

## 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 26. 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.

**BARBARA BARMEYER:** Barbara grew up in post-war Missoula a non-churchgoing family. An avid reader as a child, she learned about churches from one of her storybooks and, at the age of 11, started walking on Sunday mornings down the neighborhood streets to services at Holy Spirit. In 1956 she was both baptized by then-rector “Mr. Bennett” and confirmed with Mrs. Bennett’s 7<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation Class. As a high school senior, she became a teacher in Holy Spirit’s Sunday School.

In 1964 with a newly minted BA in French Literature from Whitman College, Barbara and her also new minted husband David moved to Juneau, Alaska to teach school. Witnessing there firsthand the needs of the high school’s Native American students, she became an active member on the board of Juneau’s Teen-Age Club, a non-profit project most aptly described as a teenage “Poverello.”

In 1975 when David became the elementary school principal in Polson, Montana, Barbara became the unofficial surrogate Mom for the well-being of every kid in town. Thus, the summer day camps (with free lunch!) in Boettcher Park, the children’s Community Halloween Party (after the City Council banned door-to-door trick-or-treating), and with AAUW, the many girls’ advocacy programs in the schools.

In the Polson years, Barbara also served as the editor of the Yellow Bay Journal, the monthly scientific publication of the University of Montana’s Biological Station at Yellow Bay. Also

during the Polson years, Barbara was the administrative aide for the Foothills Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to spiritual counselling for health issues and addiction, heavily based on Christian Science.

Barbara moved back to Missoula (and to her beloved Holy Spirit) in 2002 to care for her aging mother and for the family’s aging property in Pattee Canyon.

At Holy Spirit she now helps facilitate our beautiful Compline service. She is looking forward to participating in our vital role as “God’s hands and feet in the world.”

**MARY BETH JOURDONNAIS:** Mary Beth was born and raised in Dillon and grew up attending St. James Episcopal Church where she was baptized, confirmed, and married. From the time she was ten, she spent part of every summer at Camp Marshall. She credits her time at camp as the building block for her faith. In college, she returned to Camp Marshall to work as a counselor and one summer, met Scott. After receiving her teaching degree from the University of Montana Western in 1991, she and Scott were married and lived in Helena where they attended St. Peter’s. They soon moved to Missoula and became members of Holy Spirit. She and Scott have three children – Nate, 22; Gabe, 19; and Hannah, 17.

Four years ago she received her Master’s degree in Integrated Arts and Education through the Creative Pulse at the University of Montana. Currently, Mary Beth teaches Kindergarten at Hawthorne Elementary and has taught there for 28 years. At Holy Spirit, she enjoys playing the guitar for Sunday School and in the last year has helped to coordinate the acolyte schedule. While serving on the Vestry, she hopes to continue the good work of the current Vestry and to give more to the church that has given her so much.

**JEFFREY SERVISS:** Jeff was born and raised in Missoula and is a graduate of the University of Montana. While he was growing up, Jeff’s family attended the Methodist church, usually at Easter and Christmas. Jeff’s life changed when he met the love of his life and soulmate Elizabeth while attending UM. Jeff and Elizabeth set out to find a spiritual home. After attending services at several Missoula churches, they went to Holy Spirit and knew they had found a home. The members at Holy Spirit were

welcoming, and the Episcopal Theology resonated with their beliefs. Jeff and Elizabeth were baptized and confirmed at Holy Spirit and in 1988 were married by Father Steve Oreskovich. Our five children have grown up in the community of Holy Spirit.

Jeff taught in Church School for several years when his children were younger and has been serving as a Lector and Eucharistic Minister for nine years. He also served on the Hellgate High School Research Team when HSP was discerning ways to develop our relationship with Hellgate High School. Jeff's professional background includes working as a small business owner in the building trades and as a quality assurance inspector for the hotel industry. He is currently employed at Big Sky High School as Activity Coordinator and has a part-time job with the Human Resource Council as a Housing Inspector.

Jeff is looking forward to serving Holy Spirit as a Vestry Member.

**CAITLIN SHERMAN:** Caitlin was born in Missoula and grew up in the Target Range area. After graduating from Big Sky and the University of Montana she eventually found an accounting job for a local HVAC and plumbing company. She was baptized and confirmed at Holy Spirit and has served as an acolyte for the last ~17 years before joining her mother on Altar Guild for the last 3 years.

**CLEM WORK:** Clem Work was born in Mexico City and lived mostly overseas until age 12 as the stepson of a virus researcher. He graduated from Stanford University in 1966 with a degree in political science and international relations, served in the U.S. Marine Corps and earned a law degree in 1975. Clem worked as a reporter and editor in California, Colorado and at U.S. News & World Report in Washington, D.C. before coming to Missoula in 1990 to teach journalism and media law at UM until 2014. He directed the J-School's graduate program for a number of years. His 2005 book, *Darkest Before Dawn: Sedition and Free Speech in the American West*, led to the posthumous pardons of 78 persons convicted of criticizing the government during World War I. Since retiring from the J-School, Clem has been active with refugee resettlement in Missoula, tutors English learners at MCPS and is also a founding member of SALAM (Standing Alongside America's Muslims). He is a longtime member and former co-

chair of the Social Concerns Committee and serves as an usher. He led two Holy Spirit teacher-training missions to Myanmar in 2015 and 2018. Clem's wife, Lucia, is also a former journalist. They have three children, Cecily, Alyssa, and Brendan, and six grandchildren.