

## 2022 Vestry Nominees

The Vestry Nominees were asked to answer the following questions.

1. In what ways have you been involved at Christ Church?
2. 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 5, 2020 during the Annual Parish meeting to be held immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

I currently serve as the Director of STEM, Science Curriculum, and AVID for Valdosta City Schools. I love my community and love to give back. My current service work includes Vice Chair of the City of Valdosta Historic Preservation Commission, Past-President for the Kiwanis Club of Valdosta, Valdosta Heritage Foundation Board, and the Valdosta City Schools Foundation Board. At Christ Church, I serve as an usher and with the Men in Blue. I would love to do more to serve my church and fellowship with my church family through serving on the Vestry of Christ Church. Christ Church has already given me more than I could ever ask for over the past few years and I look forward to many more years.



**Alex Alvarez**



**Cliff Baker**

My wife and I have been official members of Christ Church since 2004 but were visiting members throughout high school and college. I attended Happening and camp throughout my high school days and Cursillo in my young adulthood. I spent several years on the Christ Church church-league softball team and served with the Men-in-Blue. While my wife served as the youth director of Christ Church, I spent many weekends chaperoning youth retreats and helping with the behind-the-scenes activities.

I hope that by serving on the Vestry, I will become more involved in the day-to-day matters of our church as well as the various ministries of the Episcopal community. I would also like to use my computer skills and knowledge to help our church grow in any way possible.

I have been a member of Christ Church since 1998, a year after I moved here with my husband, Tom. I was baptized as an adult at Christ Church and have served as a Lay Reader, Lay Eucharistic Minister, Sunday School teacher, Vestry member, Director of Children's Ministries, member of the Hospitality Committee, and alternate lay delegate to 198<sup>th</sup> Convention. Though most of my service at Christ Church is very specific to the areas I serve (specifically Worship and Grace Café), I would be honored to again serve on the Vestry and support the management of our church and its mission.

I am currently employed as a Barton Tutor for people with dyslexia. Tom and I have two children: Cecilia, a senior at Emory University, and Noah, a freshman at the University of Texas at Austin.



**Stefani Carroll**



### **Pat Denmark**

I have been a member of Christ Church for over thirty years. Born in Louisville, Kentucky and raised Roman Catholic. I was received into the Episcopal Church at the age of 16. I received my BA in English from Converse College and thirty years later my MS for Valdosta State University. I am married to SJ Denmark, the mother of Mackey Foster and Elizabeth Foster Gardner, stepmother of Cilita Denmark and Michael Denmark, and grandmother to seven.

In my twenty-five-year career in behavioral health I provided both direct services and indirect services. As corporate compliance officer I oversaw compliance regulations such as JACHO, all the while servicing a marginalized population within a ten-county region. These experiences have prepared me well for vestry service.

I have served Christ Church as an altar guild member, as a lay reader, and most especially as a member of just about every cooking team.

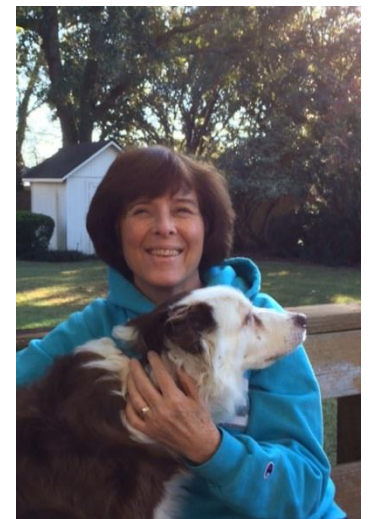
Serving on the vestry would allow me the opportunity to give to the Christ Church community. Christ Church provided my children with a place to develop their faith. The community at Christ Church sustained me through the challenge of divorce, and the joy of celebration of both my daughter's marriage here and my marriage to my dear SJ in 1993. My dearest and most faithful friendships were developed at Christ Church.

In addition to my managerial and budgeting skills, ability to work cohesively, my organizational skills, I will bring an understanding of the senior needs with our congregation.

I am humbled by the nomination and eager to serve on the vestry of my beloved church home.

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My name is Bonnie Hanson. Although I grew up in Colorado, I have lived most of my life in Georgia. We moved to Valdosta in 1995, visited a few other denominations, and quickly became regular Christ Episcopal Church attendants. I was not raised as an Episcopalian, but I found myself falling in love with the Book of Common Prayer and a more sacramental church. Christ Episcopal Church had a strong community, which was also important. We began by just attending church and HEP parties. By 2001, we had joined the church, baptized the kids, and been to Cursillo. Joining a reunion group after Cursillo has enriched and strengthened my faith. I taught Sunday school for 8 years with children from grades 3-8, but middle school is my favorite group. The three mission trips I made to the Dominican Republic were all different and wonderful in unique ways. I completed Education for Ministry under Deacon Nancy Sartin and have begun it again with the new curriculum. Through all of this, I would say that Christ Episcopal Church and its community has led prominently in my continued growth and faith in Jesus Christ.



### **Bonnie Hanson**

I would like to serve on Vestry as one of a team of mission members. For example, what should this team do during the next year to further Christ's ministry? As with other ministries, you never really know what that means until you do it, but I am willing to do what is needed. I believe that Christ Episcopal Church is a special place, a place that is worth our time and effort.

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**Nancy Lutsko**

It has been a blessing to serve at Christ Church. I am on the Altar Guild, a Lay Eucharistic Minister, a Lay Eucharistic Visitor, an Acolyte, a Lector, a Daughter of the King, help with the college service and am on a Lunch Bunch team. With such a wonderful and caring church family, Christ Church is a very special place and I try to help the services to go smoothly.

It is an honor to be nominated for Vestry. If chosen, I will serve with much prayer and love. From previous service on Vestry, I know that decisions are not taken lightly. Everyone has input and there is always much to consider. I will faithfully serve and strive to always put the needs of the church first and be open to other opinions. I feel we must be good stewards of the business side of our church.

I ask that whomever you choose, you will do so with prayerful consideration.

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As the fiancé of Stephen Richards, a cradle Episcopalian, I attended a service at the Episcopal Church of the Annunciation in Vidalia, Georgia to see what the Episcopal Church was like. I realized at that service that my spirit had found its true way to worship and the church in which to worship. In December of 1974, I was confirmed at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Jessup, Georgia by Bishop Paul Reeves.

After worshipping in Episcopal Churches in Indiana and North Carolina, I came back to Annunciation from 1984 until I moved to Valdosta in May of 2017. Stephen and I had attended at least two Christmas Eve services at Christ Episcopal Church while visiting the family of our daughter, Alicia Richards Roberson. After I became a widow in March of 2016, my daughter invited I move to be near her in Valdosta. Naturally I chose to worship at Christ Episcopal Church. I truly appreciate being welcomed into my new church family and into my new church home.

Father Dave and Stephanie Johnson continue to amaze me with their service to the church and to the community, especially to our neighbors at VSU, the young neighbors who receive lunches, and our neighbors in the Dominican Republic. Since January of 2018, I have tithed to Christ Church. I have also supported these efforts with my prayers and contributions. I am a member of the Daughters of the King. I attended the last Spring Assembly of the DOK at Honey Creek. In addition to church and Sunday School, I attend the Bible Study led by Willa Valencia and Fr. Dave's Bible Study. I attend Wednesday night's service as I am able. I attend Vespers on Sunday evening. These activities are so important to my spirit and to my sense of community.

Simply to be considered as a candidate is an honor. I hope, should I be elected, to serve Christ Church as a member of the vestry. I hope through that service to show my gratitude to the church family which has given me so very much. This is a new way in which to support the life of the church and the outreach to our neighbors. I would appreciate the opportunity of serve in this manner. Thank you for your consideration.

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**Della Richards**





**Sims Turner**

Sims Turner is originally from Marietta, GA and moved to Valdosta, GA in 2006. He is married to Janda Turner. Together, they have Miller (8), Jake (4), and Mae (2). Sims works as an Account Manager at CJB Industries.

Three young kids have somewhat hampered my desire to participate more fully at Christ Church. However, they are getting older, and I would like to give more time and energy to Christ Church by helping through the vestry. Having watched Christ Episcopal Church grow in so many ways over the last few years, it would be fulfilling to help in secure future growth and change. I would find it an honor to work with Dave and fellow Vestry members for the church.

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My husband Gerald (Jerry) and I moved to Valdosta two and a half years ago from the mountains of North Georgia in the Diocese of Atlanta. I wish there were some way to express the depth of our gratitude for the many kindnesses we were shown when we arrived at Christ Church on that first Sunday and all the Sundays to follow. I am very sure that when you look up ‘Christian hospitality’ in the Bible, there is a footnote that says, ‘see Christ Episcopal Church, Valdosta’. We were amazed at the number of programs available, Friday Bible study with Dave (the most totally awesome preacher and pastor ever), Tuesday Bible study with the incredible Willa Valencia, DOK, now newly formed EfM, evening vespers on Sundays, Wednesday Eucharists, Thursday Eucharists, college ministry, the periodic rental of jumping toys for the children, annual Lenten studies led by Dave and others with meals prepared by Stephanie Johnson and her crew, rich Sunday school classes, men’s Friday pizza parties, Cursillo renewal groups, Lunch Bunch (I make a fabulous pbj sandwich) – am I beginning to sound repetitious and boring? I can assure you, it doesn’t bore us; we love it all!

Should I by some Godly miracle be elected to serve on the vestry, I would be honored and would do my best to serve God in this way. I have served on several vestries over the years, been a part of the lives of many Episcopal churches and have a deep love for the church with Christ at its head. And I sort of need to say, ‘Amen’.



**Patricia Tyson**



I have been a member of Christ Episcopal Church for 20 years. Prior to that I had not attended a particular church on a regular basis. I'm a native of Valdosta and a graduate of GSU (Sociology; business) and VSU (MPA). I am employed with South GA Medical Center as a social worker in the case management dept.

I am fortunate to have my family living close by, with my parents here and my brother and three nephews in Orlando FL. Three of the most important things to me are family, faith and fitness. I live a healthy lifestyle and benefit from the time invested in all these aspects. I love to travel and am fortunate to have a family who does as well. I have been to many fun and exciting places coast to coast and in Canada.

**Joel Williams** Throughout my working life I have received several customer service awards for which I am most grateful. I believe in treating people well, with dignity and respect from all walks of life. I love diversity and feel that a true Christian does not put parameters on who they interact with when someone comes to our church to seek a relationship with Christ. The definition of Christian after all means "Christ like."

Outside of church and work you will find me enjoying coffee, going to the gym, hanging with friends, reading or going to a good restaurant. I am a sports enthusiast as well. Well I hope this little bio gives you an idea as to who I am and the kind of person I am. I am truly honored to be a nominee for the vestry committee and I thank you for your consideration.

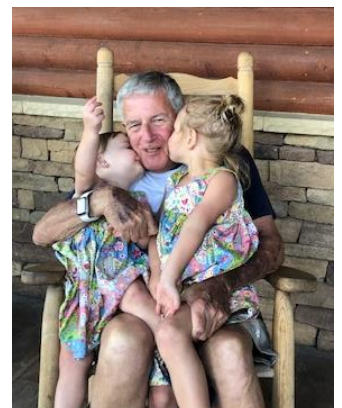
I have been involved in Christ Church in several ways over the years. I've volunteered to work with the youth at Honey Creek events including Happening, Fall Rally and Winter Blast. Since '06 I've served as an acolyte. I participated in the '11 Dominican Republic mission trip. In continual support of the missions project, I've also been "up for bid" as an entertainer during silent auctions with my juggling act over the past years. I've also been a reader when scheduled. I'm an active pledge giver as well.

I would like to serve on the vestry to further fulfill my growth in the church. I consider it an important process to support our leaders who spearhead carrying out the mission of the church. It would be my goal to represent our church in a way, so that others want to be there. This opportunity would give me a new role to contribute.

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I am an Episcopalian by birth, an attendee, and served as an acolyte, crucifer and usher through the years.

I am a regular attendee at the 8:00 service the monthly men's lunches and various other church events. I see serving on the Vestry as a way to pay back that which I have received through the various Episcopal Churches which I have attended. Additionally, I am honored to have been asked to be a nominee to serve thus providing representation for those who attend the Sunday 8:00 service.



**Mickey Williamson**