

Grace Episcopal Church

Candidates for Vestry Elections

Vestry Elections will take place on Sunday, October 15. Four Vestry members will be elected for full 3 year terms. One Vestry member will be elected for a 2 year term to serve 2 years of an unexpired term. The polling station will be located on the Bridge, and will open at 9:00 and close at 9:30. It will reopen at 10:30 and stay open for about 15-20 minutes. It will then reopen 10 minutes before the 5:00 service and then again for about 15 minutes after the service.

Absentee ballots are available in the Parish Office until Thursday, October 12 at 5 pm. If you need to make other arrangements to vote, please contact the Parish Office by telephone. No email ballots will be accepted.

Gail Dickerson



I was baptized as an infant into the Episcopal Church and confirmed while in high school in northern Virginia. After graduation from William and Mary in 1968 with an A.B. in History, John and I were married and off to PA, WV, MD, KS, NE, and NY with his employment in conservation work. I earned an M.S. in Special Education from Syracuse University in 1987 and spent the next 22 years teaching college bound learning disabled students. Post retirement had us living in northern OH for five years and spending special times with our three grown children, their spouses, and our four grandchildren. After moving to Lexington in the fall of 2013, I was able to complete the four year Education for Ministry program, and I now participate in the graduate EfM class. In this and other parishes we have attended, I have served on Altar Guild, Vestry, Stewardship, and as a Eucharistic Minister, Lay Eucharistic Minister, and reader. Since the fall of 2015 I have been the administrator of the Lanford Mission Emergency Fund. Our parish has been through a very challenging time over the past two years. As we honor those who have gone before us, may we all be inspired to find new, creative, and vibrant ways to carry on the work of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit not only in our parish but in our community and the wider world.

Don Ellis



My church experiences here since October, 2005, include serving as a member and as chair of the Christian Outreach Committee, completing in 2010 the 4 year course of Education for Ministry sponsored by the School of Theology at the University of the South, serving as a co-mentor of the classes of Education for Ministry since 2011; serving on Vestry from 2011 through 2013 and as Senior Warden in 2012, serving on the search committee leading to the employment of Ted Bickish as director of music, serving in the COC's 2012 program for students from Haiti for a 3 week education experience at DSLCC, serving as a member of the Vestry's Mutual Ministry Review Committee of 2013-2014, serving as chair of the Administration Committee, serving as a member of and as the chair of the Finance Committee, serving as a member of the Gadsden Committee for 6 years, serving as co-coordinator of the Men's Prayer Breakfast since 2011, volunteering for parish Sunday breakfasts, serving as a greeter, and serving as an usher.

Jeanne Eichelberger



I am an Army brat and a cradle Episcopalian. I was raised in the R.E. Lee Memorial Church from the age of 7, when my father retired from the military. In my adult life I have lived “all over”—including California, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Upstate New York, Germany and Scotland—and have tried out various denominations, but have always returned to the Episcopal Church. The Episcopal Church, most particularly the R.E. Lee Church, and the town of Lexington have always been my heart’s home. I am married to a Lexingtonian, Henry Eichelberger, and have one son, David Richards, an accomplished carpenter. When it came time for Henry and me to retire, returning to Lexington was a no-brainer.

My education includes a B.A. in English from William and Mary, a Master’s in Russian from Indiana University and a Master’s in Library Science from the State University of New York at Albany. Most of my employment has been in libraries. My last job before retirement was as Head of Special Collections, Archives and Preservation at the library of the State University of New York at Binghamton. I have also done free-lance proofreading and editing. After returning to Lexington, I worked for several years at the Rockbridge Regional Library and volunteered at the Rockbridge Historical Society. I retired from both due to back and hip problems.

In this parish I serve as a Reader and Chaliceist and a “Pray-er” for the Prayer Chain. I have also regularly led Morning Prayer once a week during Advent and Lent. I volunteered at the food pantry for a while, but had to give that up when I was no longer able to stand for long periods. I am a regular at the Sunday morning Christianity and Culture programs, and I am currently enrolled in the second year of the four-year Education for Ministry (EfM) course. I served on the Vestry at the last parish I belonged to in Upstate New York before returning to Lexington. It was a challenging but rewarding responsibility. I would welcome the opportunity and would be honored to be chosen again for this responsibility.

Tom Gosse



The Lee family motto of being “not unmindful of the future” should guide our quest to restore the family of “Grace”. This is our task in the year ahead. “We seek to share God’s love in witness and service to one another...” , [mission statement, Grace Episcopal Church] Church work at Grace Episcopal, Lexington: Capital Campaign Treasurer, Finance Committee, Delegate to Diocesan Convention, Host for Canterbury Room, Table Fellowships coordinator, Undercroft Design liaison.

Previously worked with the Mobile Food Pantry, Research on Historic Tax Credits for the Church renovation, Stewardship talk. Before retirement, Tom had careers in law, banking, accounting, and insurance. Vietnam veteran. Degrees from Washington & Lee and UVA. Carol and Tom have children and grandchildren living in Charlottesville and Washington, D.C.

Margaret Lawrence



Hello. I'm Margaret Lawrence. I have been a member of R.E. Lee Church for 18 years. I have been involved with the youth programs in the Diocese for 10 years, including YMT (Youth Ministry Training) for 5 years. I have worked in our nursery for the past 3 years.

I am attending Dabney S. Lancaster Community College, about to go into the R.N. nursing program. So I will be home in Rockbridge for the next 3 years.

I wish to run for Vestry to contribute a fresh perspective into our church from college students and young adults. I would also like our church to do more to help local community college students. Bishop Mark wants us to all do more outreach with the community colleges and I want to be a part of that effort. I would also like youth and adults to do more things together, helping each other and sharing talents.

Connie Loughhead



I have been a loyal long-time member of the Episcopal Church, close to 20 years. My son John Thomas Loughhead has also grown up in the church, from first blessing, baptism, first communion, Sunday school, acolyte, and mostly recently confirmed. I served for many years on the Canterbury Committee and cooked meals for the college youth through the years. Prior to moving to the area, I was an active member of Christ Episcopal Church in NY. I served on the Vestry, was a member of the choir and worked with the youth. I would consider it a privilege to serve on the Vestry and would work hard to represent the congregation. Besides being a wife and mother, I have spent 20+ years of my career working in the HVAC industry. I'm currently the President of Des Champs Technologies, and CEO/President of Spink Enterprises. During my tenure of living in the area I have also served on various boards and committees. The Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia requested I be part of the VEDP Virginia International Investors. I was also a member of the Virginia Manufacturers Association. I have served on the Board Directors for the Rockbridge Area Occupational Center, Shenandoah Technology Council, a member of the Rockbridge County NBHS Management Team, the Board of Directors of the Shenandoah Valley Partnership, Board of Trustee for Boxerwood, and most recently was selected for the Go Virginia Policy Board for Region 8, the region spans from Winchester, VA to Rockbridge County. Based on my experience over my church and professional career I know I would bring a lot of value to our church's vestry. Thank you for your consideration.

Howard Pickett



My family—Holly, Clara (12), Foster (6)—and I joined the church in 2007. During the past decade, I have served as Sunday school teacher, youth group leader, stewardship chair, Christian education committee member, and Vestry member. I teach ethics at W&L, where I also serve as Director of the Shepherd Program in Poverty Studies, a position I have held since completing my PhD in Religious Ethics from the University of Virginia. I am eager to support the mission and future of this church, especially by building on our strong tradition of Christian education and community outreach.

Peggy Riethmiller



I am originally from Vicksburg, Mississippi and a lifelong Episcopalian. My father was an Episcopal minister so I am a real PK! I have been a member of this parish for most of my 50 year of marriage to Steve Riethmiller. Our two children, Meg and Alex grew up here and were confirmed and married in this church. We have 4 perfect grandchildren, Evans, Ally, Christian, and Maddy. I have chaired the Bazaar 3 times and was president of the ECW once and served on the College Committee. I am presently on the Altar Guild, Flower Guild and

an usher.

I love this church and I pray for peace and reconciliation.

Tracey Riley



I am not what some people call a “cradle” Episcopalian; I’m a convert. I was raised in the Methodist Church that my family had been members of for generations, and I graduated from a Methodist University—Ohio Wesleyan. As sometimes happens in early adulthood, I drifted away from religion and the church. On a vacation in Bermuda, I visited an Anglican Church and immediately fell in love with the liturgy (being an Anglophile, the British accent didn't hurt either!). Upon returning home to Alexandria, Virginia, I began attending St. Paul's

Episcopal Church. In April of 1988, I was confirmed at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC.

I moved to Lexington in 1991 and joined our parish, which has been my church home ever since. I have loved serving on the Altar Guild for many years. I have been a member of the Worship and Green Committees, and I have been the organizer of the Greeters for a number of years. Recently, I became involved in the ACTS ministry.

I worked for many years as a paralegal in Washington, DC and Alexandria, and I have been employed at Washington and Lee since 1999 as an Administrative Assistant helping to plan alumni events on campus and abroad.

I am very excited and am looking forward to the promising future and growth within our church. I feel a sense of call to serve the parish at this challenging but hopeful time. I believe the proper approach to our issues is founded in our Episcopal heritage of scripture, tradition and reason.

Steve Shultis



21 year member of REL.

Committee Service: Property, Mission and Outreach, Youth, Rector Search, and the Discovery and Discernment Committees.

Participation: House Groups, Disciples of Christ in Community (DOCC), Lay Reader and Chalcist, Education for Ministry (EFM), Discipling Each Other (DEO) and multiple flood-relief mission-trips to New Orleans, La. and Caldwell, WV.

Intent: To lead the parish into a deeper sense of “Corporate” Mission and Outreach in order that we may more effectively grow into “how” we are being called to live as a community.