

## **Important Information for Those Who Seek to Serve as Members of the Vestry of Christ Church**

Each year members of Christ Church elect four persons to serve as members of the Vestry of Christ Church for the next three years. The Vestry is composed of twelve persons who serve three-year terms, with four persons rotating off each year. After ending a three-year term, a Vestry member must have at least one year "off" before running for Vestry again. The beginning and ending of each member's term of office is marked by the Annual Parish Meeting (usually at the end of January or in early February).

Someone elected to fill out the unexpired term of a Vestry member who has resigned may run for a full term at the conclusion of the unexpired term.

In 2006 the Annual Parish Meeting authorized the Vestry to choose a *thirteenth* vestry member to represent the associate members of our congregation, people who have a residence in the Aspen/Snowmass area and who are active members of our church for a part of each year, but who live most of the year elsewhere. The thirteenth member of the Vestry is elected by the Vestry itself, not the congregation at large and this person may be re-appointed by the Vestry for two successive terms before being required to take a year "off".

Those who are elected to the Vestry of Christ Church must be baptized members of the parish, at least 16 years of age. Those who are candidates for election to the Vestry should be faithful in Sunday worship, pledge annually to the support of God's work in Christ Church, and be active in a lay ministry within the congregation.

Election to the Vestry should be treated as a call from God, not just a political act. The Vestry is the assembly of lay leaders who are charged with the oversight of the life and work of the parish. The Canon Law of the Episcopal Church describes Vestry duties in a rather limited way, as primarily involving responsibility for the financial affairs and material property of the parish. But those are the minimum, legal duties. A Vestry is much more a corporate board of directors.

Vestry members are the Rector's partners in "visioning the future" for the parish and in listening to God for guidance in our life together. The spiritual dimension of what the Vestry does is the most important aspect of its work, even though there is a constant temptation to focus on merely administrative matters. Vestry members are expected to give priority to official Vestry meetings and other functions. The Vestry meets once a month. Vestry Members who are out of town are invited to participate in meetings by conference call.

In addition to attending the monthly Vestry meetings, members are expected to attend the Annual Parish Meeting and any special Parish Meetings that may be called, as well as one annual Vestry Retreat in the late winter each year, usually in the latter part of February or early March.