loved being able to serve on the Stream Team and support our programming at COTS. I didn't grow up with a traditional church community, I was in a space where my mom and I couldn't practice our faith openly. So when I first came to COTS, or really church, for the first time- it made me appreciate even more how the structures and rituals of church combated the years of isolation and hurt that I was recovering from. I am excited for the future of COTS as our community grows, I believe that a strong church is one that prioritizes

building connections and serving our immediate community.



Beth Cooper

I am originally from Indiana, grew up in Washington DC, and came to Baltimore to go to art school, where I obtained a BFA in Photography. I was raised a Methodist and spent summers in Indiana and on Lake Michigan with my four devout Methodist grandparents. We lived in Georgia briefly and I decided at eight years old to get baptized in a Georgia Baptist church (funny story.) I am a two time cancer survivor, (stage IV Non-Hodgkin's at 15, and, ~30 years later, Sarcoma in my wrist.) I should not have survived the first cancer. I am certain that my strong faith and belief in God and Jesus, my

loving and amazing family and friends made me able to do just that. I started a second career as a nurse (now Nurse Practitioner) 28 years ago, spent half my career at Hopkins, and am now at the Veterans Administration, where I practice as an NP in Addictions. I have lived on Patterson Park for 28 years, and currently reside with my beagle Sherman, and a weird gray feral cat named Pilgrim.

I searched for a church to call home my entire adult life until I settled at CotS. It's another story - but involves Jim Hamilton giving a eulogy for our dear friend Jack wearing socks. Ironically, it was Jack that told me about CotS- a couple years before he died- how he thought he found the church for me- all of which I ignored before this eulogy.

I have served on several boards in my career, and am excited to be a part of this council. I have been involved with several small groups at CotS and have gone on the last two Cuba mission trips. The small groups have made the biggest difference in my church history. I have made many friends and have gotten to know so many people in the congregation. I am passionate about community service, being a part of a strong faith-based community, and striving to make the world a better place. I love the welcoming, accepting, and non-judgmental nature of this community we are a part of. I can't wait to get to work!