Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 22 - Hope to See You There!

I am grateful to the nominating committee who discerned from nineteen nominees the four persons to put forward to serve on the Bruton Parish Vestry 2027-2029. The nominees are Ray Brown, Tucker Edmonds, Joan Lovegren-O'Brien, and Lois Polifka. At the Annual Meeting, there will be an opportunity to make nominations from the floor. I hope to see you at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 22, following the 9:15 am service.

The Rev. William J. Watson III, Interim Rector

Ray Brown



Born in Georgia and living most of my life in Atlanta and Northern Virginia, I moved to Williamsburg 3 ½ years ago to be part of a community I have for many years visited and loved. Prior to my move to Williamsburg, I stayed in touch through my years of supporting the Friends of Bruton.

My priorities in life have been driven by my faith, family, and career. I am blessed with a daughter Laura and her husband Brian, and their ten-year-old son, Noah, and my son Daniel and his wife Ashley, and their two sons, eight-year-old Connor and four-year-old Wesley. Known as G-Dad to my three grandsons is a role I cherish. I am also blessed to be recently married to the love of my life, Kathryn Bennett.

I am a graduate of the University of Georgia with degrees in political science and public administration. Career-wise I began as the youngest City Manager in South Carolina, then recruited into management consulting with Deloitte, Cresap McCormick & Paget, and then founding my own healthcare strategy firm – Legacy Consulting Group advising hospitals and physicians on a variety of issues. One of my earliest clients was Williamsburg Community Hospital more than 25 years ago, where I led the market, facility, and financial feasibility work that is now Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center. Through this opportunity, I became very acquainted with the greater Williamsburg area and many hospital and community leaders.

Since moving to Williamsburg, I have been involved in various initiatives of the Greater Williamsburg Chamber of Commerce; including the Community Leadership Service (CLS) program where I now serve on the Board.

Most important of all is my love for and devotion to Bruton Parish Church and the beliefs, traditions, and sacraments of the Episcopal Church. While my journey of faith began when I was 8 years old, the Holy Spirit has led me on a journey of becoming more rooted in who God has created and called me to be. I am fortunate to serve as a Guide on Sunday afternoons welcoming people from all over the world and sharing not only Bruton's history but especially its care for our Parish and the Greater Williamsburg community. I serve as a Lectionary Reader because worship at Bruton is central to who we are. January will be my third year of caring for our guests in the Homeless Shelter. I am grateful for joining sixteen other Bruton Pilgrims this past June on our spiritual journey throughout England, gaining an in-depth understanding of the origins of our faith.

I am humbled by my nomination for Bruton's Vestry and will serve diligently as our Parish welcomes a new Rector in 2027.

Tucker Edmonds



I am humbled to be considered to serve on the vestry of Bruton Parish Church. It is an exciting time as we plan for the future of our clergy leadership.

I am a lifelong Episcopalian, having grown up in the Church of the Ascension in Norfolk where I served for many years as a choirboy, acolyte and lay reader. After moving to Williamsburg in 1984 I attended St. Martin's where I served a term on the vestry. I joined Bruton Parish in 2016 and currently serve in the usher ministry.

I am retired after long careers in commercial aviation and finance, recently retired from Chesapeake Bank. I have served on numerous boards throughout the community over the years to include Colonial CASA, United Way, Williamsburg Area Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Historic Triangle and the Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg, often serving in leadership roles. I currently serve on the boards of Heritage Humane Society and Dreamcatchers so am very accustomed to group dynamics and decision-making for the benefit and future of the organization.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve with the vestry in Bruton Parish Church. It is an amazing community that I am thankful to be a part of.

Joan Lovegren - O'Brien



I am a cradle Episcopalian and have attended and been involved in church my entire life. Brent, my husband of 32 years, and I joined Bruton Parish Church in 2003 when we moved back to Virginia to be near family.

I was privileged to live in a variety of locations growing up, including, Virginia, Yellowstone NP, Grand Canyon NP, Arizona, Alabama, Puerto Rico, Texas, North Carolina, Costa Rica, Minnesota, and New York. I have always found friends in my church families.

Brent and I have a blended family of three grown children: Kendall, Greg (spouse Nikki and a 4yo-, 2yo-, & 4-month-old twins), & Carrie (spouse Eric, & 2 grown daughters). My parents, Bob and Judy Lovegren, attended and are buried at Bruton Parish Church. They were my inspiration, and still are, throughout my life. Brent and I love to travel and meet new people and visit new places.

My career ranged from teaching second grade, middle school, and high school students to being a Project Coordinator, and then being a Transition Coordinator. I retired in 2019 and can say with my whole heart that I loved my job working with students with special needs, parents, and community members throughout my 27-year career. It enriched my views, challenged my creativity, and made me a better person.

While at BPC I have been involved in many areas of service, including, but not limited to, a previous term on the Vestry, Annual Book Sale, Dinner for Eight Coordinator, winter shelter week, and, assisted as needed in kitchen set-up/clean-up. I look forward to returning to the Vestry and am honored to be considered for this vital role at Bruton Parish Church.

Lois Polifka



I was Born in Norfolk Virginia and grew up in Virginia Beach where my family attended Bayside Baptist Church. I joined the US Air Force after graduating from Old Dominion University. My years in the Air Force led me to worship in military chapels throughout the U.S.A. and beyond.

Upon retiring from the US Air Force my husband (Karl) and I moved to Williamsburg in late 1991. We began attending Bruton Parish church in 1992. It was a wonderful experience with many welcoming parishioners and ministries in which to participate. Karl transferred his membership and I was received in the Episcopal Church and Bruton Parish Church in 1993.

During my years at Bruton Parish Church I served on the Vestry during our transition from Bishop Viche to Father Hollerith. During my time on the Vestry, we conducted an every-member visitation where we called every member of the Parish and then provided lay or clergy visits at members' request. We updated the Vestry By-laws and welcomed Father Hollerith and his family to our Parish.

I have volunteered on various committees during my years at Bruton. I joined the efforts for the Shop in 1995 and have volunteered in the shop and on the Steering Committee. I am currently the scheduled for the Shop. I especially enjoyed the Lay Pastoral Care Committee which led me to pursue a degree in sociology with a minor in gerontology from Christopher Newport University in 2002. In 2005, I began part-time work as the first Coordinator for the Senior Services Coalition in the Williamsburg area.

I currently serve on the Bruton Parish Endowment committee as the Secretary. Other church committees include: participation in the Episcopal Church Women including leadership roles. I loved volunteering with the Kitchen Ministry, and Karl and I have many hours in the kitchen.

My community volunteering includes: Williamsburg Landing Board of Directors and Chairman, Health and Resident Services Committee; Peninsula Task Force on Aging; Meals on Wheels of Greater Williamsburg as a driver, Board of Directors Treasurer and Chairman; Master Gardener for James City County; Greater Williamsburg Chamber & Tourism Alliance Community Leadership Service Program Steering Committee member; Historic Triangle Senior Center Board of Directors, as treasurer and taught computer literacy for seniors.

I am excited about our Parish's next steps and honored to be considered to serve again for the Bruton Parish Church vestry.