

Vestry Candidates for Election

Sandra Kneen

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Personal Context

- Three Greatest Gifts: Communication skills, fun-loving, caring.
- As a committed church member and having completed 3 years on Vestry, I feel I have the leadership skills to address the concerns and future of Good Shepherd by listening, learning and sharing with Vestry as well as members of the parish.
- My background and experience as a social worker for 15 years provides me with insight into the needs of many of our parishioners as well as a reference point and referral source. Because we serve so many needs in the community as part of our mission, I have a vast understanding of the importance of our involvement to those in need.

Connection with Good Shepherd

- Good Shepherd, from day one, has been like a home to me. I have made so many friends and had so many great experiences. It has also been a source of growth for me personally as I have encountered new people, worked with people of varying opinions and ideas and mostly a place I enjoy coming. When I leave on Sunday I feel a sense of peace and joy.
- Greatest group of kind, caring and sharing people ever! This church represents a great sense of community and is welcoming in a real and honest way.
- *Challenges at Good Shepherd:*
 - To grow, to learn, to share and become an important part of our community by meeting the needs of others. By clothing, (furnishing) feeding and providing spiritual assistance to those who need it. To be a safe and welcoming place.
 - As with all churches, attendance is critical in a world that is turning away from organized religion. Aging and finding members to take over our mission, keeping the lights on (financial) accepting changes as needed to remain relevant.

Service to Good Shepherd

- Vestry, parking, dinners, welcome table, coffee hour, Shepherd's Hands, senior references, Discretionary Team, Grace House, food donations.
- Most fulfilling? Being available to support others in any and all of those opportunities is fulfilling.

Service to other organizations

- SAC, community clean ups, Meals of Hope
- Most fulfilling? Meals of Hope, because of its far reaching effect and the camaraderie.

Note: Sandy is currently on the Vestry and is seeking re-election.

Jerry Mullinax

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Personal Context

- Three Greatest Gifts: Stable, friendly personality; patience; good sense of humor; active senior.
- Extensive prior church leadership and volunteer experience will enable me to contribute meaningfully to the work of the Vestry in leading the COGS.
- Undergraduate: Mercer Univ.; Postgraduate: University System of GA; Graduate of Leadership DHR (GA); extensive training/experience in counseling & social services case management; performance evaluations consistently rated superior as to commitment to task and effective teamwork behaviors; professional experience in development, public relations and academic administration in accredited K-12 private school (GA).

Connection with Good Shepherd

- Chose COGS because... evidence of deep, personal devotion to Church and its ministries.
- Greatest strengths of congregation... reverence for God, love of Jesus and responsiveness to the leadership of the Holy Spirit.
- Opportunities and Challenges at Good Shepherd:
 - Establishing and sustaining stable financial status without undue dependence on reserve funds.
 - Continuing commitment to strong community outreach ministries.
 - Fostering an atmosphere of love, respect and valuing of individual differences within the congregation.

Service to Good Shepherd

- Member of choir. have been in church choirs for 50+ years. Love it.
- Volunteer at Furniture Thrift Shop – helping disadvantaged people have a better day.

Service to other organizations

- GA United Methodist churches: Church Council, Finance committee (Chair), Staff/Parish Relations Committee, adult choir member, young adult Sunday School teacher. These activities allowed me to be deeply involved in the life of my churches.
- Kiwanis Club of Greater Columbus, GA: Program Chair; good social outlet, but contribution to community life limited and superficial. Did not feel we made strong contribution other than in once-per-year fundraisers.
- PAWS/Humane animal shelter, Columbus, GA: long-time volunteer, organizer and leader of three-station television relationships featuring adoptable pets (*Pet of the Week*). One of the most satisfying volunteer activities of my life.

Vestry Candidates for Election

Dave Dube

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Personal Context

- Strengths: Very close friend of the Holy Spirit; Generosity, Reliability.
- Experience: corporate experience gives me a sense of due process and team work. Being a drummer in a band helps team work.
- How can I help Vestry? One never learns while talking. First, listen to goals and objectives, then be part of the consensus.

Connection with Good Shepherd

- I'm a member because of the congregation's joyful spirit, and no non-sense.
- Greatest strengths of congregation... Solid worship program; critical mass of volunteers; community outreach.
- Opportunities at Good Shepherd: Dunedin Cares; collaboration with other parishes; involving new members.
- Challenges at Good Shepherd: budget; volunteer fatigue; growing the member base.

Service to Good Shepherd

- Meals of Hope, Need/Lend a Hand, volunteer for community events, Furniture Thrift Shop.
- Most fulfilling: Need/Lend a Hand projects, and rides to church. There are about a dozen people who rely on others for rides to church, and often require back-up. As a parish, we've meet the need.
- Most challenging: Furniture Thrift Shop... arthritis and summer heat.

Endowment Fund Board Candidate for Election

Phyllis Sipos

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Personal Context

- Three Greatest Strengths: Willingness to serve my church, caring about people and attending to their needs, and gifted with a creative talent.
- Experience as a former Trustee of the Board, I am ready to serve in good faith, and in a manner with which I believe to be in the best interest of the Endowment Board.
- After 20 years, I retired from InterSecurities, Inc. my company operated as an independent broker/dealer and investment advisor. I worked with many fund companies and paid commissions to our sales reps, thus I became familiar with bonds, money markets and annuities through this experience.
- With my past experience, reading financial statements is not a problem.

Connection with Good Shepherd

- I chose Good Shepherd 45 years ago because of the building itself and its history, and I wanted a small church. The members were very friendly and still are so today. .
- Greatest strength of congregation? The longevity and loyalty of members and their desires to preserve our historic church, friendly atmosphere and a traditional liturgy.
- Most compelling opportunities: We need to revitalize ourselves to stimulate new ideas. Would like to see more new faces involved in planning church activities.
- Challenges facing congregation: Growth and the need to attract younger families with children, stewardship and meeting church expenses, encouraging gifts to the Endowment Fund.

Service to Good Shepherd

- Endowment Board, Vestry, Chairman of the audit Committee, Chairman of the Easter and Christmas flowers and decorations, Altar Guild, Choir, drew the designs for the altar kneelers, church receptionist, taught Sunday School and LOGOS program, delivered altar flowers to the sick and shut-ins, and currently an usher and on Counting Team.
- I never volunteered to do a job if I thought I would not like it. I felt an obligation to step forward and serve my church.

Service to other organizations

- I am currently a member of the Daughters of the Nile, affiliated with the Masonic organization. We undertake activities to earn money to help support the Shriners Hospitals for Children. My experience with the Nile is fulfilling as these children are under the Shriners care until age 18, with absolutely NO COST to the family.

Delegate to Diocesan Convention Candidates for Election

Eugene Belote

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Personal Context

- I have been a delegate almost all of 20 years representing Good Shepherd and know the process. I have good administrative skills, was a sales manager for over 25 years with executive responsibility for several divisions of my company. I consider that I have strong people skills and know how to select the best people to responsible positions. My education was in Chemical Engineering. I enjoy going to the convention and being a part in selecting the people who represent the Diocese.

Connection and Service to Good Shepherd

- I have been a member of Good Shepherd since 1992 and been on Vestry here three times. I was Junior and Senior Warden when Randy Hehr was Pastor. I represented COGS on the selection committee when we called Bishop Lipscomb. I have worked for ERD visiting many parishes in the Diocese. Here at COGS I have served as Committee Chairman for finance, Adult Christian Education, Evangelism, and Stewardship. I was also in the Choir for many years.
- I chose to come to Good Shepherd because it was the most welcoming parish and it always felt like home.

Service to other organizations

- Before moving to Florida I was on Vestry for five years for St. Paul's in Morris Plains, NJ and served there on finance and stewardship and was Jr. and Sr. Warden. In professional organizations, I was a member of American Management Association, and The American Institute of Chemical Engineers where I was chairman of the Sales Division and part of the leadership in the Management Division. Teaching courses on Sales management was my most liked. Presenting Finance reports was not my favorite. Explaining questions from non sales types was not to my liking as I did not have a MBA nor the knowledge of their terminology. I do understand the parish and Diocesan budget process however.
- I meet all the requirements of eligibility and expectations having filled these requirements for many years.

Scott Hood

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Personal Context

- Strength/Gifts: commitment, attention to detail, and integrity.
- Education/Training/Expertise: leadership training at U.S. Naval Academy.
- Ability to serve as Delegate: solid foundation resulting from responsibilities at Good Shepherd.
- Why want to serve: exposure to information to better carry out responsibilities at Good Shepherd.

Connection with Good Shepherd

- Why member: Quality of worship and commitment to Outreach.
- Parish Service: Endowment Board, Treasurer, Finance committee, Vestry, Senior Warden.

Service to other organizations

- Community Service: Board Member, U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association Tampa Chapter; Board Member and Vice President, Friends of the Island Parks; Member, Dunedin Waterfront Task Force; Board Member, Dunedin Council of Organizations.
- Most fulfilling: Board Member, Friends of the Island Parks because of tangible results of fundraising activities on Honey-moon Island State Park.
- Not as enjoyable: Board Member, U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association Tampa Chapter because of limited tangible results.

Delegate to Diocesan Convention Candidates for Election

Michelle Schombs

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Personal Context

I believe some of my greatest strengths are: the ability to work with volunteers, accepting the marginalized and consideration of how decisions will affect others. I hold a BS in Exceptional Student Education and a Masters in Education Leadership and Administration. I believe both of these educational degrees give me an understanding of the way in which the Diocese functions and how to serve others who may be persons who are not engaged in the church due to disabilities or circumstances. I would enjoy serving as a delegate to the Diocesan Convention so that I may help all voices in the Diocese to be heard.

Connection with Good Shepherd

One of my personal reasons for being a part of this parish is its size. Good Shepherd connects and serves many of the needs of the parishioners. We also are big enough to accomplish great things within our community and for one another. Good Shepherd is a place where it is easy to find a place to serve each other and have opportunities for outreach in many ways. Currently my volunteer activities are: serving as a Co-Director for Shepherd's Village, being part of the Pack-a-Sack team, as a chalice and lector, a member of various committees at times and as the ECW Deanery Director of the Clearwater Deanery and member of the Diocesan Executive Board of the ECW.

Service to other organizations

I have served at other churches on the Sunday Fellowship Hour committee, as a member of the Cold Weather Shelter committee, teaching Sunday School and directing the Children's Choir. I have been a member and office holder for Assistant Principals Organization and the Council of Exceptional Children. I most enjoyed working with students with special educational/behavioral needs allowing them and their families to find success in often stressful situations. I have found that most of the service experiences I have encountered give me joy and a sense of accomplishment. The rare occasion when I have had less than satisfying experiences typically have come when I felt that I had not met the expectations of the group.

Michael Slama

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Personal Context

- My three greatest strengths or gifts are my ability to learn quickly, bring organization to chaos, and being able to figure things out (that's why I'm an Engineer.)
- The training that would be helpful in serving as a Delegate are my formal training as a Program Manager for understanding budgets and forecast planning, my training as a Sunday School CCD Teacher in theology and religious understanding.
- My experiences that would help contribute to serve as a Delegate are I was a Vestry member and Jr. Warden at St. Alfred's Church and that I have attended three other Diocesan conventions.
- I want to serve as a Delegate because I feel I can bring a different view of Church topics to the Convention and I can use my Program management and Engineering skills to benefit the Church of the Good Shepherd. (and my mother-in-law lives n Punta Gorda so I have a no-cost place to stay.)

Connection with Good Shepherd

- We choose to be members of the Church of the Good Shepherd because we wanted to attend a church service where the words said each Saturday or Sunday were more than just words blindly read out of the Book of Common prayer.
- I have not served as a volunteer in this parish.

Service to other organizations

- I have volunteered in other organizations by performing road cleanup as part of St. Alfred's and St. Michaels Churches and in parks on Earth Day. Was a Vestry member and Jr. Warden of St. Alfred's Church. I'm an active Mason supporting the community. Worked as a tutor for science, math and physics at a local community college. Taught a Sunday CCD class with Evelyn and performed handy-man jobs at St. Mary's Church. Worked as an English-as-a-second-language tutor at the Palm Harbor Library.
- The experiences I have found most fulfilling were tutoring science, math and physics at a local community collage.
- The experiences I have not found fulfilling was Sunday CCD teacher.

Eligibility

- I am an eligible candidate as I meet all "Elector" requirements.