Congregational Meeting
Sunday, August 18, 2023

Submissions from Nominating Committee for the Class of 2027

Elder Nominees:

Gary Boteler

I was born in Atlanta and attended Gordon Street Presbyterian Church until I was ten, when my family moved to south Florida. I returned to Georgia after high school and attended Oxford College and Emory University, graduating with an accounting degree. I have spent my entire career in accounting and am currently a partner with Carr, Riggs & Ingram. I currently live in



Dunwoody but have a cabin on Jackson Lake and spends a lot of time in Covington, where I am an owner of Alcovy Fitness & Wellness. I joined FPC in 2011, after attending as a visitor for several years. I have previously served on the session and have been a member of the finance committee. I enjoy boating, hiking and vinyl records.

Krista Firkus

I was born in Conyers, Georgia to Randy and Connie Firkus. I grew up in the church, mostly in Baptist and Nondenominational churches. In every church I attended in my youth, my father was the children's pastor. I was often called on to help with the children's ministry, by leading small groups, helping in events, and participating in services through children's moments and music. I received a Bachelors in Music Education from Berry College, a Masters in Vocal Performance from the University of South Carolina, and am currently working on a Doctorate in Music Education from Liberty University. I taught English as a foreign language in Costa Rica



and South Korea. I have spent most of my career teaching music at Gordon State College, Cousins Middle School, and in my current position at Timber Ridge Elementary in McDonough. I have an eight year old son, Parker, who loves FPC and its members dearly. I have previously served as Music Director at FPC, choir member, handbell choir member, and member of the nominating committee. I am very honored to be asked to be an elder and look forward to continue serving FPC as God leads!

Jo Anna Fish

I have recently retired from the Newton County School System after 25 years of being a teacher and administrator at the elementary level. I came to Newton County directly after college to teach. I met my husband and we raised a family with four children (John David, Emily, Allison, Andrew). Before that, I grew up



in Milledgeville where my parents taught at Georgia College and we attended the Presbyterian church. My Dad is a retired chemistry professor and lives in LaGrange and my youngest sister is a Presbyterian minister in Swan Valley, Idaho. I have two beautiful grandchildren and a fur baby named Phoebe!

Stephanie Scarborough

I am a native of Newton County. Grew up in First Presbyterian Church of Covington where I have served as elder. I have a Bachelor degree from Shorter University. I have worked at PPG Eastside crossing for 10 years. I have been a member of Pilot Club of Covington for 27 years, and a blood donor since high school. I have served on Worship, Witness and Welcoming committees and on the minister search committee. I live in Oxford with cat, Angel, where I like reading, cooking and watching old movies.



I'm excited to answer the call to serve our church that has given so much to me over the years.

Hardy Fortson Sideris

I was born and raised in Covington. I am the youngest daughter of Billy and Stephanie Fortson. I graduated from George Walton Academy and attended Brenau University. I have worked for a financial advisor for the last 20 years out of Perry, GA. My family started going to First Presbyterian Church when I was in young, and I was baptized and confirmed in 1989. My husband Nick and I live in Covington.



Deacon Nominee:

Darcel Tabb

I am so thankful to have the opportunity to serve as Deacon to the body of Christ at FPC. I am married to the wonderful Bob Tabb and we have 6 children and our number 10 grandchild is due this August. I am employed by the Covington YMCA as a Physical Fitness Instructor. Currently working on my 16th year there.



Serving my church and community is a calling that is dear to my heart and I am thankful for the doors that God had opened for me in so many areas.

Nominating Committee 2024-25 Nominees:

Nichole Howell (Chair)

Stan Hall Randy Layton

Pam Stillerman Donna Weesner