

Vestry Nominations for 2016

Melissa Bacon



Melissa Bacon is a cradle Episcopalian. Her commitments to the churches she has attended include: Youth and Children's Ministries Director, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Sunday School teacher, and membership in the order of the Daughters of the King. Melissa is a writer, photographer and statistician. She loves to read, travel, and spend time with her husband John and 15 year-old son, Miller. The Bacons have been attending St. Luke's for 2 years. Melissa has a passion of growing the Youth and Children's ministries at St. Luke's. She brings much experience in organizing and developing new programs.

George Collins

My name is George Collins. My wife M'Liss and I are blessed to have found St. Luke's two years ago, it has been a spiritual reawakening. We typically attend the 8 am service, so we are one of "those" 8 o'clockers. We have three grown children and it's with great joy that our daughter Ashley was recently wed at St. Luke's by Father Carey.

My entire work history is financial related, the day after high school I started in banking for 7 years, 13 years in banking software management, and the last 22 years in starting and operating our garden centers and landscape company. I have also served on several nonprofit boards. M'Liss and I also dedicate time when able to the front garden beds at St. Luke's.

I want to be more involved in "Our Church" and felt serving on the vestry would be a good use of my skills.



Jacob Flippin



Jacob was born in Altus AFB, Oklahoma. His hometown is Flippin, Arkansas (and, yes, the town is named after his family). He graduated from Yellville-Summit High School in May 2003, attended Arkansas Tech University and will be going back to school soon to complete his degree. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in 2007, and spent his basic training/tech school at San Antonio, Texas. He was stationed the rest of my time at Holloman AFB, New Mexico. Jacob deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (Iraq) as a Detention officer and then again in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) as a flight line/supply aircraft security officer. He separated from the service after six years and is now a disabled veteran.

After the military, he was as an operations manager for a valet company. Currently, he has been with the Social Security Administration as a Service Representative.

Jacob was raised in the Church of Christ. In college he joined a Presbyterian Church before discovering Catholicism before becoming a Catholic. Coming out was a turning point in his life, and with this, decided to leave the Catholic Church.

After Jacob moved back to Arkansas, he looked up St. Luke's and saw that it had a music program and decided to try it out one Sunday. After that he was hooked. He joined the Church shortly thereafter and soon became a full-fledged Episcopalian.

Rita Friend

I am Rita Friend, a native of North Little Rock. Before joining St. Luke's, I was a member of a local church in NLR. I served two separate terms on the church board, and was chairperson of the Evangelism Ministry. I also created the Heart to Heart Ministry and served as chair for two years. While living in Sheridan, AR, I served as board president at Sheridan First Christian Church. I am currently on St. Luke's Altar Guild, enrolled in EFM, and a candidate for DOK. I am an educator at Carver Magnet Elementary School where I teach fifth grade. At the end of this school year, I will turn in my whistle and pencil sharpener to pursue new adventures in the "world of retirement." I look forward to spending more time with my family, friends, and church.



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Mark Holst

Born in Ogden, Utah I grew up there and spent about a third of my life there. During this time I was graduated from Ben Lomond High School and later from Weber State University with a degree in Business Management, a Minor in Banking and Finance and an associate degree in Computer Science. Also, while living in Ogden, I grew up in the Episcopal Religion and was a member of The Church of the Good Shepherd. While a member I served as an acolyte, taught Sunday school and was active in the church sponsored Boy Scout Troop. While attending church I met Rae and was married in that church in 1965 by the Priest who had introduced us. We have a Son and Daughter along with four Grandchildren. After being graduated we moved from Ogden to pursue my new career in the hotel business.



We left Ogden and moved to Tacoma, WA, to New Orleans, LA, to Birmingham, AL and finally to North Little Rock, AR. During this time I managed hotels along with being active in the industry by being involved in Human Resources, A Quality of Work Life Program, mediating Employee Engagement Surveys, counseling, served as President of the Arkansas Lodging Association, served on the Board of Directors for the American Hotel & Lodging Association, was a member of the North Little Rock Advertising and Promotion Commission. Upon moving to North Little Rock we joined St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

While at St. Luke's I became involved in being a LEM, helped start the Home Visitors Program (taking Communion to those who cannot make it to church), served two terms on the Vestry, led two pledge drives, conducted Morning Prayer, and have participated in various other activities.

I retired in October 2015 and my travel obligations during the week are no longer a factor in pursuing other activities. With this in mind, I would welcome the opportunity to get more involved at St. Luke's and feel it an honor to serve on the Vestry again.

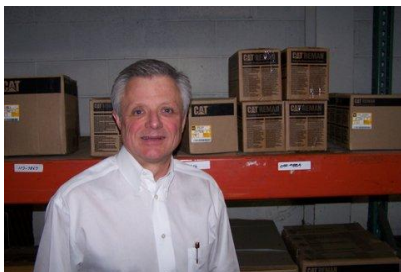
Nelson Van Reid

I have been asked by several different members to consider being on the Vestry, so I decided to go ahead and accept the nomination. I have been on numerous committees and work groups at my former church, Sheridan First Methodist, and I am presently on the grounds committee at St. Luke's. I am glad to help out with most anything, especially when it comes to physical labor type things, such as repairs and yard work. I am presently serving in the choir also, as music adds so much to my worship experience. I am also on the Board of Visitors at Camp Mitchell.

St. Luke's makes me feel very much at home, so I'm planning on being around a good while.



Dennis Terry



Dennis grew up in North Little Rock with his 3 brothers living in Lakewood. He graduated from NLR in 1967 and U of A in 1973. He went to OCS and served 7 years in the Marine Corps. After service, he worked 34 years for Ryder and Caterpillar in several states. Dennis is married to Sharon, and they have 3 daughters. He retired and moved back to NLR in 2014. He was raised in the Catholic Church, but didn't agree with the Church in several areas. Over the years, he attended Baptist and Church of Christ, but did not feel at home with them. His brother James Terry began telling him about St Luke's 5 years ago.

When we moved here, he came to service at St Luke's and really liked the sincerity and friendliness of the people. He couldn't be happier spiritually. He enjoys being involved with Brotherhood of St Andrew and Building and Grounds and will do anything to further the success of our wonderful St Luke's.