



christ church  
*frederica*

VESTRY  
NOMINEES  
FOR 2018





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## 2018 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 2018-2020. 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 27-28 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.*

# BROOKE BARTLETT



I am a “cradle Episcopalian,” and Christ Church was my first church. I was baptized there, attended Sunday school, took part in youth activities, and was confirmed at Christ Church. After attending graduate school in Utah and spending my young adult life there as well, my husband and I moved back to St. Simons three years ago. When we moved back, we had a two year-old daughter, and we had decided that we wanted to make a commitment to join a church as a family. There was never a question that our home church would be Christ Church, as we are drawn to and committed to Episcopal teachings. This congregation’s activity and generosity in the community and charitable works continually impress me, and I have so much respect for the amount of quiet giving. The clergy, staff, and congregation are warm and welcoming and truly treat everyone as family.

I spent 12 years as a public school teacher, and teachers must develop leadership skills. I say this tongue-in-cheek, but teaching is convincing a large group of people follow your lead, and it’s a bonus if they are happy to do so! As a leader, I am organized, able to work with many different personalities, and am a good listener. I am currently taking a break from teaching full-time in order to stay home with my five year-old daughter and one year-old son. Now I own and run a small business called Golden Isles Music Together, which offers parent/child music classes. As a small business owner, I must be financially responsible, able to meet deadlines, and able to communicate effectively. I believe that I can transfer these skills if I have the opportunity to serve on the Vestry.

For the past three years that my family and I have lived (again) on St. Simons, I have enjoyed being a part of the Christ Church choir, which helps to lead the congregation in song and prayer. On special occasions, I am even allowed to play my trumpet! I am a lay reader and actually enjoy speaking in front of others. I co-taught the 1st and 2nd grade Sunday School class during the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years. During the summers of 2015 and 2016, I helped Kathleen Turner to facilitate the Creative Arts Camps, held at Christ Church. My current mini-project is to help re-start a social group, Christ Church Moms, for mothers of school-age children.

I envision Christ Church continuing its sustainable growth while maintaining its past traditions and current mission statements, beliefs, and ideals. I think that most of us chuckle when we think of the Episcopal stereotypes, yet we are drawn to our particular denomination for specific reasons. Christ Church, in my opinion, needs to continue to be the “historical Christ Church” that the travel books know and love. At the same time, Christ Church is becoming more and more a community leader and an advocate for social justice. Our church is helping our community through many programs, and I hope to see outreach continue to expand. There are more families with young children joining our congregation, and I believe that we must attract young families with activities and programs that are engaging. I look forward to the realization of the new plans for the buildings and grounds and think that there are exciting things in Christ Church’s future.

# RIP GRAHAM

Charlotte and I have been drawn to the Golden Isles for years, having both grown up vacationing here as kids and young adults. We consider CCF an important part of our own histories and marriage, and we are thrilled to finally be members of the CCF Congregation. Everyone has welcomed us like Family, and we have always felt completely at home at CCF.



Prior to finally settling on SSI in 2008, my career shuttled us through eight other communities across the South. Charlotte and I have supported previous congregations in various volunteer roles. When our children were younger, we were heavily involved with various Church-affiliated youth and scouting groups. We both look forward to continuing to serve with CCF. We have enjoyed volunteering for the Tour of Homes since coming to SSI, and we have both been excited to volunteer where we can. I am personally very excited to have the opportunity to be involved in our CCF campus improvement discussions.

It is my desire to apply my 37 year career in the Hospital Construction Management and Hospital Owner Representation industries to service for CCF as we entertain improvements to both of our historic Campuses. I enjoyed the opportunity to work on our 2017 Master Planning effort as a volunteer member of the CCF Master Plan Working Group. I have accepted the invitation to serve as the Chairman of our next step CCF Building Committee, and I look forward to working on those campus improvements that will be selected.

I have always been very proud of my Episcopal roots, and I am very respectful of the unique history of CCF. The CCF we know today has been gifted to us by generations of past clergy and congregational leadership. As we consider new opportunities for congregation growth, campus improvements, and an increasing CCF role in the Golden Isles community, I would hope that today's decisions will preserve and protect the best of CCF for future generations. I would be honored to serve on our Vestry.

## BERNIE KEELE



More than 30 years ago I visited Christ Church as a tourist, fell instantly in love with a church that I knew was a special and Holy Place. I promised myself if possible I would make this church my home. Christ Church is intangibly one of the holiest place I have visited. Some years later I fell in love with my beautiful Joan. She had the same reaction to the church that I had. We decided this was where we wanted to both begin and end our life. We were fortunate to receive permission from father Tom Fitzgerald. That was 28 years ago. I have seen Rectors come and go, but the Holy Christ Church continues to be my favorite church that completes my soul. As I knew then and I know now, I began my life here and here I shall gladly and happily end it. As close to God on Earth as I can get each week.

Since Joan and I were able to begin spending winters here over ten years ago and after becoming full-time this past year, I have tried to answer any call given to me. I have been able to use my restaurant skills to work with various food needs including Mana House, Shrove Tuesday, Breakfast with St. Nicholas, the visit of the Bishop, and food needs following Hurricane Irma. I have also volunteered as a church greeter and I serve as an usher.

At other Episcopal churches I have participated and led various food related needs. I also have served on two Vestries being Junior Warden at both churches. I have served on executive and financial committees.

I see Christ Church continuing to be the extremely Holy Church that I first visited so very long ago. I see it offering to hundreds of generations the opportunity to find their place to meet God on Earth whether on Sunday or at any other time. Our Mission as current members is to maintain and prepare for the future. With leadership like we have, we are going to grow. We must plan carefully and wisely. That is our Mission. I will do all that I can to maintain our our incredible history but always looking to the future.

If we listen to God, we will achieve our Mission.

# ELLEN KUEHM



My husband and I have been members of Christ Church for close to 24 years. We are an ecumenical couple - one Lutheran and one Catholic - who transitioned into Episcopalians as adults. After living in England during the early 90s and having our son baptized in the Anglican Church, discovering Christ Church was an unexpected blessing when we moved to St. Simons. What has kept us at Christ Church over the years is the dedication of our clergy and staff, our traditional liturgy, the emphasis of music in our worship and the fellowship of our congregation.

As a retail business owner I have had to continually balance fiscal responsibility, risk assessment, short and long term investments, and a changing market environment. I interact with the public on a daily basis and strive to provide a high level of customer service.

My leadership roles have been limited given the constraints of my work schedule. I have preferred to participate behind the scenes to support church activities. I will be retiring this year, which I believe will give me the opportunity to dedicate more time and service to Christ Church.

On the Christ Church website there is an introductory paragraph which reads: "Our grounds and our faith are historic, built upon the foundations laid by our ancestors on this island and the host of saints who have come before us. We combine the ancient ways of Christ's followers with the modern needs and experiences of today's people."

If the above is truly representative of who we are as a congregation, we will need to make changes in the near future. I am supportive of moving forward with expanding our worship venues and developing new facilities for fellowship and community outreach, while maintaining our Episcopal traditions. Change does not mean turning our backs on the past, but the acknowledgement that the time has come to utilize our assets to realistically provide for "modern needs." Investing in the future will strengthen Christ Church as a viable and meaningful institution for "Christ's followers" to worship and an increased opportunity to spread the Christian message in our community.



# JOHN LA BOONE

Confirmed an Episcopalian at Christ Church, Frederica in 1976. Currently, a member since 2010. Previously, a longtime member of St. John's Cathedral, Jacksonville. Current service activities include: coordinator of Lenten meditation series for five years; church musician; lector; writer for News You Can Use and various other CCF projects. Retired news journalist, book author and public relations professional. Married to Jan La Boone. Three grown kids and six grandkids between us.



I believe in the future of Christ Church. We know that we are blessed with an amazing history and heritage, but I am especially excited about our future. We are now poised to dream new dreams and to make those dreams into realities. I believe wholeheartedly that we need to redesign and repurpose our parish hall into a larger, more inviting and more useful main worship space that can accommodate our present and future needs and allow us to engage more fully in our Christian life together. We should also preserve the use of our historic church buildings both at Christ Church and St. Ignatius because our heritage is important – but the future is calling, and I believe that our best and most exciting years at Christ Church are still ahead of us. We can become a fully accessible church to all people regardless of physical challenges. We can attract and retain many more young families with children and teens. We can collaborate in more ecumenical projects. We can host Spanish language worship services. We can build on our already notable outreach to the disadvantaged. We may not be able to do everything that we can imagine, but we can do a whole lot. We can definitely grow and embrace change in order to follow where God is leading us in our Christian mission, and the adventures in ministry ahead of us should be absolutely fascinating, to say the least.



## CASEY LAVIN



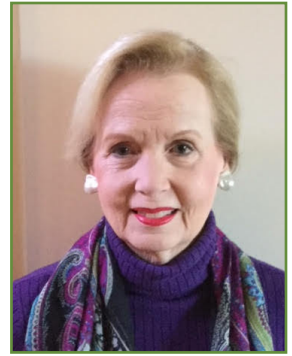
Monica and I moved to St. Simons over 6 years ago. Having come from an Episcopal Church in Charleston that we loved and felt deeply connected to, we struggled to find a church community that offered the young professional and family programming we wanted at this point in our lives. Like many that relocate to this area, we “church hopped” for years and eventually considered ourselves part-time members of Christ Church and another church up the street. Soon we realized that the traditions, theology, comfort and liturgy of the Episcopal Church were calling us back and we found it more and more difficult to be only “half in” during such an exciting time in the Church’s life. The clergy, the robust music programming and hope in a future that allows us to touch more lives in this community is what keeps us at Christ Church.

I have spent my career in Hotel and Resort leadership and currently oversee operations at the Sea Island Company. I am called, both professionally and personally, to help make a difference in others’ lives through being of service and leadership to others. My passion for a deeper spirituality, interest in theology and leadership background are part of what seem to be calling me to serve on the Christ Church Vestry, should I be selected to do so.

I currently serve on the Church Development Institute with other Diocesan parish representatives (both clergy and lay) and am in the first year of a two year commitment. I am also on this year’s Stewardship Committee. Prior to joining Christ Church, I have been involved with fundraising efforts and various campaigns.

What an exciting time in the life of the Church! From experience, I know there are people searching for a church home. This will only continue as Glynn County grows in the coming years. There are also those that feel disillusioned and alienated from the Church (universal) and are looking for something more, something that I believe the Episcopal Church is perfectly and uniquely positioned to provide. I envision a future that gently merges our history and tradition with growth that provides a home and community for those in need of one. A Church that is active in the county and alive both inside and outside our walls. I envision responsible growth of our campus and expect additional programming to follow that allows Christ Church to be the spiritual epicenter of St. Simons (and possibly beyond). What a gift we have to be able to influence the next 200 years of Christ Church and I feel called to be a part of it in some way.

# JANE THAU



My husband, Bill, and I first attended Christ Church when we were still living in Dallas, Texas, but had a vacation home here on St. Simons. We were drawn to Georgia because I had attended Agnes Scott College in Atlanta for 2 years, Bill had graduated from Georgia Tech, and we had vacationed here several times with our young children. When he retired after practicing law for 39 years, we chose to move to St. Simons. Christ Church was our anchor as we began to settle in to this community in 1999. The history and beauty of this church, in addition to the warm, welcoming congregation, drew us in.

Having served on the Altar Guild for 20 years at the Church of the Incarnation in Dallas, I chose a completely different route at Christ Church. I immediately joined the bell choir in which I played for many years. I also joined the Frederick Cousins Guild; chaired the patron party for the Tour of Homes in 2000; and continued to work as a docent for the tour for many years. I am presently loving the icon writing group and find it very spiritually fulfilling. I also find great inspiration in the Sunday morning adult class.

I am very definitely a "people person" and feel that I have learned many valuable life skills from raising three children and managing eight grandchildren. I have served on the Board of Directors of the STAR Foundation for five years and as President of the Black Banks Homeowners Association for two years. Most importantly, I have a strong sense of aesthetics and a good understanding of the visual arts, having served as a docent for 15 years at the Dallas Museum of Art. I believe that I could be very effective in influencing the design of the properties to be built under the new building plan.

My vision for Christ Church is that it be a warm, welcoming place of worship, filled with the Holy Spirit, offering much to older people as well as young. I am very excited about the new building plan and especially love the fact that it can be implemented in stages as the need becomes evident.

# STEVEN WILLIAMS

We came to Christ Church after moving to St. Simons. We were looking for a church family a little closer to our home. The first service we attended was a Christmas service soon after our son was born.



We feel welcome and peaceful at Christ Church and really enjoy walking through the grounds before and after service. Our children have grown to love coming to church and they truly enjoy Kidurgy and Sunday school. The congregation is composed of interesting people from many walks of life and we are thankful for the friendships that we have made here.

I try to approach most situations with an open mind and an open heart. I appreciate and value input and opinions from people with different backgrounds and skill sets.

Christ Church is a compassionate, inclusive community and I would like to see it continue to grow as such. I appreciate that there are so many members that are active in community outreach and hope that the church as a whole can grow in a role that supports all people in the areas surrounding us.



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