

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 31. Each will 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.

JOHN CROWLEY: John was raised as a Catholic in Maine and became a member of the Episcopal faith in 1965. In 1973 John and his family moved to Missoula where he became the Missoula City-County Planning Director, and it was at that time that he began attending services at Holy Spirit.

Following a five-year term as Planning Director, John joined the Washington group of companies as the Director of Real Estate for Washington Development Company. In that capacity he was responsible for the management of company owned real estate assets throughout the US and western Canada. John became the President of Washington Development Company and developed numerous real estate projects in Missoula and elsewhere.

After a 25-year career, John retired but quickly found retirement to be over-rated and in 2008 he and a colleague formed a real estate brokerage firm specializing in commercial real estate sales and leasing. John is currently a Principal in that firm.

John previously served a three-year term on the Holy Spirit Vestry and a one-year term as Senior Warden. He is currently a member of the Holy Spirit Memorial Foundation Board.

NANCY ERREBO: In 1993, Nancy moved to Missoula, her old college town, and became a member of Holy Spirit Parish. She was drawn to the liturgy, the church calendar, the beauty of the sanctuary and music, and the open-minded inclusiveness of the parishioners. She has sung in the choir from the beginning.

Nancy started life in Denmark, Kansas, as a Danish Evangelical Lutheran. As a teenager and young adult in Minnesota, she was a Methodist. After graduating from the University of Montana, her 16-year teaching career began at Rocky Boy School and ended after five years as a sixth-grade teacher for Aramco Schools in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. In 1990, Nancy completed a doctoral program in clinical psychology at the University of Denver. She worked as a psychologist for the Department of Veterans Affairs and in private practice. Nancy retired from VA in 2014 and from private practice in 2018.

Single most of her life, work has been her focus. In retirement, Nancy is increasingly involved in Holy Spirit. Six years of Education for Ministry (EfM) have changed her life. Nancy serves as lector and intercessor, participates in book groups and community service, and was a delegate to the 2018 Diocesan Convention.

If elected to the Vestry, Nancy would be dedicated to the welfare of our parishioners, our commitment to end racism, and the challenge of the global pandemic, as well as ongoing budget and membership issues.

WARREN GARTNER: Warren grew up in Park Forest Illinois where his family was active in Faith United Protestant Church. He attended the University of Illinois where he earned a BA in Zoology. Warren went on to Michigan State University where he earned a master's degree in Parks and Recreation Resources, specializing in Environmental Education. After college he moved to Michigan where he worked at an outdoor education center.

There Warren met Karen Simons who also served as part of the staff. Karen moved to Indianapolis to work at Conner Prairie and Warren soon followed to take the position of Conservation Education Supervisor with the Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife. They were married and raised their 2 sons, John and James while in the Indianapolis area. They joined St. Christopher's Episcopal Church and were soon busy teaching Sunday School, reading lessons, serving on the Vestry, ushering, coordinating their community garden, developing a natural playground, etc.

Upon retirement, Karen and Warren decided to move to their favorite state, Montana. They visited Holy Spirit and were impressed with how active the church was in the community. They have enjoyed getting to know the Holy Spirit community and have made many new friends. Warren volunteers on the Social Concerns Committee, the Stewardship Committee, and the Creation Care Committee. He has helped with the Holiday Market, Blood Drive, Rummage Sale, book studies, Sunday Supper Club, and Habitat for Humanity.

Warren agreed to be a candidate for Holy Spirit's Vestry to continue the good work we are doing of spreading Christ's love to our parishioners, the Missoula area and beyond.

HOLLY SWARTZ: Holly's father was a Marine, so they moved across the country and her family attended Episcopal Churches. She was confirmed at St. James in Bozeman in 1964. They moved to Utah in 1965 and returned to Montana in 1968. Holly moved to Missoula the first time in 1968 as her father was transferred here by Allied Stores to be the Sporting Goods manager at the Missoula Mercantile. Her parents were parishioners at Holy Spirit, and Holly graduated from Hellgate High School and the University of Montana. She met Gary, her husband, as a freshman at UM, and they were married three years later by the Rev. Leigh Wallace. Gary's Army career moved them across the United States and Europe for 30 years. They returned home to Missoula in 2003.

Holly became a lay reader and chalice bearer for the first time at St. Philips Episcopal Church in Hinesville, GA and also served on the Mission Council. She has been the president of three Episcopal Church Women's groups; first at St. Philips in Hinesville, GA; second at St. Andrew's in Omaha, NE and the third at St. Andrew's in Lawton, OK. Holly has attended and led Bible studies throughout this time. She completed Education for Ministry (EFM) in 2003 at St. Andrew's in Lawton, OK and has started it again this year. Holly has continued to be a lay reader/chalice bearer and usher through the years in GA, NE, OK, Germany, Belgium, and Missoula. She was on the Transition Committee for the Diocese of Montana from planning the farewell for Bishop Brookhart to the ordination of Bishop Marty Stebbins. Holly served on the Holy Spirit Vestry from 2006-2008.