



## How Do I Prepare for This Year's Celebration?

### ✓ Read

Read the bios of the vestry candidates on the following pages.

### ✓ Pledge

If you have not yet done so, prayerfully consider your 2025 pledge to the mission and ministry of our parish and return your pledge card as soon as possible.

### ✓ Connect

The most important part of Holy Comforter is YOU! Plan to attend this celebration to connect with you fellow parishioners and celebrate what we have done this year.

### Can I Vote?

Voting members are 16 or older, are baptized Christians confirmed (or received) in the Episcopal Church, have received Holy Communion at least 3 times in the past year and have been faithful in corporate worship and in “working, praying and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God.” Contact the church office if you have eligibility questions.

# Annual Meeting

November 17



## The Power of Giving

On Sunday, Nov. 17, we'll hear from many ministry leaders as they share the work that they have been doing. We will discuss the new directions that various initiatives are taking. We will highlight projects that have been going on behind the scenes in and around our church grounds.

We will learn what happens when

we join together to give to the mission and ministry of this church! Finally, we will elect new vestry members and review the overall financial health of the parish.

We have lots of good news to share and invite you to come with your own insights, too!

## Where Do I Go – and When?

- **Nursery** downstairs in Atkinson from 8:55 a.m. until after the 11 a.m. service.
- **Child care** downstairs in Atkinson 8:55 a.m. **Annual Meeting** in the Nave at 9:00 a.m. (Please note that youth 6<sup>th</sup> grade and older are expected to attend the Annual Meeting while the nursery and movie are available for younger children.)
- **Eucharist after the meeting at approximately 11 a.m.**
- **La Misa** at 12:30 pm



## 2025 VESTRY NOMINEES



### Natalie Castro

You may know me from the choir. However, earlier this year, I accepted the position of Vestry Secretary. I also

accepted a temporary vestry post to fulfill the last year of Margaret Kahn's vestry term, after she stepped down. While on the Vestry, I have learned a lot about Holy Comforter and how things are run. Being on the vestry is interesting and a good way to learn about what it takes to keep Holy Comforter going.

In 2016 I moved to Charlotte from Philadelphia, where I was a member of St. Jude and the Nativity Episcopal Church. While there, I served on the vestry as the secretary and Outreach Coordinator; I was also in the choir. Being on the vestry was challenging as I was new to the Episcopal church in general and had no idea what I was doing. But I embraced my role and I hope I added some value to it.

Since moving to Charlotte, I have found lots of joy at Holy Comforter, more so being a part of the wonderful choir, but also in the welcoming environment of the church.

I will continue to serve in whatever capacity I can, whether it be on the vestry or as the vestry secretary.

Thank you.

### David Duggan

I was raised Catholic along with my two younger brothers in Roanoke, VA., in the 1960's. We were a matched set for altar boy service and



### Gail Fennimore

served at St. Andrew's for many years. I became disenchanted by the rules of the Catholic Church after college and, after moving to Charlotte in 1980,

attended Christ Church and St. Peter's Episcopal – singing with their choirs.

I was looking for another church home when I attended Holy Comforter in early 2017. I was warmly welcomed during and after the service and invited to join the choir. Holy Comforter has become my home church.

My husband, Monty, had not been a regular church attendee until I became a member of Holy Comforter. He always comes with me to service and has volunteered with Nourish Up when he is on break from teaching Physics at the University of Central Missouri.

The choir will always be family to me but I want to extend my church relationships to the vestry and beyond. I would like to contribute my talents to help grow interest in our place of worship, our many ministries, and improve our community of faith by funding the missions of our church.

As I commute to Charlotte from Monroe twice a week for choir and services, I pass 19 other churches of various denominations. But I always continue past them to Holy Comforter. Love truly grows here.

My family, husband Tom and 2 young boys, Blair and Keenan, first came to Holy Comforter in Spring 1982. It was a vibrant welcoming church with many young couples and young children. It has that same feel today. Over the years I have



participated in many church activities and leadership roles in the parish and in the diocese. I have taught Christian Education to middle schoolers, been a member of Darrow Owens since coming, served on the Vestry twice, served on and led the Holy Comforter Foundation. Some of my proudest and fulfilling opportunities have been spearheading the 100th celebration of our church founding in 2003-04, Co-chairing with Tom and working with a host of dedicated parishioners on the Capital Campaign in 2008 that led to the construction of the Van Every Building and remodeling of Atkinson building, accomplishing the purchase of the house at 2729 and merging the Endowment and Foundation into the Holy Comforter Foundation with updated Bylaws.

Serving on the Vestry and guiding the forward movement of our parish will be a great honor. Serving our church and our Diocese has always been very fulfilling and an important way that I have used my gifts.

## Pat Mynatt

If elected, I would be honored to serve on the Holy Comforter Vestry in what I believe is a pivotal time in the life of our church.



Although I am a cradle Episcopalian, Holy Comforter is the church that raised me, in a spiritual sense. My husband, Joe, and I joined Holy Comforter in 1987. Holy Comforter is where I first learned to study and question my faith and where I truly began to recognize the power of God's love and peace in my life. And this church continues to be more than my spiritual home. Our children grew up and were baptized and confirmed here and our daughter was married at Holy Comforter. The Holy Comforter community has nurtured and sustained us through growth, questioning, challenge, loss and celebration. I have a profound commitment to this church and to working with others to discern and provide for our future. I have been fortunate to serve in roles in the past, including on the vestry and the Holy Comforter Foundation and La Escuelita boards. I am currently a Eucharistic Minister and on the finance committee. In my professional life, I have been an Associate Dean for and currently serve on the faculty of the College of Business at UNC Charlotte. With gratitude for this place and its people, I would try to bring all I can to this work.

## Susanne Shaw

My husband Doug and I have been members of Holy Comforter for over 30 years. Our children,



Stephanie and Austin grew up in this church. Austin was baptized here, and both children, along with Doug, were confirmed at Holy Comforter. Through the years Doug and I have both served on the Vestry, and both have been honored to serve as Senior Wardens. I am proud to say I worked with Lauren Cavins as she and Tim formulated the plans for La Escuelita Pre-School and La Misa services. I have also served on the Weekday School Board, Room in the Inn Coordinator, and La Escuelita School Board. I've also enjoyed serving as a Lay Eucharistic Minister, Sunday School teacher, Lector and currently hosting during Sunday morning service.

When asked if I would consider running for vestry again, I did not hesitate. Holy Comforter is our church home and I am honored to serve you, my church family, as a member of vestry. Holy Comforter has been and continues to be a blessing in my and my family's life.

## Kathy Taylor

I am a cradle Episcopalian, and have been a member of Holy Comforter since 1995. I have served on many committees over the years, and currently am a Eucharistic Visitor and a member of the Lazarus Team.



John and I have 5 children, and we are proud to call Holy Comforter our church home. If selected for the vestry, I would be honored to serve my church family.

## Russell Weil

My name is Russell Weil. My family and I have been members at Holy Comforter since 2008. My wife Julia

and I have raised our daughter Chapman and our son Fin at Holy Comforter, and as a family we have thoroughly enjoyed our time here. I served on the Vestry from 2017 through 2019 and was Senior Warden in 2018. I have served on the Foundation Board twice, the Finance Committee, the Annual Giving Campaign and the Personnel Committee.



This parish is the center of our family's spiritual life. From adult formation, to confirmation, youth group, acolytes and pilgrimages we turn to Holy Comforter and our church family for strength and inspiration, to help where needed and participate together in spiritual growth and the joy of the Good News! I am fortunate to be able to give my time to work with other Parishioners, Staff and Clergy to help Holy Comforter do all the great things that our missions do in this community. I am glad to stand for another term on the Vestry. I have two goals for this term, first is to help put the parish finances in a stronger more stable place and second to promote the Joy and Good News that Holy Comforter has been so good at spreading in this community for more than a century. The past several years have held many difficulties for all of us in the Parish, the Church, the Country and the World. Not in my time at Holy Comforter has it been more apparent that this community must rise together to embrace the challenges before us and carry on the stewardship of Holy Comforter.