

## 2020 VESTRY NOMINEES

**Jason Danos**



It's an honor to be nominated to run for the St. Luke's vestry. I have been part of the St. Luke's community for about 12 years. I grew up in LaPlace, LA where I attended St. Joan of Arc Catholic school & church. My family was very involved in the Catholic Church, and I served as an "altar boy" my entire childhood. I graduated from St. Charles Catholic High School in 1993 and then Louisiana Tech University in 1997 with a degree in Chemical Engineering. I worked in the industrial & chemical engineering field and then formed my company, Kinetix Solutions, in 2013.

My wife, Ashley, and her family, Dennis & Sharon Edmon, are long-term members of St. Luke's. Ashley and I were married at St. Luke's in 2007, and our oldest daughter attended St. Luke's school. Our three children, Regan, Morgan, & Logan now attend Episcopal School of Baton Rouge. I currently serve as an usher and participate in many other St. Luke's activities including the hospitality & cooking groups.

I have routinely kept abreast of Church ministry & business through St. Luke's friends & colleagues, including some current & past vestry members. I believe the vestry is healthiest with a variety of members with different talents & backgrounds. My contributions to the vestry will likely be different than some members, and I believe that is part of developing a diverse, strong leadership team. I am detail-oriented and experienced in organizational financial & general operations. I will also bring views from a family perspective, raising children in the Baton Rouge & Episcopal community.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Marianne Denker**



Our family came to St. Luke's when we were looking for a school for our children and a church that both my husband and I could attend together. I had grown up in the Roman Catholic faith and my husband had been Methodist. When we arrived at St. Luke's, we had a toddler and a newborn. We felt a connection almost immediately. We didn't know it at the time, but we had found our spiritual home. As the years went by and the children grew, we became more active. I have been an altar guild member for nearly thirty years and I can truly say that has been a joyful part of my life. I have also been a member of the Hospitality guild for many years and have always found that fulfilling as well as fun. St. Luke's has been a place of spiritual growth for me as well as a place of comfort and support during life's more difficult times. Long term friendships have been made as well.

What can I bring to St. Luke's? My entire career was spent in the Information Technology profession, so I am very detail oriented and have had experience managing projects. Even in that job, I enjoyed helping my clients as much as the more technical aspects of the job. I would bring a desire to help and to serve.

My vision for St. Luke's would be to hopefully draw more young families to our congregation.

**Gilbert Faulk**



I know I have been blessed by finding St. Lukes as my church home in 2003. We have such a dedicated vestry, clergy, and membership with so many people over the years giving their time to help our church and community. I am a better person because of all of these people.

I am a lifelong Episcopalian, growing up in Grace Episcopal Church in Monroe and later in parishes in Virginia and Pennsylvania. My experiences in other churches as well as law and management would help our vestry with problems we will be facing in the future. I practice law in Baton Rouge and prior to this in D.C. and Virginia. I also served on the Executive Management Committee of the Wall Street Journal in New York as Vice President - legal.

I have gained insight into some of the inner workings of St. Lukes by serving as an usher and LEM by assisting with communion and bringing communion to those unable to attend. I have gained insight from young people by being a reading friend in our public schools.

I am a graduate of Douglas Freeman High School in Richmond, Va., Hampden Sydney College and an honor graduate of Washington and Lee University School of Law. Scarlet and I have been married for thirty one (31) years and I have two grown children, Tres and Page.

I would strive to help us find ways to add more inspirational hymns to our service. If elected I will do all in my power to help our church.

**Sandra Hopson**



I am a 'cradle' Episcopalian. My mother was a devout Catholic—my dad a Methodist. After my parents married, both were confirmed in a small Episcopal Church in New Orleans. Upon my arrival into the world, my baptism was held February 1, 1959 at St. John the Divine in Houston and later our family attended St. Martin's Episcopal. In 1964, my family moved to Nacogdoches, Texas where we attended Christ Episcopal Church for many years with my dad serving on the vestry, my mother the altar guild, and my brother as head acolyte. I was confirmed May 3, 1970 and attended Cursillo in November of 1985. I graduated with a BBA degree in General Business from Stephen F. Austin State University in 1980. I worked in Personnel at the Stone Fort Bank for 6 years. In 1988, I moved to Lufkin, Texas for my position with the State of Texas as a Workforce Specialist with the Texas Workforce Commission which I held for 23 years until my retirement in 2011. In Lufkin, I occasionally attended St. Cyprian's Episcopal. However, it was the passing of my parents and brother that brought about my return to church on a regular basis. When I discovered St. Luke's— I knew I had found what I was looking for in a church.

Even though I attended other churches in the past, it was the sacredness of the Episcopal Church which always brought me back. The beautiful liturgy we recite and pray each Sunday, now brings such comfort to me. As the words of each prayer is said or hymn is sung, I can remember sharing a prayer book with my mother or hymn book with my dad—and although they are no longer with me— those memories, through those words we said together, are with me once again.

I feel I have been given great blessings in life with the ability to share what I have with others. At St. Luke's, I have on a regular basis served on the altar guild, worked as a greeter, attended the women's bible classes each Thursday morning, and helped with the pet cemetery—but I'm always game whenever an extra hand is needed. Over the last three years at St. Luke's, I have grown very attached with a devoted love for my church family and gratefully offer any help to keep St. Luke's going strong in order to bring our love through Christ to shine through our church and to our community.

**Andrea McKey**



St. Luke's has been my church home all my life. I attended pre-school in what is now the school office, attended Sunday School, EYC, and was confirmed there. David and I were married at St. Luke's. Our five children were baptized and confirmed at St. Luke's, served as acolytes, and attended St. Luke's School. Our two daughters were married at St. Luke's and my father is buried there. My husband, David, has been an usher for more than twenty years, and served as Senior Warden. I have served two terms on the vestry and was Junior Warden. St. Luke's is my spiritual home.

The church has provided amazing fellowship to me and my family. Many of David's and my closest friends are parishioners. We've met people who have pointed us to God through their work at St. Luke's, and in their day-to-day lives. We've met people who've helped us become better parents. We've met those who commiserated with us in sadness and celebrated with us in so many joyful times. We've met many wise teachers, and leaders who've generously shared their gifts. This summer, a hurricane threatened our daughter's wedding day (who ever heard of a hurricane in July?!?). On the day before the wedding, parishioners and staff came together as we changed the time of the ceremony. That sacred and beautiful wedding was a true miracle.

I can offer St. Luke's a weaker version of the gifts already given to me. I love the people of the church and school, and I'm passionate about the continued health of both. I've had the privilege of serving on boards of other organizations in my work life and in a volunteer capacity. In all those situations, I've used the lessons and values learned at St. Luke's over and over.

Thank you for the honor of being considered for this vestry.