



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Raleigh

FIRST PRESS

October 18 - October 25, 2026

Worship this Sunday

October 18, 2026

Join us for Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Preacher: The Rev. Laurie Taylor Weicher

Scripture: Deuteronomy 16:13-17 & Romans 12:1-8

[Click here for our live stream and worship resources](#)

[Click here for our YouTube Channel](#)

The pastor on call for the month of October is The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger. She can be reached at 919 714-7206 or at tbulger@fpcraleigh.org.

From Tara's Desk

Dear Church,

Each year, our Nominating Committee undertakes the arduous task of identifying new officers to serve the church. This is a holy process—rooted in prayer, discernment, and trust that God will raise up new leaders. Our Nominating Committee has served faithfully, and I am grateful for their work.

In this email, you will find the slate of nominees for the offices of elder and deacon that our Nominating Committee has faithfully selected. A brief biography of each person is attached. I know them all to be faithful church members who are ready to answer God's call to service. I think you will find that the future of the church is in good hands with these proposed leaders.

You will be given the opportunity to elect these officers at our Called Congregational Meeting this Sunday, October 18, 2026, at 10:50 a.m. Please make sure you attend. And pray for the future of our church and its leadership. May we grow in our ability to glorify God in this time and place.

In faith, hope, and love,
The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger

Nominees for Elder



Jenifer Bean

Raleigh

Family:

Mike Bean (Husband)

Profession:

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

*First Presbyterian Church,
Raleigh, NC*

Chancel Choir member
(seasonal), Worship and Music
Committee member, Lay Reader

*First Presbyterian Church,
Jacksonville, NC*

Choir Member, Session Member,
Christian Education Committee
Chair

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

It is an honor to be considered for this opportunity to serve at FPC. This congregation does so much to show the love of Christ "from the heart of the city to the

Adult Education Administrator,
North Carolina Community
College System

ends of the earth”, and I pray to
contribute to that work in a
meaningful way.



Lisa Brown

Raleigh

Family:

Gordon (Husband)
Liz, Meredith, Allie, and William
(Children)

Profession:

Accountant

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

*First Presbyterian Church,
Raleigh, NC*

Deacon, Sunday School Leader,
Pageant Director, Pageant
Reception Coordinator, VBS
Director, VBS Center Leader,
CDC Board Member, Long
Range Planning Committee,
Personnel Ministry Team,
Foundation Board

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Gordon and I have been
members for almost 30 years
and cherish our church family. I
am excited and honored to be
nominated to serve as an Elder.



SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

*First Presbyterian Church,
Raleigh, NC*

Strategic Planning Committee,
Junior Vanguard Sunday School,
CDC parent

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

I am a lifelong Presbyterian who
came to Raleigh as an adult. I
love traveling with my (growing!)
family and reading. I am so

Lucy Brown

Raleigh

Family:

Andrew (Husband)
Ann (3), and Georgia (1)
(Children), Guy (Golden
Retriever)

Profession:

Attorney

thankful for this church and
humbled by this nomination.



Mark Brown

Raleigh

Family:

Becky (Wife)
Benjamin and Luke (Children)

Profession:

Retired from SAS Institute (34
years)

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

*First Presbyterian Church,
Raleigh, NC*

Deacon (1st term-Class of
2009), Moderator of Diaconate
(2009), Deacon
(2nd term Class of 2014),
Christian Education Committee
(2012), Moderator of Diaconate
(2014), Elder (Class of 2019),
Nominating Committee
(Moderator 2018), Clerk Of
Session (2019-2021), Middle
School Sunday School teacher
(2020-2021), Presbyterian
Campus Ministries (UNC-CH) -
Parent representative (2019-
2020); PCM Board President
(2021); PCM Board Treasurer
(2022), Interim Pastor
Nominating Committee (2023),
Personnel Ministry Team (2023-
present)



Melinda Burrows

Raleigh

Family:

Carolyne (Daughter)

Profession:

Corporate Lawyer

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

*First Presbyterian Church,
Raleigh, NC*

Deacon, Personnel Ministry
Team, Property and Insurance
Committee, Youth Dinner Leader

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

I grew up in a small church in a small town in Florida, where I learned the importance of faith, service, and community.

Throughout my life, the church has been a source of spiritual grounding, fellowship, and friendship. As my life has taken me to towns and cities across the U.S., the church has served as my grounding point to build connection and community.



Karen DeVane

Raleigh

Family:

Boyd DeVane (Husband)

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

*First Presbyterian Church,
Raleigh, NC*

Ed Greer Class, Diaconate
(Twice), Presbyterian Women,
VBS Volunteer, Sunday School
Teacher, Nominating Committee,
Congregational Care & Support
Committee

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

I love spending time with my grandchildren!

Patrick and Joseph (Adult
Children)

Profession:

Retired Psychotherapist



Jim Nichols

Cary

Family:

Babs Nichols (Wife), Jean and
Everett Nichols(Parents), Cindy
(Sister) and Steve Elderkin,
Melinda (Sister) and Victor
Medina, Greg (Brother) and
Laura Nichols, Miller (Son) and
Austyn Nichols with
granddaughter Eve, Brooks
(Son) and Ashton Nichols

Profession:

Principal & Business Dev.
Leader, O'Brien Atkins
Associates

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

*First Presbyterian Church,
Raleigh, NC*

Sunday School - member and
teacher in the Phoenix Class,
Elder and Deacon
(multiple times), FPC Foundation
Board, Personnel Ministry Team,
Strategic Planning Committee,
Pastor Nominating Committee,
Mission Discernment Committee,
Building Committee, Budget &
Finance, Christian Education,
Treasurer, Youth Advisor

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

My great-grandparents,
grandparents and parents have
been faithful members of First
Presbyterian Church and my
parents, Jean and Everett, are
still active. I am so grateful to be
a part of this church family and
think the best days are still to
come!



Jim Peterson

Raleigh

Family:

Judy Pidcock (Spouse). 2 sons: Graeme Peterson (New Haven, CT), Neil Peterson (Portland, OR)

Profession:

Cardiologist, retired from Duke Cardiology of Raleigh in 2023.

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

*First Presbyterian Church,
Raleigh, NC*

Malawi Medical Mission work (2024 – present), yearly Haiti Mission trips (2012-2019) First Presbyterian Foundation board member (2021-2024), Adult Education speaker, Shower Ministry volunteer, Mission Committee.

*Previous Presbyterian
churches/church work:*

Deacon (Broad Street Presbyterian Church, Columbus, OH, and Center Presbyterian Church, Slippery Rock, PA); Supply preaching (Westminster Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY); Elder (Westminster Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY, and First Presbyterian Church, Durham, NC); Chair of Worship Committee, First Presbyterian Church, Durham; Member of the Board of Trustees, McCormick Theological Seminary (2000-2009); Senior Pastor Search Committee (Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY); Haiti Committee (White Memorial Presbyterian Church).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

I completed a Master of Arts in Theological Studies at McCormick Theological

Seminary (1984), prior to attending medical school. I am a regular volunteer physician at Open Door Clinic of Urban Ministries of Wake County and I serve on the Board of Wake County Health and Human Services.



Will Robertson

Raleigh

Family:

Virginia Riel

Profession:

Lawyer

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

*First Presbyterian Church,
Raleigh, NC*

Deacon (2023-2025),
Nominating Committee (2024-
2025), Pastor Nominating
Committee (2024-2025),
Visitor/New Member Committee
(2023-2025)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

I married into Presbyterianism in 2018 at FPC New Bern and became a member of FPC Raleigh in 2020. Virginia and I enjoy living in Glenwood South. My hobbies include travel (especially to Carolina Beach), racquet sports, and yoga.

Nominees for Deacon



Carolyn Bachl-Stewart

Raleigh

Family:

Kevin Stewart (Husband), Maia Stewart (Daughter), Alex Stewart (Son)

Profession:

Deputy City Attorney, City of Raleigh

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

*First Presbyterian Church,
Raleigh, NC*

Treasurer, member of the Budget Committee, co-chair of the most recent Pastor Nominating Committee, Deacon, Elder, board member of the FPC Foundation, Middle School Youth Leader, 2nd/3rd Grade Sunday School Teacher

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

I am extremely grateful for my church family and am honored to serve our fabulous church community.



Anne Blake

Raleigh

Family:

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

*First Presbyterian Church,
Raleigh, NC*

Visitation Team; Phoenix Class, Circle 10.

Previous church

Deacon, elder, SS teacher/coordinator (nursery through high school), circle leader, committees, stephen ministry

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

David Blake (Husband)

Profession:

Dietitian - Pharmaceuticals,
Medical Affairs

I was born into the Presbyterian church but got to choose First Presbyterian Church on my own! What a blessing it has been. Outside of church, I enjoy being with my family - my son Bo and his wife Sydney, plus many others shared between my husband David's family and mine. When I'm not working, I love to be outside, walking, riding my bike, gardening, going to football games (go heels) and love my quiet time and reading. My favorite place is Montreat, but the beach is also nice. I look forward to serving and continuing to get to know everyone in this wonderful community of faith at FPC!



Richard Burke

Raleigh

Family:

Spouse - Nell Burke, 3 sons, 4 grandchildren

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

*First Presbyterian Church,
Raleigh, NC*

Ed Greer Class, 2 time Deacon,
Current At - Large member -
Budget and Finance Committee

Profession:

Enterprise Resource Planning
(ERP) Financial software
consultant - Retired 2026

**Nancy Crew**

Raleigh

Family:

Husband - Chuck, 2 adult
daughters - Caroline and
Melissa, Granddaughter -
Ainsley (6), and Grandson -
Bennett (1)

Profession:

Retired Packaging Engineer

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

*First Presbyterian Church,
Raleigh, NC*
Diaconate, Session, Christian
Education Committee, Handbell
Choir, Ed Greer class, PW Circle
9, Meals on Wheels, Job Start
mentor, Habitat Volunteer
Coordinator, Mission Committee

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Member of FPC since 2004



Susan Dean

Raleigh

Family:

Perry

Profession:

Retired Federal Congressional
Staffer,
State Grant Writer

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

*First Presbyterian Church,
Raleigh, NC*

Deacon, Youth Volunteer, Bible
School



Steve Elderkin

Raleigh

Family:

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

*First Presbyterian Church,
Raleigh, NC*

Phoenix Sunday School class
member, Circle 10 member,
Diaconate/Session, Pathfinders,
teacher for 4 year old Sunday
School, Church bicentennial
committee, Served as moderator
for the following: Diaconate,
Property and Insurance
Committee, Nominating
Committee, Budget and Finance
Committee.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Cindy Elderkin (Spouse),
Michael Elderkin and Lauren
Dyer (Children)
In-laws: Jean and Everett Nichols

Profession:

Retired Industrial Engineer

I am a lifelong NC State
Wolfpack fan. I love to travel with
my family. I love going to live
music events. I am looking
forward to serving First
Presbyterian in the capacity of
Deacon.



Shari Frederick

Raleigh

Family:

Eric Frederick (Spouse), Calvin,
Hannah, Ellis (Children)

Profession:

Retired Mathematics Teacher

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

*First Presbyterian Church,
Raleigh, NC*

Elder, Deacon, Pastor
Nominating Search Committee,
Christian Education Committee,
Nominating Committee,
Hospitality Committee, Teacher
for high school Sunday School,
Teacher for Ed Greer Class,
VBS, All Church Retreat
Committee, High School Youth
Advisor

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

I am a member of the Ed Greer
Sunday School Class.



Margaret Garriss

Raleigh

Profession:

Taught at Meredith for 29 years,
now teach violin out of my home.
Lamar Stringfield Music Camp
Director and Executive Director
of the nonprofit that sponsors the
camp.

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

*First Presbyterian Church,
Raleigh, NC*

Currently on the organ search
committee.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

I served for 2 and a half years on
an international music ministry
team based out of California.



Chuck Hensey

Raleigh

Family:

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

*First Presbyterian Church,
Raleigh, NC*

Former Elder, Former Deacon,
Education | Worship | Property
Committees, Fides Sunday
School teacher and Phoenix
Class member; former Bell
Ringer

*Westminster Presbyterian
Church*

Served as Deacon

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Edna Hensey (Mother), Laura Hensey (Wife), Erin Hensey (Daughter), Solomon Hensey (Son)

I grew up in this church and love being a part of this worship community.

Profession:

High School Social Studies Teacher



SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

*First Presbyterian Church,
Raleigh, NC*
Youth Program

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

I love FPC and the Carolina Tar Heels.

Mark Johnson

Raleigh

Family:

Andrea, Isaac, Luke and Aaron Johnson;
Carolyn Stewart (Aunt)



Jane MacLeod

Raleigh

Family:

Married to husband Doug, two adult children (Chris MacLeod and Beth Thaxton), grandchildren

Profession:

Retired social worker (hospice care, foster care and adoptions)

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

*First Presbyterian Church,
Raleigh, NC*

Deacon, elder (at another church), New Member and Visitation Committee, PW circle

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Member since 2016, love FPC's welcoming atmosphere, enjoy getting to know new people.



Miller Nichols

Raleigh

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

*First Presbyterian Church,
Raleigh, NC*

FPC Member since birth, Member, Junior Vanguard Sunday School Class

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

I am honored and excited to serve the church I have grown up in my whole life and to continue to build on the

foundations that those who came before me have placed.

Family:

Austyn Holleman, Wife; Eve Nichols, Daughter; Jim & Babs Nichols, Parents; Brooks Nichols, Brother; Ashton Nichols, Sister-in-law; Everett & Jean Nichols, Grandparents; Cindy & Steve Elderkin, Aunt & Uncle

Profession:

Attorney



Dan Roebuck

Raleigh

Family:

Kathy - We married at FPC, Aug. 1971.

Both children baptized at FPC, 2 grandchildren

Profession:

Retired, full time Grandfather

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

*First Presbyterian Church,
Raleigh, NC*

Diaconate, twice Moderator;
Session; Vanguard Class,
President; Foundation Board

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Nominating & Columbarium
Committees; Teacher First Grade
SS; Youth Dinner Server



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