

Biographies of Nominated Candidates

Warden

Priscilla Isner is nominated to serve a two-year term as Warden. Priscilla is currently serving a one-year term of an unexpired two-year term as Warden and has also served as Clerk of the Vestry in addition to two years as a Vestry member. Priscilla has been an Episcopalian her entire life, which began when she was baptized and confirmed at St. John's, Staten Island, NY. She attended Trinity Episcopal Church, in Wrentham, MA for about 30 years before moving to Cape Cod and joining The Church of the Holy Spirit 10+ years ago. A few of the activities Priscilla has been involved with over the years include choir, church school teacher, altar guild, vestry, representative to Diocesan Convention, and assisting with church fairs and rummage sales. At CHS, she has been a member of the Flower Guild and the Holiday Bazaar team. She is co-chair of the Pastoral Care Ministry. She is married to Michael, and they have 3 children and 5 grandchildren. Priscilla was an RN at Boston Children's Hospital, with a specialty in Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery, for 30 years and is now retired. Beyond CHS, she is a volunteer at The Cape Cod Foundation.

Clerk

Dianne Fromm is nominated to serve her second year as Clerk to the Vestry. Dianne states that she was born into a family which valued service to others and to God above all else. She was the oldest of four, and her family moved with her father's work from Chicago to Dallas, Denver, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, and New Jersey. She attended college in Michigan and later traveled all over as a young Army wife. She was fortunate to spend three years living in Germany. She ended up in New Jersey with a hearing-impaired daughter who needed an enormous amount of care. She made some overdue changes in her life, becoming a single, working mother of two. Later, she moved to Ridgewood, New Jersey, where new husband Doug was the minister of The Upper Ridgewood Community Church, spending twenty-five years there. She raised her, now, three children there and spent most of those years as a primary teacher in the Upper Saddle River Public Schools. Twelve years ago, Dianne and Doug retired and moved to their home in Orleans. After attending Doug's church for all those years, he suggested that Dianne choose their new church. They walked into CHS on a December Sunday in 2012, and Dianne was immediately at home. Doug was delighted! Dianne has served as a Eucharistic Minister, member of Galley West Art Gallery, and member of the Vestry. She is a substitute teacher for the elementary schools in Brewster, Orleans, and Eastham. She serves on the Board of the Orleans Housing Authority and the Board of Orleans Improvement Association. In that capacity, she has co-chaired the 2024 OIA Garden Tour. Her children are, of course, her greatest joy. They visit, or Dianne and Doug go to them as often as possible. Gardening, painting, reading, entertaining, and traveling round out her interests. She feels that life is full and good, and she continually thanks God for leading her to their spiritual home and community at The Church of the Holy Spirit. Dianne is thankful for an opportunity to serve.

Treasurer

John Harter is nominated to serve a second one-year term as Treasurer. John has been a member of CHS since 2015. He was raised in the church with regular attendance at church school, youth group, choir, bell choir, and mission trips. Trained in accounting at GE, John went on to law school and opened a practice outside Massachusetts. Previously ordained and installed as an elder and deacon in the Presbyterian Church USA, John also served as Moderator of the Presbytery of Southern New England (a part of the bishop's job in PCUSA). He previously served as a church treasurer for six years, serving on all financial committees, including stewardship. John also served on several diocese-level financial committees in the Presbyterian Church. At CHS, John has just completed 4 years of service on Vestry and served as Stewardship Chair for '22. He currently serves on the Finance Committee and Treasurer.

Vestry

Jennifer Marlin is nominated to serve a second two-year term. A lifelong Episcopalian, Jen was previously a member of Christ Church in Easton, CT, where she was raised, and Trinity Church in Newtown, CT, where she raised her boys and was a member for 25 years. She was very active at Trinity Church, teaching Sunday School, traveling with the youth on eight work camp adventures (organizing a few of them), participating in multiple fundraisers, active in an Ecumenical Vacation Bible Camp for 10 years, serving as the church librarian, and singing in the choir. She moved to Harwich for her current job as a psych nurse practitioner in October 2018. On her first weekend here, she attended CHS and knew she had found "my church home." While at CHS, she has participated in the Sunday morning bible discussion, been on the AV committee zooming, streaming, or connecting parishioners at home and at the Terraces, as well as serving on the Search Committee which called Patrick. All have been wonderful experiences. "I look forward to being a part of the Vestry as I have always said, "church is not a spectator sport."

Vestry

Elizabeth Suraci is nominated to serve a second two-year term. Betty and her husband Phil and have been residents of Orleans for 40 years. For the past 20 years, they have been full time residents and members of The Church of the Holy Spirit. "As cradle to grave Episcopalians, it has been a great pleasure to find and settle into our new spiritual home, especially after meeting many old friends and mentors from earlier lives," says Betty. While joining in the life of the parish, she has been able to carry on with work that she was familiar with and to have new experiences and responsibilities. She has been extensively involved with the altar guild for over 18 years, sixteen of those years in a leadership position. She was a member of the worship committee when it was convened. In 2009, she completed The Education for Ministry course that was "the kick-start for more exploration of the liturgy and a spiritual journey that is continuing to be an important part of her life." Outside of parish life she served on the Board of Health in Orleans, and this has been a natural extension of her years as a public health nurse and college professor. Betty feels that at CHS, we have a rich, meaningful, and rewarding parish life that has brought her great satisfaction and a wonderful sense of community. She looks forward to the adventures that await us, while continuing the good work of our past.

Vestry

Carol Baffi-Dugan is nominated to serve a first two-year term. Carol was born and raised in the Roman Catholic church, and she and her husband raised their three children in the Catholic faith. She was quite involved -- as a lector, religious education teacher, and choir member, but she became more and more disillusioned with the Catholic church and began searching for a new spiritual home. Retiring to full-time living in Orleans just as the pandemic struck, she had to put that search on hold. She eventually found The Church of the Holy Spirit and joined us about 2 1/2 years ago. Carol says that it has been a joyous and enriching experience for her to become a part of this active, loving, and committed community. She feels that she is learning more how to live the message of the gospel, which is what she has been seeking. While she does not think she can contribute to the extent that some of our community members do, she has more to give and welcomes the opportunity to serve on the Vestry.

Vestry

William (Bill) Mason is nominated to serve a first two-year term. Feeling extremely honored to have been nominated for a position on the Vestry, Bill has been a public servant his entire adult life as a police officer for over 44 years, starting in Westminster, Colorado, for 29 years and completing his career in Harwich as their Chief for the last 15, retiring in 2015. During Bill's career, he served in virtually all aspects and ranks of law enforcement, including school resource officer, building three police facilities and consulting on twelve others, training, personnel, Emergency Management, administration, and budgets. He was honored to serve on the Independence House Board of Directors for six years. Upon moving to the Cape, Bill became a member of Christ Church Episcopal in Harwich Port, serving on the Vestry for four years, cooking for their soup kitchen, and teaching Sunday School. In 2012, he met his wife Linda and began attending The Church of the Holy Spirit with her and her parents, Richard and Joan Payne. Over the years, they have become increasingly involved with CHS. Bill tries to use his cooking skills and joy of talking to people to share God's love with others. He and Linda are avid campers, having traveled all over the United States and Canada with their dog Daisy.

Diocesan Convention/Deanery Delegate

Brenda Ridgeway is nominated to serve a first two-year term. Brenda has been an active member of The Church of the Holy Spirit since 2013 when she chose to worship with Brian, and they were married here shortly afterwards. Having taught English Language Arts in the Nauset Schools for many years, she retired eight years ago and quickly became a co-director of Food4Kids (with Anne Koehler). She served on Vestry for three years before becoming one of your wardens, having just stepped down last February. During those years, she has served on several committees as Vestry Liaison--Outreach, Creative Arts, and Buildings and Grounds. She has also led the Audio-Visual Team from filming our services on Zoom during Covid to our present YouTube model. Presently, she also serves on the Pastoral Care Committee, the Sustainability Committee, and as editor of *Together*. Brenda lives in Eastham with husband Brian and their golden retriever, Charlie. When not involved with church activities, they enjoy gardening, traveling, and spoiling their grandchildren. "I love The Church of the Holy Spirit and our family here. As I have become more involved in the life of this church, my faith has grown. I look forward to continuing my connections with the community at CHS."

Alternate Diocesan Convention/Deanery Delegate

Sue Sasso is nominated to serve a first two-year term. Sue's family began vacationing in Orleans in the 1950's and built a home in Orleans during the '70's. She and Jack married in 1984 and continued vacationing at their own home in Harwich. The Church of the Holy Spirit was her family's Cape Cod parish and became Jack's when we moved into her family's Orleans home full-time in 2004. As a child, she learned the importance of a family worshipping together and being involved in parish activities. Over the past 20 years, Sue has participated in Sunday Worship services as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister and Visitor, and Usher. She has led the Stewardship Committee, organized two auction fundraising events, led the Rummage Sale and Holiday Bazaar many years, been an active participant on the Holiday Arrangements team, and a Free Shop Volunteer. During the past five years, Sue has been a key member of the Galley West Art Gallery team. She helped CHS get \$200,000 grants from the Town of Orleans for the restoration of the historic gallery building and then developed the business procedures and protocols that support our successful community art gallery. She looks forward to being an alternate representative to the Cape and Islands Deanery and having a chance to be engaged with other parishes.