

2018 Vestry Nominations

Gil Benjamin

Mr. Benjamin is the Owner of the Primrose School of Five Forks (Lawrenceville Ga.). He along with a staff of 36 people provides a loving, nurturing, and educational environment to over 200 children. Prior to buying the school, Mr. Benjamin was an Executive in the Property and Casualty Insurance Business for 25 years. He has held senior leadership roles, managing multiple state operations in the Southeast for 17 years. Mr. Benjamin has been responsible for setting budgets, developing growth strategies, increasing sales, managing expenses, and developing employees. Mr. Benjamin understands the importance of risk control and setting up safety measures for all types of businesses. He has passion for young people. He just completed a 10-year commitment serving on the Board of Directors of the Girl Scouts of Georgia. He served the last two years as the Board Chairmen and worked on two committees that raised over \$2 million dollars in the past two years. He currently supports Breakthrough Atlanta. He has previously sat on the Board of Directors Special Olympics of Georgia and Trinity Community Ministries with a focus on the Homeless and Drug addiction. Gil Benjamin assisted in starting a nonprofit organization 20 years ago called the Georgia Stars. The organization has assisted over 350 young men earn Basketball scholarships to many colleges and universities around the country.

Gil is married to Valencia Benjamin and has a Daughter Jordan, who is freshman in High School.



Paul Stein

Paul Stein has been with St. Benedict's since 2013 and has participated in a variety of church activities, including three years of Education for Ministry (EfM), ushering for the 8am service, and the weekly men's bible study group. Since 1994 Paul has worked for The Weather Channel, currently as a senior software engineer. He also spent ten years with Vandivort Properties, Inc., a Missouri-based family farm management company, first as operating committee member and then as vice president, where his responsibilities included assessing proposed capital improvements and providing steering advisory. He lives in Smyrna and is grateful to have over a dozen cousins of different generations in the Atlanta area. His hobbies include hiking, photography and art history.

Committee statement:

My career has been in meteorology and computers, so when I was approached to consider serving on the vestry I felt I might not have requisite practical experience. However, as noted in my bio, I was for ten years involved with my extended family's business in ways that I think would be applicable to the vestry. This experience taught me the virtues of reasoned decision-making, communication, and listening to the wide variety of thought in a diverse group. In general I'm a deliberative thinker who likes to relate individual decisions to the bigger picture and likes to bridge differences of opinion by finding common ground.



Stephanie Park

I'm nearly a life-long Episcopalian and have been at St. Benedict's since our beginning days in the gymnasium. While that makes me seem old in the world of St. Benedict's, I'm always excited about the growing possibilities for our congregation.

I work as a meeting and event planner for a medical association conducting a variety of operations for their annual convention since 2003. When consulting with other clients, I also plan events that help grow their business and meet their objectives. I truly believe in the power of how face-to-face interaction brings people together.

While at St. Benedict's, I've served with the Sunday School Program, the Children's Ministries Council, the Kanuga Planning team, as the Spirit Week Coordinator and a Must Ministries volunteer. I'm excited about serving at a new level within our church. When at home, I spend time with my husband, Jinsue, and our two children, Connor & Avery. St. Benedict has been a big part of our family's life and my own personal spiritual formation.



Maryanne O'Connor

Maryanne O'Connor, along with her husband Tom, and children Jay and Alaina, has been a member of St. Benedict's since 2009. Maryanne currently serves as an usher and a Eucharistic minister, and is passionate about supporting the church and personally connecting with each and every member.

Born in Washington, DC, Maryanne left the east coast to attend Arizona State University. After graduating, Maryanne lived and worked throughout the west coast for almost 10 years. In 2000, Maryanne's best friend Lanie introduced her to Tom, and Atlanta has been home ever since!

Maryanne has worked in the healthcare industry for over 20 years and currently travels throughout the Southeast as a Director of Corporate Accounts with Elsevier Clinical Solutions. When home, Maryanne soaks up as much family time as possible. Her most recent challenge has been training new puppy Belle!