

Jason Whong

I'm Jason Whong.

I'm from a lot of places. I was born in Baltimore. I grew up in Silver Spring. I've spent most of my adult life in upstate New York, living in Ithaca, Rochester and mostly Elmira. I returned to Maryland in 2015.

My faith journey is perhaps different from others here. My mother is from a Catholic family, and my father is from Korea and didn't have a faith tradition. My mother raised me in a Baptist church. I was baptized as a child because I knew I was a sinner who needed forgiveness. The grandson of the pastor who baptized me is now a pastor at Bethany Church on Dobbin Road.

When I went to college, I stopped attending church, considering myself to be in hiding from God, kind of like Jonah, because I knew hiding was impossible. It was through my wife, Erin, that I found the Episcopal church. I worked with Erin in diocesan youth ministry events and realized I couldn't hide any more. I began to attend a small Episcopal church with Erin. I continued to serve in youth group, choir and other ministries. I began to have a less legalistic definition of Christianity and started to focus more on loving as Christ loved us.

Now we have young children and I haven't been as involved with youth ministry, but I have been involved in the parenting seminar here at Christ Church.

We started attending Christ Church about a year after we moved to Maryland. We decided to stop by on Ash Wednesday, and we were welcomed.

I chose to run for vestry because I want to contribute to keeping Christ Church a people where anyone can come to experience the love of God.

While I have never served on a vestry before, if I am elected, I could leverage my experience as a board member of the Arts Council of the Southern Finger Lakes, a multi-county organization in upstate New York. At work, I have an inquisitive nature and I seek to improve things. I've also been known to come up with unusual ideas.