

# NOMINEES FOR THE OFFICE OF ELDER



## LEAH ETHRIDGE

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Leah and her husband Bo have been a part of FPCOS for over 15 years. Together they are raising three boys: Kai, Nate, and Christian. The Ethridges have also been caring for Leah's father and his wife for the last few years. Leah attributes much of her spiritual growth over these last 15 years to godly mentors and friendships within the church. Leah has a love for God's Word. Not only is she a student of the scriptures through in-depth Bible studies, but she has also helped teach that to children in our congregation by helping to head up our biblically-focused Summit group for 4th-6th grade children. Leah and Bo are active in a Vital Group.

Leah wants to see our church continue to grow in biblical education for all by helping to create a more comprehensive approach to Christian education. She values our emphasis on mission ministry and our staff and lay leaders who point this community of faith to Jesus. For a season Leah has been asking the Lord, "What's next?" in regard to her service to the church and is humbled that this calling to serve as an elder might be God's answer to that question.



## DAVID MCCLENDON

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David and his wife Nicole are excited to be raising their two young, twin daughters Stella and Lola Kate in the church at FPCOS. David was raised in a Christian home and has experienced many seasons of growth and deepening faith throughout his life. Both inside and outside of the ministries of FPCOS, David seeks God's kingdom advancement. The McClendons are active in a Vital Group and in the worship life of the church. David serves outside the church as well on the local Young Life Board and tries to shine gospel light in other organizations where he has been asked to serve - but most pointedly through his medical practice.

David is grateful to have had spiritual mentors to help shape his walk with Jesus over the years. He looks forward to having the opportunity to grow in his mentorship of others to that same end. He is excited to see such a biblical foundation at FPCOS and wants to see our discipleship ministries strengthened. David's call to be an elder is part of how God will shape him and how God will shape this community of faith through him.

There will be a **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** on **Sunday, November 22** between worship services.

**We will present our nominees and elect officers and present the 2021 budget.**

Please make plans to attend.



## INTRODUCING THE OFFICER NOMINEES FOR THE CLASS OF 2023

The offices of Elder and Deacon are clarified as unique roles of calling and qualification in the church. These offices defined in the New Testament and affirmed by the EPC's Book of Church Order are served in three-year terms by those who are called by God, nominated by the session, elected by the congregation, and trained by pastors.

Deacons often serve God through the gift of mercy and service that allow them to meet the physical needs of the congregation through ministries of care and hospitality. Elders often serve God through gifts of leadership by shepherding church members through ministry vision and discipleship. Both elders and deacons are to model Christ's character and ministry to the church and the world.

Let us introduce you to the officer nominees for the Class of 2023.

# CHURCH OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR THE SERVANT LEADERSHIP CLASS OF 2023

***“And [Jesus] gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”***

- Ephesians 4:11-13

I am so grateful for how the ordained leaders in our congregation continued to serve and lead in this very challenging year. Tough, grey-area decisions had to be made often. Your leaders viewed the challenges of 2020 from very different vantage points. We labored over hard choices that alienated different people at different times. Even still, serving all of you with the love of Christ remained our most high calling.

Nominating and calling new leaders in the midst of these trying times was not easy. Even still, God’s goodness to grace his Church with Christ-like examples to serve and lead into the future was evident. The church offices of elder and deacon are indispensable pieces of how God, in his grace and by the Spirit, unifies and sanctifies his people. Make no mistake, this process is the Lord’s work in us and through us for our sanctification and his glory. This booklet is a brief introduction of the officer nominees who will serve from 2021-2023.

Officers who responded to the request to consider serving the FPCOS family for a second three-year term are as follows.

Deacons responding to the call to serve a contiguous term:

**Sylvia Bosco  
Sonya White  
Vance Williams**

Elders responding to the call to serve a contiguous term:

**Gregg Bray  
Bill Hennessey  
Shirley Martin**

*Though a Trustee is not an ordained position in the church, our Trustees play a vital role in helping our church function in our society from a legal and fiduciary standpoint. Our trustees help ensure our congregation dots the i’s and crosses the t’s as we steward the financial and real resources we utilize for the kingdom work we are called to accomplish as a congregation. Their work allows our elders and deacons to focus on their ministries of service and spiritual leadership.*

Trustee responding to the call to serve a contiguous term:

**Buddy Baker**

# NOMINEES FOR THE OFFICE OF DEACON



**MARY ASHBAKER**

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Mary and her husband Chris are committed members of FPCOS. They have been a part of our communion preparation team together. Mary was fortunate to grow up in a household where the Christian faith was lived out and instilled in her. She leans into the faith now through scripture and devotional study, her prayer life, and her fellowship with other believers. She has enjoyed participating in Edna Shaw’s Bible Study and engaging in fellowship and service with the “Morning Glories” and the “Holy Folders”.

She is quiet by nature and enjoys opportunities for unseen service more so than vocal leadership. She appreciates the strong, biblical foundation of our church and looks forward to getting back to some of the fellowship and gathering opportunities lost during COVID-19. Mary’s heart for the Lord, for people, and for the church is part of why we are excited for her to serve as a deacon.



**CHAD GIBSON**

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Chad gave his life to the Lord as a teenager. He and his wife Brooke have the joy of raising their two teenage sons, Logan and Lawson. Chad enjoys the study of God’s Word and is blessed to be walking with his father through a greater understanding of the gospel through scripture study and discussion. Chad sees God’s growth in his life by providing a sense of peace in this tumultuous season and giving him a greater desire to grow as a person of prayer.

Chad values FPCOS for its focus on God’s Word and how he sees us making efforts to fulfill the great commission to go into all the world and make disciples. Chad looks forward to being a part of the warm, grace-filled welcoming his family received at FPCOS as he serves as a deacon.



**AARON KRANCE**

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This is the second stint for the Krance family at FPCOS. Aaron serves in the US Air Force, and they became members years ago when Aaron was first stationed at Keesler AFB (2014-2016). They were excited to come back to Keesler AFB after some years away and quickly jumped back into life with FPCOS. Aaron is married to Crissy and they have three adolescent children: Ryan, Jacob, and Katie.

Aaron is excited about the idea of serving as a deacon. Aaron is committed to the spiritual disciplines of prayer and scripture study, has a heart for missions and helps make worship a priority for their family. The Krances are active in a Vital Group, and Crissy heads up our hospitality ministry. Aaron loves the idea of behind-the-scenes service. He values our larger outreach ministries that serve the community like our annual crawfish boil and VBS. Aaron is not quite sure if he is an introvert or an extrovert but looks forward to God using him to serve the church as a deacon.