

## MEET THE NOMINEES FOR VESTRY

The members of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church will be electing five members to the Vestry at the Annual Meeting on February 6. Four will serve a three-year term, and one will fill out the remainder of a term of a departing Vestry member. 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:

**PAT COLE:** I am a native of Kansas and lived there until my father was offered the position of City Safety Director in Kingsport, Tennessee. I attended high school in Kingsport and completed my education with a bachelor's degree in business administration with a major in accounting from the University of South Florida. Upon graduation, I joined the CPA firm of Arthur Andersen & Co. in their Tampa and St. Petersburg, Florida, offices and fulfilled the requirements to become a CPA. While at Arthur Andersen, I was in the financial audit division with a focus in companies regulated by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and/or the Florida Public Service Commission; my main clients were the subsidiaries of Florida Progress Corporation, including Florida Power and Electric Fuels.

In 1986, some friends and I travelled to Yellowstone Park on vacation and met Jim Cole who, much to my amazement, somehow talked me into moving to Gardiner, Montana. It was the best decision of my life. I was fortunate to be hired as Executive Director of the Yellowstone Association, a non-profit organization which supported education for Yellowstone National Park visitors with all Yellowstone Association profits donated back to the National Park Service to fund items such as wayside and visitor center exhibits. For 25 years, I loved my work there. The Yellowstone Association operated educational retail bookstores in all park visitor centers and provided in-depth educational programs through our Yellowstone Institute program. We also had a membership program to encourage visitors to become lifelong supporters of the park. I retired in 2011 because of Jim's health. In my final full fiscal year with the Association, we had over 100 year-round and seasonal employees, revenues of around \$8,000,000, provided multi-day educational programs to nearly 5,000 people and had an active membership of over 45,000 people across the country and around the world. Since my retirement, the Yellowstone Association has merged with the Yellowstone Foundation to become Yellowstone Forever.

Jim's declining health led us to move to Missoula in 2018 to be closer to his family and medical care; he died in November 2020, days short of our 33rd wedding anniversary. I will be forever grateful for the kind support of congregation members who understood his difficulties and were so kind to him.

Prior to our move to Missoula, we were members of St. John's Episcopal Church in Emigrant, Montana, where I was serving as treasurer at the time of our move.

**MARK DVARISHKIS:** I was raised on a ranch near the small town of Meeteetse, Wyoming. I met my wife Dorcie at Rocky Mountain College in Billings. We were married after graduation in 1981 and I started my career with an agricultural lender, Farm Credit Services. After 37 years in various positions with that organization I retired but continue to draw on some of my

experience for performing farm and ranch real estate appraisals as time allows, through my company, Box K LLC. But I've found there are a lot of higher priority demands on my time as our daughter, Katie, and her husband, Bryce, have blessed us with two grandchildren here in Missoula that Dorcie and I care for a couple of days a week. Our younger daughter, Alisa, recently married and lives with her husband, Nate, in Colorado Springs where Dorcie and I enjoy visiting as often as we can. Our two dogs, Tillie (the old girl) and Mocha (the pup) keep us walking each day rain or shine. In addition, I continue my involvement in the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary and act as the Treasurer for the Episcopal Diocese as well as Holy Spirit. I was brought up in the Episcopal Church and have been a member here at Holy Spirit for over 30 years.

**TANYA LODAHL:** (Tanya will be filling out an unexpired term of a departing Vestry member.)

**ROOTS:** I am a native born Montanan, grandchild of Danish homesteaders to the far northeast corner of Montana: born at Plentywood-hospital; Dagmar-home; baptized at the Nathaniel Danish Lutheran (ELC) church (services continued in Danish until the 60s, I believe). . . still standing alone out on the prairie across from one farmer's house and the Dagmar cemetery which catalogues the hardships—including the Spanish Flu scourge—of pioneer life.

**LIFE:** I grew up in the Idaho panhandle/Spokane Valley area and spent my adult life in the San Francisco Bay area (where I achieved a BA in Clinical Science at SFSU), returning to Montana in 2004 to assist my aging parents.

Before the plane landed on a Rocky Mountain spring day in May, I *knew* Missoula was finally “home,” and I feel that Holy Spirit is truly my “family.” I became a member shortly after Terri began service here.

I've felt a life-long spiritual search, focusing on theology and philosophy. But, having finally become an “adult” and being deeply invested in this House and this Congregation, I have begun to be interested in learning more about what it actually takes to operate and thrive as a corporate body in the community.

My work experience includes administrative assistant; hospital billing; toxicology lab research; graphic design/marketing/project management/outreach to minority groups in San Jose, CA; and—my favorite—quality control in a Sonoma County winery.

My post retirement volunteer work (5 years) took me as “Grandma Tanya” to the third-grade kiddos in the Missoula Elementary school system, where I got an up-close view of how extensive the needs in housing and proper and safe parenting are for the children in this community.

**AUDREY MURRAY:** I have been an Episcopalian most of my life. I was baptized as a young child at St. Andrew's in Livingston and confirmed at St. Peter's in Helena. I have been an active member of Holy Spirit Parish and the Social Concerns Committee since 2016. I am retired from a career in education where I was fortunate to work as a classroom teacher, then in the fields of program development and evaluation, and education research. Currently I live in Missoula and spend 4 or 5 months each year in New Mexico. Thanks to the availability and ease of digital communication, my periodic absences have not been an obstacle to participating in the rich parish life at Holy Spirit. When I'm not working in my garden or hiking, I enjoy spending time with friends, family, and my trusty companion, a great Montana Brown Dog named Sahib.

Thank you for considering me for the Holy Spirit vestry. It is a honor to be considered for the position.

**KARA ROBINSON:** Hi! I'm Kara (Robinson) Hanson. It's hard to believe, but I moved to Missoula almost 14 years ago now and have attended Holy Spirit (and sung in the choir) since I landed here. I am a public health nurse and have worked for 11 years at the Missoula City-County Health Department, supporting families and young children in Missoula. Currently, I manage several home visiting programs. I'm married to Mark, and we have a 6-year-old daughter, Lena. Outside of work, I love finding adventure with my family in wild places, creative projects, and gardening. I'm grateful for Holy Spirit and look forward to being involved with our faith community in a new way by serving on the Vestry.