

Meet the Nominees for Vestry

The members of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church will be electing six members to the Vestry at the Annual Meeting on January 28. Four members will each serve a three-year term, and two members will fill out unexpired terms of departing Vestry members. In order for you to know the people who have been nominated to the Vestry, the Nominating Committee would like to offer the following profiles.

JENNIFER ALLEN: Jennifer Allen is a cradle Episcopalian and a life-long Montanan, having been born in Forsyth, Montana, and at the age of 3 migrated west with her family to Dillon when her dad was transferred with the Montana Highway Patrol. Jennifer attended school in Dillon, and graduated from WMC (now UM-Western) and shortly thereafter began a 19-year career in the floral and landscape business—which was totally unrelated to majoring in elementary education—but comes in very handy now at Holy Spirit. Deciding that she needed a paycheck, she went to work for a law firm in Dillon. During that time, she attended the University of Great Falls via virtual classroom and graduated with a degree in Paralegal Science, and until recently has worked as a corporate, transactional, and litigation paralegal. She currently works as a legal transcriptionist for a nation-wide court reporting company.

Jennifer moved to Missoula in 2007 and, having had visited Holy Spirit many times over the years for baptisms of her nephews and niece, was excited to be in a church where there were a lot of people. Jennifer has been involved in craft group, Supper Club, and a short stint with the Social Concerns Committee. Jennifer served on the Vestry at St. James - Dillon and taught church school when her kids were little.

Her interests include floral design, the Missoula Half-Marathon, golf, crafts, and just being outside in Montana. Jennifer has two grown children, Adrienne and Jeff, and three grandchildren, Aiden, Nicholas, and Olivia.

ELIZABETH ETTENGER: Elizabeth Ettenger moved to western Montana 8 years ago with her then-fiancé (now husband). Since that time, she has worked extensively in the nonprofit world, primarily in development and administrative roles. She currently works as a grant writer for organizations including Ravalli Head Start and the Daly Mansion Preservation Trust, in addition to being the Executive Director of the Missoula Education Foundation. She enjoys being an active participant in Missoula's community life as a member of Kiwanis, a volunteer for a variety of organizations, and of course as a parishioner of Holy Spirit Church.

A 2005 graduate of Annie Wright School (formerly Annie Wright Seminary), she has been involved in the Episcopal Church since her youth. She attended Kalamazoo College, where she met her husband of 6 years, George. She has a deep appreciation and love for Missoula, the best parts of which she feels are reflected in the community at Holy Spirit Church where “a commitment to each other and the world” are a part of our vision. In her spare time, Elizabeth enjoys quilting, hiking, traveling, cooking, spending time with friends and family, and her beloved dog, Bear.

MARY JENNINGS: Mary Jennings moved to Missoula in August 2016 to be near her niece and her sister and their families. She is a lifelong member of the Episcopal Church, baptized as an infant in Richmond, VA. She moved here from Greenwich, CT where she was active in a large Episcopal Church. There, among other things, she served as head verger which required working closely with the clergy, the choirs, and all of the volunteers involved in each service. At Holy Spirit she is serving as acolyte coordinator.

Mary is retired from IBM Corporation where she was in marketing working with customers to sell IBM products and services. After retirement, she worked for a CPA preparing tax returns and providing other support for clients. When she left the CPA firm, she prepared tax returns as a volunteer with AARP Tax Aide which she continues to do here in Missoula.

Holy Spirit has become a special community for Mary, and she looks forward to continuing her involvement in the years ahead.

TOM TODD: Tom was born in St. Maries, Idaho into a Forest Service family. Until going to college he attended no school for more than two years, growing up in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Wisconsin and Virginia.

Tom was an attorney for 31 years, first as a patent attorney and then as a legislative attorney in Washington, D.C., where he spent way too much time on Capitol Hill. Tom retired as a senior member of the civil service at the U.S. Department of Energy.

He and his wife Alison moved to Missoula in late 2000 and have attended Holy Spirit since then. During this period, Tom graduated from Education for Ministry (EfM), served on the Vestry twice, sang in the choir, volunteered at Partnership Health Center and the Food Bank and served on the boards of Partnership Health Center, Spirit at Play Early Childhood Learning Center and Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana. Tom has also served as the Education for Ministry mentor for Holy Spirit. It would be an honor for him to serve once again on the Vestry.

JAMES H. WILEY: Jim is a life-long Episcopalian: Baptized in Santiago, Chile, Confirmed in Mexico City, high school at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Delaware and a graduate of Stanford University. He spent over 40 years in international business, mostly in or related to Latin America.

He has been an active Lector/Eucharistic Minister for over 50 years, including extensive bilingual experience conducting services in either English or Spanish. Jim has served on Vestries in Mexico City, San Jose, Costa Rica and Camden, SC, and as Treasurer in San Jose. In addition, Jim twice served as Senior Warden at Grace Church in Camden, and on the Diocesan Committee for Congregational Development in the Diocese of Upper South Carolina.

With his wife Andrea, Jim joined Holy Spirit in November 2016, just after moving to Missoula, and has been active on the Social Concerns Committee. He has also been (since June 2017) a member of the Native American Task Force of the Diocese of Montana. Jim and his wife Andrea normally attend the 8:00 service, but have recently been sharing 10:15 worship with many of you!

Jim looks forward to the opportunity to bring all of his experience to help however he can to ensure that Holy Spirit continues to thrive as a welcoming congregational family.

ANN WILTSE: Ann Wiltse has been a member of Holy Spirit for fifteen years. She and her husband Jeff were married in the church in 2003, and her children Daniel, Rose and June were baptized here.

A native Pennsylvanian, Ann grew up in the Presbyterian Church and lived in Boston for many years. She was Development Director at the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston and a Historian at Historical Research Associates in Missoula. She spent many years at home with her children and is now an Account Manager at VIM&VIGR, a local apparel company.

Ann cherishes the time she spends with her family on the Jersey Shore every summer and enjoys running, ice hockey, reading, and traveling. She is eager to serve the church community that has been ever present in her family's life.