



**Mount Pleasant
Presbyterian Church**

Officer Nominations

April 2021

Elder Class of 2022



Al Jenkins

Alice and I joined this church in 2003. We specifically sought out MPPC because we perceived it to be an active church community working for good within greater Mount Pleasant. Since then, I have been privileged to serve along with other members on mission teams in Nicaragua, Honduras and on Katrina relief along the Gulf coast.

Currently I am working with a dynamic (Faith Network) FIXIT team repairing homes for those who cannot do so for themselves. Previous leadership opportunities include a stint as ruling elder and, chair of both the Local and International Missions Committees.



Abigail Scruggs

I'm a 17 year old junior at Wando High School. Some of my hobbies include being active in Wando Chorus and Photography. I also enjoy going out on the boat, swimming and hanging out by the beach as well as anything outdoors. I've been very involved at MPPC since I can remember. I did everything from Sunday School, Angel Notes, Choir and VBS

in the Summer. As I got older, I did every youth group activity and trip, volunteered at LOGOS and VBS. I got confirmed May 2018 and have still been active in the youth group and the fellowship of our church.



McRae Wallace

My name is McRae Wallace and I am the son of Jon and Betsy Wallace. Fortunately, I have had the privilege of growing up inside the Church and am and have been very involved in the youth programs.

Through the years, I have been an active participant in Sunday school and was confirmed into the church as well. Additionally, this past year I was

honored to serve as a youth Deacon and I am grateful for this opportunity to serve as an Elder.

Elder Class of 2023



Jane Parker

I have been a member of MPPC for thirty seven years & have been blessed that my children started their walk with God at this church. Over the years I have served on session, been involved with several ministries & grown in my faith through involvement in our church life. Working with the youth program, watching their joy in their personal faith journey

has brought me many blessings. My soul gets fed through sharing Bible studies with others. Currently being a member of Adult Faith Formation ministry has been one of my greatest blessings. Working with dedicated committee members to offer opportunities to deepen & experience God's amazing love. I love God & this church. I pray that He will continue to equip & use me as His hands & feet.

Elder Class of 2024



Anne Farmer

My husband Michael and I joined MPPC in 2009. The church has always been an important part of my life and the friendships I've made are such wonderful gifts. At MPPC, I have served as a deacon (two terms, one year as Diaconate Chair), on the Nominating Committee, an I-Beam mentor, and an Arts Camp teacher. I am currently a PW

Circle 3 co-leader, Bible Study facilitator, member of ASJ, Worship Ministry, Fine Arts, Bridge Builders, CAJM, Personnel, Adult Choir and Adult Handbell Choir. As my faith journey continues, I am humbled to be nominated to serve God as an elder at MPPC.



Amy Murrell

My husband, Kyle, and I joined MPPC in 2005. Our girls, Alden (11) and Ames (9), were baptized at MPPC and raised within the MPPC family. MPPC is a very special place for our family. We have been able to grow in our faith and serve others while being surrounded by such a loving congregation and staff. Over the years, I have helped with

the High School youth, served on the stewardship committee, taught children's Sunday School, been a regular Communion Server, helped with VBS, been a member of the Christian Parenting Sunday School class, and I am a resting Deacon. I am currently serving on the children's ministry committee, local missions committee, and the Associate Pastor Nominating committee. I am honored to be nominated as an Elder and look forward to serving our church in this capacity with God's guidance.



Theresa Reed

God is and has been in the forefront of my life since childhood. Because of this, my faith is as easy as breathing. I am overwhelmed by Jesus' grace. Over my more than 36 years at MPPC, I have served in numerous roles and have gained leadership experience and maturity of faith. I am honored and humbled to be considered for election to the Session. I promise to serve faithfully, with wisdom, and compassion.



Anna Shugart

What an honor it is to be able to serve our God and MPPC in the role as elder. My husband, Chris, and I joined MPPC in 2011 just before we got married in the church. We quickly became involved with The Net worship service where we had our two daughters, Caroline and Ava, baptized and found a close-knit community. My passions are international

missions, children, and education. In these areas I have been able to use my gifts to co-lead a mission trip to LAMB in Honduras, serve as co-chair of the International Missions Team, help lead VBS, serve on our Children's Ministry Team, lead a small group, fulfill the role as a Deacon, serve on the Learning Center Preschool Board, and serve on the search committee for our Director of Christian Education. I look forward to this position to which I have been called and connecting with our church family.



Terry Steyer

This month, Kelly and I celebrate our 20th anniversary as members of MPPC. We have raised our two sons, Noah and Jack, in this church and it has played a major role in our lives through the ups and downs that we all experience. I have served as a ruling elder previously from 2007-2010. I have also been a youth Sunday School teacher, member of

the Learning Center Board, and an active participant in our international missions programs having served on our medical team to Honduras twice. I'm humbled by begin called again by the congregation to join the session during this time of rapid change for our church and for our society.



Mac Thigpen

Donna and I joined MPPC in 1983 and raised our three now adult children in the church. Over the past 38 years I have served as an elder and deacon, sung with the adult choir, chaired both Youth Ministries and Worship Ministries, participated in several search committees, volunteered with I-Beam, and was a chaperone on our church's first international

youth mission trip - to Mexico - in 1998. It has been a joy to participate in the life of MPPC and I look forward to serving once again as an elder.



Jason Walton

I am humbled to be asked to serve MPPC in the role of Elder. I have served on various committees within MPPC, most recently as chair of the Diaconate. Our church and congregation has been through so much this past year, and I feel we are all close to making MPPC an even stronger place than it was before the pandemic. I want to work with

all of our staff and congregation to make MPPC an even stronger light in the world for all of us. Thank you for this opportunity to serve you all.

Deacon Class of 2022

Ramsey Dutton

Bio and photo unavailable.



Garrett Mayer

I live in Mount Pleasant with my parents (Jeff and Liz), sister (Greta), two hound dogs (Denver and Perkins), and cat (Frances). I am a sophomore at Wando High School and participate in Wando's varsity lacrosse team, AP Academy and Beta club. My family joined MPPC in 2008, shortly after moving to Mount Pleasant. I have benefited from

my participation in youth activities at MPPC, and hope to represent the youth of the church as a youth deacon.

Deacon Class of 2024



Ben Black

My name is Ben Black, and my wife, Trish, and I have been members of MPPC since 1998. I'm a lifelong Presbyterian and was baptized and confirmed at Bethel Presbyterian Church in Walterboro. Our children, Caroline (22) and Andrew (18) were baptized and confirmed here and attended preschool at the Learning Center. I've

grown in faith and close to many members of this dedicated congregation, through Wednesday night suppers and programs, as well as the Adults of Adolescents Sunday School class. Over the years, I've served as a Deacon, a member of the Missions, Stewardship, and Finance Ministries, assisted with elementary Sunday School, participated in the I-Beam program, and traveled with my daughter and a special MPPC mission team to the LAMB Institute in Honduras. Currently, I'm an active member of the Ushering Ministry. I look forward to serving as a Deacon again here at MPPC. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity to serve my church family.



Jarrett Branham

I began attending MPPC services as a visitor in 1998. My wife (Tara) and I were married at MPPC in May of 2003. Upon returning to Mount Pleasant in 2015 my family and I became members of MPPC. Along with our daughters, Addison (15) and Reese (12), we cherish the support and foundation MPPC provides. With the opportunity

to serve God through the ministry of MPPC I hope to give back that which has been provided to our family.

TJ del Duca

I am excited to serve MPPC in a new way beginning in 2021. I have lived in The Charleston area since 2011, and joined Mount Pleasant Presbyterian with my wife in 2016. We were married in the church and recently celebrated the baptism of our daughter this past February. It has been a pleasure to work alongside the youth with Confirmation since 2018, and look forward to continuing my faith journey. (Photo unavailable).



Deirdre (Dee) Fortson

I'm a graduate of Vanderbilt University and have an MBA from UNC-Chapel Hill. I grew up in Atlanta, GA and Charleston, SC. I've worked in Brand Management and Strategic Marketing roles around the world. Our family moved to Charleston 4 years ago and joined MPPC in February 2020. I'm involved at The South Carolina Aquarium and chair the board for Life Resources, a not-for-profit providing faith based mental health counseling. I'm also active at my children's school, Porter-Gaud, in the Parent's Association and I'm the Long Range Planning Chair for the Board of Trustees. My husband, John, and I have two children, Jack (15) and Matt (13), who are attending confirmation at MPPC and are active in Troop 20 - the Boy Scouts of America.



Harry Olsen

Joined Church in 2017 when we relocated to Mt Pleasant from Summit N.J. Am retired and have been pretty active member working on Sundays as an Audio/Video operator for about three years. Acting as teaching assistant in ESOL program since October 2018, and as a member of Finance Committee for two and a half years. Enjoying life in Mt. Pleasant with my wife, Patty, with our kids living in Texas and New York.

Cameron Pons

Bio and photo unavailable.



Anne Harris

I have been a member of MPPC for eleven years. My husband, Parke, grew up in the church and now we love seeing our two kids, Gracie and Sam, do the same. I have served on the search committee for the Director of Children's Ministry as well as taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. I look forward to this next opportunity to serve.



Will Ralston

I moved to Mt Pleasant from Charlotte, NC and joined the church in 2015. My wife and I married at the church in the fall of 2017. We had our first child in April of 2020. I have been an usher for several years, and continue to do so. Pre-COVID, I signed up for the new member committee and look forward to becoming an active member of that committee. My wife and I have also taken the financial peace university class at church, and plan on joining that team in the future as well.



Beth Jacobs

I'm honored to be nominated as Deacon. My husband, Jerry and I live in Mt. Pleasant and find MPPC to be a wonderful church home. We've taught Sunday School as a team for several years. Both of my children Teddy (27) and Grace (24) were baptized and confirmed here at MPPC. I have a bonus son, Jerry Alan, and bonus daughter-in-law, Samantha that both live in Nashville. I've enjoyed being part of Childhood ministry, Worship Committee, Personnel, and Women's Retreat. I love my church and my church family. I look forward to serving and growing deeper in my faith.



John David Sikes

Originally from Jackson, TN, I was raised in a Christ-centered family and was very active at First Baptist Church of Jackson until I left for college at the University of Mississippi. My Faith led me to begin my career in Newport Beach, CA and after a couple of years it brought me to the Charleston area in 2010. My wife, Reade, and I joined MPPC in 2012 and have raised our 3 children (Woods 5, Fletcher 2, & Lottie 1) in the church as well. I currently serve on the Endowment Committee and am grateful for this additional opportunity to serve.



Jenn Keeney

My husband, Jeff, and I joined MPPC in 2014 after moving here from New York City. We were drawn to the warm congregation and the ways in which the church serves its local community and beyond. We have 2 little boys, William (6) and Elliott (4) who have also attended preschool at MPPC and are grateful for such a strong and nurturing children's ministry. Jeff and I have served as preschool Sunday School teachers and I've also served on the leadership team for VBS as well as other children's ministries. I've enjoyed volunteering with Hands of Christ. I'm looking forward to serving God and getting to know more members of the congregation in a new way!



Caroline Williams

Since joining MPPC in 2019, I have been active with the Children's Ministry Team, Children's Sunday School, PW Circle Group, Vacation Bible School, and other church events, and I'm excited to serve the church community as a deacon. I was born and raised in Fayetteville, NC, and went on to graduate with a BS in Business from Wake Forest University and a Master in Health Administration from MUSC. After working in various healthcare finance and consulting roles, I currently work part-time with MUSC's finance team while raising kids, dogs, and fish. My husband, Dunc, and I love spending time with family and friends in sunny Mt. Pleasant and have three beautiful children- Duncan III, 6, Monroe, 4, and Bower, 2.

2020-21 Nominating Committee

Barry Blackburn

Ellen Creed Branham (Vice Chair)

Trish Hutchison

Coleman Legerton

Freeman Milligan

Joe Molinari (Chair)

Jon Wallace

Sarah Wendell

Katie Womble

Ex-officio: Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum (Pastor and Head of Staff)



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