

## 2012 VESTRY CANDIDATES

### **We are using a different procedure this year for our Vestry elections.**

The canons of the Diocese of Virginia state that elections of Vestry members will take place at a congregational meeting where at least ten percent of the active members are present. The canons also state that voting shall be done by adult, confirmed communicants in good standing and in person. These are broad guidelines and the details are left up to each congregation.

There are basically two ways to have elections. On the one hand, the number of people nominated exceeds the number of places available and the election determines who serves. On the other hand, a slate can be put forward for the exact number of positions to be filled and the election confirms the nominations. Both of these methods have positive and negative aspects.

In the first, a choice is given but it can also be hurtful in a church setting not to be elected. In the second, though the same element of choice is not involved, the nominees can be chosen to represent a variety of services, ministries and specific needs. Many churches have found that parishioners who agree to serve appreciate knowing that they will in all likelihood be elected and serve the ensuing three years, and therefore approach their decision with a strong commitment. This method also provides greater likelihood that a diverse slate representing the many populations will be elected.

The first method makes particular sense when active parishioners who are eligible for election and agree to be nominated exceed the number of vacancies by a margin of close to two to one. But the reality is that many potential candidates approached by the Nominating Committee decline to run for a variety of reasons. If despite the best efforts of the Nominating Committee the number of nominees exceeds the positions to be filled by no more than one or two, it is especially awkward for those not elected. This certainly contributes to an unwillingness on their part to put their name in nomination if asked again in a later year, which then further compounds the problem. For many years GHTC has followed the first method, but this year the Vestry is following the second method, which has much to commend it. This decision evolved naturally this year. The Vestry Nominating Committee actively solicits input from the congregation and regardless of the approach adopted, the Committee will continue to rely on recommendations and input from all members.

This year there are six nominees. Five of these are for three year terms and one is for a two year term. (Lisa Dawson, who was elected last year, took a new job which precluded her attendance at meetings so this vacancy must be filled.) A lottery system will be used following the election and at the first regular meeting of the Vestry following the Annual Meeting to determine who draws the shorter term. The Vestry is pleased and proud to present the following slate.



**Kathleen Bishop-Pevsner**  
"Kate"

**Which Sunday service do you attend, usually?** *The 7:45 a.m. service. A wonderful service and a true community.*

**Please describe the roles in which you have served in the Church (both GHTC and in other congregations).** *Altar Guild, Lector, Mission (Belize), Soup Kitchen/Clothes Closet, Fund-raising and Lay Pastoral Visiting.*

**Why would you like to serve on the Vestry?** *Seeking knowledge, learning about how the vestry works and their way to serve the church.*

**Please share other volunteer efforts you have made.** *Visiting shut-ins in SNF or Assisted Living facilities. Dance to raise money for Children's Miracle Network and service men and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.*

**Why is GHTC special to you?** *I have been a member of GHTC since 1997. The first time I entered the church, I felt that I had come home. Being from England, I felt the welcome to pray and I liked the history of GHTC. It is very important for me to feel at home with my church and GHTC feeds that need.*

**What is your occupation?** *R.N. retired*

**What else would you like to say to help the congregation get to know you more fully?** *I am always available for help within the realm of my RN status and most folks know that I am helpful to church members and families. I believe I try every day to live my faith and try to keep the commandments. I love life and enjoy many happy hours outside of the church with gardening, drawing, exercise, art, reading, music and Bible reading, plus walking my Jack Russell (Kera).*

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**Suzanne S. Davenport**

**Which Sunday service do you attend, usually?** *The 11:00 a.m. service.*

**Please describe the roles in which you have served in the Church (both GHTC and in other congregations).** *I have been a member of, or chaired various committees, Christian education teams, Diocesan groups, task forces and planning organizations since joining GHTC in 1976. Several key involvements include: the current Parish renovation project, church treasurer, council delegate, Bishop Curry planning coordinator, Sunday school teacher, J2A pilgrimage co-leader, senior choir member, young adult group chair and various outreach efforts.*

**Why would you like to serve on the Vestry?** *In some ways, churches are a little bit like plants. They either grow, or they die. In my capacity as a member of the planning committee for the current Parish renovation project, I chaired the data subcommittee and I have studied the trends that we have witnessed over the last twenty years. I believe that strong vestry leadership is needed to grow this parish. With national church membership and attendance trends on the decline, GHTC leadership must decide whether it wants to aggressively grow this parish, or be content to follow national trends, which are predicted to worsen considerably over the next 50 years, as the boomer generation dies. Parking continues to be an obstacle and hinders weekday programming opportunities.*

**Please share other volunteer efforts you have made.** *Currently, I am member of the Richmond Kiwanis, where I serve as the co-chair of the CHAT project (Church Hill Activities and Tutoring) and in that capacity, I arrange for volunteers to support several outreach efforts during the year.*

**Why is GHTC special to you?** *My husband, Brad, and I were married almost 25 years ago during the 11 am Sunday morning service, and have baptized our five children here. Over the years, we have promised to do all in our power to support those children and many others in their lives in Christ. I want GHTC to be a thriving congregation for those children, their children and their grandchildren.*

**What is your occupation?** *Prior to marriage and children, I was a Vice President at the bank that is now Bank of America. I chose to stay home with my children and during that time I volunteered in the community, primarily in their schools and at GHTC. During the last five years, I have been doing some project management business consulting through my company, SSD Consulting, LLC and in 2012 will launch SMART PROJEX, a project management web application that I have been building for about 2 ½ years.*

**What else would you like to say to help the congregation get to know you more fully?** *I am a certified project manager, and in 2010, I completed the Executive MBA program at VCU.*

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**Cathy Colwell Hill**

**Which Sunday service do you attend, usually?** *The 11:00 a.m. service; although Hal and I regularly serve as greeters at the 8:45 a.m. service.*

**Please describe the roles in which you have served in the Church (both GHTC and in other congregations).** *At G&HT, I am most passionate about my work co-charring the Shrine Mont Parish Weekend and serving on the Missionary Society Steering Committee. In the past, I have served as chair of the Missionary Society for three years. With husband Hal, I have been part of GHTC's Mission Teams to Panama and Belize—co-chairing the Panama trip in 2006—and will be a member of the Belize Mission Team this March. Other areas of service include ushering, being a greeter for Sunday worship services and concerts, cooking dinner for the 5:00 worship service students and, in the past, altar guild. I have lived in a number of locations including Washington D.C., the New York metro area, and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Church involvement has been important in all locations. I have taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, chaired the annual church bazaar, served on the women's board, and been a member of the church council.*

**Why would you like to serve on the Vestry?** *I wish to serve on the Vestry for two reasons, one self-serving the other giving. The Vestry has a privileged overview of the programs embraced by our congregation. I feel that by serving on the Vestry, my appreciation for the total work of the church will grow and that I will find additional ways in which to be more supportive and involved. I also wish to serve on the Vestry so that there is a liaison-voice representing our ongoing missions program. I feel that we are called to national and international mission work and that these programs are a vital aspect to our church life.*

**Please share other volunteer efforts you have made.** *Currently my volunteer activity is focused at G&HT. In past years, I have volunteered for Historic Richmond Foundation and The Valentine Richmond History Center.*

**Why is GHTC special to you?** *Initially drawn by the friendliness of the congregation and the beauty of the worship service, my commitment to GHTC was solidified by the opportunities it presented for service to others and for personal spiritual growth. In addition to the service opportunities, I appreciate our parish's many opportunities for education and am currently a second year EFM student.*

**What is your occupation?** *Retired. Formerly employed as a historic preservation planner.*

**What else would you like to say to help the congregation get to know you more fully?** *A native of Nebraska, I was raised in the Mennonite Church and am very thankful for the strong religious tradition in which I was raised. I am married to Hal Hill and together we enjoy our combined family of six children (plus three spouses and two significant-others) and eight grandchildren...at last count.*

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**Dan McNamara**

**Which Sunday service do you attend, usually?** *The 11:00 a.m. service.*

**Please describe the roles in which you have served in the Church (both GHTC and in other congregations).** *I have been the Acolyte co-coordinator for over a dozen years. I helped three times with Habitat for Humanity and I helped with various other church projects/ programs over many years.*

**Why would you like to serve on the Vestry?** *It is another opportunity to serve the church I grew up in.*

**Please share other volunteer efforts you have made.** *I have helped the Richmond Jaycees with numerous community service projects, including splitting and delivering firewood for needy Richmond families, driving visually impaired folks to their monthly meetings.*

**Why is GHTC special to you?** *I am a lifelong member. I was baptized and married in the church (both by Hill Brown!). My grandfather joined in 1922 and sang in the choir for over 50 years. My father served on the vestry in the 1950s, 60s, and 70s... Great people doing great things!*

**What is your occupation?** *Claims examiner for travel insurance at Mondial Assistance.*

**What else would you like to say to help the congregation get to know you more fully?** *My wife, Dawn, is very active as a Sunday school teacher, lector, and delegate to Council. My son Thomas is a very bright second grader.*

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**F. Nicholas Sollog III**  
“Nick”

**Which Sunday service do you attend, usually?** *The 11:00 a.m. service.*

**Please describe the roles in which you have served in the Church (both GHTC and in other congregations).** *As a child I was an acolyte here at GHTC as well as a member of the children’s choir. I participate in retreats and youth group activities. This past year, I served on the Stewardship Committee and will be chairing next year’s campaign. At my father’s church, I was involved with the youth group, youth retreats, and mission trips. In college, I was a part of InterVarsity and spent a spring break doing mission work.*

**Why would you like to serve on the Vestry?** *I believe that this would be a good way for me to give back to the church that has given me so much. This opportunity would also allow for me to learn more about the church, its programs, and its parishioners. I hope to use my skills to help further the mission of this parish by being on the Vestry.*

**Please share other volunteer efforts you have made.** *Lynchburg College Richmond Alumni Club Leadership team (2006-present): group of alumni who plan events for the local chapter in coordination with the college - Science Museum of Virginia: Universe Society President’s Cabinet (2011-present) - young professional group who raise money for the SMV - Association of Professional Researchers for Advancement: Virginia Chapter board member (2007-2008, 2010-present) - served one term as webmaster and currently am the program chair - MathScience Innovation Center Foundation Board Member (2012-present).*

**Why is GHTC special to you?** *GHTC is special to me because it is where I grew up. I was baptized and confirmed here. There church has been there for me through good times and bad. The foundation of my faith walk was built here in this church. It also has always been a place of comfort for me, whether when it was when I was dealing with the loss of my mother as a young child or recently when I was struggling with what to do career wise the staff and fellow parishioners of GHTC have always been there to comfort and guide me along the way.*

**What is your occupation?** *I am a fund-raiser. I work full-time for the University of Richmond running their phonathon program (GO SPIDERS!!!) and I also own my own consulting business where I aim to help non-profits meet their fund-raising needs through prospect research.*

**What else would you like to say to help the congregation get to know you more fully?** *I have deep ties to GHTC. My grandparents (Clarice and George Roberts) were members as well as my mother (Martha Roberts). I have lived in Richmond my entire life and plan to be here for the rest of my hopefully long life. I enjoy spending my free time with my animals, getting out and exploring the Fan and Museum District during my walks with Ava (my dog).*

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*Sara Jo Williams*

**Which Sunday service do you attend, usually?**

*Buddy and I attend the 11:00 a.m. service.*

**Please describe the roles in which you have served in the Church (both GHTC and in other congregations).** *My husband Buddy and I were confirmed at Grace and Holy Trinity in the mid 1970's. Since that time, I have been on the Altar Guild for 32 years and for 11 of those years, served as co-chair for the church. I served on the Child Care Board, the Stewardship Committee and with Buddy's help, I have coordinated 4 food events for the Stewardship Campaigns. I served one term on the Vestry. I am a member of the Lay Visitor Program. I am a representative from Grace and Holy Trinity on Region X and represented the region on the Executive Board of the Diocese. I also serve as a lay delegate to the Annual Council. And I have recently been named as a trustee of the Endowment Fund for Grace and Holy Trinity.*

**Why would you like to serve on the Vestry?** *Serving on the Vestry is an honor as well as a large responsibility. Having been active in many aspects of our church, I have an understanding of the workings of our church. I also have institutional history; and when used appropriately, that background can be helpful in making decisions important to the life of our church.*

**Please share other volunteer efforts you have made.** *I have been active in the Fan Woman's Club and in Richmond Counselors Association. For nine years I served on the board of St. Andrew's Episcopal School, serving as secretary, chair of the academic advisory committee, and co-chair of the search committee for a new head of school.*

**Why is GHTC special to you?** *Early in my spiritual journey, I realized that service within the church was essential in my religious life. For 36 years it has been a place of worship, study, friendships, and service. It would be very hard for me to imagine GHTC not being an important part of my life.*

**What is your occupation?** *I am an educator. After taking early retirement from Hanover Public Schools, I served as counselor-in-residence at VCU, director of an educational center at VCU, and an adjunct instructor. Currently I coordinate the Bullying Prevention Initiative in Hanover County and am a seasonal reader of undergraduate admissions at the University of Richmond.*

**What else would you like to say to help the congregation get to know you more fully?** *My interests include oil painting, travel, reading, entertaining and flower arranging.*