

DEACON ELECTIONS

On April 15, we will elect new deacons to take office in May. These new deacons will replace those completing their three-year terms: Roal Carlson, Lillian Lee, Tim Ross, Brennetta Simpson, Karen Van Manen and Melinda Wilde. The new deacons will join Chair-elect Terry Huneycutt-Horn and Gretchen Aylsworth, Margie Billinger, Marcella Burk-Groon, Stuart Cantrell, Barbara Davis, Tom Fewel, Lyn Lamont, Allan Maltbie, and Anne Winfield. Our congregation speaks of the mission of Binkley Baptist Church as “building compassion and joyful community”. Deacons personify this by assisting our ministers in pastoral care for the congregation. This may differ from deacon to deacon as each decides how best to reach out to those members assigned to him/her in order to deepen our congregational connections.

A list of Binkley members eligible to serve as new deacons will be posted in the narthex in the coming weeks. I hope that you will prayerfully consider leaving your name on the list of possible nominees this year. If you feel you are not able to serve as a deacon at this time, **please mark your name off this list or notify Stephenie Sanders in the church office by April 9**. The names remaining will become the nominees on the ballot on April 15. It has been my great joy to serve as your Diaconate Chair this past year. ~*Melinda Wilde*

What it means to be a Deacon...

Pastoral Care	
General Contact	Reach out via phone, email, card, or visit following initial assignment of member/family. Recognize special occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, etc. Notify church office, Deacon Buddy, and your Deacon Families if you are going to be away for an extended period of time. At Christmas and Easter, deliver remaining poinsettias and lilies (after the services) to members of your Deacon Family who are ill, shut-in, or recently bereave
New Members	Contact monthly for the first several months to ensure that they feel welcomed and are assimilating to the church.
Serious Illness/Crisis/Problem	When aware or alerted by the church office, contact the member to offer support and to ask how you can assist. If made aware by the member, contact the pastor(s).
Death in family	Talk with the family before the funeral/memorial service and ask how you can support them; coordinate with Deacon Chair and pastors regarding needs of the family; attend the service, if possible; maintain contact with bereaved persons over time
Worship/Church Life	
Monthly meetings and informal updates	Attend and actively participate in regular meetings of the Diaconate normally held the first Monday of each month.
Communion	Serve Communion at designated services, generally the first Sunday of each month, and provide communion assistance at Carolina Meadows.
Worship Greeters	Serve as a Greeter at one of the entrances prior to Church School and Sunday Worship services. Alert the ministers to the presence of visitors.
Nomination of officers	Identify nominees for Church Council offices and committee chairpersons as prescribed in the Constitution.
Birth of Baby	The Sunday after a baby's birth (child, grandchild), place a rose on the Communion table. After the service, give the rose to the family.
Maundy Thursday	Volunteer to prepare, serve, or assist with set-up/clean-up for this evening event. This is a Deacon Sponsored event..
New Member Orientation	When possible, volunteer to assist with orientation sessions for new and prospective church members.