

2023 VESTRY CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE: AMY THOMAS

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

I was looking for a church involved with the community and wondered about the church with all the pumpkins, so I looked up Immanuel online and worshipped remotely after Easter 2021. My first in person service was homecoming that year and I was confirmed spring 2022. My two adult sons live in Washington, DC, and Richmond and have attended when visiting me.

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

The first ministry I participated in was the pumpkin patch! I especially liked setting up and anticipating the event. Next, I helped in small ways at Shrine Mont, what a terrific experience that was! I grew up in the country on 25 acres where I learned many outdoor chores and have also enjoyed putting some of those skills to work with the building and grounds committee.

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

The church is more than the beautiful grounds and buildings, it's also the people. I have appreciated the genuine love for one another that I've experienced among people at Immanuel.

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

There are so many wonderful traditions and strong ministries in the life of our church, and I see myself continuing these ministries and stepping up wherever needed. I don't have an agenda or a particular calling beyond serving in the name of Christ.

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

Church involvement has been an important part of my life. I was baptized, raised, and confirmed in the Methodist Church in Ohio, where my mother later was ordained as a minister. When I moved to Alexandria after college I served as a Young Life leader and later as a committee chair. We moved every couple of years as our children grew and church was always a place for worship, fellowship, and Bible study. I have planned activities and led Bible studies in two communities, and I see Vestry service as a natural way to give of my time and leadership skills. Vestry service is also a way to serve alongside others as we grow in faith and love for one another.