

Responses to Vestry Questionnaire – Julie Bruns - Jan 2022

1. How long have you worshipped at Immanuel? Any other family members who worship here?

Response: I began coming to Immanuel around 1988-89 during the time Zabriskie Chapel and the Parish Hall were being renovated. We met in the old Seminary Chapel and Rev Henry Mitchell preached my first Sunday. I remember my disappointment when I learned he wasn't the main rector! Dennis and I were married there in 1992.

2. What are some parish activities or ministries that have captured your time and talents?

Response: Being around for over 30 years means many opportunities to be part of this parish... I've been a Vestry member, served with Outreach Committee, bagged bulk order pumpkins for many Pumpkin Patches, advocated to make us good creation stewards of our church building, taught Sunday School, completed EFM, participated in Mission trips, volunteered with Christ Church Lazarus Ministry and Christ Church Refugee Ministry... Many of these are still part of my life. I am excited about our Creation Care Ministry – and solar panel installation this spring – and our Social Justice Ministry.

3. Please name something you find very valuable/something you love about Immanuel.

Response: The Pumpkin Patch! Every year it seems like such a huge task to pull off – and yet – by the grace of God and everyone's willingness to offer their time, treasure, and talents, it comes together. I never take this for granted. It's a miracle that has happened year after year, because the people in our parish love their neighbors as themselves – and pull together for the sake of people – in Alexandria and around the world – who need help – and for our Community -- who consider the Pumpkin Patch part of their lives.

4. What gifts, talents, interests and/or goals and objectives do you think you might bring to Vestry service?

Response: Persistence. Listening. Enjoy learning about people. Don't mind hard work.

5. How would you view serving on the Vestry as a ministry, as part of your Christian journey?

Response: Serving on vestry is a responsibility and privilege – and an opportunity to carry forward the important work that many have shouldered during a very difficult time with this pandemic – I am grateful for the gifts and service of so many fellow parishoners.