Meet the Nominees for Vestry

The members of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church will be electing five members to the Vestry at the Annual Meeting on January 27. Four members will each serve a three-year term, and one member will fill out the unexpired term of a departing Vestry member. 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.

KEVIN BORG: Kevin was born in Missoula and raised in the Nine Mile Valley west of town. He attended school in Missoula and graduated from Sentinel High School.

Kevin currently works for Missoula County in the Maintenance Department at the Fairgrounds. He also works for Roothead Studios mostly doing haunted houses. In his spare time Kevin sings with the group Empowered Voices.

Kevin was baptized and confirmed at Holy Spirit and helps with Buildings and Grounds and with decorating for Christmas.

TORIAN DONOHOE: Torian was born in Billings and raised on a working ranch at Limestone, Montana. The granddaughter of pioneer homesteaders, Torian attended a one-room country school for her first eight years of schooling.

Torian comes from a long line of Episcopalians and began attending St. Paul's of the Stillwater during grade school when she was confirmed. Torian has considered the Episcopal Church her spiritual home and has been a member of congregations on both the east and west coast and points in between.

She enjoyed a dynamic and exciting professional career including being a lobbyist for a nonprofit organization, working for the four Indian tribes with adjudicated fishing rights on the Columbia River, the Northwest Power Planning Council tasked with developing comprehensive energy, conservation and fisheries strategies for Oregon, WA, ID and MT, serving as a legislative attorney for former Congressman Pat Williams and former Senator Max Baucus, working in private practice and serving as the Chief Appellate Judge for the Chippewa Cree Tribe for 14 years.

Long active in the community, Torian has served on the boards of the Humane Society of Western Montana, the Missoula Food Bank, Montana PBS, the Montana Mental Health Association and provided pro bono services for low income individuals through Montana Legal Services Association and the Western Montana Bar Association. Torian received the State Bar of Montana's award for outstanding pro bono service.

Torian serves as an intercessor and lay Eucharistic minister as well as being on the Stewardship Committee. She is committed to insuring Holy Spirit remains a strong and vibrant place of worship.

MARVA GALLEGOS: Marva grew up in Miles City, Montana where she attended a Lutheran church. She came Missoula to attend the University of Montana and never left. While attending a friend's funeral at Holy Spirit, she felt she had found a church home. She was drawn to the openness and inclusivity of the church and its involvement with social issues.

Retiring after teaching elementary school for thirty-seven years, Marva was able to give more time to church activities. She has been a member of the Altar Guild for several years and serves on the Memorial/Reception Committee. She helps with the Holiday Market and Rummage Sale, this past year serving as chairperson of the Rummage Sale. While serving on the Vestry she would like to encourage the growth and continuation of these events.

JOCELYN SILER: Jocelyn was born in Brooklyn, New York, into the mixed marriage of a life-long Episcopalian mother and a doubting Lutheran father. As a young child she spent several years in West Virginia where her father was a hotel orchestra leader. The family attended Saint Thomas Church in White Sulphur Springs. The simple beauty of Saint Thomas and the warmth and vibrance of the church community and her parents' place in it became the foundation of Jocelyn's Christian faith.

The family returned to Brooklyn when Jocelyn was eight where they joined Christ Church. It was in Church School and Young People's Fellowship at Christ Church and in long conversations with her religiously sophisticated mother as a teenager that Jocelyn first began to explore theology in a formal way. After high school, she went to Wagner College, a Lutheran college on Staten Island, where she majored in philosophy with an emphasis in religion. At Wagner, she studied with Dr. Arne Unhjem, a religious philosopher who was both an ordained Lutheran minister and a Zen Buddhist. Jocelyn's study of eastern religions with Dr. Unhjem continues to have a lasting effect on her spiritual life.

In 1975 Jocelyn came to Missoula to go to grad school at U of M. After graduation she was offered a job in the English Department where she taught writing, literature and film until her retirement in 2012.

The Sunday after she moved to Missoula, Jocelyn was welcomed to her first service at Holy Spirit. From the beginning, there were so many rich sources of joy: teaching Church School when her children were young, being in Holy Spirit's inaugural EFM class (along with Doug and Judy and Myrna), serving on the board of the Ark at the university. With the exception of sabbatical years in Europe where she went to local and expat Anglican churches, the Holy Spirit community has been the center of her evolving religious life since January of 1975.

KENT WATSON: Kent was born in Livingston and raised in Yellowstone National Park where his father worked as a Park Ranger. He was baptized into the Episcopal Church at the Mammoth Chapel by the Rector of St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Livingston. When his dad was transferred to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, Kent attended N. C. State University and obtained his Bachelor of Landscape Architecture. He served in the U.S. Army in New York, Texas, and Korea.

Kent began his professional career in 1965 working first for a private firm, then a park district and a state agency in the San Francisco Bay Area. He opened Kent Watson & Associates, Landscape Architects, in San Francisco in 1980. As a conservation activist he met his wife, Margaret, in 1971 while volunteering for the Sierra Club where she worked. Kent and Margaret were members of the Grace Cathedral Parish. Daughter Abby was adopted as an infant in 1990 in West Virginia, Margaret's home state. Kent obtained his MLA degree from U.C./Berkeley in 1989.

Kent's love for his native Montana prompted relocation of the family to Missoula in 1994. They joined Holy Spirit soon after the move, and Kent joined the Choir. Kent enjoys the community of Holy Spirit and is particularly drawn to the music program. With his background in design, planning and construction he looks forward to supporting the parish as it looks to the future.