

## 2026 Vestry Nominees

The Vestry Nominees were asked to submit a photograph and to answer three 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?
3. Which Christ Church ministries do you see yourself leading and participating in to grow the church's role in sharing the good news of Jesus with others?

Please take a few minutes to read through the information, and prayerfully consider your options, so you are prepared to cast your vote for your choice of Vestry Members.

Vestry Ballots will only be filled out during the Annual Vestry Election. Please make plans to attend.

Vestry Elections will be held on January 21, 2024 during the Annual Parish meeting to be held immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service.



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The church office is located at 103 East College Street.  
Mailing address: 1521 N. Patterson St., Valdosta, GA 31602  
Office hours are Monday -Thursday, 10:00 AM – 2 PM  
e-mail address: Father Hal – [rector@christchurchvaldosta.org](mailto:rector@christchurchvaldosta.org)  
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I married into the Christ Church family in 2010 and was confirmed in 2016. Since my confirmation I have been involved in a variety of ways including Altar Guild, Coffee Hour, Lector, College Ministry, and Finance Committee. I have also attended the Diocesan leadership program, Leading with Grace.

The opportunity to serve in the leadership of our parish is an honor.

**Krystle Black** Christ Church is uniquely positioned spiritually, physically, and financially to be a beacon of love, hope, and God's grace for our community. As a member of the Vestry, I would work to ensure we are strategically prepared to continue our tradition of sharing God's grace with each other and the world for many years to come.

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I have been an official member of Christ Church since 2004 but was a visiting member throughout high school and college. I attended Happening and camp at Honey Creek throughout my high school days and Cursillo in my young adulthood. Currently, I am an usher and participate in a Foyer Group. Recently, I served as a member of the Search Committee to find our current Rector and participated in the Transition Team and the Holy Conversations Committee. In the



**Cliff Baker**

past, 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, camping trips, 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. Hopefully, I can help serve God and our church through aiding the Vestry in decisions that affect our parish and community.

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I joined Christ Church in the fall of 1983 and was immediately drafted into the old 11:30 am Folk group by my sister: she was the group leader. The next summer, when she was serving at her post as Camp Director at Honey Creek, I was the leader of the group. The only guitarist we had did not show one Sunday and I was forced to lead the service acapella.

**Merrill Guice**      The Good Lord used that trial by fire to lead me to learn how to play guitar and I soon developed into a worship leader. I led the 11:30 service the next summer on the guitar. Thank you, Jesus! I have led many a service since then along with Worship leader at Cursillo, Vocare, Happening and Parish weekends.

I have served as a Licensed Lay Reader and Chalice Administrator, leader of the College ministry, Happening/EYC leader and occasionally in the main (traditional) Choir. I have served on Vestry and as Christ Church member of the Diocesan Council. I have served on the annual pledge drive on several occasions. I designed the “We Love Christ Church” logo that we still use today.

I have also filled many other roles when asked by our rector. I am currently one of the volunteer office workers in the church office. Why do I want to be on Vestry? I was asked to run by John Hiers. When John calls on you to do something at the church, the only answer is yes. One valuable lesson I have learned is that a Vestry should be patient and wait on the Holy Spirit to show the way. Every time a Vestry passes something by a close majority vote it has failed. Vestry has to do a harder thing; decide by consensus.

I could remember us having a very violent discussion about whether to put a 10 year or a 20 year roof on the old assistant priest house. The very narrow vote resulted in a win for the 20 year roof. The roof lasted three years before a subsequent vestry voted to tear the building down and put in the current parking lot behind the church office. That is just one example. I know too many more.

What will I do? I could see myself working on the pledge drive committee or college ministry or any number of things. When there is a call: I will answer.

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I was baptized in the Episcopal church as a child, further nurtured in my faith by attending St Philips Cathedral in Atlanta and for many years have found a loving home attending Christ Episcopal Church in Valdosta. Over several years I have wanted to give my talents to Christ Church however I have often wondered what talents to offer. I have a gift for outreach, creativity, and a gift for business.



Many years back I took on the project of restoring the actual building facility of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church (circa 1915) in Early County; this is a church in our diocese bordering Alabama. It took one year to complete this project during which I was the sole contractor. I installed a new roof on the sanctuary, new HVAC, with Hazmat suits & OSHA tents we removed all lead-based paint, repaired the 100 plus year-old front doors (transported them to Valdosta for restoration under the guidance of the Thomasville Historical Society) and restored the parapets to their original state. I saw this project to its successful completion which provided the Blakely parish a viable facility should they grow the church.

**Becky Meadors**

The reason for the above story is to say that I understand commitment, long hours, working with different personalities, and getting things accomplished. That is a gift which I can offer Christ Church.

If given the opportunity I would love to serve, work with you, and nurture the growth of Christ Episcopal Church.

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My name is Edward (Ed) Mistick. My wife BJ and I have been members of Christ Church since July 2014. We were drawn to Christ Church after visiting several other churches in the area. The thing which struck us was the Christ-centric focus which was (and still is) so alive within the congregation. God's love is limitless, and it has been a blessing to find a community which embraces this idea so openly.

### **Ed Mistick**

During my time here I have enjoyed being involved as an usher and Lay Ecumenical Minister for the 8:00 service. I also assist the Alter Guild during BJ's monthly assignment as well as during holiday "all hands" preparations. Additionally, I worked with Father Perkins and other members of the congregation to consolidate and report Holy Conversation data as we began our search for a new Rector. I also served as a member of the Search Committee.

If elected to the Vestry I look forward to being a part of the process to maintain the stability of and help guide Christ Church into the future. To do this I would be accessible to all members of the congregation and draw on the experience of our more seasoned leaders while providing some fresh energy.

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Valdosta is my hometown. I am a retired elementary school teacher and my hobbies are cross-stitch and needlepoint. My husband's name was Bill. He and I were confirmed 40 years ago. We joined the choir before we were confirmed. We have two children. Kip lives in Panacea, Fl. He is married and has two children. Jan lives in Jacksonville. She is married and has two children.



**Sally Nunn**

I feel that I contribute to the church by helping to make beautiful music. I would like to serve on the vestry to be another voice for the choir.

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I currently serve as a Lector and on the Alter Guild. I would love an opportunity to explore Christ Church service options available through the vestry. The Christ Church ministries that I see myself in would be healing and hope sharing the good news of Jesus using my Social Work background. However, I am open to where God leads me if I am elected to the Vestry.

**Kathy Parsons**

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I am very pleased to have been invited to nominate myself to serve on the Vestry at Christ Church. I became active in the church choir and began attending services regularly at Christ Church in the fall of 2017. I had attended occasionally with my wife, Hanae Kanno, prior to that. Hanae and I were married at Christ Church on May 3, 2012 and she had been a member since moving to Valdosta in 2009. In addition to singing bass in the choir, I have participated in most activities for children since joining the church as well as attending Sunday school and “foyer group” meetings with other Christ Church families.



**Don Thieme**

By serving on the Vestry, I hope to encourage families and all members of the Church to participate actively in the Episcopal faith and reach out through service to the Valdosta community. I also hope to work on the maintenance and preservation of the church’s buildings and grounds. I have enjoyed helping to raise a 10 year old daughter in the Episcopal faith and will lend any assistance that I can to religious education in the years to come.

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I've been a part of Christ Church for just over 25 years. My involvement in the past has been that of an unseen individual helping out when needed. I've help with Grace Cafe on occasion, painting the murals in the Gabard building, etc.. and just recently taking on the role of Head Usher.

The one thing that attracted me to Christ Church other than my now wife telling me I had to go (HaHa) are the people. Christ Church has become my extended family over the years. I have seen their love in good times, with the baptism of our

**Bobby Yarbrough** children and in sad times with the death of family members. There is no doubt in my mind that if I ever needed for anything my extended family members would be there for me. That love and friendship that has been extended me is why I now want to serve on Vestry. Its a way for me to give back to my extended family.

Currently, I am serving as Head Usher. As far as a specific ministry right now. I can't name one off the top of my head. I think it's everyone's responsibility in the church to grow the church.

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