

## Vestry Candidates for Election

### Philip Beauchamp

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#### Personal Context

Gifts: Faith, Family, Loyalty

Contribute to Vestry: Love of Parish family, Visionary, good communicator and collaborative decision maker.

Education/experience: Leadership as Hospital Administrator and CEO 40 years, experience on multiple boards and volunteer activities.

#### Connection with the Church of the Good Shepherd

Why a member: A feeling of peace and comfort. God is present here.

Congregation strengths: Warmth, love and happiness, member's involvement and acceptance of the importance of the Laity in support of the Rector and parish.

Opportunities: Outreach ministries, spiritual education.

Challenges: futuristic plans 5–10 years, succession planning, improving financial stability, opportunities for community outreach, and spiritual growth.

#### Service to the Church

Parish Volunteer: a new member [1 year], Peace Park Task Force, Usher during Worship. Meeting new people and helping them feel comfortable in worship service.

#### Service to Other Organizations

Prior Churches served: Choir, Treasurer, Vestry, Jr. Warden, Endowment Chair.

Other Organizations: Morton Plant Mease Hospitals, Inc., President, CEO and Board of Directors; BayCare Health System, Executive Vice President; DaySpring Task Force; Red Cross Board Chrmn; Salvation Army BOD; Ruth Eckerd Hall Vice Chair; Homeless Empowerment Program Vice Chair; Humane Society; Clearwater Marine Aquarium BOD; Clearwater Yacht Club Commodore.

Most Fulfilling: HEP, CMA, and Humane Society. Smaller organizations with a sense of real need for the role and responsibility of community volunteers.

Did not enjoy as much: Larger organizations.

#### Declaration of Candidacy

I am submitting my name as a candidate for the Vestry, to be voted on at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. In doing so, I am affirming that I meet all of the requirements of an elector of the Church of Good Shepherd, as set forth in Canon VII, and give permission for my responses to this questionnaire to be distributed to the members of the congregation to assist them in forming their decisions about which candidates to elect.

Philip K. Beauchamp 1/13/2019

### Robyn Harker

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#### Personal Context

Gifts: Organized, patient, and honest

Contribute to Vestry: having served on a previous Vestry I know the challenges that can face a church and the importance of listening to all sides of a situation without bias.

Education/experience: I have served in many leadership roles including Vestry. I have completed various trainings and attended conferences in the NJ Diocese before moving to Florida.

#### Connection with the Church of the Good Shepherd

Why a member: I came to the church when I was visiting my father for Easter. The service I attended was so uplifting that when I moved to Florida I chose to become a member.

Congregation strengths: Welcoming, outreach and how well the property is maintained.

Opportunities: Outreach, Fellowship and Christian Education.

Challenges: Attracting young families, continuing fiscal responsibility and maintaining the grounds.

#### Service to the Church

Volunteering at the thrift store and helping with the shrimp boil, Thanksgiving dinner and coffee hour host. I found them all to be personally fulfilling. They have given me the opportunity to meet fellow parishioners. I really enjoy helping people and the fellowship that comes with working together to serve a common goal.

#### Service to Other Organizations

Prior Churches served: I served on the vestry of my previous parish.

Other Organizations: I was involved as a volunteer with several of my children's activities when they were younger.

Most Fulfilling: Serving on Vestry and Girl Scout Leader. As a Girl Scout Leader I was able to share experience with my scouts and teach them leadership skills, environmental stewardship and the importance of service to others. As a member of vestry I enjoyed the challenge of working with others for the common goals of our parish..

Did not enjoy as much: I did not enjoy helping with my town's sports teams. Many of the parents were focused on the win and not on what can help the kids to learn the sport.

#### Declaration of Candidacy

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Robyn Harker 1/5/2019

# Vestry Candidates for Election

## John Russotto

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### Personal Context

The three gifts I bring to the vestry are my calling for service to others, the ability to be empathic to all persons, and a disciplined approach to planning, organizing and executing standard operating procedures which are established for the benefit of all participants.

Combined, I have fifty years of service to a diverse group of individual adults, families, couples, military personnel, children and adolescents, jail inmates and hospitalized patients. I hold the Bachelor of Arts, the Master of Science, and the Doctor of Philosophy degrees in clinical social work. The most significant professional contribution I have made across all segments of the populations served is researching causes and effects of traumatization and developing, administering, and delivering effective treatment models.

I practiced in public, private not-for-profit, corporate for profit and private practice settings including state and local mental health institutions and university and community hospitals. Before retiring from my career, I served as a consultant to the Surgeon General of the U.S. Navy with a focus on mental health services to military personnel returning from overseas duties, and evaluating the effectiveness of a variety of mental health programs designed for service members and their families.

### Connection with the Church of the Good Shepherd

In 2015, I found myself alone. I embarked on a mission to find a church family that would meet my spiritual needs. I researched several Episcopal churches in a 30 mile radius of my home. I was intrigued by what I read about CGS. I decided I would take the risk and drive to Dunedin from Hudson. With each subsequent contact, I found myself more spiritually satisfied. On August 9, 2015, I was received into the membership of CGS. The congregation of CGS offers everyone a variety of opportunities to express their unique God-given gifts. At the core is a focus on being a servant, or in the words of Max Lucado, Just Like Jesus. All Are Welcome is not just a catchy phrase at CGS; rather it is a lived experience. There are no exceptions. And, the opportunities to live out one's faith seems to be limitless. Among the compelling opportunities available to all members of the congregation are [1] service to others in a variety of forms from singing in the choir to participation in Undies Sunday; [2] evangelism in many forms including being a member of the prayer team to supporting international mission work is clearly evident; [3] various forms of worship from the reverent classical to the joyful traditional or the quiet contemplative are available weekly. There is something for everyone! Along with compelling opportunities, there exists challenges for the congregation. The first, I believe, is to remain relevant by adhering to our fundamental belief in Jesus Christ as our Savior and continuing to achieve a life of servanthood to ALL people. Second is to continue to be financially creative in order to ensure the legacy of CGS, e.g. promotion of the Endowment Fund and the parking ministry. Third, is to keep a resolve that CGS will be guided by the Holy Spirit when the time arrives for us to search for and receive a new pastor.

### Service to the Church of the Good Shepherd

Over the past three years, I have participated in the following service to our community: the homebound ministry, the furniture thrift shop, the parking ministry, the pumpkin patch, Shepherd's Village, Surveying the Meadow and mourner's path. Each has been rewarding in its own right. My physical limitation [chronic sinus infections] prohibited my continuing to serve at the thrift store. The most rewarding effort is the diocesan-grant funded Surveying the Meadow program for seniors.

### Service to Other Organizations

In 1966 while a senior in high school, I volunteered with the American Red Cross [ARC] to deliver blood from one location to another. I also facilitated the return of military personnel serving overseas when a death occurred in their family. September 11, 2001, found me volunteering for the ARC to offer respite to first responders at the Pentagon following the unexpected terrorist attack.

At Christ Church, Alexandria, VA, I served on the outreach committee to address the needs of homeless people who lived along the Potomac River and in the alleys of downtown. Together with a fellow communicant, we offered an open-ended group to anyone in need of healing following the death of a loved one.

Each volunteer opportunity offered another chance to experience what I believe to be the Holy Spirit's influence in my daily life. Not every experience was received with "undiluted pleasure"; but, each served a purpose to strengthen my resolve that I was called to serve. For example, I didn't fully understand why I was needed to transport blood from one location to another in my county until I realized that without that blood being delivered in a timely way, someone may not have survived a life-threatening condition.

### Declaration of Candidacy

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John C. Russotto 11/24/2018

# Endowment Fund Board Candidate for Election

## Andrea Zahn

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### Personal Context

- Greatest gifts: long-time church member and devotion to my faith and the church, past experiences of service in many areas, developing and nurturing relationships.
- Experience in my personal life, profession and in service to the church all contribute to the board's mission. I have been a life-time volunteer for many ministries [within the church and community agencies] and give freely of my time, resources and talents. I believe in and continue to financially support initiatives that will make the lives of others better. I have financially supported the church for almost 30 years and would encourage others to give to the fund and monitor fund investment wisely. My experience as an investor, administrator and business person gives me the tools to be effective in promoting the board's ministry and purpose.
- Education, training, expertise and financial statements: Past senior warden, 3-term vestry member and current member of the finance team. In all those positions, I was involved in reading and analyzing financial statements. In my previous career as a Director of Communications, I was responsible for preparing an annual department budget and running department operations with allocated funding. I graduated college with a business degree, have personal investments and run a successful real estate business [strategic planning, budgeting, operations].

### Connection with the Church of the Good Shepherd

- I have been a member of Good Shepherd since 1989 when our family transferred back to Pinellas County [our oldest son was baptized in the church in 1981 before we relocated to Georgia]. Good Shepherd has been a part of my life journey and members have supported me in times of great personal hardship. I have always found a loving bond with the parishioners who seek to serve our Lord and others.
- Greatest strength of Good Shepherd: commitment to serve others, warm and caring congregation, open to new ideas and practices.
- Opportunities: [1] Reaching out to the "unchurched" in new and creative ways, [2] Building our membership as we reinvent ourselves in many ways, [3] Prayerfully strive to increase our financial giving.

### Service to the Church of the Good Shepherd

- Senior Warden, 3-term vestry member, incorporation, worship, membership, member of search committee, lector, chaliceist, finance team, youth group, visitor's table, greeter, coffee hour, parking lot team, Shrimp Boil and Rib Fest server, Meals of Hope. Current: chaliceist, finance team, parish profile task force, parking lot team, cold weather shelter volunteer.
- Vestry membership: members have "big picture" focus and are devoted to doing what's best for the congregation.
- I've enjoyed all my volunteer experiences.

### Service to other Organizations

- Club of East Lake Sunrise– Board member, Student of the Month Coordinator & Program Chair; Indian Trails Home-owners Association, Metropolitan Ministries, Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Pinellas – board of directors, volunteer, school and community based mentor; Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin, Leadership Pinellas, Girlfriends of Pinellas Development Board, Ronald McDonald House project Coordinator, Pinellas County Schools – 10 year volunteer in many capacities including tutor and mentor; School Advisory Councils for 9 years, national School Public Relations Association.
- Volunteer experiences I found to be most fulfilling: Those in which I have made a difference in the lives of children and families.

### Declaration of Candidacy

I am submitting my name as a candidate for the Endowment Fund Board, to be voted on at the Annual Meeting of the congregation. In doing so, I am affirming that I meet all of the requirements of an elector of the Church of the Good Shepherd, as set forth in Canon VII, and I give permission for my responses to this questionnaire to be distributed to the members of the congregation to assist them in forming their decisions about which candidates to elect.

Andrea Zahn 1/2/2019

# Delegate to Diocesan Convention Candidates for Election

## Chester [Butch] Niford

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### Personal Context

Although my given name is Chester, my family and friends call me Butch. After graduating from The Citadel, I served in the US Army Corps of Engineers 1964–1984, and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. My primary responsibilities were combat and construction engineering, with two tours of duty in Vietnam, management of US Army base facilities and government family housing in both the US and West Germany; supply management.

After retirement, I was employed with Westinghouse and Northrop Grumman for 22 years as a Program and Project Manager supporting the US and UK Navy's Trident II Submarine Fleets, the US Cruise Tomahawk Missile Program, and the US Star Wars Thunderbolt initiative. I retired in 2006. Education is a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering.

Three primary strengths: patience, respectfulness, willingness to serve. I would be honored to represent COGS at the Diocesan convention.

### Connection with Good Shepherd

My wife Diane and I have been members of COGS since April, 2015. The three main reasons for me joining were, and still are, the meaningfulness of our worship services, the open and friendly parish members, and the various ways we have to serve God through COGS.

### Service to Good Shepherd

Worship Team, Shepherding Team, Buildings & Grounds Committee, Furniture Thrift Store, Parking Lot Team, serving at the shrimp boil, and, maybe the best, "other duties as assigned."

### Service to other organizations

In previous Methodist churches I was a member of the Worship committee, a high school youth group leader, high school Sunday school leader, member of the Men's Club, a Trustee, Buildings & Grounds, providing childrens' message as part of our worship services, supporting various church social events, dinners/pot lucks, and hosting visiting youth groups.

In a previous Presbyterian church, I did many of the above mentioned, and was also an Elder.

Civic Service: Rotary Club, an elected member of our local community Planning and Utilities Commission, a local Earthquake Response Team while a member of the US Army in the San Francisco area [1977–1980]. I also volunteered at a local elementary school for five months tutoring, etc. in kindergarten, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Grades.

Most enjoyable: providing the children's message. I found all of it very meaningful.

### Declaration of Candidacy

I am submitting my name as a candidate for the position of Delegate to Diocesan Convention, to be voted on at the Annual Meeting of the congregation. In doing so, I am affirming that I meet all of the requirements of an elector of the Church of the Good Shepherd, as set forth in Canon VII, and I give permission for my responses to this questionnaire to be distributed to the members of the congregation to assist them in forming their decisions about which candidates to elect.

Chester R. Niford, Jr. 1/6/2019

## Diane Niford

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### Personal Context

Education: B.A. degree in History and Business; Professional licenses required for Financial Advisor and California Nursing Home Administrator, Working as a fiduciary throughout my career, a positive and caring attitude, a belief in serving all God's children, actively assisting my church family and the South Florida Diocese in its worship, missions and goals is what I would bring to the work of Delegate to Diocesan convention.

Our church is greatly strengthened in its work by being a part of the larger church. I believe it important to know how the system has been created for the betterment of each congregation as well as the way in which it expands our mission to the community, state, nation and the world.

### Connection with Good Shepherd

Vestry, Worship Committee, Shepherding Team, Prayer Team, Prayer Chain, Finance committee, Parking Lot Team, Renewal works are my areas of service. Connecting with members and attenders of worship services is my greatest joy at CoGS. It is the loving atmosphere of the parish that led to my choosing to be an active and loyal member in April of 2015.

### Service to other organizations

I began with Y-Teens in high school and progressed to 30 years of teaching all grades in Sunday School, youth group leadership, Bible studies, numerous church committees, Cursillo leadership, Methodist clergy spouse and now giving at CoGS. Civic included Rotary, AAUW, Chamber of Commerce, Women's Shelter Board member, HOA.

Perhaps serving as a clergy spouse was the most profound. I would still like to write a book entitled: *Who Are All These People in My Bed?*

Because of a chronic neck injury I no longer work in the kitchen without fearing a trip to the ER...

### Declaration of Candidacy

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Diane Niford 1/7/2019

# Delegate to Diocesan Convention Candidates for Election

## Mary Ratliff

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### Personal Context

Three strengths for me would be: my love of God, good listener and wildly organized.

Prior to moving to Florida I was extremely active in my home parish and also on a Diocesan level. I worked for three different Bishops over a 30 year period as youth and Young Adult Ministries Coordinator and as Administrative Assistant to the Canon to the Ordinary. I have attended many Diocesan conventions in the Diocese of Lexington and the Diocese of Kentucky.

My desire to serve as a delegate is really a desire to learn more about this Diocese since this is now my home, as well as meeting others in our larger church.

### Connection with Good Shepherd

I choose to be a member of the Church of the Good Shepherd because it feels like coming home. I love how much we care about and involve ourselves in all different aspects of outreach and social justice issues.

I have volunteered with the parking team, the Furniture Thrift Store, Thanksgiving dinner, Meals of Hope, and monthly coffee hour at Good shepherd.

### Service to other organizations

In my last parish I served numerous times on the Vestry as senior warden, clerk and treasurer. I've been a parish administrator and CE coordinator. Prior civic volunteer involvement included the local food pantry, Kiwanis and Leadership Montgomery County. But my most time-consuming volunteer work was with a residential treatment facility for high school age youth as part of a life skills teaching team with weekly meetings. This was probably the most fulfilling, watching teens turn their lives around. I guess my least favorite volunteer activity was Kiwanis. I enjoyed the events but didn't really get much out of the weekly meetings.

Thanks for considering me.

### Declaration of Candidacy

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Mary Ratliff 1/6/2019

## 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 and being well organized. 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 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 Co-Director for the Pack-a-Sack team, as a chalcist and lector, co-facilitator of the adult program, *Surveying the Meadow*, a member of various committees at times and as the ECW president-Elect of the Diocesan Executive Board of the ECW.

### Service to other organizations

I have served at other churches as an Elder in the Presbyterian Church, 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 Principal's Organization and the Council for 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 occasions when I have had less than satisfying experiences typically have come when I felt that I had not met the expectations of the group.

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Michelle L. Schombs 12/26/2018

# Delegate to Diocesan Convention Candidates for Election

## Evelyn Slama

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### Personal Context

I have been a parishioner of Good Shepherd for more than three years and in that time I have become familiar with the inner-working of the parish and with many people of the congregation. God has bestowed many gifts and blessings upon me so far. Among my God-given gifts are an ability to see details within a larger picture, to empathize with others and to feel gratitude for everything I receive.

The members of COGS have shown only friendliness since I began worshiping here. My husband, Mike, and I were immediately welcomed into the fold. During his illness and subsequent passing, many in the church showed compassion and support to help me get past my grief. It is my desire to show my appreciation to COGS by serving as a delegate.

I currently volunteer in the church office twice a week by answering phones, proofreading and copying the service bulletins, as well as assisting in the preparation of the weekly deposits twice a month. I serve on the Finance committee, the Parking Lot committee, and I am a member of the Hand Bell Choir, an usher and a lector. I also helped with the 2018 Thanksgiving community dinner preparations by taking reservations. My participation in so many of the activities of the parish makes me a very good candidate to represent COGS at this year's diocesan convention. Also in my favor is that my mother lives in Punta Gorda and I can stay with her rather than having the church pay for a hotel room.

In other parishes I was a Eucharistic Minister, a Sunday School Teacher, and a bookkeeper. At one church we attended for several years, Mike and I mowed the church property every week.

For five years, I served on the Advisory Council of the Palm Harbor Library, and I represented the library on the Palm Harbor Community Services Agency Board of Directors for three of those years. As a library council member and board director, I learned the rules of committee proceedings. I recently resigned from the Advisory Council in order to attend Hand Bell Choir rehearsals, but I left on good terms with the library and I anticipate that I will join another of its organizations sometime in the near future.

Being a Eucharistic Minister was the most spiritually fulfilling experience of my life. Nothing can compare to the joy of sharing the Body and Blood of Christ with fellow congregants. I find personal fulfillment in proofreading the service bulletins because it draws on one of my God-given talents. Taking reservation for the Thanksgiving dinner was the job I enjoyed least because it caused me to be on call continuously, and I have a full schedule. Carrying and answering an extra phone was a chore I endured because it only lasted one month.

### Declaration of Candidacy

I declare that I am eligible to be a Delegate to the Diocesan Convention. I meet the age requirement, regularly attend Sunday services and I make contributions monthly to support the operations of the parish. If elected, this will be my first time attending a Convention. God willing, it will be the first of many times. Thank you.

Evelyn A. Slama 1/10/2019