

NOMINEES FOR ELDER, DEACON, AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Congregational Meeting, **Sunday, September 28, 9:45 a.m.**

We asked our slate of nominees for church officers these questions:

1. When (approximately) did you first attend a service at SPC? Who or what prompted you? What was your first impression?
2. Previous church(es), if any.
3. Considering that many, many people in America don't, why do you participate in the life of a church?
4. One thing SPC does well.
5. One thing SPC should do or could do better.
6. Anything about you or your family you'd like the congregation to know.

ELDERS:

Mary Ellen Lloyd (second term)

1. My family moved to Shepherdstown in about 1952 (I was born a bit after that!) and began attending church here. So, I've been here since before I was actually *here*—if you know what I mean.
2. (See above.)
3. I attend church because it feeds me—spiritually, intellectually and socially. And SPC gives me an outlet for some of my own ideas about making the world a better place. As a child, we came to church, so the habit was ingrained at an early age. Fortunately for me, this was always a loving and giving place so the habit remained.
4. SPC loves others so well—through our outreach to each other, our community and the world. 5. We do not always have enough hands willing to take on long-term leadership roles such as hospitality, children's education, congregational care and facilities maintenance. I am impressed by the number of willing hands when a specific project needs to be done, but it would be nice to see more folks willing and *called* to take leadership roles in these vital programs.
5. I am proud that, when my granddaughter comes to church with me, she represents the fourth generation to sit in that pew behind Sallye Price. What a wonderful place to *be* a family and to *find* a family.

Wendy Ransom (second term)

1. The first knowledge I have of coming to SPC was in 1966 when my mother brought me to be baptized. I remember Sunday school and making projects.
2. Sometime in the 70s we attended the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Martinsburg for a couple of years and returned to SPC.
3. There was a time in my early adult years when I didn't attend church. No particular reason. Something didn't feel whole. When I returned with my family, it felt whole. I like the fellowship with other people at the Church and the uplifting feeling I get from the service. There is always something about the experience that gets me through the week.
4. SPC is a very welcoming church. I would have to guess it is more open and welcoming than a lot of other churches.
5. As welcoming as the Church is, there are always ways to improve this.
6. I live with my husband Chip and our two boys William, 11 starting Shepherdstown Middle School, and Jack, 7 at Shepherdstown Elementary School.

David Scott

1. Carole and I attended our first services at SPC in the fall of 2005 after reading a copy of the "Good News Newspaper" and an article by Randy, which quoted Marcus Borg. His writings have greatly influenced my theological way of thinking about

God and so I knew SPC would be a place where I could continue to grow in my relationship with God.

2. I have always been associated with a church, but not always the same denomination. I was baptized in a very Scottish Presbyterian church, but grew up in a Dutch Reformed Church. After marrying Carole, I became a Methodist for the next 35+ years where I held lay positions at both the local and district level. When we lived in Belgium we were members of the Brussels American Church. Before moving to Shepherdstown, we were members of The Columbia (MD) United Christian Church. It is progressive and puts into practice the concepts espoused by Marcus Borg. It is a unique church sponsored by three denominations, the Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, and Church of the Brethren.
3. First, corporate worship is a key grounding in my life that helps me focus as I continue on my journey to a closer relationship with God. Second, it allows me to interact in classes or discussions and gain insight from others as to what it means to be a child of God. Finally, it provides a sense of community that we all need. This is very important in both the good and bad times.
4. SPC does a lot of things well. It is a church that is full of caring people who have welcomed Carole and me into their lives. It not only cares for its members, but also cares for the entire community.
5. It is hard to think of something for SPC to improve upon. However, I would like to see more offerings and participation in a wide range of adult classes.
6. During my professional life and even today, I have tried to live in accordance with the motto of the U.S. Naval War College, "Since war begins in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed." I am a great believer that the use of force is the absolute last thing anyone or any nation should use. I wish we were a more loving and less violent people and country. I wish we were more open to engaging others and understanding their desires, needs and concerns.

DEACONS:

Ellie Lloyd

1. 21 years ago (when her mother was pregnant with her). It's a family church and a second family.
2. (See above)
3. It is important in forming my opinions of the world and helping me to see that all people have their own opinions. It is also a good strength to know that you can always have faith in one thing in this world-God. Helps you to be a more loving person to yourself and to others.
4. Mentors the youth.
5. More outreach to college students, and we're working on that!
6. My family and I have been going to this church for many, many years. We've seen changes and new faces and still, it is our second family because of the caring nature of people who are drawn to this congregation.

Pete Madeo

1. About three years ago a neighbor of the Baker-Shenks recommended this Church. There was a recent, or soon to graduate young lady from Eastern Mennonite College who gave an excellent sermon. She was very kind and loving as I recall.
2. I was raised Catholic and attended many churches and different denominations throughout my life. This is the first church I decided to join.

3. This could take forever. The community, the constant message that no matter how bad I mess-up or how great I do, I am still loved by a God, and the peace and hope that are offered.
4. Everyone is accepted. It is a very inclusive community and there is room for everyone.
5. Nothing at this time but I do feel free to make recommendations if the need arises.
6. Only that we really enjoy meeting and being with all of the folks at SPC.

Chris Swisher

1. Christie and I attended our first service in Feb/March of 2005 and became members in November. We joined a church for two reasons: The first was to enrich our lives with faith, hope, and a sense of community. The second was to raise our children as active participants in a church (Anna was 3 months and Nikolette 7 at the time). Neither Christie nor I grew up attending church. We wanted to be sure our children were exposed to the spirituality, Bible education, friendships and sense of community a church/congregation provides. SPC felt right immediately. Christie and I really enjoyed Randy's sermon and sense of humor. We also enjoyed the congregation's interaction with Randy. It just seemed like everyone really enjoyed being there and we felt welcome right away. We also liked that everyone is welcome, no matter your ethnicity, income, lifestyle, etc.
2. Christie and I tried several local Protestant churches in the area over a course of several months before we visited SPC. We didn't really connect with any of them for various reasons.
3. Attending church provides clarity for me. It's a time to put things in perspective and realize what's important and what's not. It's very easy for me to get sucked into this lifestyle of working too much, consuming too much and coveting material things that you can't take with you.
4. I think SPC does a great job of making folks feel welcome and seeing the good in everybody.
5. Some sort of part-time daycare/Bible school class for infants/toddlers/pre-schoolers during the week. There are quite a few stay-at-home parents who may find this beneficial. Also, maybe a weekly/bi-weekly dinner/Bible school geared towards young parents/adults where a babysitter is provided by the church. My knowledge of the Bible is limited and I would like to learn more. The participants could bring something simple to eat (i.e., bread and soup) and a donation to cover babysitter costs.
6. *We were transported here from the Planet Malmac in a spaceship many, many years ago....* Actually, we are just happy to be part of the congregation and look forward to continued growth in our faith, children, community and friendships.

Janie Denchy is nominated to serve on the Nominating Committee as a member-at-large.