

2019 Vestry Nominees

The Vestry Nominees were asked to submit a photo and answer the following questions.

1. How long have you been attending Christ Church?
2. In what ways have you been involved at Christ Church?
3. Why would you like to serve on the Vestry of Christ Church?

Below are the answers to these questions along with a photograph of the Nominee.

Vestry Elections will be held on January 8, 2017 during the Annual Parish meeting to be held immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service.



I have been a member of Christ Church for 37 years having been baptized, confirmed, and married here. I have had the pleasure to serve in a number of ways including as usher, acolyte, lector, 2013-2014 Rector Search Committee member, co-sponsor for Canterbury Club, and Communications Committee member. Currently, I am continuing my service as the VSU Faculty Advisor for Episcopal College Fellowship (formerly Canterbury Club). All these activities have allowed me to worship with a wonderful Christ Church family and share Christ's love in our community.

Michael Black My wife, Krystle, was confirmed in 2016, and our son Matthew, age 23 months, is quickly learning his way around the grounds and the Gabard Building. I enjoy genealogy which has taken me to many corners of the world, both physically and online. I read and write about higher education history and have completed two books about Valdosta State University's history and several books on my family's history. I am a graduate of Valdosta State University and Florida State University with training in finance, instructional technology, and higher education leadership.

When I think about our parish's future, I think fondly back on how much we have grown over the past three decades. I strongly believe that building a future occurs by thoughtful and collaborative planning with adequate time and resources. I would like (1) to continue advocating for membership growth in the church so that all individuals and families are welcomed and (2) to identify methods to increase cohesion between the various ministries in the parish. It would be an honor to share my talents if selected for the Vestry.



I have been attending Christ church for three years. My wife Tracy and I were married here and it has always been a big part of her life and now mine. I would love to be a member of the vestry to help promote the continued growth that we have been blessed with in the last few years.

Gary Cannon



I grew up going to Christ Church and was an acolyte for many years. I enjoy being a part of such a wonderful congregation and would love to see and participate in this church's continued growth over the next years. Serving on the vestry would allow me the opportunity to deepen my commitment to God and service to Christ Church.

I graduated in Finance from Valdosta State University and owned Southern Tile and Carpet Company for approximately 20 years. My wife, Lyn, and I have three children and four

Marvin Dickey grandchildren. Three of my grandchildren have loved attending the Christ Church preschool and I would like to see the children's ministry strengthen even more. Currently, my family and I own and manage real estate properties and timberland. With these business experiences, combined with my education, has left me with the skills, knowledge, along with a fresh perspective to be a vestry member of Christ Church.



We came to Christ Church in 1988. We were attracted by the liturgical worship and soon learned the church was filled with people who would show Christ to us and to the community. My current activities at Christ Church include graduation from EFM, regular participation in a reunion group (attended Cursillo 109 and served on staff for 122), Wednesday night Bible study, Acolyte, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, Lay Eucharistic Minister, and Lector. I participate in Lunch Bunch and Stitchers of Love and am a Daughter of the King. In serving on the Vestry, I would support the many ministries

Phyllis Holland of Christ Church as we show Christ to the world and to each other.



Leigh Long

I consider it an honor to be one of the nominees to serve on Christ Church Vestry. I have been attending Christ Church Valdosta for 17 years and have enjoyed being involved in various areas of our church. I have taught Sunday school, helped with Vacation Bible School, and chaperoned our high schoolers on a mission trip to Tennessee. Currently I enjoy serving as a coffee hour hostess, and attending our Ladies Wednesday night Bible study.

I would like to learn more about our church's vision and mission, gain knowledge of where we are heading, and our plans to get there. I'm sure I could learn a lot from fellow vestry members and along with them help our church accomplish both short and long term goals. I believe if we as a church trust in the Lord to help with decision making, nothing will be impossible. Thank you again for this opportunity.



Pepi Nelson

I am honored to be nominated to serve as a member of our vestry. Jim and I have been members of Christ Church since moving to Valdosta over 20 years ago. I have previously served as Treasurer and as Senior Warden, and understand the significant stewardship and leadership responsibilities of the Vestry. A strong and involved Vestry is responsible for directing the business of the church, so that priest is supported in these tasks. However, the church is not in place to run ourselves. We are called to Outreach

outside our walls. As a missionary to our companion diocese of the Dominican Republic, an active participant in Daughters of the King, Lunch Bunch and Stitchers of Love, I hope to always remember that we are to "spread the Gospel, and when necessary, use words".



I have been a member of Christ Church my whole life. I attended regularly with family growing up, moved away for college and graduate school and have been attending with my husband (and later with our daughter) since I moved back and got married. I have been involved with Cafe Grace and the Stewardship Committee in recent years. I would love the opportunity to contribute to the church as a vestry member. I think that the Children's Ministry is doing fantastic things and would love to help attract young families to our church.

Anne Shenton

Husband, Bill (Artistic Administrator at Turner Center for the Arts), and daughter, Mara (2)

Occupation: Agency Director at Ascend Inbound Marketing Age: 32



I have been attending Christ Church since I moved to Valdosta more than 8 years ago, at which point I started the Christ Church softball team.

I enjoy outreach and mission work and have been helping with Lunch Bunch for a couple of years as well as serving on the DR mission team each year since I was asked to go 5 years ago.

Within the walls of Christ Church, I helped remodel Tomberlin House & Louttit Hall. On an ongoing basis, I do other repairs around the church grounds, including preparing the memorial garden for burials.

Paul Stevenson

Serving on the We Love Christ Church Stewardship Committee in '14 gave me some insight to the "Behind the Scenes" part of the church and I feel like I have the passion and gifts needed to be a good Vestry person.



I am an attorney and part-time musician. Native Valdostan. I have been attending Christ Church approximately 20 years.

I have served on the vestry twice, during Fr. Ingeman's tenure. I have served on the usher team for 20 years.

I would be honored to serve again if selected. I want us to continue to grow and prosper, while nurturing the spiritual needs of everyone.

Al Turner