



Officer Nominees 2024 ~ Class of 2027

ELDERS

Carolyn Brandt (filling the unexpired term of Jack Moorman, Class of 2025), has served as an Elder (chairing the Mission Council) and Trustee. She is currently the church treasurer and a member of the Budget and Finance Committee, and enjoys the Faith and Literature Sunday School class, Literary Circle, the Women's Bible Study, and Second Course. Carolyn is a retired teacher and administrator at The Steward School and currently serves on the Board of Trustees. She enjoys spending time with her two daughters and their families, art, reading, gardening, and cheering for the Tar Heels.

Chanson Finney and his wife Amie joined Second Pres in 2015. Chanson retired after 30 wonderful years as a church choir director, during which time he was responsible for the installation of a new 23 rank Holtkamp organ. He also taught choral music: four years at Davis and Elkins College; and 22 in Fairfax County, Virginia (19 at McLean High School). Chanson and Amie retired down to Richmond from Northern Virginia in 2015 and quickly settled in at Second, attracted by the excellent preaching, choir, and organ. He served on Property Council as child care representative. He is looking forward to contributing whatever he can to this fine church.

Frederick Helm is Yankee-born (New York City) with deep North Carolina Presbyterian clergy roots, including Laurinburg, Charlotte, Wilmington, Wilson, Kenly, Asheville, and Montreat/Black Mountain (to mention a few). He grew up at First Presbyterian and served two terms on the Diaconate, including duties with Stewardship, Budget, and Men's Fellowship. Frederick and his wife, Barbara, joined Second Presbyterian in 2014, and he has served two terms on the Diaconate, been active with men's fellowship, mentored interns, and has partnered with Kate Fiedler and the Deacons on Second's annual trivia extravaganza. Frederick owns a national insurance consulting and brokerage firm and is an avid baseball and volleyball official. He and Barbara have been married 39 years, have three children, and live in Short Pump.

Julia Merritt has enjoyed being a member of Second Pres since she and her husband, Will, joined the church in 2022. She serves as a member of the Mission and Advocacy Council and looks forward to becoming more involved in the life of the church as an Elder. A Charlottesville native, Julia attended UVa and received her B.A. in psychology. She went on to earn her Master's degree in school counseling from VCU, and has worked as a counselor at the elementary school level in Henrico County Public Schools. She enjoys spending time outside, especially walking by the James River in Richmond with her husband.

Sharon Moeser has been a member of Second Presbyterian Church since 1974. She is retired from Richmond Public Schools where she taught high school English. At Second Pres, she has served as a Deacon, a member and President of the Child Care Center Board, a Walk-In volunteer, and a member of the Faith and Literature Sunday School Class. She has two adult sons, Jeremy and David, who both grew up at Second. She looks forward to further service as an Elder.

Kate Nash joined Second Presbyterian in 2015 with her daughter, Frances. She may be found professing about English literature at VCU, practicing Lectio Divina, ushering, ringing handbells, listening to classical music, reading, writing, and preparing to study Public Theology this fall at Union Presbyterian Seminary. She has served as Deacon both here and at Westminster Presbyterian in Dayton, Ohio, and she is honored by this call to serve as Elder.

Emily Scott, a lifelong Presbyterian, and her husband Thomas "Scotty" Scott have been members of Second since 2006. Her children, Zoe and Henry, were baptized at Second and are active in church school and youth activities. Emily is a former Latin teacher who now practices law at Hirschler. In her spare time, she enjoys discovering new treats at Trader Joe's and cheering her beloved Tar Heels to victory.

Mary Spain and husband Jack moved to Richmond after law school and marriage in 1965. They joined Second Presbyterian in 1972 after son John was born, drawn by the good preaching and music and downtown ministries. Over the years she has taught Sunday School (with Ed Slipek), served as Sunday School Superintendent, and as a member of the Child Care Center Board. She has served as an Elder, Trustee, and Chair of the Trustees. Of late, Mary has been enjoying coordinating the Brunch Bunch monthly meet-ups at McLean's Restaurant.

Bryan Tims lives in Short Pump with his wife, January; his French Bulldog, Remy; and a cat. He works at the Virginia State Lab in the Newborn Screening Laboratory. He has been a member of Second Presbyterian for almost 20 years. He has served on Session, a PNC, and the membership council. He has volunteered with the Walk-In ministry, the shower ministry, led student circles at the PACE Center, and is a member of the men's group. In his spare time, he enjoys cooking, gardening, fishing, nature, baseball, UVa sports, and trying new hobbies.

Jeff Wells (filling the unexpired term of Chris Reina, Class of 2025) has been a member of Second Pres for over thirty years. He has previously served terms on the Session and the Diaconate, and has served on the Fellowship, Administrative, and Property Committees, as well as chairing the Membership Committee. Jeff has also been active in the Chancel Choir and was a Sunday School teacher for third and fourth graders. He also recently served as co-chair of the Capital Campaign committee. Jeff is now retired, but previously was an attorney in the public sector in state and federal courts. He left the legal world for a hospitality adventure in operating and managing "Maury Place," a bed and breakfast in the Museum District. Jeff is married to Mac Pence, also a long time member of Second Pres. Jeff enjoys traveling the world with Mac, reading novels of all sorts, enjoying live theater performances, singing with the Richmond Men's Chorus, and taking regular strolls through the streets of the Fan with Mac and their loving hound, Millie.

Officer Nominees 2024 ~ Class of 2027 (continued)

DEACONS

(2) denotes a second term

Lauriston Davis (2) Born in Richmond, Lauriston grew up in Northern Virginia, but after college, returned and joined Second Presbyterian where her parents and grandparents belonged before her. Having worked in advertising at The Times-Dispatch, she is now enjoying her job at Virginia Economic Development Partnership. She is a member of both the Fan and Museum District Associations, and a former condo board member at Tuscan Villas. A fan of theater and music of all kinds, she is grateful for the opportunity to have visited all 50 states, as well as 36 countries on five continents. Having been a Deacon, and on the Worship and Mission and Advocacy Councils, Lauriston looks forward to serving again.

Joe Earhart was born and raised in the Shenandoah Valley. He is retired from the University of Virginia where he served as the Business Administrator for the McIntyre Department of Art and then finished up his work life in the Department of Economics. After being invited to First Presbyterian Church in Waynesboro by a neighbor in 2015, he appreciated the warm welcome he received and became involved in many facets of church life. He was baptized at age 59 and later became a Deacon. Regular church attendance and serving in the Walk-in program are very important to him.

Carly Groover joined Second Presbyterian shortly after moving to Richmond in 2017. She grew up in Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church, a PC(USA) Church in Lynchburg, Virginia. She lives with her partner, Chris, and her goldendoodle, Baloo, in Mechanicsville. Carly studied conflict analysis and resolution and is passionate about working with community outreach organizations. She was drawn to Second Pres by its commitment and action to build a welcoming community to all.

Collyn Hawn (2) and her husband Michael joined Second Pres in 2019. Her career was in School Psychology, which involved lots of problem-solving with teachers, parents, and students. In church, her involvement has often been education-focused; she has served on and chaired various education committees. She had another "career" being the wife of a church music professor, which gave her the opportunity to learn from other church musicians and to participate in interesting worship experiences around the world. Collyn is the mother of two and the grandmother of five fascinating young people.

TRUSTEES

Anne McDonnell has been a member of Second since 2012. She is serving her first term as Trustee, and is a member of the choir. She is the Owner of Neuro Nerd Consulting, LLC, and specializes in brain injury recovery and advocacy. She finds therapy and great joy in baking.

Stuart Martin (2), a prep cook at Amuse Restaurant at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, is looking forward to serving a second term as a Deacon. Stuart was baptized at Second Presbyterian when his family joined the church in 2006. He is an Eagle Scout and a 2016 graduate of Northstar Academy. He completed a two-year career services program in food service through the PAVE program at Reynolds Community College in 2018. In his free time Stuart likes listening to music, keeping up with sports, and cooking dinner for his family.

Susan Love Nochta (2) has been a member of Second for 25 years after transferring her membership from Grace Covenant Church. Susan will be serving her second term as Deacon. She is currently on the Nominating Committee and the Mission and Advocacy Council. She worked on the church directory and made calls to members. She is known for her famous Louisiana pound cake and has volunteered with Walk-In Ministry, U-Kirk and Pace Center, and youth groups. She enjoys sending cards, Lectio Divina, Brunch Bunch, Second Course, Women's Ministry, and memorial receptions. Susan loves preparing and serving for Deacon's Fellowship after Sunday worship, visiting the sick, and preparing meals to the homebound. She has served with the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary State Adjutant and State Chaplain, Department of Virginia.

Bill Richter (2) joined Second Pres in 2017, and currently works as an analyst with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership. Bill is the son of a Presbyterian Minister from DeKalb, Illinois, and served as a Young Adult Volunteer and Long-term Volunteer with the PC(USA) in Guatemala and Mexico. Bill and his wife Ryland moved to Richmond from Washington, D.C., and they have two children, Ellis and Alex. Bill enjoys running, amateur astronomy, and camping with his family.

Jack Warren has been a member of Second Pres since 2021. However, Jack did attend Presbyterian College and was married at Second, so this former Methodist isn't all that new. Jack grew up in Columbus, Georgia and met his wife, Erica Vogler Warren, in college. Jack works in Sports Marketing at Octagon and loves catching any game on TV or in person. Jack enjoys working in the yard, walking his dog, Darla, watching old movies, grilling, and spending time with friends and family. If you see Jack around Second, be sure to tell him your favorite Richmond area restaurant. Bonus points if it is a BBQ joint!

Mac Pence (2) is the former owner of Pence Auto Group and has been a member of Second Presbyterian for over twenty years. He served as co-chair of the recent Capital Campaign and has traveled on Second church mission trips to Guatemala and Malawi, and took part in the recent trip to Israel.