

Meet the Nominees for Vestry

The members of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church will be electing four members to the Vestry at the Annual Meeting on January 29. These four members will each serve a three-year term. In order for you to know the people who have been nominated to the Vestry, The Nominating Committee would like to offer the following profiles.

DON GISSELBECK: Don has been a member of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church for the past 27 years, where he has been a fixture in the choir. Don served a previous term on the Vestry in the 1990s, and has represented the parish as a delegate to Diocesan Convention multiple times. He also helped with the installation of the organ and the Christmas decorating.

Don grew up in Missoula and attended Hellgate High School and graduated with a B.S. in Microbiology from the University of Montana. After graduation, Don served three years in the Peace Corps in Sierra Leone, West Africa. Don returned to Montana to work as a residential counselor for emotionally disturbed children at a boarding school in Thompson Falls. Don currently works in bicycle repair in Missoula. He spends his spare time skiing, cycling, singing, and playing trombone.

GLENN HLADEK: Glenn has been an active member of Holy Spirit since arriving in Missoula in 2000. He previously served on the Vestry both here in Missoula and at St. Luke's in Billings. During his time at Holy Spirit, Glenn has been an active participant on the Social Concerns Committee, also serving as its chair. Glenn was part of our outreach group that went to Myanmar on a teaching mission. He is also a graduate of Education for Ministry (EfM).

Glenn says that his relationship with Holy Spirit Episcopal Church is based upon an action-oriented theology concerning issues of justice, racial inequality, poverty, homelessness, education, and joy! He says, "There is a wonderful combination here at Holy Spirit of intellectual and theological study with the philosophy and action that connects each of us to the other, whether in our church, community, state, nation or world. I support and encourage that spiritual formation."

In his personal life, Glenn is in a relationship with a wonderful woman, has four delightful grandchildren, and is a retired audiologist. His interests include music, study, cycling, kayaking, travel, and friends. He says, "In difficult times, we as a faith community have a great responsibility to our fellow humans; I am emboldened that Holy Spirit is such a place."

JESSE JAEGER: Jesse Jaeger and his family moved back to Missoula two and half years ago so that his wife Natalie could become the Principal at Big Sky High School. Prior to moving back to Montana Jesse and his family lived in Massachusetts for 14 years where he worked for the national headquarters of the Unitarian Universalist church in their offices of Young Adult and Campus Ministry, as well as their office of Youth Ministry where he was the director for 8 years. He also spent 3 years as the Executive Director of UU Mass Action, a faith-based organizing and advocacy organization affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Church in Massachusetts.

Jesse had always been on the Christian end of the Unitarian Universalist faith spectrum, and Natalie is from a Catholic background, so when they moved back to Missoula, Holy Spirit Episcopal Church looked like it could be a good fit. As dyed-in-the-wool church nerds they were both very impressed by how welcoming the whole church community was when they started attending in the summer of 2014. Jesse was baptized and confirmed in early 2015 and has become an active member of the Social Concerns Committee and helped start a social justice oriented prayer group that meets every Wednesday.

Currently Jesse works as the Development & Communications Specialist for EmpowerMT, a local nonprofit that works to create a more just and inclusive Montana. Jesse looks forward to bringing his 20 years of nonprofit experience, much of which has been in the faith community, to the Holy Spirit Vestry to help us expand our impact in our community.

HELEN MATVEYEFF: Helen grew up in New York City, the daughter of two Russian poets, both refugees from the Soviet Union. She was brought up in the Russian Orthodox Church, but was drawn to the Episcopal Church because of its welcoming, inclusive spirit, respect for other faith traditions, and its commitment to social justice. In 1988 she joined an Inquirers' Class at Church of the Redeemer in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and was received into the Episcopal communion.

Helen has worked as a registered nurse since 1980. After both of her parents died of cancer, she left hospital nursing and worked as a visiting nurse for Hospice for 20 years, until she retired. In 2014 she and her ex-husband Ted moved to Missoula to be closer to their daughter Anna, who lives here with her husband and two children.

Since coming to Holy Spirit, Helen has been active on the parish reception committee, helping with Church School and Vacation Bible School, and working with the Compline ministry.