

Nominees to Serve a Two-Year Term on Congregation Council, 2020-2021

Lauren Solberg

Occupation: Active Duty Navy Nurse

Personal: I moved to Beaufort in November 2018 and started attending the church December 2018. I joke that I didn't have a choice which church to attend since Pastor Shannon has been in my life since I was age 2. I have moved around all my life and my family currently lives in Tampa, FL. I have been a Navy Nurse for 4 years.

P.S. from Pastor Shannon: it's no joke. She didn't have a choice!

Involvement at St. John's/other congregations: I am currently involved as a part time youth volunteer. I spend Sunday evenings with the youth at least twice a month. I am also a part of the Growing Gods Mission Team.

Involvement in community: I volunteer every summer at Lutheridge as the camp nurse for a week. I was a Lutheridge camper growing up and former counselor. I am currently involved with and volunteer at the CAPA (Child Abuse Prevention Associates) shelter house in Port Royal.

Interests/Hobbies/Passions: I enjoy reading and being outside. I am passionate about trying new restaurants, love attending concerts, and can always be found with my dog Sadie by my side.

What at St. John's which makes you willing to serve as a leader? I am very excited about the growth of the children and family ministries! It has called me to serve as a leader in whatever avenue the church entrusts me. I am born and raised Lutheran and truly believe my church family and involvement growing up has had a huge impact on who I am today!

Sarah Anderson

Occupation: Pediatric Office RN

Personal: My husband Jerry & I moved here 29 years ago. We have 2 adult children and 7 grandchildren all living in the Beaufort area. We joined St. John's shortly after relocating here. We are a retired military family. Jerry came from Iowa and I came from Ohio. We met while assigned to Portsmouth Naval Hospital as corpsmen. Jerry was baptized/raised Lutheran, I was baptized/ raised in the Methodist church.

Involvement at St. John's/other congregations: I have been active in the Lutheran Church since 1987 teaching Sunday school for Middle school and now leading adult bible studies. I have enjoyed being a member of the Lydia circle, altar guild, and assisting with worship service as needed. I have been on St. John's council at least three times.

Involvement in community: For over 10 years I volunteered for Girl Scouts as assistant leader, leader, and trainer. I hold a lifetime membership. I have also helped with local Boy Scout troops and been a Den Mother for my grandson's den.

Interests/Hobbies/Passions: I enjoy reading fiction. Historical fiction and lighthearted mysteries are my escape! I enjoy using my skills to learn a new craft, sew a project, or teach others simple crafts.

How have you seen God at work in your life/church/community? I have seen God working in my life and others here through St. John's generosity and thoughtfulness. I am amazed at our ability and willingness to step out to fund scholarships for retreats, send youth to camp, provide shelter to homeless families. I see God at work, encouraging each of us to see God's good news for us and share it with others with love.

Ryan Smith

Occupation: Physical Education Teacher

Personal: I grew up in Springfield, VA and in 2012 Marta, Garrett and I moved to Beaufort, SC. In 2019 we expanded our family by 4. We started attending St. Johns in 2017. In our free time we travel to art shows with our fine art photography and the family gets to explore new cities.

Involvement at St. John's/other congregations: In high school, I taught Sunday School at a Methodist Church in Virginia.

Involvement in community: I have coached youth soccer and baseball teams. We have donated art work to several silent auctions for various charities. Also I was the treasurer for Beaufort Art Association.

Interests/Hobbies/Passions: I enjoy cooking on our grill, smoker, and firepit. I also enjoy taking nature photographs and spending time with my family.

What at St. John's which makes you willing to serve as a leader? I am excited about the growth St. John's is showing and I want to help guide the church to be able to expand the congregation.

Perry Dukes

Occupation: Retired Professional Engineer

Personal: Nancy and I grew up in North Augusta, South Carolina. After college (USC) we moved to Savannah, GA where we started our lives together and our family. We left Savannah to live and cruise on our sailboat for a year. Over the years, we've enjoyed moving and living in new places including Frankfurt Germany, Norfolk VA, Panama City FL and back to North Augusta. We came to Beaufort full time in 2005.

Involvement at St. John's/other congregations: I have been on Council at Saint Johns and at Holy Trinity in North Augusta, where I was also Congregation President for several years. At Holy Trinity, I also served on a call committee for a new pastor. At Saint John's, I have been active mostly in the Social Ministries area, as a committee chair, Table Coordinator, and most recently, as a leader for Family Promise.

Involvement in community: In previous communities, my involvement centered around our two boys, schools, and their activities. In Beaufort, most of my involvement has been through Saint John's. Helping others is an ongoing personal mission for me.

Interests/Hobbies/Passions: I have never been a groupie or one to join organizations, however, being part of the Saint John's family for the past 14 years has enriched my life. Outside of church, my passions are grandchildren, salt water, and boats.

How have you seen God at work in your life/church/community? God is present and involved anytime we are together for worship or work. I see God's work through our people by their welcoming, love, and caring for each other and the community. Our active outreach IS God working in the community through us.

What at St. John's which makes you willing to serve as a leader? As I grow older, I see life with a new perspective. I have been so blessed, especially with good health. I want to serve by nurturing and supporting the next generations. To that end, I want to ensure that Saint John's will be there for them.

Carol Clayton Ruff

Occupation: Mom and Attorney

Personal: Harley and I have been married for 24 years and we have 3 kids: Clayton (U of TX), Graham (BHS) and Mary V. (BMS). I am from Portsmouth, Ohio and moved to South Carolina to marry my husband. We lived in Columbia for 2 years and we have been in Beaufort for 22 years. We have a law firm on Lady's Island.

Involvement at St. John's/other congregations: I was a lifelong Roman Catholic Christian before joining St. John's. Our family was active at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Beaufort for 18 years. Four years ago we began regularly attending worship and participating in fellowship at St. John's. We joined St. John's as full members thereafter.

Involvement in community: Our volunteerism in Beaufort mostly surrounds our children's activities. Presently I am the Chair and Vice Chair of the BHS and BMS School Improvement Councils. I am very involved in sending kids to Boys and Girls State for the local American Legion Posts and Auxiliaries. On most USCB children's plays, I work backstage. Follow our children to school, sports, and church and you will see us close behind "helping." LOL

Interests/Hobbies/Passions: My favorite things surround boats and water. I adore scuba diving and snorkeling. My recent favorite activity was scallop diving in the Gulf of Mexico. On my bucket list are flounder gigging and diving for lobsters in Florida. World travel is also a passion of mine. Gathering with my family of origin (I am one of 5 kids), reminiscing, and laughing ourselves to death gives me great joy.

What at St. John's which makes you willing to serve as a leader? God has blessed me with an amazing life. Luke 12:48 tells us, "To whom much is given, much is expected." It would be an honor and privilege to serve on St. John's Council. We are thrilled to be members of such a loving and welcoming church.

Sona Lyttle

Occupation: Retired HR Director and retired USNR

Personal: Originally from Charlotte, NC before joining the Navy. Have lived the longest here in Beaufort, since 1993. Mother of Erika, daughter, who lives in Greenville, SC and a son, Adam, in Charlotte, NC. My mother, brother and nephew relocated to Beaufort approximately 15 & 10 years ago, respectively.

Involvement at St. John's/other congregations: I am active with mission work in the USA with a Volunteer in Mission (VIM) Christian group out of Williamsport, PA, and in the past I went twice to Haiti with a lowcountry surgical group. I have sat on committees from mission, ushering, event/hospitality (party!) committee, and participate in Family Promise and Habitat for

Humanity. Now that I am totally retired, I am able to assist more with St. John's activities - Welcome Table, Habitat for Humanity Faith Build, Lenten soup dinners, float stuffing, and more.

Involvement in community: HELP of Beaufort, Red Cross weather shelter (at SIPC), former LoCo Motion (now Pledge the Pink) Breast Cancer annual fundraiser for the Lowcountry.

Interests/Hobbies/Passions: I love traveling and attending festivals. Even when I lived outside the USA, I took advantage of the opportunity to explore, travel, and learn the culture around me. I think that is why I enjoy mission work so much - travel + honoring God!

How have you seen God at work in your life/church/community? God is always at work in my life 24/7! But mostly I am reminded through my mission trips. Volunteers are the hands and feet of Christ, sharing His love, and communicating our love while offering assistance to those in need. From a favorite song: *Here I am Lord....willing and able.*

Nominee to Serve a One-Year Term on Congregation Council, 2020

fulfilling second half of term vacated by member who moved

Patricia Bennett

Occupation: CEO/Administrator Retired

Personal: I was married in 1959. After raising 8 children (four of our own and four adopted when my mother died) my husband and I separated in 1996. I Moved here from Willoughby, Ohio in 2011. I became a part of St. John's, I believe in 2013.

Involvement at St. John's/other congregations: I am a member of the Sewing groups, Altar Guild, and Choir. I help with the casserole ministry and Befrienders.

Interests/Hobbies/Passions: My interests are art, classical music and reading. My hobbies are quilting and occasionally painting. My passion is sharing the talents God gave me with others. I love teaching.

What at St. John's which makes you willing to serve as a leader? When I became a member of St. John's, I felt that I had found a true family where love and caring was sincere. It made me feel that being a part or helping where I could was necessary for my being here. I feel our community is sincere in helping those in need through all of our activities such as the children's Easter egg hunts, Christmas parade and, Family Promise to name just a few. I feel it is necessary to continue to bring our younger members into "active" participation in a positive way. I also feel a need to concentrate on the older members of our community, especially those who are alone.

Nominees to Serve a Two-Year Term on Endowment Committee

Gary Nizzi

Gary has served as Assistant Treasurer of St. John's for the past three years. During that same time, he also served on the Finance Team and was a part of the task forces which rewrote the Endowment Fund policy and the Fred & Dorothy Zinser Fund for New Mission policy. He has also been St. John's point person on issues related to insurance. Gary is an engineer and consultant with Denmar Technical Services.

Hampton Long

Hampton has served as Congregation Council member and as an on the Growing God's Mission Campaign committee which raised funds to build the Mission Building, add the Program Assistant position, and pay down debt. He has also already served one term on the Endowment Committee. He is a Financial Advisor at Merrill Lynch.