



Get to know the Vestry nominees in this special edition of the Shepherd's Tales.

Ms. Cheney Baltz

"We must delight in each other, make each other's conditions our own, rejoice together, mourn together, labor and suffer together, always having before our eyes our commission and community in the work, our community as members of the same body." – Gov. John Winthrop

I was baptized in 1966 at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Ruxton, Md. My family had a brief fling with the Lutheran church during my teen years, but I returned to the Episcopal Church in my 20s. Bruce and I were married in the Episcopal Church, and all my children were baptized in Episcopal churches.

I stood before you three weeks ago to publicly confirm my belief in Christianity and the Episcopal Church. It was an important moment in my life, and I thank you, my parish family, for sharing it with me.

Choosing one favorite Bible verse is next to impossible. But I can share two that guide me, particularly in my work with Angel Food and my daily life: "What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." *James 2:14-17* "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as you love yourself." *Luke 10:27*

If I am chosen to serve on the vestry, I will bring you my time, organizational skills, and ability (honed during my years as a journalist) to be fair and listen to opposing views. I believe in an open church, where everyone feels included, where everyone has a purpose and is made joyful.

I feel very strongly that our church needs better communication, that we must bring the children back to Good Shepherd, and that we should keep expanding our outreach.

I would be pleased to serve on any of the Vestry committees. Several months ago, I presented to Father Robert a proposal for a communications director, which is summed up in the Hospitality & Concierge committee (formerly Evangelism). That may be where my talents would best be used, although I would work hard wherever you placed me.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mr. Charles Crittendon

I was born in Anderson, South Carolina to Frank and Mary Crittendon. I was educated in the Hart County Georgia school system. After graduation I enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served for four years as a Hospital Corpsman with the U.S. Marine Corps. I served in Alaska for a year, and I was fortunate to attend the University of Alaska. After being honorably discharged in 1972 I attended Emmanuel College where I studied elementary education. I also studied Management for a year at Greenville Technical College, and received certification from Maynard Research Council.

After graduation I entered the work force as a manager trainee with United Merchants and Manufactures. I worked in Textiles for more than thirty years and have managed plants in both North and South Carolina. My wife is a strong Southern Baptist who is originally from Calhoun Falls, South Carolina. I have four Children: Christopher, Kelly, Carey, and Claudia. I have seven grandchildren: Audra, Charles Jesse, Taylor, Tyler, Gabriella, Gabriel, and Rayna.

1. Do you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? What does this mean to you?

I do accept Jesus Christ as my Savior. I came to Christ as a child. The Gospel is very important to me, and I want our church to follow biblical teachings.

(Charles Crittendon)

2. Do you have a favorite Bible verse that guides your life, or would guide your service on the Vestry?

1 Corinthians: Chapter 12; verse 4 through 11

In these verses Paul talks about gifts and how God uses different gift for the common good. I pray that God will use my modest gifts in the vestry.

3. Why do you feel the Lord is calling you to serve on the Vestry?

No one can absolutely be sure that the Lord is really calling, but I have deep feelings that He is. I have prayed if it's not His will I will not be elected. I love the Church, and it is major part of my life. I want the church to grow and become a beacon for our town and a place that anyone will feel welcome to come and worship. I want to serve the Lord anyway that I can, and maybe serving Gods people is what He wants.

4. What gifts do you feel you would bring to the Vestry?

I have thirty five years of management experience in textiles and in the steel industry. I graduated from a Christian College, where bible studies were part of curriculum. I have attended The Episcopal Church for the past sixteen years, here and at St Georges in Anderson, S.C. Before attending the Episcopal Church I attended Catholic services and study the Catholic history and catechism. I love our church.

5. Which committee do you think would best benefit from the gifts you bring, and why?

Would it not be better for other members of the vestry to recommend which committees or where my talents would be best used? I have only a desire to serve.

6. *The spiritual growth and vitality of the congregation requires a unity of headship committed to the mission of the Gospel and the common good of the body of Christ. In what fashion do you relate this statement to our life at the Good Shepherd?*

We must stay true to the Gospel of Christ. The teachings of Christ and the apostles give us instructions on every question that comes. Church history and biblical teachings need to be a guide.

Ms. Jeanne Meyers Ferguson

I was born December 7, 1940 in Allegheny County Virginia but lived in West Virginia until college age.

Graduate of Winthrop University with a BA in Fine Art. Married to Tracy Ferguson, Jr. (York native) and have 3 married children who all reside in York. We also have 3 young grandsons.

I have had an active interest in many community projects, especially those concerning downtown, tourism and the like. I currently serve on the boards of Nationford Land Trust and the York County Community Foundation. I am past chair of York County Forever, a county commission promoting land conservation and open space. My hobbies are reading, cooking, historic preservation and related subjects. I have restored several homes in the historic district.

I am a life long Episcopalian and have attended Good Shepherd for 47 years. During this time I have served the church in many different ways including the vestry. I have been Jr. Warden several times (3), and served on the building committee. I was co-founder of the Summerfest Antique Show and chairman of the Garden Tour last spring. I currently am co-chair of the Altar Guild and a member of the Broiderer's Guild.

There are many issues in the church today that are important to the future of our parish. I am attaching a letter that I wrote to the vestry that in part explains how I feel about some of these issues. In response to the questionnaire given to the vestry candidates, I will briefly state that I feel it is important live our Baptismal covenant, not only by saying the words but to truly attempt to live by example. Few succeed but it is important to try. I believe that "to whom much is given, much is expected" and it is important to be a contributing member, not just an observer, in all aspects of life in general.

My interests are pretty well known in the parish and they are in the areas of building and grounds, the Altar Guild and generally promoting our good name in the community. I have also served on the Worship committee in the past. I think the vestry should work together for the common good of the parish. I believe issues should be dealt with openly and in a direct manner with straightforward questions and answers. Then move on to the next project. I do not expect a consensus on every question and an occasional diversity of opinion helps keep everyone honest. Just how I feel about diversity is

(Jeanne Ferguson)

pretty well stated in the attached letter. I love Good Shepherd and it would be an honor to once more serve on the vestry if you so choose.

To the Vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd

I will be out of town on the date of the vestry meeting so I am addressing you by letter.

Our church is in a state of “turmoil” both nationally and locally for many reasons. Some say the current crisis is because of the actions taken at the General Convention. This is not the first, nor will it be the last time that actions taken at that gathering will be controversial. Many of these issues are not going to “go away” and must sooner or later be dealt with by all denominations, not just Episcopalians.

In my mind it probably began with the approval of the “new” prayer book in the mid-seventies, the ordination of women and the advent of sexual politics within the church at that time. Whatever the reasons, while we, as Christians, have great cause for concern because of the resulting dissention, we also have great opportunities to grow spiritually and to take the “higher road” during this time.

My reason for this letter is to state that I believe that we, as children of God should strive to a higher kindness and forgiving love for one another. When I was confirmed, as most 12 year olds were at that time, it was an exciting time, full of promises of a lifetime commitment to the church. It was awe inspiring to me, at that time, to be part of a body that encompassed so many opinions and ideas and at the same time did not condemn those with views different from ours. I still feel that way today.

My commitment to the Episcopal Church remains firm. I do not think our local church should have to make any hard and fast decisions as to where we stand concerning the general convention, as we were actually part of that process. It hurts me to see and feel our congregation estranged and being pulled in so many directions. We gather together as a congregation to worship God and that should be our goal. Those unable to reconcile the actions of the general convention may have to make some personal decisions as to which direction to take but I, for one, plan to remain in the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina as I happily have for the past 47 years.

Mr. Rick Norment



I have been a member of Good Shepherd for 8 years. My lovely wife Phillips and I have been married for fifteen years and we have a six year old son, Walt. My lifelong vocation is that of a carpenter and I have been employed by the Charlotte Mecklenburg Board of Education for over thirty years and currently serve as a Department Head and Project Manager. I am a native Charlottean and have lived in South Carolina for over 20 years. My interests include gardening, cooking, art, and I am an avid reader.

Parish/Diocesan Experience

- Usher
- Chalice Bearer
- Vestry Member
- Acolyte
- Diocesan Convention/Convocation Delegate
- Licensed Lay Eucharist Minister
- **Safe Church** Certified
- Vacation Bible School Teacher
- Parish Bible Study Participant

Community Experience

- Clover Park and Rec. Baseball Coach
- Boy Scout Troop 237 Adult Partner
- Frequent Volunteer at Gaston Day School

(Rick Norment)

1. Do you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? What does this mean to you?

Yes. This means to me that I recognize and realize the great gift that has been bestowed upon me through Jesus' sacrificing himself on the cross for my sins. Even though it is offered freely, it came through the great cost of untold suffering. Because of this, it holds with it the monumental responsibility of service to God through Worship, adherence to standards set forth in the Word, and love of one's fellow man following the example set by Jesus.

2. Do you have a favorite Bible verse that guides your life, or would guide your service on the Vestry?

Luke 11:9 has always been a source of inspiration for me. "And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." I think this applies to all things in life especially the quest we all have as to our calling and God's mission for us. Asking God to guide you, seeking to listen when he is talking to you and knocking on the door for him to let you be of service to him is the way I have been successful in dealing with every aspect of my life, and would be the process I would use to help me deal with issue discussions and responsibilities that must be faced and discerned during the important mission of being a leader by example in God's Church.

3. Why do you feel the Lord is calling you to serve on the Vestry?

To not only come to church to worship and give thanks, but to be an active participant in focusing the mission of the church, in spreading the gospel, caring for the members of the parish, and to identify the most feasible ways to utilize our available resources to the fullest extent in accomplishing these goals. The Lord has called because I am listening, listening with an open heart for him to use me to help in his work in any way he feels would best enable me to grow spiritually by serving others.

4. What gifts do you feel you would bring to the Vestry?

I have over thirty years experience resolving issues through setting priorities. I understand that the common good of the whole has to be maintained, while taking into account compassion for the individual. Most times there can be resolution through thoughtful consideration and communication with each other. I have in my work experience managed large and small construction projects, ongoing building maintenance programs, and supervision over large groups of employees. I currently manage numerous trades in the upkeep of 20+ million square feet of building space as well as five thousand acres of land. I also am responsible for large budgets pertaining to Operation as well as Capital needs. I have knowledge, participation, and faith in a variety of team building and decision by committee techniques and processes. I would feel blessed to offer these as a gift to God and our parish with full knowledge that business tools can be very effective, but our mission is to Worship and spread the Gospel through works and example.

5. Which committee do you think would best benefit from the gifts you bring, and why?

During my short stint filling in for a former vestry member I inherited the responsibility of liaison for Christian Formation. I assisted with Vacation Bible School, Sunday School for children and am currently in the process of organizing the Christmas Pageant. I have enjoyed and learned much and would like to carry on these responsibilities in the future. I possess organizational skills from my work experience and find them to be an asset for this calling. I especially enjoy the children's portion of this committee, as I have a six year old who is very active in the parish, as well as my wife, who also enjoys participating in assisting with these programs.

6. *The spiritual growth and vitality of the congregation requires a unity of headship committed to the mission of the Gospel and the common good of the body of Christ.* In what fashion do you relate this statement to our life at the Good Shepherd?

I would liken this statement to a group discussion with BP Harris on his recent visit. He gave the great example of imagining the diverse group that Christ called to surround him as disciples. Could one imagine them as being so much different than the people in a parish or in a headship group such as a Vestry? Surely they, as well as we, had and have different thoughts, experiences, and opinions that shape us as children of God. We should use their example of the need to be guided by Christ as we go about dealing and discussing with each other the many mysteries of life and our inability to understand them. The congregation looks to the headship to keep the focus of the Parish on worship and guidance through prayer, and on ways to spread the Gospel through deeds, works and example. The example of the headship must not lose focus on this and must put their differences aside, show unity, and speak not as individuals, but as "One in Christ" to the congregation.

Ms. Connie Salisbury

Tyler and I built our dream home in McConnell over two years ago. We have been members of Good Shepherd since June 2007. I was born in Iowa where my family lives. I have 2 daughters and a son. I am blessed with 3 beautiful grandchildren. I have an associate degree in accounting. My job was eliminated this year and I am searching for a payroll position. I am active in ECW and the Angel Food program. I enjoy working in the yard, Redskin Football, Baseball, NASCAR and Cal Ripken! I love to bake. Brownies are a favorite for Angel Food helpers.

1. Do you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? What does this mean to you?

I have always accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. It means to me that when I have a difficult situation in life to deal with I am not alone. I try to remember he is always with me if I keep faith.

2. Do you have a favorite Bible verse that guides your life, or would guide your service on the Vestry?

Hebrew 13:5-6 “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you. So we say with confidence, The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”

3. Why do you feel the Lord is calling you to serve on the Vestry?

My commitment to the church and for my spiritual growth.

4. What gifts do you feel you would bring to the Vestry?

My compassion, service and leadership skills.

5. Which committee do you think would best benefit from the gifts you bring, and why?

ECW - Continue spiritual growth of our church women

Parish Life – Fellowship for Parishioners

Worship – My leadership skills to assist the various worship groups with their tasks

6. *The spiritual growth and vitality of the congregation requires a unity of headship committed to the mission of the Gospel and the common good of the body of Christ.* In what fashion do you relate this statement to our life at the Good Shepherd?

The church community must be unified for the spiritual growth and vitality of the congregation. It provides us fellowship with our church family. Our parishioners are dealing with tough economic times, job losses and a country at war. We have conflict within our own church. We need to find a way to reach out more – support groups- family get together. I realize today everyone is busy and it is hard to find time. But it is our faith that gets us thru it and what better way than at Good Shepherd. Let’s come together to face life’s adversities as church family.

Ms. Debbie Shiflet

I was born in Winston Salem, NC the third of six children. At a young age I moved to Ninety Six, SC where I had a happy childhood with my entire family and across the pond from my grandparents. After high school I was trained as a Respiratory Therapy Technician. I have worked in hospitals and doctor offices and in the accounting department of a school district. I have been married to John Shiflet for forty years. Virtually all our married life has been spent on the campuses of children’s homes. We have two children and six grandchildren. John and I both were raised in the Baptist Church and were confirmed together as Episcopalians in 2003.

1. Do you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? What does this mean to you?

Yes I accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. This means my life is His.

2. Do you have a favorite Bible verse that guides your life, or would guide your service on the Vestry?

Micah 6:8

3. Why do you feel the Lord is calling you to serve on the Vestry?

Often in my life Christ has spoken to me through other people.

4. What gifts do you feel you would bring to the Vestry?

The gifts of service , hospitality, and encouragement.

(Debbie Shiflet)

5. Which committee do you think would best benefit from the gifts you bring, and why?

Parish Life and Finance.

6. The spiritual growth and vitality of the congregation requires a unity of headship committed to the mission of the Gospel and the common good of the body of Christ. In what fashion do you relate this statement to our life at the Good Shepherd?

Currently, I do not feel this congregation is unified.

Mr. Meade Wilson



I have been a member of Good Shepherd since moving here in June, 1994. My wife, Barbara, and I are “cradle” Episcopalians who have been married for 39 years. My family has been active in the Episcopal Church since it began; you might say that it is a family tradition. There are former Bishops in Barbara’s family and mine. We have a grown son and daughter who are married with two children each.

I have been a Realtor for the last 7 years. Before becoming a Realtor I was a sales and marketing executive in the textile industry for 28 years. During that time I lived and worked in Charlotte, NC; Murfreesboro, TN; Valdosta, GA. and traveled throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Prior to our relocation here I served on Vestries at our parishes in Murfreesboro and Valdosta where I was the Stewardship Chairman and Sunday school teacher. During those years Barbara and I were active in Cursillo in the Dioceses of Georgia and Tennessee. We are also graduates of the Education for Ministry Program (EFM) from St. Luke’s Episcopal Seminary at the University of The South. Over the last 15 years I have served this parish as a Sunday school teacher, Chalice Bearer, Lector, Vestry Person, Junior Warden, and Senior Warden.

For the last 39 months I have served our Diocese as a member of the Diocesan Executive Committee and Standing Committee. The “DEC” as it is called is like the Vestry of the Diocese. The Standing Committee is like a Board of Trustees. While serving on the DEC I have also served as Co-Chair of the Commission on Congregations. That Commission is responsible for the overall welfare of the 62 congregations of our Diocese. My term on the DEC and the Commission on Congregations will be completed at the end of 2009. I was also a founding Trustee for The Palisades Episcopal School and just rotated off of that Board.

1. Do you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? What does this mean to you?

Yes. I do believe that Jesus Christ is my Savior and that he is the son of God and the head of the Church. I firmly believe that Jesus should be the head of our congregation and that each Vestry person should ask themselves the following question whenever they are prayerfully considering a decision for the benefit of the congregation. “What is Jesus calling me to do?”

2. Do you have a favorite Bible verse that guides your life, or would guide your service on the Vestry?

Not really. I have ADD and that makes it very difficult for me to recall specific verses of the Bible or memorize them. I am an EFM graduate and I have read the entire Bible several times in my life. Over the years I have come to rely on my understanding of the Gospels as a guide to help me live my life.

3. Why do you feel the Lord is calling you to serve on the Vestry?

I have had the opportunity to serve on other Vestries and Mission Councils in two other states and Dioceses over the last 33 years. As you know, I have served on the Vestry of this parish in the past as well as the DEC. I think God is calling me to serve on our Vestry because of my previous service to this Parish and Diocese.

4. What gifts do you feel you would bring to the Vestry?

I think that our parish is in conflict and is presently at a cross roads in its history. I have had experience with congregations that were in conflict and I think that my past experience and leadership gifts are needed at this time in the life of our congregation.

(Meade Wilson)

5. Which committee do you think would best benefit from the gifts you bring, and why?

I would like to serve on the Parish Life committee. I think that I have gifts in hospitality and making people feel comfortable. I also believe that I could work with that committee to help build a stronger sense of community in our congregation.

6. *The spiritual growth and vitality of the congregation requires a unity of headship committed to the mission of the Gospel and the common good of the body of Christ. In what fashion do you relate this statement to our life at the Good Shepherd?*

In my 15 years as a member of this congregation I have waited for our leadership to formulate a sense of mission and build a consensus or long range plan of who we are, where are we going, and how can we strengthen our spiritual lives so that we can go out into our community and spread the Gospel. I think if we don't develop a "plan for ministry" to each other then how can we possibly be "committed to the mission of the Gospel and the common good of the body of Christ?"

The Healthy Church Initiative is an excellent tool to help our congregation learn who we are and whose we are. If we don't know the answers to those questions and have a common vision of how we are going to get there then we will never be able to live out our faith to each other or other people in our community.

Annual Parish Meeting

Annual Parish Meeting

The annual parish meeting will be **January 17, 2009** immediately after the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist in York. We will elect three members to the Vestry as well as receive reports from the various committees and program groups of the church. Other business relevant to our common life as a congregation will also be presented. All members who are adult communicants of this church, and have regularly attended the Church of the Good Shepherd for three months, shall be Voting Members. **Please have all committee reports in to the office by December 31. You may e-mail your report to sherryramsey@goodshep.net.**

Stewardship Committee

PLEASE - REMEMBER

Please be faithful to Good Shepherd Church with a pledge this year and do it now. Our economic situation is taking its toll. We need to pay salaries and we need to pay expenses, which are going up. It is so much better to be able to plan and count on income through pledges. So far, the number participating is too low. We need you and we all need each other.

Parish News

Calling All Angels

The Angel Tree for clients of York Adult Day Center is in the parish hall. Each angel on the tree has a client's number and some suggested gift items for that person. **Please return your wrapped gift, with angel attached, to the parish hall by Sunday, December 13.** Thank you so much for your loving and generous support of the clients at York Adult Day Center. We appreciate everything you do for us.

Chrismon Tree

The Chrismon Tree will be set up on Saturday, **December 19** at 9am. No helpers will be turned away! We always need some men to climb the ladders for lighting as well as reaching those high branches. If you would like more information contact Karen Ellison at 803-684-5552.

Christmas Pageant

The children of Good Shepherd will be featured in a traditional Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve at 6:15 pm. Please join us for this joyous event. See you there.

Angel Food Ministries

Order Deadline: **December 7**
Distribution Day: **December 19** 12:30-1:30 pm
at Good Shepherd

Volunteers are needed for Distribution Day and should report to the parish hall at noon.

Broiderer's Guild News

Six needle pointers met in the parlor on November 9. We worked diligently with no interruptions for a couple of hours. New needle pointer, Wanda McCorkle, has mastered the basket weave. Her sample of work was practically perfect. We will meet again on **December 14** at 10:00 a.m.

Altar Guild News

All Altar Guild members are asked to help set up for Christmas after church on **December 20**.

Worship & Study Opportunities

Sundays

The Holy Eucharist
8:00 a.m. (*Lake Wylie*)
10:30 a.m. (*York*)

Christian Education
9:30 a.m. for Everyone

Wednesdays

11:00 a.m. Healing Service (*Parlor*)

Saturdays

5:00 p.m. The Holy Eucharist

Christmas Eve Services

4:00 p.m. The Holy Eucharist (*Lake Wylie*)
6:15 p.m. Christmas Pageant (*York*)
7:00 p.m. Family Service (*York*)
10:30 p.m. Choral Prelude (*York*)
11:00 p.m. Christmas Mass (*York*)



Prayer Concerns

We continue to pray for the Episcopal Church.

We pray for the Sick, especially for....

Billie Gabbitas, Emily House, Sylvia Noble, Patricia Rice, Bettie Matthews, Sarah Waring, Glenn Garrison, Martha Garrison, Sue Franklin, Pat Ford, Eula Mosley, BJ Landers, Sherry Carter, Dot Hunter, Jack Devinney, Phyllis Paden-Adams, Landon Pertuset, Yoland Burton, Nita Callaham, Judi Smith, Roy Critcher, Gary Maynard, Stan Burrous, Donna Capell, Glen London, Mary Dubin, Frank Shields

We pray for the Shut-ins, especially for....

Bee Decker, Elsie Castle, Margie Miller, Mamie Miller

We pray for the men and women serving in our military, especially for....

Geoffrey Gibson, Jonathan Morrison, William Stanley, John Kerns, Paul Mishoe, Mario Fonseca, Tiffany Eakin, Brian Carnes, Michael Moss, Robin Knowles

We pray for those with special needs, especially for....

York Place Board, Staff and Children, Pat Speck, Diane Linkous, The London Family, Jeff Burton, Jack Burton, Eileen Crichter, Raynor Moore, PATH and PATH Board, Emily Hollars & Family, Lynda Howie Lovelace

Monthly Meetings

The ECW Meets in the Parlor on
December 2 at 6:30p.m.

The Vestry Meets at 7:00pm on
December 19.

January 17: Annual Parish Mtg.

January 19: Vestry Mtg. 7:00pm

January 22 & 23: Vestry Retreat

January 24: Vestry Installation



Things in General

Church Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The church office is closed on Fridays.
This is the Rector's day off.

Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. Bulletin Deadline
20th of Each Month Newsletter Deadline



“The Good Lord Willing”

Betty Jane & Sandy Howie invite you
to join them in celebration of their
60th Wedding Anniversary on December 20 in
the Parish House from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

No gifts, please.
Light lunch will be served.
Regrets only. 684-4113

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December 2009