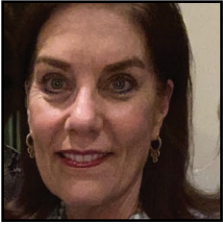


# DEACONS IN CLASS 2025



## MARY ALEXANDER\*

Mary Alexander is a lifelong member of First Presbyterian Church. Her family history dates back to its beginning. She was baptized by Rev. Mauze and married by Rev. Dr. Zbinden. Mary and her husband Jim have just celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. They have 2 married sons, and 4 grandsons.

Mary retired from Young Life San Antonio several years ago as an office administrator. She looks forward to serving as a Deacon for the first time.



## STEVE BARKER\*

My name is Steve Barker. I am married to Alison Barker. We have been married 42 years. I worked at Frost Bank for 35 years retiring in 2016. Jonathan and Michele Barker are our son and daughter in law and are members of First Presbyterian too. My involvement includes the Samaritan's Purse shoe box Christmas project, the Connections Sunday school class, Habitat for

Humanity builds, Love 210, providing clothing for the KRL and participation on Saturday mornings feeding the homeless.



## TOM BENKE

I am a San Antonio native. I grew up in the Leon Valley area, attended John Marshall H.S. and Trinity University. At Trinity, I met Lecy Barton. We were married in 1974 and are approaching our 48th wedding anniversary. We have one son, Robert David, named after his two uncles.

Professional: I have been in sales my entire career, specializing in school sales and service. In an average year I would be the speaker for about 15,000 students per school year. I love working with students, their teachers, and club sponsors. 2021 was my last year of full-time employment. As a self-employed person, my retirement won't happen on a distinct day and time. Retirement to me is slowing down over months or even a couple years.

Service: This will be my fourth rotation serving on the Diaconate. Teaching Children's Sunday School (4's, 5's, and Kinder), was my calling for 17 years. I have headed the FPC Blood Drive and am now Facilitator for the Bridges Sunday School class. I have been an usher on the Nilsson Team for 25+ years. Special Memories: These include many years of Father's Day weekends at the All-Church Family Retreat at MO Ranch, participating in the bike ride from San Antonio to MO, and mission trips to Acuna, Mexico, to build a youth center.

# DEACONS IN CLASS 2025



## LEE FOLKES

This will be Lee's fourth time on rotation as a deacon and he's passionate about the work the diaconate does for the members of the congregation. Lee and wife Anne have been members of the church for thirty eight years and raised their children Anne Stuart and Leland "Land" in the church. Lee works as a member representative for the National Federation of Independent Business. In his

free time, he enjoys exercising and playing with his Boston Terriers, Gladys and Wally.

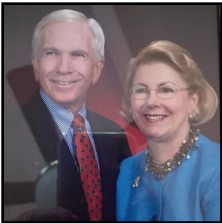


## JESSICA FRITZ\*

Jessica grew up in the Presbyterian Church in Southern California and joined FPC in 2014 with her husband, Lance. She is active in the Contemporary Worship Service as a Team Captain for greeters/ushers and a singer. Jessica is a member of FPC's Connections Committee and the incoming Historian for the Women of First Presbyterian Church. She also served on FPC's

Contemporary Worship Leader Search Committee in 2014-2015.

Jessica moved to San Antonio in 2011 from the Washington, DC area, where she worked as an intelligence analyst for the Central Intelligence Agency. She met Lance, prior to his retirement from the US Navy, in Croatia, where both were in language training for their respective jobs. Jessica is blessed to be a step-mom to Lance's three children (all in their 20s).



## GEORGIA HEATH

Georgia joined the church at the time of her marriage to husband, Mike, in 1995 officiated by Rev. Louis Zbinden. She is the daughter of June and Frank Khym. Her mother was a deacon, her father an elder and her deceased husband was serving as a deacon at the time of his untimely death. Georgia is a retired Northside teacher having taught Spanish at Clark High School.

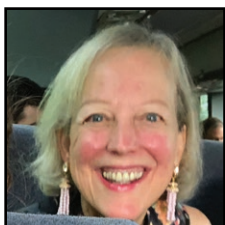
After retirement, Georgia hit the volunteer circuit at church, Assistance League San Antonio and Military-Civilian Club. She served as co-chair with CharAn Witten of Care and Concern. She served on the church finance committee and as a church angel in the nursery. She served as a deacon in the class of 2014. Involved with the women of the church, she was previously vice president in charge of the directory and chairman of the Women of the Church Coffee. Currently, she is a member of Circle 5. Georgia is honored to have a second opportunity to serve her church as a deacon. From her days in high school, she has followed a motto, "Teach us delight in Simple things" and the other being: "Whatsoever things be true, whatsoever things be just, whatsoever things be honorable, think on these things."

# DEACONS IN CLASS 2025



## MARY HENDERSON

Mary Henderson is looking forward to once again serving FPC as a deacon. She and her husband Garland have two sons, Austin and Benjamin. Mary has a background in elementary education, but currently works at Christian Assistance Ministry. Mary has served on Local Missions, Children's and Youth Ministry Committees, has been a confirmation leader and mentor, taught VBS, and facilitates a Life Group. One of her favorite hours of the week is teaching 5th grade Sunday School! In response to the great love Christ has shown her, Mary wants to serve FPC members.



## LELLEN LANE

Lellen Lane has been part of the First Presbyterian Church community her whole life. Growing up she was baptized, confirmed, attended Sunday school and youth activities. She and husband, Rick, were married in the sanctuary by Louis Zbinden and Ed Walthall. They have three children, Emily, Bill and Minnie who were also raised in the church. Her professional life was with the American Red Cross. Lellen has served on various committees, including the Officer Nominating Committee. She is now active in Women of the Church and small group coordinator and a group leader of the Pastor's Bible Study. She and her husband have a heart for missionaries serving in Latin America and around the world. Lellen is honored to be nominated to return to the role of deacon.



## JUDITH MCNEEL

I was baptized at age 3 months in Westminster Presbyterian Church in Lynchburg, Virginia, my home before joining FPC with Douglas McNeel in 1978. During these 44 years I have rejoiced during the baptism of my children, Lewis and Suzanne, as well as mourned the loss of Doug and his parents in the sanctuary of this church. I have served as a Deacon and Elder, serving on the Senior Adult Ministry Committee. I enjoyed years of teaching Children's Sunday school classes including VBS, through Music with the banjo and singing. Occasionally, I played oboe in the sanctuary during the worship services. Doug and I hosted Sunday School classes, Bible & book studies, and fellowship groups at our ranch home. Later we were drawn to the needs of the homeless population and joined our FPC friends in showing Christ's love through prayer and fellowship to our neighbors on the street. FPC feeds my soul through the Thursday Morning Bible Study, the Pastor's Sunday School class, and through the WOC. I look forward to serving as a Deacon in the class of 2025.

# DEACONS IN CLASS 2025



## **STANLEY MEDFORD\***

Stanley joined First Presbyterian Church in 2017 after attending for several years and realizing that FPC is where he belonged to learn and serve God's purpose. He is married to Mary Fruge-Medford, a former Deacon and Stephen Minister at First Presbyterian Church, a Covenant member since 2013. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army. Stanley graduated from Texas A&M University and has worked at several financial institutions

in the San Antonio and surrounding area. He retired as the Chief Executive Officer of a Federal Credit Union. He is an active member of KEYS at First Presbyterian Church. He volunteers and has served on several committees for non-profit organizations in San Antonio. Stanley has been a Special Olympics Coach and has served on the Board of Directors of a Sheltered Workshop.



## **MICHAEL MORSE\***

Michael first became a covenant partner of First Presbyterian Church in 1984 with his family. He attended, until May 1993, when he married his wife, Stacia. Their wedding was officiated by Reverend Louis Zbinden. They ventured out for a life in Salt Lake City, Utah, where they raised their two children Kate and Christopher. Michael began his 29 years in Commercial

Real Estate career at Pinnacle. Kate is currently working on her degree in Elementary Education and Christopher is a US Marine at Camp Lejeune in NC. Michael moved the family home to San Antonio in 2013 and rejoined FPC as covenant partners. Their children were confirmed, volunteered in multiple mission trips and enjoyed fellowship in youth group and now college ministry. As a family, they've loved volunteering on project 240 with FPC'S partnership with Habitat for Humanity for many years. Michael has been a commercial real estate broker at REOC San Antonio for the last eight years and enjoys hunting, fishing, tennis and pickleball and time with family and friends. Michael has served as a greeter at Contemporary service, First Presbyterian Scholarship Committee and has enjoyed being involved in men's Tribe and ministry dinners. He and Stacia attend the "Deep Dive" Sunday School class. Michael is looking forward to serving, as Deacon, to help give back some of the grace and love this Church has brought his family over the years.

# DEACONS IN CLASS 2025



## MIKE MUNROE\*

Mike first joined the FPC community in high school, and he and Mary Claire met and married here. Career moves took them away from San Antonio for ten years, and during that time, daughters Sarah and Amy were born. In 2007, Mike and Mary Claire rejoined First Pres, and Mike went on to serve as an elder and as chair of global and local missions. Mike has a heart for missions, having served in New Jersey's Hurricane Sandy cleanup and helping build with our Yucatan mission partner. He has also traveled to India and Malawi to see how God is at work through other mission partners. Mike now looks forward to serving FPC in a new way, hoping to reflect the love and grace of Jesus in ways that FPC members have done for him and the Munroe family throughout all the stages of life.



## NANCY PUCKETT

Nancy is a life-long Presbyterian. She grew up in Waco, was baptized, and was an active member of Central Presbyterian. In 1985, her family joined FPC. Her husband, Glenn, is deceased. Her daughter Courtney lives and works in Austin. After a long (35 years) and wonderful career of teaching elementary school, Nancy retired and focused on volunteer work at church and being a reading mentor. Joy is helping a child be a successful reader! Nancy has served in many areas at FPC: Thursday morning Bible study, Church officer nominating committee, associate pastor search committee, President of WOC, and a deacon. She is honored to serve again as a deacon and looks forward to being a part of God's work at FPC.



## MARTI SEAL

Marti has been a lifelong member and is the third generation of her family to serve at FPC. She served recently on Local Missions, is a team captain for Contemporary Service and is responsible for Women's faith gatherings. Marti is also a Stephen Minister. Marti has one son, Will, who is married and she has two grandsons. Marti works in healthcare and coordinates care for patients needing home health. I'm excited and humbled to be a deacon and look forward to serving!

# DEACONS IN CLASS 2025



## JANE ANN TEMPLE\*

I joined FPC almost 40 years ago before I married my husband, Devereaux. We have two married children, Ginny and Elizabeth, that were raised in this church I taught children's Sunday School and VBS for many years, but now I am attending Connections Sunday School. I have served on the Children and the Youth Ministry committees and on a search committee for a Youth leader. As a member of WOC, I have had several positions and am a member of Circle 20, and chaired Circles 7 and 5 (Shawl Ministry). This congregation has supported my family in so many ways. I am honored and excited to serve as a deacon.



## NEIL WILLIAMS

Returning Deacon. Member since 1994. An Ohio native, Neil arrived in San Antonio in 1991, and was stationed at Lackland AFB. He retired from the Air Force in 1996 and has been a seasonal employee of H&R Block since 2000 and he became an Enrolled Agent in 2007. During his prior deacon service, he was an active participant in Home Communion for those covenant partners who are unable to attend in-person services. Neil served as an usher for several years at the 8:30am service, and then became an active member of the Sanctuary Choir. He has twice served as president of the choir and has been active in the July 4th picnics sponsored by the choir and KEYS. Neil is the moderator of the Uncomfortable' Class and for the last few years has been active in various KEYS events—lectures and luncheons.



## BEN YOUNG\*

Ben Young met Jesus following high school. He was an English major who became a dentist and had an Air Force career, retiring in San Antonio. Ben joined the church in 2017 and currently councils in the DivorceCare ministry. He also writes and posts daily at [thestillpoint.substack.com](http://thestillpoint.substack.com).



# DEACONS IN CLASS 2026



## HAROLD BLACK

I'm Harold Black. My wife Nancy and I joined FPC in 1993. We've been active members of the choir ever since. We joined KEYS in 2009. We've held several leadership positions and still participate. We've also been in Sunday school classes since joining. I retired from the Army in '92 and then taught social studies at John Marshall H.S until retirement in 2009. I took the

Precepts class on Galatians last year and am in the study of Hebrews now. I've been a Deacon and became a Stephens Minister in 2017. As a Deacon and with Stephen Ministry I've focused on grief ministry and hope to continue expressing God's love and forgiveness to our Covenant Partners.



## NANCY BLACK

I'm Nancy Black. My husband and I joined FPC in 1993, and immediately joined the Sanctuary Choir and Sunday School. I participated in the advisory committee which lead to the choice of Jae Ha as our organist. More recently, I served on the selection committee which brought Joe Moore to our FPC staff. I am a deacon on rotation and was pleased to help establish our deacon-

lead service of home communion. Our daughter and her family live nearby in Dripping Springs. Always a student, I am currently participating in another Precepts class. I enjoy painting, reading and research. I retired in 2009 from NEISD, where I served as an English/Social Studies teacher and later as Academic Dean. I look forward to continuing my help and friendship among our FPC Covenant Partners.



## JOHN CHANEY\*

John Chaney joined FPC in May 2021. He has a daughter, Jade Owens and son in law Travis Owens, along with grandkids Oliva Owens, Ella Owens and Walker Owens. He attends the Trebes Sasser Sunday school class, serves on the Property Committee, and is part of the Tribe Men's Group. He is the owner of Baird Foundation Repair. His hobbies include yardwork and

ranching—anything to do with outside. John is looking forward to doing the Lord's work and helping people.

# DEACONS IN CLASS 2026



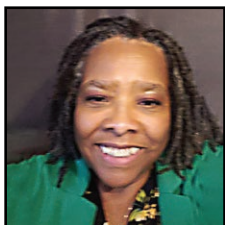
## **JACOB GRAY\***

Jacob first started attending First Presbyterian Church in 2019, as a result of meeting FPC Covenant Partner, David Youngquist, at Christian Assistance Ministry. His conversation with David led Jacob to becoming connected with the Young Adult Community at FPC. In 2020, Jacob became a Covenant Partner at FPC. Shortly thereafter, he began serving on the Local Missions

Committee. He was involved with FPC's San Antonio East Side Mission Trip in the summer of 2019. Later that year, he attended classes with AMO at FPC, led by FPC's Global Ministry partners, Chris and Francelia McReynolds. He currently enjoys serving as a Team Captain for greeters/ushers for FPC's Modern Worship Service. Jacob leads a monthly chapel service at FPC's Local Mission Partner, Mission Road Ministries. Some of his other capacities include serving on the Prayer Ministry Committee, attending the Young Adult Community Gatherings, and serving as a Prayer Partner with the Biblicus Mexico program for two years (2021-2022). He loves attending the Men's Tribe Bible Studies and quarterly dinners. His family includes his father, Bryan Gray; mother, Bonnie Albert; stepfather, Merland Albert; sister, Abbigail Chaney, and brother-in-law; Will Chaney. Jacob works at LEE High School as a special education teacher. In his free time, you can find him playing spikeball, pickleball, basketball, and spending time with his family and friends. In his role as a Deacon, Jacob is most looking forward to the opportunity of sharing God's love and grace to those around him.



# DEACONS IN CLASS 2026



## **PHYLLIS GRIFFIN\***

When I first entered the doors of FPC I was hired as Receptionist in August 2000. Morris and I joined the FPC, in 2001 along with Noelle, Gregory, and Nathan. Morris moved us to Cincinnati in 2011. We moved back to San Antonio, in 2014 and I started working for FPC in 2014 as Receptionist once again. I didn't rejoin the church as a Covenant Partner of FPC until February

2021. I am currently volunteering as Receptionist, Greeter, and at KRL. I am in Circle 11 and recently joined the Care and Concern Circle. I attend Traditional Worship in person and Online. I attend a women's Bible study on Wednesday, which helps me grow spiritually. I am an inactive Stephen's Minister but as time permits would love to serve as well. I am retired, but babysit my grandchildren: Greg's son, Malik (10), and Nathan and Ashley's two toddlers, Aria (3) and Deuce (1). I am truly blessed to be called to serve as a Deacon, thank you it is truly a privilege and honor to be part our church family.

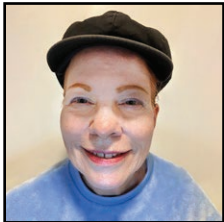


## **ASHLEY JACKSON\***

Ashley has been a part of the FPC San Antonio family her entire life. After college and law school, Ashley returned to San Antonio and married Jobe Jackson, who was also raised at FPC. Ashley and Jobe have two sons, J.W. (6) and Pearce (2). Ashley is currently blessed to serve FPC as an 8th grade Confirmation teacher, as part of the Worship Committee, and as an usher.

Ashley is also part of the Pathways Sunday School class that meets early on Sunday mornings to build community and study the Bible together. Outside of church, Ashley is a public interest attorney who represents individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and/or mental illness who have been institutionalized. Ashley also loves to cook and enjoy meals with family and friends! Ashley is honored to serve FPC as a deacon in the coming years.

# DEACONS IN CLASS 2026



## **CONNIE JONES\***

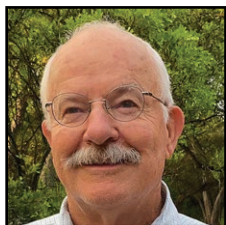
The name is Constance Jones, but please call me Connie. Just as soon as FPC reopened its doors in August of 2021, I started attending. In January of 2022, I joined FPC. You will almost always see me on a Sunday with my two San Antonio grandchildren - 6 year old Zaynah and 3 year old DJ. Thanks to being retired, I enjoy being their day care whenever their parents are at work. In the time I've been a Covenant Partner, I have become a greeter, an usher, a bell choir player, a substitute Sunday School teacher, a VBS teacher and a member of the Connections Class where we have very interesting discussions each time. Hobbies of mine are reading, crocheting, playing badminton, and practicing the flute, banjo and piano. People are very friendly at FPC and I feel like I am acquainted with so many new friends. Now I'm looking forward to team work with the other Deacons and I hope and pray to get to know and serve people on a deeper level.



## **JUDY KRUGER\***

Judy Kruger was baptized and confirmed at First Presbyterian Church in Corinth, Mississippi. She and Barry were married there in 1986 and now have two adult children, Wesley and Janis. They moved to San Antonio in 1998 and joined First Presbyterian Church soon afterward. Judy has been honored to serve FPC in a variety of roles: several offices of Women of the Church, including President; member of Children's Ministry, Adult Education, and Officer Nominating committees; VBS volunteer. She has attended Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study since it began 20 years ago. She and Barry are currently one of the mentor couples in the Young Families Sunday school class and are also active members of a Life Group. In response to the tender love and mercy she has received from Jesus Christ, Judy looks forward to serving Him and FPC as a deacon.

# DEACONS IN CLASS 2026



## **RITCHIE McCULLOCH**

Ritchie became a member of First Presbyterian Church in the mid-nineties and soon after met his amazing wife of 23 years through fellow church members. Together, they have a blended family of 5 adult sons, wonderful daughters-in-law, and a magnificent granddaughter. After spending 40 years in the land brokerage and development industry,

Ritchie now enjoys leisure activities such as golf, fishing, and traveling around the country with Karen in their little Airstream. Currently involved in the church's Mental Health ministry, Ritchie has previously served as a Deacon, taught in Sunday school, ushered in the Contemporary Service, acted as a reading buddy, volunteered at KRL, and participated in various Sunday school classes and small groups. Grateful for the caring and loving community at the church, Ritchie feels honored to serve once again as a Deacon.



## **DIANA MOREHOUSE\***

A native of San Antonio, I grew up attending St Mark's Episcopal Church, but moved to First Presbyterian Church in the late 1970's after looking for a church with a superior children's program for my two young daughters. This was in the early Louis Zbinden era, and I was happy to become a Covenant Partner at First Pres.

In those early years, I was involved with the Children's Choir. In later years, I served on the Local Missions Committee, and I continue to serve on the Sanctuary Flower Committee. As a community volunteer, I have served as President of the Christian Assistance Ministries Board, the Alamo Heights School Foundation Board, the Charity Ball Association Board, and as a board member of The Witte Museum and Charity Ball Legacy Foundation. I am honored to have the opportunity to serve this church, that I have grown to love over the past 50 years.

# DEACONS IN CLASS 2026



## LORIE OLIVER\*

Lorie and Bill, her husband of 41 years, joined First Presbyterian Church in 1986 when they moved back to San Antonio. They had been members of Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Dallas after marrying and moving there. Their three children, Elizabeth, Ashley and Will grew up in the church and were baptized and confirmed here. All three of them were married in our

beautiful sanctuary and are covenant partners at FPC. Their grandchildren, Milly, Sarabeth, Pierce and Samantha have also all been baptized here. Lorie was an accountant in the early years of marriage and later was a realtor at Kuper Realty for many years before retiring. Her favorite job today is being "Lolly" to her four precious grandchildren. Lorie has been involved in Loaves and Fishes, Habitat for Humanity builds, Love 210, teaching VBS and volunteering at the reception desk on Sunday mornings. She has enjoyed the fellowship of Sunday School classes and various Bible Studies at the church. She is grateful for this opportunity to serve as a Deacon for the first time and is excited to be a part of God's plan for our church.



## SARAH RICE\*

Sarah Rice is the proud mom of Finley (3rd grade) and wife to Justin Rice. She and Justin began regularly attending FPC when they were dating and became Covenant Partners after they married in 2010. She's involved with the Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study, serves on the Children's Ministry Committee and, along with Justin, is part of the Marriage Sunday School

class. Sarah enjoys the outdoors - especially gardening and making pieces from things she finds in nature. Her hobbies include building relationships, volunteering at Finley's school, reading, traveling, and shopping thrift stores and estate sales. She loves to create community through one-on-one interactions and small group activities. As a Deacon, Sarah looks forward to fostering and strengthening the FPC family through authentic, relational outreach.

# DEACONS IN CLASS 2026



## **DEBORAH ROGERS**

Louis Zbinden married David and I at First Presbyterian Church in 1988. When we moved to San Antonio in 1991, we joined FPC. We raised our three children here and have been blessed in countless ways over the years by our church community. I am a Trustee and Board Member of the H. E. Butt Foundation. I've served numerous Deacon rotations over the years and it's a joy and privilege to return and serve our covenant partners. Other of my roles at FPC include Officer Nominating Committee, PW (WOC) Circle Chair, Genesis II member and, along with David, elementary Sunday School teacher. We give our time to the work and ministries of the H. E. Butt Foundation, Laity Lodge, Laity Lodge Youth Camps and our Foundation Camps in the hill country. Our three children are married and have given us four beloved grandchildren, ages four to 18 months. I love spending as much time with them as possible between San Antonio, Dallas and Tennessee. I enjoy travel, reading, painting, photography and fiber arts.



## **ROBERT TURNBULL\***

Robert and his wife, Nancy, joined FPC in 2014. Their children Bailey, Tate, and Austin were all baptized at FPC. Robert's involvement includes ushering and assisting with Children's Sunday School (4's, 5's, and Kinder). He looks forward to serving as a Deacon for the first time. Robert works at Argent Financial Group where he manages oil and gas interests for clients.

# DEACONS IN CLASS 2026



## **JANET WERNLI**

It is my honor to serve as a deacon. I have been a Covenant Partner at First Presbyterian since 1995. My husband Fritz (deceased) and I have two married children, Matt (Ashley) and Christina (Brandon). We have five wonderful grandchildren. My service at First Pres. has been so joyful from teaching Sunday school, singing in the choir, Bible studies and a variety

of positions in Women of the Church including president. I have loved my previous years as a deacon including Moderator. I am looking forward to Monday night dinners and meetings, visiting our Covenant Partners and spending time with other deacons. We are a blessed congregation! I was a teacher in middle school at Alamo Heights for 23 years and love my retirement! My hobbies range from reading, travel, bridge, civic groups but especially spending time with grandchildren!



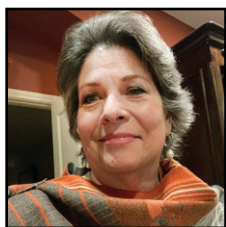
## **DEAN WILLIAMS\***

Dean and his wife, Nancy, joined FPC in 1992, the same year they were married in the church. Their two adult children, son Regan (Austin, TX) and daughter Hannah (San Antonio, TX), were both baptized and confirmed at FPC. Dean is a native San Antonian, graduate of Texas A&M University and owner of the Douglass King Seed Co. of San Antonio. In his spare

time, you will find Dean at the family farm, where they produce native grass and wildflower seeds.



# DEACONS IN CLASS 2026



## **BETSY ZACHRY**

My husband, Powell, and I began attending First Presbyterian in 1993 and joined in 1994. Our three daughters were baptized and raised in this Church. In fact, Rev. Mitchell Moore married our oldest daughter Catherine and her husband, Wayne, in 2019. So this is home for so many reasons! My Church family is just that – a family – this includes other Covenant Partners,

Ministers, and Staff. Some of my most treasured relationships developed as I became more involved with the ministry and work of the Church. Over the years I have been active with Women of the Church serving in various offices and been involved with Circles 20 and more recently 1/12. I have served on Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, Greeters, Women's IF Group, and worked on the planning committee for last year's Women's Retreat. I had the opportunity to serve twice on the Session, the last time overlapped with the start of Covid. I saw the heart and love for Jesus come shining through as our Church sought to grapple with the physical, mental health, and spiritual needs of our Covenant Partners and surrounding community in an unprecedented event in our time. I am honored to be considered for the Board of Deacons for the Class of 2026. I learned a great deal previously under the wise leadership of Moderator Harvey Howell. It is my hope that I may serve our Church family again in this capacity. My girls were raised in the great outdoors and to this day that is my family's great love to be outside, preferably in the mountains, enjoying all of God's creation.

# DEACONS IN CLASS 2027



## **DR. ANNA ARMSTRONG\***

Anna Armstrong, a San Antonio native, has strong ties to First Presbyterian through her family history. Despite her global career as an anesthesiologist spanning over 25 years, she returned to San Antonio in 2004. Anna's prior engagements with the church, like a 2015 medical trip with YAP, underscored FPC's dedication to mission work. She admires their commitment to embodying Christ's grace and holiness, appreciating the growth of local medical outreach efforts and treasuring the relationships fostered within the FPC community. Anna enjoys languages, mathematics, piano, reading, hiking, animal rescue, travel, needlepoint, and scuba diving. A member of the Arthur Gray Jones Sunday School Class and Circle 7, Anna finds inspiration in serving the community, and she is humbly honored to continue serving as a deacon at FPC.



## **PRESTON BROCK\***

Preston Brock was born in San Antonio, Texas, and raised in the Dallas Area. He got a degree in Spanish from the Metropolitan State University of Denver. After college, he spent 6 years teaching special needs middle school students before becoming a homebuilder. Preston and Marisa have been married for 9 years, have 3 children, and became covenant partners in 2022. Since joining the church, Preston has become a regular participant in the Tribe and Ambassador Bible study groups. He has volunteered at Habitat for Humanity, Love Your City, and also attended men's ministry outings. Preston looks forward to serving as a Deacon for the first time and serving the community.

# DEACONS IN CLASS 2027



## **MUFFIN CAMP\***

Muffin Camp grew up in San Antonio and was a member of FPC as a college student. She and Morris were married at First Presbyterian in 1992. She has been involved in various ministries throughout her adult life. At FPC, Muffin has been a Co-leader with Circle 20, co-leads Financial Peace University with Morris, and is involved in Marriage Ministry as a mentor and facilitator with the Prepare and Enrich program. She co-leads the Young Adult Ministry with Morris and is also a young adult mentor. Muffin spends her time organizing clients' spaces, visiting with friends and family, and loves to travel with Morris around the country and throughout the world. Muffin is passionate about serving others with the love of Christ. She loves her FPC family and looks forward to serving her community.



## **DANIELLE COUCH\***

Danielle Couch became a Covenant Partner in May 2019 after graduating from Trinity University with a B.S. in Business Analytics & Technology and a minor in Theatre. She was commissioned by First Pres that summer to serve in South Asia and has lived in San Antonio since returning. Danielle works as a Senior in the Consulting Services practice of Ernst & Young LLP. Danielle is also involved in the young adult community and local and global missions. She is incredibly grateful for this community and is excited to continue to serve the Lord as a Deacon.

# DEACONS IN CLASS 2027



## LINDA DELANO

Linda and her husband, Rich, have been members of FPC for over ten years. They are the parents of two grown children, Kevin and Amy. Linda has been active in Women of the Church as a member of Circle 7 and has held several officer positions, including president. She enjoys reading, cooking, and entertaining, and is a regular volunteer at CAM.

Linda has been a Deacon before and looks forward to the rich blessings of being a Deacon again.



## SHAWN GULLEY

Shawn Gulley and his wife, Christy have been members of FPC since 1992 and were married in the Church by Louis Zbinden that same year. The Gulleys have four children: Reagan (28), Ben (26), Robert (20), and Mary Stuart (20), who were all baptized at FPC. Shawn was previously on the board of directors for Mission Road Ministries. He is a graduate of

Washington & Lee University and is a Vice President of R.L. Worth & Associates. Inspired by a Walk to Emmaus in April 2017, Shawn is grateful for the opportunity to become more involved and serve FPC. Shawn previously served as a Deacon from 2018-2021.



## GARLAND HENDERSON

Garland Henderson has been a member of First Presbyterian Church since 2006 and feels led to be the "hands and feet" of Christ by serving members of our church as a deacon. He has served previously as an FPC deacon, member of the FPC Global Missions Committee, and established a Small Group that has been meeting since 2007. Reaching out to serve and

prayerfully support members of the church is crucial to fulfill and embody the mission of the church. Garland is blessed to have faithful family members, including Mary, his wonderful wife, who serves at Christian Assistance Ministries (CAM); and two sons, Austin, a petroleum engineer in Dallas, and Benjamin, FPC Director of College Ministries. Garland is a retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel and currently works as a US Space Force civil servant. Garland feels that it would be an honor and privilege to serve as a deacon.

# DEACONS IN CLASS 2027



## SCOTT HOWARD

Scott Howard has been part of the Presbyterian Church his entire life and joined First Presbyterian Church in San Antonio as a covenant partner in 2018. Since joining, Scott has attended several Sunday School classes and is currently attending the FPC Bridges class. He also serves as an usher for the traditional service.



## TONI LeGRAND\*

Toni, a mother of two grown children, cherishes their upbringing as her fondest memories. She had a business career and learned so much from great people. She now enjoys hobbies like gardening, travel, sewing, and calligraphy. Although her exercise routines are a work in progress, she delights in good food and wine. Toni finds enrichment in serving

communion, studying the Bible, teaching Sunday school, and enjoying the support of her First Pres friends.



## RACHEL MAURER

Rachel Maurer has been a member of First Presbyterian Church since 1999. Rachel and her husband, David, have three daughters, Hannah, Kate, and Lauren, who have grown up in the church. Rachel taught Godly Play Sunday School for 17 years. She has served as chair of the Nursery Committee and a member of the Children's Ministry Committee. Rachel also volunteered with Young Lives and VBS for

several years. She is looking forward to returning to the Diaconate, where she previously served as moderator.



## RYAN McLOUGHLIN\*

Ryan began attending FPC in 2017 and became covenant partner in 2020. He and his wife Emily have been married for five years and were married by Reverend Mitchell Moore in 2019. He and Emily has a two-year old daughter named Madison. Upon graduation from Baylor University in 2016, Ryan moved to San Antonio and now works for a family

owned and operated insurance agency, McLoughlin Insurance. Ryan has served on the Young Adult, Marriage and Property committees. Ryan is passionate about building relationships and feels grateful for the opportunity to serve the Church and its community.

# DEACONS IN CLASS 2027



## **DOWNIE MICKLER\***

Downie Mickler became a Christian when she was a child, a follower of Jesus, and active member of FPC in her teens, and a lover of our Lord when in college. She married Bobby Mickler and raised 5 kids on the mission field and here in San Antonio. She has served on the Prayer Ministry committee, is a Bible study leader, loves worshipping, and serves on the Global Missions Committee and the Marriage Ministry with her husband.



## **DONNA MONCRIEF\***

Donna Moncrief has lived in San Antonio since 2019, moving from Marina del Rey, California, and became a covenant partner in 2022. With a Love to see others to know Christ through global missions and evangelism, she serves on the Global Missions team, serves with Alpha and participated in Mission Trips to Spain and to South Korea with FPC, and leads a Bible study in her home. Originally from the Ft. Worth area, she graduated from Southwestern Seminary and is a licensed professional counselor. She is honored to be nominated to serve as Deacon.



## **LAURA SASSER**

Laura Sasser became a covenant partner of First Presbyterian Church in 2013. Since then, she has been actively involved in serving the church in various capacities. Laura is currently a member of the Young Adult, Marriage Ministry, and Local Missions Committees. This will also be her second time serving as a deacon. Previously, Laura was a member of the Prayer Team as well. In addition to her commitments to the church, Laura enjoys serving her community through organizations near her heart, including South Texas Youth for Christ and Bible Study Fellowship. Laura and her husband, Trebes, enjoy spending time with their four married children and 15 grandchildren.



# DEACONS IN CLASS 2027



## **COURTNEY SCHULTZ\***

Courtney Banack Schultz is a highly accomplished professional with a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Colorado and a Masters of Science in Education Administration from Texas State University. With experience as an elementary school teacher, nursery administrator, and in marketing and PR roles, Courtney is actively involved in charitable and civic organizations. She is married to Chris Schultz, President and C.E.O. of Raba Kistner, and has two successful daughters. Courtney is passionate about international travel, skiing, hiking, pickleball, and tennis.



## **GORDON SMITH**

Gordon joined the church in December 1991. He is married to Martha, and they have two adult children, Helen and Graham. Gordon has served as deacon twice before and currently serves as the Team Captain for the FPC Team World Vision half-marathon/ marathon team which raises money for clean water around the world. Gordon has served as an adult chaperone on middle school Breakaway retreats and has served on the Children's Ministry Committee. He and Martha have also enjoyed leading Wee Worship and teaching elementary school Sunday School. They currently attend the Connections Sunday School class.



## **DEBBIE TAYLOR\***

Debbie Taylor, along with her husband Rick, has been a Covenant Partner at FPC since 2022. Debbie's journey has included serving in various ministries throughout her life, from street ministry in Detroit to leading women's small groups in Ann Arbor. Since moving to San Antonio in 1995, Debbie has been involved in women's ministry, children's ministry Committee, marriage ministry, small group Bible studies, Alpha, Stephen Ministry, and the Care and Support team at her church. She has also been a part of the Moms in Prayer group for over 15 years. Debbie currently serves on the Prayer Ministry Committee at FPC and finds joy in participating in various groups and studies within the congregation. With four grown children, three sons-in-law, one daughter-in-law, and 10 grandchildren, Debbie enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, reading Christian literature, and dancing ZUMBA. As a Deacon at FPC, Debbie is grateful for the opportunity to serve the congregation and show her love and gratitude for all that Jesus has done in her life.

# DEACONS IN CLASS 2027



## **NICHOLAS VALENTI**

Nicholas C. Valenti is grateful to call First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio his home. Welcomed warmly and enthusiastically by the church family in 2014, Nicholas grew up attending First Presbyterian Church of Northville in metro-Detroit, Michigan. Upon moving to San Antonio, he felt a natural connection to FPC and has served as a Deacon, Middle School Sunday School Teacher, Connections Committee Member, and Usher at the 11 AM Traditional Worship Service. Crediting the Lord for his life and seeking His guidance each day, Nicholas is thankful for God's love, grace, and purpose in all things. Professionally, he works as a Certified Financial Planner® at Platinum Wealth Solutions of Texas in Shavano Park, helping families achieve their financial goals and protect their assets. In his free time, Nicholas enjoys staying active outdoors, savoring BBQ, and listening to live music.