

OFFICER NOMINEES

ELDERS, SESSION CLASS OF 2020

Mary Beachum

Mary moved to Augusta from Rome, GA in 1993 to take a job at the Regional Library. She was eager to find a church home for her family and they soon found a loving and supportive community at Covenant. Since then she has served as an elder and a deacon and taught several classes. It was through Covenant that she discovered her love of mission both at GAP Ministries and with building and disaster assistance projects. She is grateful for the opportunity to make her spiritual journey with such wonderful traveling companions.

Amy House

Amy has been a member of Covenant since 1997, and has been ordained as an elder and served on the session once before. She is married to Ralph Gillies and is the mother of Owen, Naomi, and Jonah. She is a psychologist and has been on the faculty of MCG since 1997, where she teaches psychotherapy and also specializes in the treatment of traumatic stress and severe emotion dysregulation. She enjoys reading, yoga, and trips to the beach. She is committed to following Christ and serving others with compassion.

Lori Rogers

Lori was born and raised in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. She grew up in a Presbyterian church very similar to ours. Every summer, Lori attended a local Presbyterian camp, Camp Brainerd, that was like a second home to her.

While she was in college at East Stroudsburg University, her sister and then her brother moved to South Carolina. Being close to them and wanting to escape the cold winters, she followed.

She began teaching after college and started her family soon after that. Now she has four beautiful children and she teaches English for Speakers of Other Languages in two Aiken County elementary schools.

She has been active with Covenant's Christian Education Ministry and Vacation Bible School.

Buddy Simpson

Buddy Simpson was born in Washington, Georgia. He earned a BBA from University of Georgia and served 3 years in the US Army. Buddy was also a teacher in the Richmond County School System. His hobbies are history, golf, and travel.

Buddy has been a member of Covenant for approximately 20 years. He serves on the Personnel Ministry team and serves as an usher on Sunday mornings. Buddy also helps with set-up in preparation for our Family Promise week.

DEACON, DIACONATE CLASS OF 2018

Ian Moore

Ian has been attending Covenant with his family since 2003. He officially became a member after his confirmation in the summer of 2015. Ian regularly attends Sunday school and actively participates in youth group and the Celebration Ringers. He also serves as a reader/liturgist for the Sunday morning worship service. Outside of the church, Ian is a sophomore at Greenbrier High School. He participates in the Greenbrier Marching Wolfpack—Greenbrier’s marching band—and the Model United Nations team.

DEACONS, DIACONATE CLASS OF 2020

Joyce Bowers

Joyce was raised in northern Virginia, where she attended a small Presbyterian church in Albin, VA. After graduating from nursing school, she and Terry were married and settled into life in the Air Force. After a few years, they left the military and had subsequent moves around the country as Terry pursued his engineering career and she worked in nursing. Their three children arrived during these years, and life became very busy! Joyce and Terry moved to Georgia in 1989, and soon after joined Covenant, where their family became involved in many opportunities for music, mission, and fellowship.

Joyce’s faith journey began many years ago as a child, and sharing in the life of Covenant has come easily for her, having served as Elder, Sunday School teacher and on various ministry teams. She is a long time member of the choir and handbells and assists with the children’s music program; is active in Covenant’s PW group and Deborah Circle. Joyce is a volunteer nurse at GAP ministry, having retired from nursing at Trinity Hospital a few years ago, and recently has become secretary of NEGA PW Coordinating Team, attending their workshops and gatherings.

It will be exciting to be a part of Covenant’s team as we see where God leads our church in the future!

Andrea Chapline Butt

Andrea is a native of Jacksonville, Florida but has lived in Augusta for 45 years. Her first church experience was when she was quite small when her grandmother would take Andrea to Lakewood Methodist Church where she attended. Later in elementary school she attended Mandarin Baptist Church with her friends. Finally, when Andrea was 12, she found her direction and was baptized and became a charter member of Mandarin Presbyterian Church in Mandarin, Florida.

Andrea and her husband, Nick, met in college where he attended Mercer University and she attended Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia. After their graduations, they married and moved to Augusta while he attend medical illustration school at the Medical College of Georgia and she worked in a cancer research biochemistry lab. She and Nick joined Covenant in 1980 shortly after the birth of their second daughter Allison. They found Covenant to be a great church in which to raise their three daughters. During the 1980’s Andrea became a preschool teacher and taught for five years at the Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal Day School. In the 1990’s, she served as an Elder of Covenant’s session, serving as chair of the Congregational Care Committee for two years and the Preschool Ministry for one year.

In August of 1999, Andrea became the Preschool Director of Covenant Weekday School. During her time in this position, she has chaired the Playground renovation committee and served on Covenant's church renovation committee. She was a member of the Disciples Bible study for four years under the terrific guidance of Andrea Garrett and Judy Grieve and this past summer she had the enlightening experience of being a part of Covenant's Missionary Team in Honduras.

Andrea looks forward to actively serving again and helping in the planning for Covenant's future.

Mary Simms

Mary was born in Illinois and has moved every 3-4 years of her life (all around Illinois, England, Switzerland and Mexico). She has two younger brothers and two younger sisters; they had a happy and adventurous childhood. Mary graduated from the University of IL with a degree in education and taught, translated and traveled for seven years. Finally, she moved to GA and got married (not once but twice!) to Jim, the love of her life. Married life has settled her down and as she begins her 5th year in Augusta she is hoping she continues to stay put. Mary has two children of her own, Lina and Nathan, and two stepsons, Chase and Kellan. When Lina was born, Mary stopped teaching and ran a little day care in her home. After 4 years of daycare, she just recently celebrated her retirement and is excited to be a stay at home mom. She has worked at Covenant Presbyterian in the nursery for 2.5 years and last June she became a member. She is happily looking forward to serving Covenant as a deacon.

MEMBERS AT LARGE, NOMINATING COMMITTEE (1 YEAR TERM)

Martha Bertrand

Martha Bertrand has served several terms on Covenant's Session and on the Board of Trustees. She currently is a member of the Christian Education Ministry. Martha came to Covenant with her parents in 1959 and became a charter member. She left Covenant and Augusta after college graduation to pursue a career in human resources. She was first ordained as a deacon and then as an elder at Georgetown Presbyterian Church while she was living in Washington, DC.

Polly Williams

Polly and her husband Danny married in 1996 and have one daughter, Gabriella. They joined Covenant in October, 2006. While here in Augusta, Polly has served as President of Friends of the Library, on The Richmond County Library Board of Trustees, and is a member of the DAR and PEO. She has served one term as Deacon at Covenant. She maintains the park bulletin board, sanctuary bags for the children and is a Liturgist/Reader at the 8:30 service and volunteers at Masters Table Soup Kitchen. Her passions are books, food, art music, sports, travel and HUMOR.

MEMBERS AT LARGE, NOMINATING COMMITTEE (2 YEAR TERM)

Judy Grieve

A cradle Presbyterian who has attended or belonged to Presbyterian churches in Boise Idaho, Seattle WA, Washington DC, Atlantic Beach FL, and Oviedo FL. Judy has been involved with Presbyterian Women since Boise, ID where the circles provided her with love and support while Dave was in Vietnam.

While at Community Presbyterian in Atlantic Beach, FL and Tuskawilla Presbyterian in Oviedo, FL, Judy served as moderator of the Presbyterian Women. She also led Wednesday night Bible studies, Bible studies for women and taught Sunday school at Tuskawilla.

Judy was ordained as an elder while worshipping at Tuskawilla Presbyterian Church where she served on Christian Education, Service & Mission, Building and Grounds, and Stewardship ministry teams.

Judy and Dave moved to Clarks Hill, SC in 2007 and joined Covenant to be with their family, Jodi & Joe Huff and their children Katherine, Thomas and Grace. While at Covenant Judy has served on Christian Education, Building & Grounds, and Stewardship ministries, and is presently Moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Northeast Georgia Presbytery. Judy has also led Bible studies, taught Sunday school and worked on Building & Grounds at Covenant.

Sabina Widner

Aubrey (Moore) and Sabina began attending Covenant in 2003 after enrolling their children in Covenant's Weekday School. Covenant was the first church either of them had ever been members of. She is blessed to be a part of such a vibrant, devoted, and loving church family. Sabina is particularly grateful for the solid foundation Covenant is giving their children (Ava and Ian) and for allowing the youth of Covenant to participate so fully in the life of the church. Her family has flourished with the love and guidance they have received here. She has also appreciated all of the mission opportunities Covenant has provided her over the years including helping with GAP dinners, Meals on Wheels, Family Promise, Presbyterian Women, and youth retreats. In her working life, Sabina is a professor of Psychology at Augusta University and has been with the University (through several major changes) since 1995. She is a Clinical Psychologist by training. She looks forward to being able to serve Covenant to the best of her ability as part of the Nominating Committee.