



Vestry Candidate 2022

Sharon Hansen

I was born in New Orleans in 1959 while my father was in seminary. He returned to Georgia and pastored small Southern Baptist churches throughout the state as well as Port St. Lucie, Florida. I was a highly active member of First Baptist Church of Lawrenceville prior to coming to St. Matthews; and over the course of my membership there I found myself no longer in step with the

denomination. When I remarried and moved to Snellville in 1999, I began searching for a new church home and denomination. I was initially interested in the Episcopal church because of their stance on welcoming ALL people. I joined an adult confirmation class and was confirmed in June of 2003. THIS was a church I could lean into- and I did. My daughter was an active member of youth group and I taught Sunday school for a time and have been a lay reader. I was suddenly widowed in September of 2013 and my St. Matt's family showed up and stood by me. Becky Olbon was the first person I called after my family, and she came to the emergency room and stayed with me until my family arrived. As I grieved people showed up with food and prayer shawls, cards, and calls. That is what family does. I retired a little early in June of 2021 from Northside Gwinnett Medical Center/Glancy Rehabilitation Center and am now able to be more active in our church life.

Goals:

I love that St. Matthews welcomes and loves everyone and I would like to see that continue. Covid has ripped a big hole in everyone's life, and it has certainly significantly affected St. Matthews. I want to seek ways we can pull together and help our beloved church community get over the Covid hump and minister to each other and our community. We have so much talent in our congregation and the love we have for each other is real. I would like to see us tap the talent and share the love. I am unsure of how St. Matthews will look in the future, but I want to be a part of making our congregation viable for the future.