



christ church
frederica

VESTRY
NOMINEES
FOR 2019





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2019 Vestry Nominees

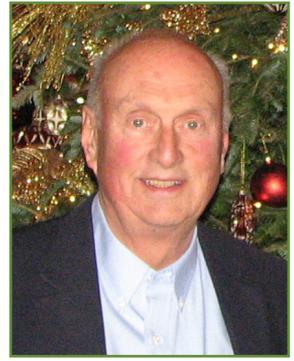
Information contained in this brochure will allow you to read about the eight candidates who have agreed to stand for election to the Vestry. We will be electing four of these persons to fill the four vacancies for terms that run from 2019-2021. All are faithful members of our parish, who give of their time, talent and treasure in support of our mission and ministry. Each candidate was asked to answer the following four questions:

- **What brought you to Christ Church, and what keeps you here?**
- **What gifts do you bring to leadership at Christ Church?**
- **What church leadership have you been involved in at Christ Church or in other churches?**
- **What is your vision for Christ Church?**

Voting for the Vestry will take place on the weekend of January 26-27 at all services. Eligibility to vote is based on our parish rolls for "Communicants in Good Standing". The current list has been posted at Christ Church and St. Ignatius. If you are not listed and feel that the omission is in error, please let us know. It is entirely possible that we have made a mistake. As we have done in the recent past, we will open voting AFTER each of our five weekend services. Voting after services (as opposed to before them) is particularly important on Sunday morning, as it allows the transition between the 8:00 and 9:15 am services to run smoothly. At all services, it also allows for a contemplative preparation for services in our church.

Blessed Lord, who hath called us to membership in thy Church, guide us, we beseech thee, in our deliberations, so that all our aims and purposes may be to the strengthening of the work in this parish and the support of the Church's mission throughout the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DAVID BLATCHFORD



I was raised and nurtured in the Presbyterian Church by my widowed mother during the war years. After peace was restored, she remarried and I was raised in the Episcopal Church, being confirmed at St. Johns in Houston in the early fifties. Being the son of an Episcopal priest, when I retired to St. Simons in 2004, I visited Episcopal churches in the area looking to make a spiritual connection. My visits were not always the most regular until I brought my fiancé Beryl to the island in 2011. After we were married, we came to Christ Church and have been active parishioners, thoroughly appreciating the feeling of family that encompasses the church.

Having spent over thirty years of business life as a computer programmer and computer systems analyst, developing and implementing complex financial and personnel systems, I believe I am a good listener who weighs all the options before determining a course of action. With tongue-in-cheek, I am “Mr. Dependable” – if I say I will do something, I really will, unless interrupted by illness or family emergency!

After a couple of years as a member of the teller team, I was appointed Head Teller and have had that responsibility for the last two years, overseeing the team’s weekly and annual operations of counting money and Vestry votes, and assisting the church staff in its computer operations. In addition, I am often the usher at X Church, the facilitator for the Iconography Painting group, a member of the Capital Campaign Feasibility Study group, and the original portrayer of Saint Nicholas at the breakfast celebration.

In the future, I see Christ Church expanding its family-oriented activities as more and more youth become active in the church and bring their parents with them into the congregation. The increasing number of tour buses, parked in our new parking lot, will bring more visitors intent on seeing “the old church”, “the new parish house”, buying more cookbooks with descriptions of the stained glass windows, supporting the ECW Tour of Homes and Scholarship Fund. I envision the Iconography group and other outreach groups having sufficient classroom and storage space to expand their roles throughout Glynn County.

ERIC IGEL

My wife went to Christ Church as a child and also attended the Nursery School. We were excited for our children to have the same opportunity of the traditions, faith and fellowship. The sermons on Sunday meet our expectations with our beliefs and how we want to parent our children. We have enjoyed getting to know the congregation.



I bring an open mind that takes all opinions and experiences into account when it comes to making important decisions.

I have not yet held a leadership position within the Church. I am at a point in my life where I am able to make the time and commit to take a more active role, and excited about contributing to the well-being of Christ Church.

I would like to see Christ Church grow their youth programs in all age groups while maintaining the traditions and history that has made this Church thrive for so many years.

CHRIS JORDAN



I grew up on St Simons and attended Christ Church throughout my childhood with my family. My two brothers and I went to Sunday school, sang in the choir, and served as acolytes. We had fun doing it and made a lot of friends along the way. I look back fondly on those formative experiences, and, as we work to foster our children's faith, I hope they will have similar experiences. However, the past alone is not what keeps my family at Christ Church. We are also inspired by the current leadership at CCF and excited to be a part of the collective vision for the future of our church.

As an attorney, I spend a lot of time helping people evaluate risk and problem solving. To the extent the Vestry would benefit from such a perspective, I am happy to offer it.

I was very active at Christ Church as a youth until leaving the area for college. I spoke recently at several services in support of the annual campaign, and I would welcome the chance to serve CCF in a greater capacity.

At the broadest level, I would aim to help Christ Church position itself for the future while preserving all that makes it such a special and wonderful place. As the parent of young children, I would also hope to help maintain and further CCF's youth-focused ministries and programs.

TROY MEEKS



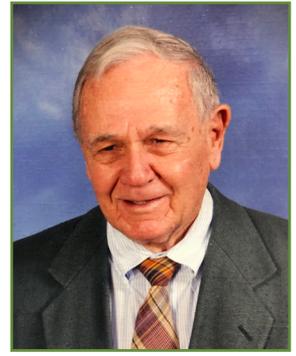
My work with the U.S. Department of Justice brought my family and me to the Golden Isles about a year ago. My wife Elise, my daughter Laura and I visited St. Simons Island and Christ Church prior to our move, and we fell in love with the community and the church. We truly enjoy the welcoming of children into the Christ Church community. We look forward to raising our daughter here.

As a Christian and a member of Christ Church, I believe that it takes a good follower to be a good leader. Integrity, honesty, and service are the leadership skills I utilize every day. I enjoy working with others in an effort to accomplish the goals we have set. I believe that there are times you lead, times you follow, but always time to empower others.

Being nominated to become a member of the Vestry here at Christ Church is a great honor. If elected, this will be my first official involvement in leadership within the Episcopal Church.

My vision for Christ Church comes from the reception my family and I received the first time we visited here... WELCOMING! I have lived all over the United States. I have experienced the fact that finding a truly welcoming church is not always easy. Welcoming IS what Christ Church is. I believe ALL who are looking for a venue to worship the Lord, feel a sense of community, fellowship, and friendship are welcomed here at Christ Church.

BASCOM MURRAH



I was baptized and raised in the St. Simons Methodist Church. I became an Episcopalian after I married Barbara Hasell in 1960 and we attended church wherever we lived. I was confirmed at Christ Church, Frederica in 1967. When I retired in 1998, we moved to St. Simons Island and I have been a member of Christ Church ever since. The church members are friendly and the worship services satisfy my spiritual needs. When Barbara died of cancer in 2013, Christ Church was my rock that kept me going with a positive attitude.

My professional career involved working for NASA at the Kennedy Space Center for 34 years. For twenty-two of those years, I was in spacecraft operations as a lead mechanical aerospace engineer on the Apollo moon missions, Skylab, the Mars Viking Lander, and Space Shuttle test and checkout. I attended many meetings over the years and realized that good communication, and especially being a good listener, were critical to our successes, and a big ego and/or overconfidence resulted in our failures. All data, from the chief engineer, down to the designers of hardware must be considered to make the right decisions. Some luck was required, also. Most decisions are not totally black or white, but some gray data is involved. I still maintain this belief.

At Christ Church, I have been a member of the fourth Monday Manna House team for about ten years. I also usher, mainly at the 9:15 Parish Hall service, but also as needed for funerals or other services. I volunteer every year to help with the annual ECW Tour of Hones

I think Christ Church is the best of the best. I strive to help make it better.

TISA O'CAIN

In the early nineties, my husband and I were looking for a traditional Episcopal church in which to raise our children. Now that Eli and Luke are grown, we remain members because it not only nurtured our young children, but it nurtures us, as well. There is a true sense of family and countless ways in which to practice and grow our faith. Our church offers something for everyone at every season. Now that we are no longer wrestling two little boys into church clothes, we most often attend services at St. Ignatius chapel.



I have served the Glynn County school system as an Instructional Coach which involved training and overseeing elementary teachers implement sound instructional practices. It was, however, during my thirty years of managing elementary classrooms and academic intervention groups that I gleaned most of my experience. It is in the latter setting, while working with families, that I've developed an appreciation of differences and an understanding that despite differences, there is more that binds us than separates us. I have learned that a position of leadership comes with a great responsibility of receptiveness, open mindedness and compassion. Leading entails serving.

Currently, I enjoy serving on the altar guild at St. Ignatius and helping fill the gaps when needed delivering Back Pack Buddies. I taught Sunday school for several years during the mid-nineties and assisted with Vacation Bible School. I've also served on The Missionary and Ministry committee and assisted with the Tour of Homes. My husband, Steve, and I also served as greeters and served at the coffee hour.

I envision a future that embraces our responsibility to preserve and expand. I believe we all will be receptive to the Holy Spirit as we apply the analogy of the three legged stool so eloquently explained during confirmation classes. I truly believe that as we consider those components - scripture, tradition and reason, our beloved Christ Church Frederica's history and future will meld harmoniously.

CHRISTINE PLANK

On Christmas Eve 2012, my family and I first visited Christ Church. I immediately felt “at home” and an overwhelming sense of peace. Five years later, I still feel the same way! The outreach ministries offered at Christ Church fit perfectly with my vision of what is important to me in retirement.



I’m an enthusiastic supporter of what Christ Church gives to its parishioners, as well as the Glynn County community. I understand the importance of leadership. As a teacher, I nurtured my students to work, I listened to them, and I motivated them to do their best. While making decisions for Christ Church I will seek guidance through prayer.

My leadership and ministries involvement has included: Executive Board of the ECW, Manna House, Bell Choir, in charge of Coffee Hour, Backpack Buddies, Angel Guild, Tour of Homes (Chair of the bus docents, house docent volunteer), Frederick Cousins Guild and X Church. For me these ministries provide an opportunity for my spiritual growth.

I would work hard to help Christ Church achieve its vision for the “Deep Roots, Seeds for the Future” project. My goal for the future of Christ Church is a continued commitment that the music and children’s programs, as well as all of the outreach community ministries, will continue to thrive.

It would be an honor to serve on the Vestry!

JULIANNE TEMPLE



Tradition brought me and my family to Christ Church. Growing up in Savannah, many of my family's traditions involved a church service, from sacrament celebrations of baptisms, 1st communions, confirmations, to holidays and attending weekly services with my grandparents. When my family and I moved to St. Simons, about 7.5 years ago, I felt it was time to introduce my eldest children to a church. They were 3 years and 11 months respectively, and I wanted them to become familiar with traditional role of faith in our family. Aside from the traditional services, to my family, church was always a place with a consistent message of kindness, good works and love. Being new in the community, the history of Christ Church reminded me of my Savannah home.

Once we started attending Christ Church, my family quickly felt welcomed into the community. This was a new experience for me. In my childhood, church had more commonly been a precursor to family gatherings. However, soon after we started attending Christ Church, my kids would ask to attend Kidurgy, Sunday school, the Christmas pageant, Vacation Bible School, and other events. Over the years, our participation and involvement has grown. All three of my children are now involved in choir and Sunday school. They have enjoyed Vacation Bible School and Camp Kanuga. Although they do not always appear to be intently listening during weekly service, the second an announcement about a special event, like the church picnic, chili cook-off, pancake breakfast or a Honey Creek retreat is made, I have at least four eyes on me asking, "Can we go to that?". I have enjoyed serving as a regular Kidurgy shepherd and where I can with children's events. My husband and I appreciate relationships we have built with fellow families and parishioners. We now look forward to supporting the Frederick Cousins Guild with their annual oyster roast. I could not be more thankful that my children and family are establishing family traditions, but also feel a strong sense of community, at Christ Church.

A communal perspective is the asset that I believe is my greatest strength. My career is in healthcare and nursing education. As a pediatric nurse practitioner and an instructor, I am in a constant conversation with a great variety of people and families at different stages in their lives. I've cared for local, immigrant, refugee, vacationing, and foster families. Despite differences in cultural backgrounds, primary language, health traditions and resources, they all have children that want to be kids, to run, play, explore. They are families that want to be healthy, happy, and safe. The fundamental desire that all of us share is to nurture our families safely with core values that are very common. We only differ in some of the details. I appreciate being part of an inclusive church family and community that respects traditions and also appreciates the differences that make every family unique.