

**Congregational Vote for new Deacons, Elders, Associate Pastor Nominating Committee
(APNC), and 2015 Congregational Nominating Committee (at-large members)
June 29, 2014**

ELDER NOMINATIONS

Natt Gantt – Since becoming a member of FPC in 2002, Natt has been involved in various ministries at the church, including serving as a deacon and Vice-Moderator of the deaconate and currently serving as prayer minister for the Dunamis Prayer Ministry. Natt and his wife Meredith have four daughters, Sarah (13), Grace (10), Hope (8), and Hannah (5). Natt has always enjoyed the vibrant energy at FPC and the church's multigenerational and multifaceted approach to serving Christ and spreading His gospel.

Betty O’Garr – Betty has been a Christian since the age of twelve. Baptized in the Baptist faith, she researched and settled on the Presbyterian Church in 2000 because of its doctrine and structure. Betty has been a member of FPC for three years. She serves as the Facilitator for the Seniors FIRST Ministry, is a member of the Library Committee and volunteers at the Welcome Desk weekly. Betty has felt welcome and loved since she walked in the door and has benefited immeasurably from the outstanding level of knowledge and teaching and grown significantly as a Christian because of it. She has two grown sons who reside in Massachusetts and two grandsons.

Gary Mackey – Gary is a retired Civil Engineer and Director of Construction for the Atlantic Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command. He has resided in Norfolk for 60+ years. Married to Peggy for 44 years, Gary is the father of two grown children, Carter and Hunter, and grandfather of Arlie and Evan. Gary dedicated his life to Christ in 1981 and has been an active member of FPC since 2007, serving on various committees, a member of two small groups, participant in S2S, and currently serving as Chair of the Building and Grounds Committee. Gary loves FPC for the diverse opportunities of worship and the various ministries that enable him to serve Christ alongside people who share a similar faith.

Kathy Stine – Kathy and her husband Charlie have been members of FPC for 30 years. They have a daughter Katherine who will be a sophomore at Christopher Newport University. Their son, Chris, is married and he and his wife, Katherine have recently moved to Birmingham AL. Kathy was on the staff of FPC for 8 years as the receptionist and most recently the Director of Media Ministries. She has retired and now serves as a media volunteer. She is on the Worship Committee and served for several years on the Nominating Committee. Kathy has been a member of the Chancel Choir and the Praise Team and loves both because her true passion is worship!

Jim Thomasson – Married to Ednearl for 50+ years, their family includes son James and daughter Tracey, granddaughters Megan and Brooke, and Sir Maxwell Bailey, Jim’s beloved Yorkie. Jim joined FPC in 1995, coming from Great Bridge Presbyterian Church. He has taught Sunday School and VBS, served on Hospitality, Evangelism, and goal development teams, volunteered for NEST, participated in a seminary level Bible course led by Jim Gates, was a confirmation sponsor and now serves on the Christian Education Committee. Jim loves that FPC reaches out near and far to those in need, provides Bible-based peaching, has a diverse membership and opportunities to serve, a willingness to seek out God’s will for improvement, and accepts him just as he is. And he loves the people here.

Deacons

Billy Roberts – Billy and his wife Joy live in West Parkview, Portsmouth with their two children, Ross (10) and Emerson (6). They joined FPC in 2005 and have been active in their small group for 8 years. Billy served on the Small Group Worship committee, the 9:30 Worship Team, K-2nd Grade Sunday School class and children’s check-in on Sunday mornings. FPC has been a blessing for Billy’s family in many ways – utmost is all the support his family has received from the entire church and their small group as they have dealt with ongoing family medical issues. Billy loves that FPC is large enough to offer opportunities to serve and grow, yet feels like a small church where you are known and loved.

Tricia Gray – Tricia has been a member of FPC for 8 years. She is a first-grade teacher for Portsmouth Public Schools and has been married for 23 years. Her husband Phillip is a deacon here at FPC. She is blessed with 3 children, Katarina (20), Jakob (18), and Harrison (14). Tricia has been involved with small groups, children's ministries, VBS, Park Place Child Life Center, NEST, and youth ministries. She says First Presbyterian is a warm and inviting church that has so

much to offer, regardless of your age or what stage of your faith journey you are in. Tricia feels that the church has served her in many ways and she looks forward to serving others as a deacon.

Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

Our Session wanted to return to an Executive Pastor model (as we had previously from 2007-2012). To that end, we are electing an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee to search for a new Executive Associate Pastor. Until such a time as said pastor is found, Jim Gates is filling in as the “Transitional” Executive Associate Pastor. Jim G asked not to be considered for the permanent position, because he is actively searching for a church in the midwest that would allow his family to move closer to Krista’s parents in Minnesota.

If a new pastor is hired before Jim Gates and his family move, Jim G will take on another Associate Pastor role within First Presbyterian, and we will have 4 pastors (Jim Wood, Senior Pastor, a new Executive Pastor, and Valena Hoy and Jim Gates as Associate Pastors).

Paul Farrell - Paul is married to the lovely, intelligent and very humorous Jean Farrell. They have two children, Zachary (age 9) and Mackenzie (age 7). Paul has been a member here since 2005. He is an active participant in the hospitality committee and loves being a greeter and usher. He has served on the administration and preschool committees and attends Shoulder to Shoulder. Paul's favorite things about FPC are the sermons, great fellowship and trying to keep Pat Miskill in line.

Mike Fremaux - Mike and his wife Teresa and children Michael, 15, and Katie, 11 live in Newport News. Mike is a research engineer at NASA Langley. The Fremauxs began attending FPC in January of 2005. Mike has enjoyed welcoming newcomers to the church as a greeter and served on the Stewardship Committee for several years. He served as an Elder 2009 to 2013, chairing the Admin Committee for three years. There are many wonderful things that keep drawing the Fremaux family to FPC but above all else, it is the comfort of being among Believers that have humble hearts and who acknowledge our Lord and Savior Jesus openly and with joy. This is a rare and wonderful thing.

Sarah Martin Lampert – Sarah joined FPC in 2007 and has been involved in the Video Jail Ministry, women’s bible study groups and chaired the Women’s Retreat in 2012, 2013 and 2014. Jim Gates married Sarah and Ken Lampert in 2009. She is stepmother to three adult children, Grandma Sarah to two captivating grandchildren and mom to two four-legged children of the feline variety. Sarah and Ken live in the Ward’s Corner area of Norfolk. She loves FPC because it is alive! There are children everywhere. It is fantastic to see families, singles and seniors all engaged together in worship, special events, retreats and study. There is something going on all the time, every day. Sarah says FPC inspires her.

Diane Liedman - Diane came to FPC 25 years ago and served on staff for 22 years before retiring. Responsible for communications, she enjoyed working alongside the pastors, staff, and the fine people involved in numerous church ministries. She is Coordinator of the Sunday Morning Welcome Desk and Coordinator of the Easter and Christmas flower ministry. She has served on a Call Committee for the Preschool, was a member of the Long Range Planning Committee and is currently on the Evangelism Committee. Diane and her husband Jim went on the pilgrimages to Israel and Greece and Turkey and attend the Journeyer’s Class. She loves the people of FPC and their commitment to Jesus and His Word.

Dave Sterling – Late in their lives, Dave married Becky, his “Godsend”; they have no children. He was raised Catholic but suffered a crisis of faith until Becky, friends and members of FPC, and Jim Wood brought him back to Christ. He joined FPC in 2013. Dave has assisted with the church picnic, in selecting a Facility Director, and coordinating the Park Place project. The mission statement, “Seeking Christ. Sharing His Love” embodies everything he loves about FPC. Dave believes our church plays a crucial role in the life of our community and is proud to be a member here. He finds Tree of Lives to be an amazing program and it brings Dave and Becky great joy to contribute to that ministry in their small way.

Taze Taylor – Taze has been a member of FPC for a little over 30 years. He and his wife Katherine were married here; their two grown sons, Gifford and Stuart, were raised in this church. Taze has been involved in a variety of things over the years: served 3 terms on the session; was Church Treasurer for 4 years; was on the Nominating committee when Jim Wood was hired. He has served on various session committees; ushered for many years, and taught Sunday School for a few years. Taze was the former stewardship chair for two years and works with the Church Trustees on an ongoing basis. First Presbyterian has been and always will be part of Taze’s family and a very important part of his life.

Gigi Tysinger – Gigi and her husband Andy have been members of First Presbyterian since moving to Norfolk in 2001. Their children, Will (15) and Peyton (13), have grown up in the church. Gigi first became involved through ministries that impact young families – Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School leader, Preschool Committee member. In recent years she has been most engaged as an Elder and Chairman of the Preschool Committee. Gigi also serves on the Long Range Planning Committee. She cherishes many things about the church, mostly that FPC is a spirit-filled family that extends love, embraces mercy, and bestows kindnesses in ways that draw she and others closer to Christ.

Congregational Nominating Committee

Robin Cowherd – Robin and his wife Karen have two adult daughters, Erin and Sarah. He joined our congregation in 1982 and has served the church in roles that include elder, deacon, chair of the personnel committee, Sunday school teacher, and usher. He loves this church for many reasons including the fellowship of its members who share Christ's love by supporting one another in times of celebration and struggle.

David MacMillan – David has been attending First Presbyterian Church since he was born in 1954. He was confirmed in 1966 when he was 12 years old. David served on the session as an elder from 1994 to 2000. He is married to Leslie and they have 4 children, one son, Randy, and three daughters, Mary, Nelle, and Rachel. What David loves about our church are the people who love our Lord Jesus Christ and who inspire him to be a better Christian. The fellowship with other Christians and the opportunities we have to serve others is what he loves the most about our church.

Staying on Congregational Nominating Committee for a second year:

Jim White
Pat Miskill
Page Weaver