

ELDERS -- CLASS OF 2024



LIBBY BELL - I have been a member of FPC for 38 years. I am married to Philip Bell and we have three grown children and five granddaughters. I have served on both the Diaconate and the Session. I currently am a Stephen Ministry Leader, member of the Committed Prayers, our intercessory prayer group, on the Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team, member of Circle #4, and the Sojourners Sunday School class. (Worship)



YATES BROWN - Yates and his wife, Erin, have been attending First Presbyterian Church since January 2013 and have been members since March 2017. They have two girls, Charlotte and Blakely. Yates previously served on the Noah's Ark Board from 2017-2020. Yates is an attorney in Greenwood and works at the Eighth Circuit Solicitor's Office as Deputy Solicitor for Greenwood and Abbeville. (Christian Education)



GLENDA DAVIS - I have been a member of FPC for over 20 years since my husband, Melvyn, and I retired and relocated in Greenwood. I taught elementary school in several states before retiring. We have 2 children, 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren whom we love very much. I have been blessed to serve at FPC as an Elder, Deacon, PW member and officer, choir member, and member of the Missions/Outreach committee. (Missions/Outreach)



LAURA FLEMING - Laura Fleming is the wife of Dwight Fleming and mother to Barrett, 10-years old and Margaret, 8-years old. Laura has served the church as a Sunday school teacher, a Circle 5 leader, Legoz parent helper, Circle 5 treasurer and Circle 5 childcare organizer. Laura spent her early career in corporate roles at PWC and IBM. In addition to her primary focus on her family, Laura works professionally in interior design. (Buildings & Grounds)



BECKY GARDNER (1-Year term) - Married to David Gardner and we have 3 children: Eric, Michael, and Shirley. I joined FPC 19 years ago. I teach music at an online high school, am a member of the Chancel Choir, and play the oboe. I am involved with the Girl Scouts, am a member of the FISH Sunday School class and Circle #5. (Worship)



LAUREN GRIGGS (Youth 1-Year term)- I'm a 10th grade student at Cambridge Academy. I play soccer and started running cross country this year. I have attended First Presbyterian since I was born, with my parents Brad and Rachel Griggs. I look forward to working with the session and Youth Committee as the Youth Elder. (Youth)



BOB RODDEY - Married to Ann Spears Roddey for 60 years. Retired after 38 years with Greenwood Mills, Inc. Baptized in this church. Served as Clerk of Session, Moderator of Diaconate, Trustee, and Pulpit Nominating Committees. Teacher in Sojourners Sunday school class. (Nominating)



KIRSTIN SHERRER - I married in this church in 2002 and have one teenage son. I've actively served in various capacities over the last two decades, including: Youth Advisor, Handbell Choir, Deacon on Congregational Care Team, Deacon on Fellowship Team, Presbyterian Women, Vision Committee, Sunday School facilitator for children and adults, Women's Small groups studies, co-led and developed Women's Retreats and Intreats, Circle 5, and FISH SS class. (Youth)



SHARON SMOKE - Following his retirement from Monsanto in November 1997, Jan and I returned to Greenwood. We joined FPC in 1998. In the intervening years, as a member of Presbyterian Women, I have been a Circle Chairman several times, currently serve on the Culinary Committee and the Nominating Committee and am a past Moderator of Presbyterian Women. I was a Deacon and, while in that role, served as Moderator of the Diaconate. It was my pleasure to be a part of the Pastor Nominating Committee that brought Rev. Dr. Kyle Hite to Greenwood. I have previously been on the Session serving as Chair of the Nominating Committee, a member of the Endowment Committee, a member of the Administrative Committee, and Chair of the Noah's Ark Board of Directors. Jan and I are the parents of three daughters, three sons-in-law, and one amazing grandson. (Admin)



LINDA STEVENS - I have been a homemaker most of my life. I am a graduate of Baptist Hospital School of Radiologic Technology and hold a degree from Lander University. For several years, I was the Executive Director of Greenwood-Lander Performing Arts. My husband is Bill and we have 2 children and 6 grandchildren. My church service includes: Pastor Nominating Committee, Elder, Christian Education Committee, Circle Three leader, Treasurer for Presbyterian Women, Church Officer Nominating Committee, Visitation Committee, Chancel Committee, numerous committees for the PW and presently Co-historian. (Personnel)



MARK WILLIAMS - My wife Marjorie and I have 4 children, and 8 grandchildren with another grandchild due in November. I was born and raised in Toledo, Ohio and attended catholic grade school and Jesuit high school. We relocated to Dothan, Alabama and spent 10 years in LA (lower Alabama). In Dothan we were members of First United Methodist Church. I taught eight grade Sunday School (what was I thinking). We then moved to Columbus, Georgia where we attended Wynnton United Methodist Church. I was a member of the finance committee until we moved to Hernando, Florida. In Florida we attended Good Shepard Lutheran Church. Our latest move brought us to Greenwood, SC five years ago. I have spent my entire career in Healthcare Finance and am currently employed at Self Regional as the Assistant Vice President of Finance. I enjoy outdoor activities including cycling and golfing. (Financial Oversight)

DEACONS -- CLASS OF 2024



HUNTER BELL - I'm Hunter McClintock Bell. I was raised in this church and attended here all the through my college years. I have been back as a member for several years and have been active on Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team, Circle 4, a desk volunteer and have served as chair of the Sanctuary Committee. Many years ago I taught at Noah's Ark. I have one daughter, Anne-Miller Hyatt, who is a nurse here in Greenwood. (Congregational Care)



LARRY FALTER - I have resided in McCormick for the last four years and have been a member at First Pres for three years. I was born and raised near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and am married to Janet. We have been blessed as a step-family with five children and ten grandchildren. I received a Bachelor degree in Business Administration from Robert Morris University and retired after 43 years as a steelworker. My participation in church related activities have included VBS kitchen helper, outdoor church cleanup with the Men of the Church, work on the Habitat House in Greenwood, The Good News Club, and the Golden Skillet Cookoff. (Men of the Church)



WADE DOWNTIN (2-Year term) - I grew up in Greenwood, and my family and I recently moved back after a few years living in Columbia. I am an attorney and currently work for the 8th Circuit Solicitor's Office as a Senior Assistant Solicitor. I will start a new job as the Chief Public Defender for Greenwood County soon. My wife, Jamie, and I have been married for 6 years and we have two sons, John Rawl (3.5) and Pearce (11 months). We joined First Presbyterian in 2017 and were members until we moved in 2019. We are very happy to be back in Greenwood and back with our First Presbyterian family. I grew up in the church and was confirmed at St. Marks Methodist Church. In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my family, watching football, working in my yard and running (including chasing after our two active boys). (Ushers)



LAURA MARGARET FENNELL (Youth 1-Year term) - I am the daughter of Amy and Josh Fennell, and the older sister of Charlie and Adam. I am a sophomore at Greenwood High, where I am involved in the chorus and musical theater programs. I am in Palmetto Girls Sing, I play soccer, and I have been a part of the Penguin Project at the Greenwood Community Theater. I am active in Sunday night youth, I volunteer for VBS, and I am in Choir! (Youth)



ROY HEMPHILL - I am married to my wife, Lynn, and we have five children, Albert, Claire, Paul, Jon Croft, and Grace, ages 30 through 23. I have been an attorney in Greenwood for 30 years. I became a member of FPC in 1990 and my three children were baptized here in the 1990s. I served as a Deacon and

Elder in the 1990s. I left First Pres for a number of years but was blessed to return when I married Lynn in 2014. Since that time, I have served a term on the Session. I am pleased to have the opportunity to return to service as a member of the Diaconate. (Stewardship)



CHRISTIE HITE - Christie Hite has loved getting to know the church family here at First Presbyterian Church. She became a church member shortly after moving here in December 2019 to work for Western Carolina Psychiatric Associates as a Licensed Clinical

Social Worker whom provides mental health counseling to youth and adults. Christie married Pastor Kyle on May 2, 2020 and is now a bonus mom to two amazing young men, Alex and Mykal. She has enjoyed serving alongside Kyle and is getting plugged into more roles here at church. Christie is now an Usher and is working with the Youth Group, especially with the Senior High gals on Sunday nights. (Ushers)



MISSY RICHARDSON - Married to Larry Richardson for 51 years. We have 3 grown children, Dr. Adrienne Fabrizio (and husband, Steve), Andrea Scott (and husband, Jon), and son Brantley Richardson (and wife, Langley) and 5 wonderful grandchildren (Steven, Ryan, Aubrey, Amelia, and Charles). I am retired from Noah's Ark Preschool where I was a teacher then director. I was there for 23 years with an astonishing staff of ladies. Through the years, I have served the church as Sunday School teacher, Bible School teacher, Flower Committee, Prayer Committee, Usher, Bible teacher in LOGOS, and Sojourners class Nurture. (Fellowship)



LAUREN SHIRLEY - Lauren Shirley has been a member of First Presbyterian Church since 2014, along with her husband Matthew and their three girls Maddie Ray (10), Gracie (7), and Tessa 5. She has enjoyed working with the children of the church volunteering for

VBS, Sunday School, and Wednesday nights. All three of her girls are graduates of Noah's Ark Preschool and during their time there Lauren was an assistant, baby room teacher, and frequent volunteer. Noah's Ark and the children's ministries of First Presbyterian Church have always held a special place for the Lauren and her family. (Noah's Ark)



BRETT TUBBS - Brett Tubbs has been married to her husband, The Rev. Gordon Tubbs, for six years. Together, they have one son (and one on the way!). She owns and operates her own marketing company, Valor Media Group, and serves as an adjunct Public Relations and Communications professor at Lander University. This is her first foray as a church officer, but she has enjoyed volunteering with youth activities, serving on various worship teams, greeting committees, and leading Bible studies. (Music)



CAROL UMPHRESS - I moved to Greenwood from the Atlanta area in 2008. I retired from HP Enterprise Services in June of 2015. My husband died in November of 2017 and I joined the church in the summer of 2018. I joined Circle 3 and enjoyed a couple of the Women's

Retreats. I have one child, Paul Thomas Umphress, Jr., who is married and lives in NYC. I have a step-daughter, Jennifer O'Leary who lives with her husband and three children in the Tampa, FL. area. I play tennis at Gatewood and golf at Grand Harbor. I was the PW CT Secretary for the past two years and recently handed that over to the new board. I also served as a greeter at the 9AM service...pre-pandemic. (Chancel)

TRUSTEE -- CLASS OF 2026



PEGGY HAMMETT - Peggy Hammett is a lifelong member of First Presbyterian Church. She is married to Dennis and they have two children and four grandchildren. She is an ordained Deacon and Elder and has served in many capacities of this church and

at the Presbytery level. She is retired after serving 25 years as the Director of Stephen Ministry and the Director of Christian Education at FPC.