

Mr. Nealssohn then outlined eligibility as follows:

Candidate's must be an "**Adult Communicant in Good Standing**" of Christ Church; that is, a Communicant "who for the previous year has been:

- Faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented,
- Faithful in working
- Faithful in praying
- Faithful in giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God

Mr. Nealssohn then outlined the change in the by-laws made at the special parish meeting on October 14th which included the movement of a five (5) person slate from the nominating committee, and the continuation of the opportunity for write-in nominations. The committee provided their listing to the Rector who then called seven (7) people to get five candidates. The reason given for not accepting by the two candidates respectively were: I am not called to be on the Vestry, and I would prefer to wait another year.

Appointment of Head Teller:

Father Drew called Betsy Creedon, Sr. Warden as the Judge of Elections under the by-laws. Ms. Creedon, as Judge of Elections then appointed Geri Touscany and Sandy Walters as Co-Head Tellers for the Vestry Election.

Introduction of Vestry Nominees:

Ms. Creedon introduced the candidates presented by the Nominating Committee and recognized that we have received a nomination by petition, nominating Helen Santiz for election to the Vestry.

Therefore, we have six candidates standing for election:

The nominees for the Vestry are as follows:

- Richard Best
- Steve Fehniger
- Polly Ledyard
- Helen Santiz
- Beverly Curtis Walsh
- Butch Wardwell

Ms. Creedon noted, that since we have six candidates, we would have a ballot vote. Ms. Creedon asked the Tellers to pass out the ballots. Ms. Creedon reminded everyone that the rules for voting remain the same as past years. You must vote for 5 and only 5 nominees to have your ballot count. If you vote for less than five or more than five your ballot will be disqualified.

Recognition of Written Reports

Father Drew thanked all involved in Ministry and recognized the written reports in the annual report. Father Drew highlighted that all the work of the church can only be done with support of the volunteer work that supports each Ministry.

Senior Warden Comments

Ten years ago, on January 25th, 2009, I addressed our congregation as Senior Warden – with my report at the annual meeting. It had been a year of contrasts, as I pointed out. My term ran in 2008 – remember that year? We had challenges, triumphs and loss. I concluded my remarks as follows.

I asked, “How do we sustain each other; care for one another; celebrate life together?” And I answered as follows:

We weed and dust together.

We worship, pray and study together.

We make a joyful noise unto the Lord. We teach our children, and they teach us.

We stitch comforting teddy bears, listen as Stephen Ministers, and help each other through times of difficult transitions. We set God’s table with reverence, surround it with beautiful flowers and offer healing prayers.

We enlighten through the beauty of our stained-glass windows and the sermons of our preachers. We walk to alleviate hunger and find a cure for cancer. We bless pets of every variety and we are going green to be good stewards of the earth.

We support the cycle of life as we reaffirm our baptismal vows with the newly baptized, stand witness to the commitment of love between two people, watch our children become full members of the church at confirmation, and celebrate the lives of friends and loved ones who have died.

We greet friends and strangers alike, and usher folks to their seats. We experience the Bible again for the first time, engage the Word, and have conversations about stewardship.

We look outside our immediate parish family to embrace our partnership with Church of the Messiah, feed the hungry at Crossroads, help hurricane Katrina survivors rebuild in New Orleans.

Our youth group fed us breakfast and granted micro-loans through KIVA. We enjoy Soaring Sounds in Sacred Places and serve the Diocese in various ways.

We come together on Tuesdays, have adventures on Wholly Wednesdays, and gather for prayer, silence and inner reflection on Thursdays. We meet in small groups, dine with our Foyer Groups, and worship together at 5:30, 8:00, 9:00 and 11:15.

We do all of this and more. And, in all that we do, we are supported by a dedicated and faithful staff. We are a community of faith, in relationship with God and Jesus Christ – and each other.

We are rich in talent, spirit, and love.

Thank you for all that you do and the promise of what is to come. I can't wait to see what comes next.

Well, *Next* is here and it has been good, very good. We have weathered a lot of storms in the past ten years and here we are. In my address I noted that the Vestry “pondered changing the Vestry election process to bring to the All Parish Meeting.” Take note of the word “pondered.” Well, ten years later we got the job done and cleaned up our By-Laws in the process. It took a lot of research, expert advice from our Bishop’s office, the Presiding Bishop’s office and our Chancellor; hard work from a diligent Task Force; and faithful and heartfelt discernment on the part of your Vestry. A parishioner came to me after last year’s annual meeting and said, “Just fix it.” Personally, I pushed to have it done by June. But your Vestry said, Slow down Betsy, we have more to talk about. And so, we did and then we brought our recommendation to you – and you listened and supported our work. This meeting is the first test of our new way of doing things – I think it’s going pretty well. Thank you for having faith in us.

We worked really hard to end 2008 with a balanced budget. No joke, there were no funds from our endowment that year. I remember clearly. Jean Redfield was our treasurer and she delivered the news in June. Well, against all odds we did end with a balanced budget. It wasn’t pretty, but we did it.

And we are doing the same this year – ending with a balanced budget. New tax laws and a bouncing market – lots of uncertainty – We always seem to be on the edge. It shouldn’t be this way. Vestries spend an inordinate amount of time on finances. But this year we got to worship together, study together, eat together and discern together at every Vestry meeting. We valued this time; it was important to us and our development as a trusting, respectful leadership team.

This was a great Vestry and I thank each and every one of you. One of the joys of being on the Vestry is the deep relationships that grow with people you probably wouldn’t get to know otherwise. It is a privilege and honor to serve on the Vestry. It is also hard work, fun and enriching. This is a blatant request that each of you consider serving on the Vestry. Now remember, you must be a communicate in good standing – you can work on that. But I am here to tell you it will change your life.

OK, back to our year together. Changes were made. We lost the 5:30 Saturday and 11:15 Sunday services. But we have Evensong every Sunday, unless, of course, there is an amazing concert. We combined the boys and girls choirs - And, we have daily services in the morning and evening, Tuesday through Friday. There’s plenty of opportunity to worship together.

And we tried other things. We replaced Mardi Gras jambalaya with Shrove Tuesday pancakes. Tuesdays Together became Wednesdays at Christ Church where we eat and study and learn together. We gave up golf and the Antiques Show, but carried on with Gifts and Greens and our parish Christmas Party. We still enjoy Foyer Groups and have added Circle Groups with Shepherds to keep in touch with each other. We continue to bless our pets, Process at Advent, celebrate Holy Week and, of course, enjoy strawberry shortcake. But now we dedicate our offerings at Christmas and Easter to outreach partners. This year we added Thanksgiving – how apt!

So, what is it that we actually do here – in this Christian community?

Well, Bishop Wright boiled it down to words we say every week:

*We walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,
an offering and sacrifice to God.*