

# Candidates for Vestry

*We will elect three candidates*

## **Marc Jacobson**

### **Service to the Church of the Good Shepherd.**

I have been a Member of the Good Shepherd since 1985. In my years of Good Shepherd I have previously served 4 years as a Vestry Member where I also chaired the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

In those 4 years of the Building and Grounds Committee, we had many accomplishments benefiting those of Good Shepherd.

A few of those accomplishments were: reconfigured the Church parking lot into the circular flow as it is now, added a temporary alarm system in the Albert St residence, repaired the Church Bells to a working condition, updated the old school rooms with fresh paint schemes and air conditioning units as needed, plus the committee established the current Memorial Garden.

I'm sure there were a few more projects that the committee resurrected.

During my initial Vestry appointment in 1993(?) I also volunteered to be an Usher, were by I have been Ushering passionately at Good Shepherd for 38 years. It's always joyful to meet and great our new and existing Parishioners.

### **Connection with COGS**

Before joining Good Shepherd, my wife Catherine and our two children would travel to Dunedin for the Holidays and vacations in the early 80's, visiting family members and attend church at Good Shepherd. We loved the quaintness of Good Shepherd from the first time we attended. Our son Christopher, was baptized in our Episcopal Church in San Antonio, Texas, and our daughter Lisa, was baptized here at Good Shepherd by Father Kirk.

We have a great deal of memorable history with Good Shepherd and the Parishioners.

As our family brick in the patio area states, Good Shepherd the foundation of our family.

### **Personal Context**

As a Vestry Member, I am here to serve the people of Good Shepherd without any bias. I pledge to use common sense, along with the ability to comprehend people and practice good business management. I will always listen to your needs and be honest with you.

"The art of being a good leader is to be a Better Listener"

## **Judy Warner**

### **Service to the Church of the Good Shepherd.**

I am a cradle Episcopalian and had my membership transferred to Church of the Good Shepherd 26 years ago. In April, 1997, I went through a reaffirmation process within our church with The Rev. Randall Hehr and The Rev. Mary Anne Dorner.

## Candidates for Election February 12, 2023

My first involvement with our church was through the Incorporation Committee which I eventually chaired. We invited, greeted and incorporated new members into the life of the church.  
I will list subsequent involvement since then.

### Former Ministry Involvement

Vestry for 5 terms throughout the years  
Chaired the search for The Rev. Becky Robbins-Penniman  
Sr Warden for The Rev. Patrick Ward and for The Rev. Becky Robbins-Penniman for 3 years  
Treasurer of the church for 7 years  
Chaired the Capital Campaign that raised \$700,000+

### Current Ministry Involvement

Choir Member  
Bell Choir Member  
Lector  
Parking team member  
Chair of the Personnel Committee  
Chair of the Stewardship Committee

### **Connection with COGS**

I consider Good Shepherd to be my home filled with fellow Christians whom I connect with and love. I believe it when it is said to come as you are, all are welcome, no exceptions. It is being lived. I love the liturgy, the church building, and the many ways we serve God by ministering in the community. There are so many options provided for us to serve.

In my past leadership roles, I particularly enjoyed the 3 years serving as Sr. Warden for Becky. I learned so much from her and appreciated our ability to speak openly on any topic and to help plan and strategize with her as to short and long term visions for our church. Part of that vision was to launch a comprehensive Capital Campaign with the goal of raising funds to remodel the church and campus. The campaign was successful not only in the money raised but how it was used to meet our remodeling needs. We accomplished every improvement need over a 3 year period as planned. Also, I love using my modest musical abilities in our church, both in the choir and the bell choir. It takes a team and we have excellent leaders and talented members who sing and ring to the glory of God. I believe that God has blessed me with talents that I want to share with others at Good Shepherd. I carefully choose the ministries I am involved in and can honestly say that I have never disliked any engagement.

### **Personal Context**

I strongly believe we are called as Christians to use our time, talent and treasure and I have chosen Good Shepherd to be the primary benefactor of those. My strengths lie in organizational, communication and leadership abilities, mostly acquired over a 25 year career in sales & marketing at Johnson & Johnson. I am interested in using my time and talents again on Vestry for another 3 year term. I am confident my skills can aid in any decision making necessary over the next few years.

## London Bates

### **Service to the Church of the Good Shepherd.**

I have served in the past on the pumpkin patch ministry, as well as a volunteer in the dessert room for past events at COGS such as the shrimp boil. Volunteering at COGS gave me a great opportunity to become friendly with other members of the church and I got to know some really wonderful people.

### **Service to Other Organizations**

I have also volunteered on the Board at the Dunedin Fine Art Center for over ten years and served as Chairperson. It has been incredibly fulfilling to volunteer as a Board member at DFAC to be a part of the expansion of the facility at DFAC to its becoming the largest art center in the Southeastern United States and to be a part of bringing art education to children, adults, seniors and veterans in our community.

Prior to being on the Board at DFAC, I served on the Board of the Gulf Coast Museum of Art. The Museum was struggling to continue its operations at its location in Largo and was eventually closed. The new Executive Director and Board worked tirelessly to try to save the Museum, but were not able to overcome the obstacles to maintain the Museum. I was deeply saddened and disappointed that we were not able to sustain the Museum.

### **Connection with COGS**

I am a member of the COGS because it feels like home to me. I was baptized at COGS and attended service at COGS and at St. Alfred's as a child. As an adult, I worshiped at other churches, but felt at home when I returned to COGS. I love the formality of the Episcopal Church and feel a deep connection to COGS because of my history with family and friends at COGS.

One of the greatest strengths of COGS is in its members. The members of COGS are the heart of the church. The members are incredibly welcoming to other members, guests and new members and create a beautiful environment to worship with one another. Another strength of COGS is the leadership by Pastor Whitney. The members are the heart of COGS, and Whitney is the soul of the church. A great strength of COGS is the location of COGS and the beautiful historical church building. We worship in a beautiful building in downtown Dunedin under a sunny, cloudless sky nearly every Sunday.

I think that there are many opportunities available to COGS now and in the future. I think that one opportunity is to engage folks to join the church or return to the church to give folks a home for personal contact and support in an electronic age. I also think that COGS has an opportunity to engage families with children to grow the children's ministry. I view this as an opportunity and a challenge.

### **Personal Context**

One of my greatest strengths is my desire to listen to others and consider the thoughts and feelings of others. Another strength of mine is my ability to make decisions in a reasonable and thoughtful way. I do not believe in making hasty decisions and like to give careful consideration when making decisions. I also think that I can bring balance and calm to others or groups of others. I like to think that I have a calming presence that I give to others around me.

My education includes a bachelor's degree in accounting, CPA license, and a law degree and law license, along with a background of practicing law for over twenty years. As the Vestry handles the legal and financial administration of the church corporation, I can help to support the Vestry as a member with my legal and accounting background, but most importantly I can help to support the communication to church members with my strength of listening to others and bringing balance and calm to others and groups of others.

## Candidates for Endowment Board of Trustees

*We will elect one candidate*

### Jim Ratliff

#### **Service to the Church of the Good Shepherd.**

I volunteer at the FTS, serve as an usher, and have been a vestry member. The FTS is very fulfilling and helps many people in need. I did not particularly enjoy being on vestry but feel I made a contribution.

#### **Service to Other Organizations**

I am not currently involved with any other organizations as church seems to fill much of my free time.

#### **Connection with COGS**

Mary and I are long-time Episcopalians so Good Shepherd was a great fit. The generosity of our congregation is very impressive. Funding is always a challenge but we always seem to manage.

#### **Personal Context**

I am pragmatic, levelheaded and practical. I was a financial advisor with LPL Financial for 25 years and have been a stock investor since I was 12. I had a series 7 license until I retired and moved to Dunedin in 2017. I have also started and run several businesses beginning at age 24. I believe that my experience as an investor and an advisor qualifies me to sit on the Endowment Fund board and contribute to its oversight.

## Candidates for Diocesan Convention

*We will elect three delegates and the Vestry will appoint one alternate*

### Robyn Harker

#### **Service to the Church of the Good Shepherd.**

I have volunteered at The Little & Furniture Thrift store, The cold weather shelter, Coffee hour and the Welcome table, Shrimp boil, as a Vestry Member, Delegate/alternate to the convention, Helping deliver gifts to the farm workers, Peace Walk Committee. I have enjoyed all the time I have spent engaging in each of these church missions. Coffee hour and the welcome table have given me the opportunity to come to know my church family better as well as prospective members.

#### **Service to Other Organizations**

Currently I serve as the treasurer of my building and serve on the entertainment committee for the entire complex. In the past I served at my previous church on vestry for many years in various positions and committees. I also volunteered coaching youth sports teams, as a girl scout leader, in parent teacher organizations and women's service organizations. I have enjoyed most of my volunteer experiences. The most meaningful to me was helping my young daughters and their peers develop leadership skills, to engage in service to others, and exploring ways to protect our environment. While coaching youth sports, it was fun teaching teamwork and skills, but I didn't enjoy the when the competition was too extreme. They were only young kids learning to play together while improving their skills.

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### **Connection with COGS**

While on vacation I have always searched for interesting churches with a history to visit. About 10 years ago, I attended COGS. The church was beautiful, the people were very friendly, and I felt very welcome. The Easter vigil service was so uplifting. When I decided to move to Florida, I knew COGS was going to be my new church. The three greatest strengths of Good Shepherd include the way in which everyone truly cares about each other as family. We offer many opportunities to grow spiritually, while seeing to the needs of the surrounding communities and helping where needed. As for the three greatest opportunities, two have already been mentioned spiritual growth and our many missions to our surrounding community. The third opportunity is to be able to lend your talents, treasures and time to help make the world a better place by protecting our earth and all God's people on it. The three most significant challenges I can see for us is to continue to maintain and improve our building and grounds, continue to be fiscally responsible and finally engaging young people/families in how truly wonderful being an active member of Good Shepherd would be to their family's spiritual growth.

### **Personal Context**

I feel my greatest strengths are respecting everyone, helping whenever and wherever I'm needed, I am very organized and have held many leadership roles in my past experiences. I will try to help make the best choices for the betterment of our church in the interest of everyone. I believe every one of God's children deserves the respect and love that has been promised to us all.

## **Cheryl Sharpe**

### **Service to the Church of the Good Shepherd.**

I have served Good Shepherd in many leadership capacities including Christian Formation, Buildings & Grounds, Worship Committee, Freezer Ministry, Choir, Special Events, Endowment Board, Homebound Visitor, Lay Eucharistic Minister, Prayer Team, and have served 3 different 6 year terms on the Vestry including being Junior and Senior Warden.

### **Service to Other Organizations**

I have attended several leadership, management, and communication courses over the years which has helped me excel in both my profession as a Dental Hygienist as well as serving at Good Shepherd. I have served as a delegate also for the Florida Dental Hygiene Association and managed over 60 employees at my dental practice. All of these experiences have allowed me to grow personally and professionally.

### **Connection with COGS**

I have been a member of Church of the Good Since 1979. I wish to be considered as a Delegate to Convention again this year. I have served in this capacity several times over the years, including 11 years ago when we called Dabney Smith to be our Bishop. I am very open minded, caring and compassionate.

### **Personal Context**

Church of the Good Shepherd is a place I call home. The Worship, fellowship and parishioners are what feeds my soul, allowing me to do God's work in my job and in the community.

## **Philip Beauchamp**

### **Service to the Church of the Good Shepherd.**

Carol and I have been members of Good Shepherd for the past 6 years. I usher at church worship Services where I always enjoy meeting new people and helping them feel comfortable. I sing in the choir. I have been a member of the Vestry for the past three years and currently serve as Senior Warden. As Senior Warden I led and managed, along with the Vestry, the transition with the Retirement of our former Rector to a Priest in Charge, and subsequently the call of our new Rector, Rev. Whitney Burton. I found this experience most fulfilling as it involved virtually the entire congregation, and many who came forward to accept various leadership roles and engagement throughout the transition and call. I also served on the Diocese of SW Florida Bishop Coadjutor Search Committee where we discerned a call for our new Bishop for our Diocese. I have also served on the Diocesan DaySpring Task force where we were charged with developing a Strategic Vision for DaySpring.

### **Service to Other Organizations**

I serve several other organizations in various capacities. I am currently on the Board of Directors of Ruth Eckerd Hall and formally Treasurer and Finance Chair. I have also served on the Board of the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, the Salvation Army, the American Red Cross, and am currently Chairman of the Board of HEP. I have been a past Board Chair for the Red Cross of Tampa Bay and Past Commodore of the Clearwater Yacht Club.

### **Connection with COGS**

From the time of our initial visit, we have always felt the warmth, the love, and the caring of our congregation for each other, a feeling of Peace and Comfort...."God is present here". We always were welcome to be a part of it. Our greatest strengths as a congregation are, all sharing God's Love, 'All are Welcome, No exceptions,' our many Ministries, and our church members involvement and acceptance of the importance of the Laity in support of our Ministries, our Rector and the Parish. I believe our greatest opportunities are furthering and expanding our Outreach Ministries among our Community, and offering continuing spiritual education and Worship. As with many churches our greatest challenges will be futuristic plans 5-10years, continuing opportunities for community outreach and spiritual growth, and improving financial stability.

### **Personal Context**

I believe my greatest strengths lie in engaging others in different opportunities to learn and grow, a Visionary with an emphasis on Planning and defining strategies to achieve the church's Mission and Vision.