

2017 Vestry Nominees

Jon Collom

John Davison

David Grove

Morgan Hanzlik

Christa Hyland

Andrew Payze

Frances Sullinger

November 25–26 and December 2–3

after all services. The term is January 2018 through December 2020. Please vote for no more than 4 nominees. We'll be electing 4 people for 3-year terms.



Jon Collom

Years at Holy Comforter:
12 years.

Relevant Experience:
Vestry member in prior congregations; member of the Parish Council, Trinity Wall Street. A Holy Comforter representative to our Regional Council for 3 years, and participated in 2 Diocesan conventions as a voting delegate. Lay Liturgist Lector for many years, Hypothermia Shelter volunteer since its inception, and currently a

member of the Holy Comforter Endowment Board. Active in Open Circles group, Foyers program, and Men's Reading Group when that was in existence. Participant in 2012 Honduras Mission trip.

Occupation:

Following retirement as a Captain in the U.S. Coast Guard, I served as president of an international trade association and I am presently a real estate attorney with a Fairfax law firm.

Why do you feel prepared to serve on the Vestry at this time?

I am a cradle Episcopalian who has experienced the full range of church sizes from the very small in Kodiak, AK to the very large at Trinity Wall Street, NY. But upon walking in the door of Holy Comforter, I knew that I had found a home. Several years of participation in Open Circles, Men's Reading Group, and Lenten Wednesday book discussions as well as several parish retreats has brought me to a fuller understanding of my faith. I am drawn to service on the Vestry out of a sense of commitment and wanting to do more for this parish as my professional work life winds down. With the call of a new Rector, I feel that my varied church experience will assist in flexibly working with that new clerical leader as Holy Comforter forges new directions without forgetting our successful past.

What do you hope to accomplish on the Vestry?

By offering the experience gained in multiple prior parishes and bringing to bear my broad leadership and management background to assist in carrying us forward on a sound spiritual path while also attending to the fiscal and practical needs of our parish family.

What goal or vision do you have for Holy Comforter?

The Ministry Center will give us an opportunity to expand CHC programs beyond our congregants and leave a greater footprint in the local community. While the space will certainly enhance our internal ministries and programs, I hope it will be a beacon to draw those not currently associated with our faith community to utilize the facilities and experience the Christian love that clearly exists here. As theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer said "The Church is the Church only when it exists for others." The new facility can be a catalyst to reach out to many who need a spiritual home and though their initial contact might not be directly faith related, it could lead to their fuller relationship with God through this parish. A strength of Holy Comforter has been its ability to accommodate and assimilate a wide variety of church and previously unchurched people with a broad spectrum of political, social, and moral beliefs. The common foundation is an abiding acceptance of the Christian faith. My prayer is that this will continue as we move forward with the arrival of the new Rector and the guidance of the Vestry.



John Davison

Years at Holy Comforter:

Eleven years ago, my wife Amy and I walked into Holy Comforter after moving back to Northern Virginia from Seattle, and we immediately knew this was the church for us and our young children, Connor (now 15) and Kathryn (now 13). We thrived on the family-friendly atmosphere and have watched our children grow up here, starting with our wonderful Holy Comforter

Episcopal Preschool and Sunday School, and then becoming active in Choristers, Hogwarts VBS, St. George's Camp, Youth Group, and now the Acolytes.

Relevant Experience:

I currently serve on the Discernment Committee to select our new Rector, which has been a great experience not only in learning about what our parish is looking for in a new Rector, but also in participating in a positive group decision making process with nine other parishioners who are deeply committed to Holy Comforter's future. I also currently serve as one of Holy Comforter's delegates to the Diocese of Virginia Region V Council. This experience has given me a window on how other Episcopal parishes in our area are doing God's work, and I have seen several opportunities for us to partner with those parishes in doing that work. Until this year, I taught Sunday School for 4th, 5th and 6th Grade for six years, which showed me that children need to learn about God in different ways than adults do! Other relevant experience includes a term on the Holy Comforter Episcopal Preschool Board, and prior to that, participation on Mother Libby Gibson's Adult Formation Committee.

Occupation:

I am a licensed clinical psychologist, but primarily I work on healthcare policy and programs for the Military Health System for the DoD. A recent professional accomplishment was the modernization and expansion of our TRICARE mental health benefit for military families, implementing mental health parity with medical benefits, increasing access to care and covering new, effective treatments for opiate addiction and other mental health and substance use problems. I supervise a team of ten professionals and oversee government contracts, so I have first-hand experience with personnel, management and budget issues. Prior to entering the healthcare field, I served eight years in the U.S. Navy as a Naval Flight Officer.

Why do you feel prepared to serve on the Vestry at this time?

One of my roles on the Discernment Committee was leading the development and administration of our congregational survey where we learned what you, Holy Comforter parishioners, love and value about our church and what you want to see Holy Comforter become. This survey, and the focus groups that many of you participated in, yielded a great deal of information about our Holy Comforter congregation. While the Discernment Committee has passed this information on to the Vestry, I feel that my first-hand experience with the survey process will help me in representing the views of our congregation on the Vestry.

What do you hope to accomplish on the Vestry?

My main objective in serving on the Vestry is to ensure a successful transition as we call a new Rector to Holy Comforter. I have been part of a parish in the past when the arrival of a new Rector has not gone well, and I want to help us avoid any potential pitfalls during this transition period. Having participated in the discernment process, I will be one of the few parishioners who already knows what gifts the new Rector will bring, and I feel both a responsibility and a calling to assist with this transition as part of the Vestry so that Holy Comforter, under the new Rector's leadership, can continue to fulfill God's plan for our parish.

What goal or vision do you have for Holy Comforter?

One of our candidates for Rector asked the members of the Discernment Committee what time they felt was Holy Comforter's "heyday." I was a bit dismayed to hear that my fellow Committee members' "heyday" stories occurred well before my wife Amy and I arrived at Holy Comforter eleven years ago! I feel that with our new Rector and our Ministry Center now breaking ground, Holy Comforter's greatest years are ahead of us. We have so much to offer our community and our congregants in fellowship, formation and outreach. While reaching out to others to join in our worship and ministries, I also want to strengthen Holy Comforter's legacy as a joyous, welcoming spiritual home for children and families. In our ever more secular society, raising our children in the knowledge and love of Christ is the most important evangelism we can do. My vision is to see our Preschool thrive and grow, our children engaged in worship, our youth programs strengthened to prepare our high schoolers for life as mature Christians, and our congregation and community called together in fellowship and mission under the roof of our new Ministry Center.



David Grove

Years at Holy Comforter:

My wife, Maggie, and I joined Holy Comforter 8 years ago after moving to Vienna and returning to Northern Virginia.

Relevant Experience:

Through my 24-year professional career in the Financial Service industry, I have had department budgetary responsibilities and experience in strategic planning—short term, annual, and long term. I have led and directed marketing campaigns; developed communication strategies; conducted and created training and development; and partnered with various lines of businesses to obtain outlined goals and objectives. For three years, prior to my current professional position, I worked with a capital stewardship fund raising firm specializing in churches. I currently serve on Holy Comforter's Finance Committee, on the Monthly Collection Counting Team, Pennywise Porch Patrol, and serve as an Usher. From 2014 to 2016, I served on Holy Comforter's Vestry, co-chairing the Stewardship Committee. During that time, we worked through and called our interim Rector, completed the renovations to the Sanctuary and Rodman House, confirmed plans to move forward with the Ministry Center, and called the Discernment Committee.

Occupation:

Principal Associate, Capital One, N.A. for the prior 2 years.

Why do you feel prepared to serve on the Vestry at this time?

The next few years are an important period for Holy Comforter. In 2018, our new Rector will be called to spiritually lead and professionally manage our parish. The new Rector will need to rely heavily on the Vestry. In addition to the ongoing Vestry roles and responsibilities, the class of 2018 will be:

- Responsible for assisting the Rector over the first three years.
- Assisting in guiding the use of the Ministry Center space, as expected completion is late 2018.
- Focusing on the financials and stewardship of the parish.

Based on my leadership, planning, communication, and financial experience, I feel I have the expertise to assist Holy Comforter in the next stage of our spiritual development and management.

What do you hope to accomplish on the Vestry?

While a Vestry member, I would like to assist, provide guidance, and experience integrating our new Rector into the parish. In addition, I would like to ensure that the completed Ministry Center is used to the fullest potential, to support, renew, and expand Holy Comforter's programs and ministries. I would also like to assist in improving the communication channels of the church to support the ongoing inclusion of "active" church members and focus on increasing the participation of "non-active" church members. I would also like to expand the parish membership from the surrounding community in our ministry programs. **What goal or vision do you have for Holy Comforter?** From Holy Comforter's website the church's vision is "Following Christ through Worship, Formation, and Outreach." My goal would be to not only follow this vision, but to expand it by supporting programs that will continue to spiritually feed our current church members, and also grow and attract new members to the congregation. One area that would be meaningful for me would be to continue community outreach in the Vienna area and to support new members when they attend Holy Comforter.



Morgan Hanzlik

Years at Holy Comforter:

Member since 2004

Relevant Experience:

For the last 10 years I have been a director of Group Exercise at Sport and Health, Inc, now a part of US Fitness, Inc. I have 80 employees, and a class schedule of 100+ offerings. I teach many classes myself, and offer private training as well as small group training. I send out a weekly email

to 1000+ members to communicate the weekly activities at the gym. Before transitioning to my current career, I was a software engineer at Northrop Grumman Information Technology (NGIT) working on Army training software. Before NGIT, I worked for Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, TX where I worked on research contracts for NASA. Some of my software flew out to Saturn and was recently destroyed along with the Cassini Satellite. I sang in the Holy Comforter church choir, with Paul and several choir members who are still active. I was a singer with the Rite Ones, a modern ensemble of music that enlivened the Sunday morning services.

Occupation:

Group Fitness and Mind Body Director at Sport and Health in Mclean, VA

Why do you feel prepared to serve on the Vestry at this time?

I am very interested in the future of our church. I want to take an active role in shaping our future.

What do you hope to accomplish on the Vestry?

I would like to ensure our church ministers to all members, all ages and all walks. I hope that through my connections to the congregation, I will have the ability to listen to the needs of others and represent those needs adequately during Vestry meetings.

What goal or vision do you have for Holy Comforter?

I am disheartened by our dwindling numbers of attendees. I have enjoyed our vibrant congregation and hope to renew that spirit. I would like to create unity through diversity and community through unity. I would like to see a youth service at Holy Comforter, led and attended by our youth. In my role as director I often hear the outspoken critic, but understand that there are many more quiet participants whose opinion matters just as much. I would like to ensure the Vestry hears more than just the few outspoken voices.



Christa Hyland

Years at Holy Comforter:
26 years

Relevant Experience:

I have had the privilege of serving our church family in the following ways Children's Chapel 2 years, Sunday School teacher 9 years, confirmation mentor 3 years, delivering groceries for Britepaths 2 years, 2017 youth mission

chaperone, and I am a new Eucharistic Minister in 2017. In addition, I sit on the board of directors for both the American Heart Association and the FCPS Marketing Advisory Board.

Occupation:

VP Of Sales, Cigna

Why do you feel prepared to serve on the Vestry at this time?

I love our church family. After all of these years I am being called to serve on the Vestry. I believe my experience at Holy Comforter, with other community service organizations and in the work world will benefit the Vestry.

What do you hope to accomplish on the Vestry?

I hope to welcome and work with our new rector and establish a clear path to our goals and vision.

What goal or vision do you have for Holy Comforter?

My vision is to provide a vibrant, growing church community that welcomes all in the greater Vienna/Tysons area.



Andrew Payze

Years at Holy Comforter:
14 years

Relevant Experience:

I grew up in the Anglican Church in Australia as part of a family that was very active in the church. I served as a youth leader and verger. We had a small congregation, so if there were tasks to be completed, my family was one of the first to

lend a hand.

I have been a member of Holy Comforter for fourteen years. I've been involved in the youth program since my children were toddlers. They attended Holy Comforter Episcopal Preschool (HCEP) and I've provided support at the preschool and youth programs wherever possible.

Occupation:

My paying jobs center around providing project management, IT consulting, and data visualization services for Microsoft SharePoint, Project Server and Office365 (O365.) The work includes helping customers implement new systems and processes that improve their operations. Additionally, and the sometimes more challenging aspect of my job is to coach teams through change management for their transitions.

Why do you feel prepared to serve on the Vestry at this time?

This is a time of great transition for our congregation. My experience with managing teams through change, raising children and caring for ailing elders (my in-laws) coupled with my active participation in our congregation as a young adult, give me perspective and compassion that could add depth to our vestry.

I've been looking for ways to get more involved in the church for some time. Life dropping in on us keep me from being as fully involved with Holy Comforter as I would have liked, but I see a position on the vestry as an opportunity to expand my stewardship and share my time and experience with our church community.

What do you hope to accomplish on the Vestry?

There are two areas in which I would like to focus. The first is in support of the upcoming period of transition to the new rector. Change can be a challenging time for a community and the future of our church will be shaped by this. I want to ensure that we turn this change into a positive experience for our congregation and community.

The second area I would like to focus on is expanding and supporting our youth programs and outreach. I believe that attracting and engaging families is one of the ways to build the sense of community for Holy Comforter. We have some great youth leaders and they need all the support we can provide to ensure ongoing success.

What goal or vision do you have for Holy Comforter?

My vision for Holy Comforter is to ensure that we are able to continue to grow as community and the church continues to be a safe and welcoming place. The church community should include families with diverse backgrounds that range from the very young to retirees who can come together to be spiritually fulfilled.



Frances Sullinger

Years at Holy Comforter:

30 years, but I was away for 6 years on Foreign Service Assignments

Relevant Experience:

Previous Vestry Experience. Currently Vice chair of the Discernment Committee. EfM mentor for 8 years. Currently a Lector and Eucharistic Minister. Former Pennywise Chair. Very active with Listening Hearts Ministries—serve on the Board, lead retreats. Professionally—former teacher, college professor, foreign service officer

Occupation:

Retired from Department of State

Why do you feel prepared to serve on the Vestry at this time?

I have served in a variety of leadership positions at Holy Comforter. My familiarity with the results of the Discernment Committee's Focus Groups and Survey findings has given me a better sense of our DNA. By the time the new Vestry is seated, the work of the Discernment Committee will be finished, freeing me to take on this position of responsibility.

What do you hope to accomplish on the Vestry?

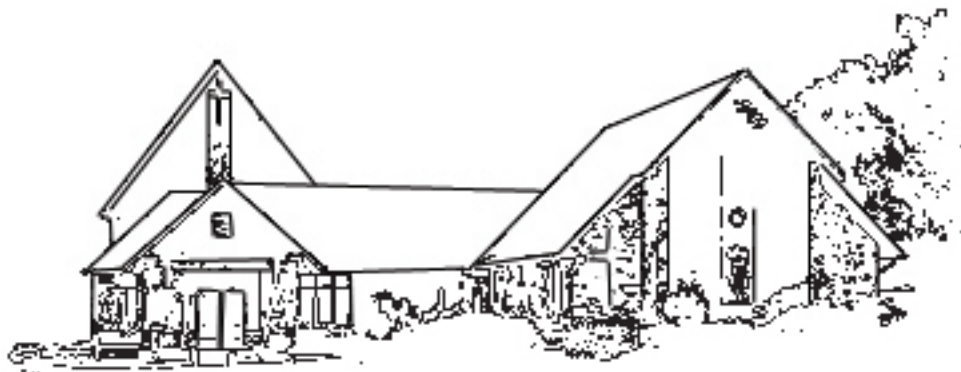
I hope to play a role in the Vestry's establishing relations with a new Rector and finding meaningful ways to work together. I believe serving on the Vestry should be a spiritual experience, and I hope to help all of us listen to what God is calling Holy Comforter to be and to do.

What goal or vision do you have for Holy Comforter?

My hope is that Holy Comforter will take a leading role in finding ways to become the Church of the Future, becoming better known in the community through our new Ministry Center and intentional local outreach. I want us to reach out to youth, younger singles and young families to re-energize our parish.

Canon 11, Section 5
Election and Organization
of Vestries

All adult communicants in good standing, registered in the particular Church in which they offer to vote, shall be entitled to vote at the election of Vestry members. The voting shall be by ballot in person and, unless otherwise provided by the meeting, a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to a choice. There shall be no voting by proxy. But no election shall be valid unless the participating qualified votes number at least ten per cent of the number of active communicants qualified to vote reported for the previous year.



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Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Virginia
Providing an Anglican Presence since 1895
The Rt. Reverend Shannon Johnston, Bishop

The Reverend Lyndon C. Shakespeare, PhD, Interim Rector
The Reverend Valerie J. Hayes, Senior Associate Rector
The Reverend Cara M. Rockhill, Interim Assistant Rector