

# DEACON SELECTION BALLOTS

will be cast during Sanctuary Worship

Sunday, November 18, 2018

Per First Baptist Church Bylaws

Article II, B. 3.

Church members who cannot be present the Sunday deacons are elected may vote ahead of time at the church office, where a list of members voting ahead of time will be kept. Extension or sick members may vote ahead of time with the help of extension visitors and others carrying them ballots. The ballots of members voting ahead of time will be counted with ballots cast by other members on the Sunday deacons are elected.

Get to know this year's Deacon Nominees by reading these biographical sketches!

Pray for all our Deacons, those we elect for the new term and those returning to complete their three-year terms, that they will know God's power to be the Servant Leaders He requires! Thank you for your prayerful attention to the Deacon selection process as we prepare to vote on Sunday, November 18, 2018.

## *Seven Principles of Servant Leadership*

*(Gene Wilkes, Jesus on Leadership)*

- 1. Luke 14:7-11**      Servant leaders humble themselves and wait for God to exalt them.
- 2. Mark 10:32-40**      Servant leaders follow Jesus rather than seek a position.
- 3. Mark 10:41-45**      Servant leaders give up personal rights to find greatness in service to others.
- 4. John 13:3**      Servant leaders can risk serving others because they trust God is in control of their lives.
- 5. John 13:4-11**      Servant leaders take up Jesus' towel of servanthood to meet the needs of others.
- 6. Acts 6:1-6**      Servant leaders share their responsibility and authority with others to meet a greater need.
- 7. Exodus 18:17-23**      Servant leaders multiply their leadership by empowering others to lead.



### **Chuck Alford**

I lived in Charlotte with my wife Ann until retiring from the NC Dept. of Revenue as a tax auditor. We decided to downsize and move to Shelby in 2006 to be near our daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren. (Susan, Jason, Annmarie and Isaac Willis) They were instrumental in our joining FBC.

I was raised in a Christian home and have been involved in church all my life. I have served in the following capacities: various committees, teacher & deacon. My belief is that we are saved only by our belief in Jesus Christ as God's only Son, who was crucified as a sacrifice for my sins and the sins of the world. He was buried, rose from the dead, ascended into heaven and we await His return. Each person needs a personal relationship with Jesus through a practice of prayer and Bible study.

I consider it a privilege and honor to be nominated and will serve the Lord and FBC to the best of my ability if elected.



### **Karen Cabaniss**

I consider it an honor to be chosen as a deacon nominee. If elected, I will do my best to serve with love and concern for my fellow church members as well as a true desire to seek the will of God. I grew up in a small community church near Seagrove, NC. This is where I was first baptized into the Methodist Church at around 12 years of age. I never had a period in my life where I was not attending church regularly. I began attending FBC Shelby in 1999 after meeting Garry who grew up as a member of this church. Before I joined this church I had some health issues and experienced the kindness and caring nature of it's members. I was comforted by knowing this church was praying for me every Wednesday evening. Later, I joined FBC and was baptized a second time. I currently sing in the choir and am serving as president of the sanctuary choir. I just rotated off the faith and health committee and will be joining the music ministry assist team. In the past I have served on the nominating committee, music ministry assist team and education ministry assist team. I served a couple of years as a children's Sunday school teacher and have assisted with child care during early worship. Again, I am honored to be nominated and look forward to serving this church and the Lord in whatever capacity He chooses to use me.



### **Mike Harden**

Going through the church-wide Bible study "I Will" I said yes to be nominated for Deacon. I have taught Sunday School all my adult life, have served in the Jail ministry teaching inmates once a month on Thursday evenings since about 2001, have briefly lead

the Men's Ministry here at FBC and more broadly served in a new church plant in New England in prior years. I accepted Christ when I was ten years old and rededicated my life during college... which changed everything. Most recently I memorized Psalm 23 which has been a blessing... "The Lord is my Shepard, I shall not want..." The SS class members of which I am part are a blessing to me! I am thankful for our calling to serve the hurting world around us. God has been working powerfully in my heart and life. If elected I will serve with my whole heart.



**John C. (Jack)  
Hamrick, Jr., M. D.**

It is an honor and a privilege—but also humbling—to again be considered as a Deacon at First Baptist Church in Shelby. A native of Shelby and Cleveland County, I have been a member of First Baptist since baptism by Harlan Harris in my youth, with the exception of my years at Bowman Gray School of Medicine and in the United States Army at Fort Hood, Texas. Since discharge from the Army in 1975, I have been a member of the George Byrd Sunday School Class. My wife, Margaret Neal of Forest City, and I have four children and 10 grandchildren scattered over the south and Midwest. I have been retired for several years from 26 years in the private practice of orthopedic surgery in Shelby with a special interest in Sports Medicine. During those professional years, I found time for public service as a member of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission; a local school board member/chairman; and currently a member of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Sports Medicine Advisory Committee. The school board service continued for many years past my professional retirement. Starting around 2010 I began to mentor several Cleveland County students and continue to do so. In addition to serving as a Deacon at our Church, I have served as a member of our Church's Building and Grounds Committee, the Faith and Health Ministry Team, and the Personnel Committee. Currently I am serving on the Church's Budget and Finance Committee. If chosen, I will work hard to further the Lord's work at First Baptist.



**Leland Kerr**

I was blessed to be raised by parents who committed their lives to follow Christ shortly before I was born and served Him throughout their lives. My father felt the call to become a Pastor shortly after his

conversion experience and I lived life as a "Preacher's Kid". When I was seven years old I felt the powerful leading of the Holy Spirit during a revival service in my dad's church to give my heart to Jesus and follow Him. I made my decision to follow Christ that Saturday night and I have never doubted it was a genuine, life changing, eternal, real experience for me.

When I was sixteen, I felt a new stirring of the Spirit in my life – to follow God's call to commit my life to full time vocational Christian ministry. For the remainder of my high school years I was involved in Association youth events, local church events, preaching, youth ministry, etc.

I attended Gardner-Webb University (College when I was there) majoring in Religious Education. While in College I served as Minister of Music and Youth at Buffalo Baptist Church in Shelby. When I graduated from Gardner-Webb, I was ordained to the Gospel Ministry by my home church, Hope Valley Baptist Church, in Durham, NC. I enrolled at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas and earned a Masters of Arts in Christian Education. While there, I served as Minister of Youth and Young Single Adults at Southwayside Baptist Church in Fort Worth. I have served other staff ministry positions in North Carolina and Virginia. It was my joy to serve as the Director of Missions for the Kings Mountain Baptist Association for 10 years (now GCCBA) and Pastor of Eastside Baptist Church, Shelby, twice for a total of nearly 10 years. I live in Shelby and continue to work in the FaithHealth Ministries Division of Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, where I have ministered the past five years. God has blessed me with three wonderful sons, two precious daughters-in law, and two awesome grandsons. I have been attending First Baptist regularly for over 2 years with Nell Canipe and on the Sunday the church moved back into the newly renovated Sanctuary, the Holy Spirit prompted me to become a member and be a part of our future story. I am humbled to be considered to serve as a deacon.



## Ralph Meekins

I was baptized at Trinity Episcopal Church in Asheville and confirmed at St John's Episcopal Church in Charlotte. I married my wife Loann in 1983 and we joined the United Methodist Church in Angier NC where we both led the youth group and taught Sunday

School classes. We moved to Fuquay Varina in 1986 and I taught Sunday School and served in the Youth program for several years at Fuquay Varina Methodist Church. We moved to Shelby in 1995 and we joined Central United Methodist Church where I served on the Board of Trustees and also served as a Stephen's Minister and helped develop the Stephen's Ministry program. While at Central, I thoroughly enjoyed leading an 8 month study group entitled "Companions in Christ" and served on several "Walk to Emmaus" weekends. I have served as Chair of the Dover Branch and the Cleveland County YMCA for several years, and it was at a YMCA Christian conference in Nashville that I first asked Christ into my heart for permanent residency. Loann and I joined First Baptist Church about 5 years ago after being baptized as believers by immersion in a hotel pool in Marion NC with several other family members. We are members of the Mike Harden Sunday School class and I enjoy helping Cecilia Beck's ministry whenever and however I can.



## Bill Plowden

For the past 10 years I have enjoyed the fellowship of First Baptist Church and it is an honor to be nominated as a deacon. I was blessed to be brought up by parents and family who considered Church to be central to their lives. Like my family before me, I believe

God's word to represent Truth. It is only through the Truth of God's Word that I have found meaning and purpose for my life. As I reflect over my 40+ year career in banking, I am constantly aware of God's presence in every major decision. In my retirement, I have continued to seek to serve God through various ministry programs (Habitat for Humanity, Missionary Flights International, Samaritan's Purse, etc.). I have been thankful to serve on the Budget and Finance Committee of our church as well as serving alongside fellow believers in the Mike Harden Sunday School Class. My walk with Christ is grounded in Scripture, and if elected, I will seek to serve God, and our Church, as directed by the Holy Spirit.



## Sara Tidwell

First Baptist Church has always been an important part of my life. At ten years old I accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and was baptized. Growing up I had the privilege of learning from many wonderful Godly ministers and teachers. I was married and raised my three children

here. They, along with my husband, Charles, were each baptized at FBC. I love the Lord, FBC and all of His children. My greatest desire is to know and serve Him more each day.

Over the years I have served in various capacities: GAs, Sunday School teacher, Mentor, VBS, Extension Visitor, Outreach, and Deacon. I am currently a member of the JOY Sunday School Class and Monday Night Bible Study where we grow in knowledge as well as serve those in and outside our church. My passion is for each of us to grow in the Lord while reaching a lost world. If I am elected, I will count it both an honor and a blessing to serve as your deacon.



## Eli Wortman

My wife, Lauren, and I have been attending First Baptist Church since 2010. We are members of the young couples Sunday School class taught by Dana and Katie Graves. I have served on the FBC Building and Grounds committee. Lau-

ren and I are very excited to raise our two children to become Christ followers with the help of our church family and FBC's Children's Ministries!

I grew up attending Beaver Dam Baptist Church here in Shelby. I was saved at Vacation Bible School when I was 9 and baptized later that summer. The foundation of my Christian journey was laid there where I was taught to be a servant of others in the name of Christ.

I've learned the most about my own faith, however, by teaching my son Calvin about Jesus. Watching him pray to God and seeing Him work through Calvin's prayers has rejuvenated my walk with Christ.