

2012 Vestry Candidate Biography

Your Name: Elizabeth (Libby) B. Bush

Contact Information:

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1. How long have you been a member of Christ Church? 15 years
2. What ministries have you been part of at Christ Church? Student life camp (youth ministry), chalice and reader (lay worship ministry), vibrant stewardship committee, CCE 21 committee
3. What other experience do you have that is relevant to serving on the Christ Church Vestry?

Throughout the years, learning's from educational, personal and professional pursuits, have been blessings and afforded me opportunities to serve others. Specifically, these blessings include; work at Westminster Canterbury, a continuing care retirement community in various leadership/executive roles; being a preceptor for future nursing home and assisted living administrators; and committee work with state and national industry associations. Participation in various organizations, like the Girl Scouts, United Way and the Alzheimer's Association has been memorable fulfilling experiences.

4. What do you think Christ Church needs to do to in the next few years to better serve God in our community?

To build on the strong foundation that has already been laid by expanding the ministries of Christ Church. Directly in front of us, with the work of the CCE 21 committee and others, is the opportunity to listen and work towards defining the next few years for Christ Church and the broader community. With CCE's tremendous growth, it is important to concentrate on linking the ministries or programs already established to meet current priorities. One of Christ Church's amazing accomplishments is the youth ministry. A future effort centered on transferring this energy to a parallel family ministry should create additional blessings.

With so much time and talent already in place, it is exciting to consider the possibilities for the years to come.

2012 Vestry Candidate Biography

Your Name: Mark Hansell

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1. How long have you been a member of Christ Church?

Becky, myself and our sons Andy and Josh have been members since April of 2004; almost 8 years.

2. What ministries have you been part of at Christ Church?

I have participated in the Buildings & Grounds ministry for about 7 years. Three years ago I became a co-chair of the ministry team and in 2011 I became the chairperson.

I served with the Building Steering Committee to finalize the planning component of the Sanctuary expansion project. While the plans were being finalized, I co-chaired the Sanctuary Committee to help the group listen and address the concerns of the congregation with the expansion. As the project moved into the construction phase, I managed the church's contract with the architect and contractor to ensure that we received the highest quality of workmanship as well as addressing unforeseen issues along the way.

I served as part of the Youth Building Team as we developed the program of the building and selected a contractor. I took over the leadership of this team as it moved into construction and managed the general contractor throughout the construction of the GCC building.

Most recently, I have managed the construction of our new driveway out to the North Gayton Road, which is just waiting on the County to finish the road.

I have also participated in the men's ministry and other educational offerings when my schedule permits.

3. What other experience do you have that is relevant to serving on the Christ Church Vestry?

Professionally, I manage the local office for RGI General Contractor's. This means that I am responsible for all the office as an individual profit center for the company. In addition

to managing sales, operations and personnel, I personally manage all sizes of construction projects. This requires a knowledge of contracts, cash flow, scheduling and vast amounts of coordination between vendors, landlords, developers and even occupants, depending on the project. The most important requirement of my job is dealing with the numerous shareholders within a project who all have slightly different agendas. It is our job as a company and my job as a project manager to juggle and navigate the personalities and agendas to make sure everyone is happy when the work is complete.

Religiously, I am not the best student of God, but do consider myself as having a great deal of faith in my own way. Some of you know me and know I'm not the type A personality that charges to leadership, but am more the quiet leader as I am with my faith. Many, many years ago, I was asked by a fellow youth group member to be part of a week long youth camp called "Happening" in Ohio where I grew up. As our boys are not yet in the youth program, I can only imagine it to be like Student Life Camp as it really opened my eyes to my faith. After acting as a participant the first year, Someone saw something within me and asked if I would be a youth leader the following session, I did. After acting as a group leader, Someone asked me if I would consider being the "Rector in Training", which leads to the obvious role of "Rector" during the next session. As Rector, I had to plan the entire camp and select youth leaders and an R.I.T. All of this was a large departure from my normal high school routine. It help formed and stretched both my person and especially my faith. The love and support that I received from my family, friends, and people I had never met before was mind blowing and I will never forget it. Someone continues to place me in positions of leadership and I can only hope that I live up to God's expectations for me.

4. What do you think Christ Church needs to do to in the next few years to better serve God in our community?

I think the first thing we need to do is establish a roadmap for the future. I know the Christ Church 21 team is working on this and believe it is critically important.

After creating the direction for the church as a whole, we need to examine our current resources (financial, staff, volunteer and physical) and then decide how we can best adjust our resources to work toward the long range plan. I also feel that we need to support the staff and volunteer leaders better by plugging in our volunteer labor more efficiently to eliminate burn out and keep our leaders inspired. A lot of this surrounds communication of needs and resources that we have so that efforts are not duplicated and voids can be filled.

We need to align ministry teams with the common goals of the long range plan so that we all work to make Christ Church Episcopal a beacon in the Short Pump and the West Wend.

Lastly, we need to find a way to grow pledges (by pledging units and dollars per pledge) so that we can grow our offerings to the congregation and the community around us.

2012 Vestry Candidate Biography

Your Name: Rick Steenrod

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1. How long have you been a member of Christ Church? 8 years
2. What ministries have you been part of at Christ Church? Micah Initiative Coordinator, Missions and Outreach member 2009- present, Missions and Outreach Coordinator for 2010 & 2011, Assisted with previous Stewardship campaigns and supported my wife during her time with as a Kids Quest Leader.
3. What other experience do you have that is relevant to serving on the Christ Church Vestry?
I've served in several other leadership roles including home owner's associations, college alumni organizations, George Mason Elementary School Steering committee, coaching and managing of sports teams. I've also taken active leadership roles in many of my children's activities.
4. What do you think Christ Church needs to do to in the next few years to better serve God in our community? We need to evaluate our assets, both talents and treasures, and determine the best ways to serve not only our parishioners but also those in need within our community and beyond. We are blessed with tremendous resources and it is our duty to God to share them with those in need. Through successful evaluation, goal setting and implementation we can make a significant impact and share the values and love of God with the world around us.

2012 Vestry Candidate Biography

Your Name: Jennifer Sullivan

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1. How long have you been a member of Christ Church?
I've been worshipping at CCE with my family since 2005
2. What ministries have you been part of at Christ Church?
Kids' Quest – teacher, shepherd & greeter
Annual Egg Hunt volunteer
Christmas pageant volunteer
Growing for the Generations building campaign – Communications Co-Chair
Small Group Leader for high school girls – three years
Search Committee – Senior Youth Minister
Vestry – one year; finished out term for former vestry member
Stewardship / Time & Talent committee
3. What other experience do you have that is relevant to serving on the Christ Church Vestry?
Grew up participating in a vibrant Episcopalian community and maintain ties there to share best practices.
20 years of professional experience in the hospitality industry has provided training in group dynamics, anticipatory service, leadership, sales, communication and strategic planning.
4. What do you think Christ Church needs to do to in the next few years to better serve God in our community?
Right now, CCE is a lot of things to a lot of people in our local community and elsewhere in the world (Haiti, the Sudan, etc). I'd suggest that we continue defining who we are (identifying our priorities) and aligning our efforts accordingly. I'd also like to continue working to match people's passions with our outreach opportunities, so everyone has an outlet through which to serve that they're excited about. This will lead more people to feeling connected to and engaged at Christ Church.

2012 Vestry Candidate Biography

Your Name: Tom Valiquett

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5. How long have you been a member of Christ Church?
9 years
6. What ministries have you been part of at Christ Church?
(Present): Newcomers (co-chair); Men's Leadership; Youth (middle school boys) Small Group Leader; Emmaus group.
(Past): Growing for the Generations Stewardship Committee.
7. What other experience do you have that is relevant to serving on the Christ Church Vestry?
 - **Awareness of present CCE ministerial outreach efforts as well as some of the operational capabilities and constraints on clergy, staff and ministry teams;**
 - **Understanding of CCE culture and approach to engaging people new and/or expressing interest in our church community (Newcomer Ministry);**
 - **Greater than 20 years professional project management in the pharmaceutical industry, includes program/project budget development and managing spend according to plan;**
8. What do you think Christ Church needs to do to in the next few years to better serve God in our community?
 - **Strive to fully support and facilitate the ministries in their defined missions;**
 - **Take actions to fully realize the vision set out with the Growing for the Generations initiative;**
 - **Find ways to make Christ Church more inviting and welcoming to people in all age groups but especially to those in the 25-35 year age group.**