

2023

OFFICER CANDIDATES



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church



CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session of Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church has called a congregational meeting in each worship service on Sunday, *April 30*, to elect new elders and deacons. These men have successfully completed the officer training class, passed the written exam, and completed the interview process.

THE ELDERS (collectively known as the Session) are elected by the congregation and serve the church by providing spiritual oversight and leadership, committing themselves to shepherding, prayer, and encouragement in God's Word.

THE DEACONS (collectively known as the Diaconate) are also elected by the congregation and serve the church by caring for the physical needs of the congregation and by overseeing the maintenance of the church property, committing themselves to generosity and deeds of mercy.

DON BAILEY

DEACON

Occupation: Project Coordinator, Covenant College
Wife: Laura
Children: Chris, Ethan, Drew, Nate, Jenna
Joined LMPC: 2020



I was raised in a Christian home by godly parents who loved the Lord and chose to move our family from a Methodist church to a local RPCES church in the mid-70s. Although I don't know a date that I came to know Jesus, it was through the preaching of the Word there, and in attending Covenant College that I came to learn reformed/covenantal theology and grow in my faith. In the 40-odd years since high school, I reflect and remember how the Lord has used various circumstances, fellow believers, and pastors to lead, encourage, increase and strengthen my faith. I'm continually amazed how he works through life's circumstances to direct my path. He has blessed me with Laura, who consistently reminds me of his simple truths, helping me to completely trust him with everything (and not worry), to seek him through prayer and the Word, and rest in his presence. My sense of being called to serve as a deacon again is seen in my desire to serve fellow members of the body on a personal level and corporately, using the skills, gifts, and talents God has given me. In the last few years, God has humbled me; and through his Word and fellowship here, he has been reassuring me of his grace and reminding me he isn't finished with me or my family yet.

JAY BROOKS

DEACON

Occupation: Portfolio Manager
Wife: Meredith
Children: Jay, Liza, Lolly
Joined LMPC: 2017



Christ brought me to himself through a summer camp (Camp Vesper Point) as a young child. My faith really started to grow when I became involved with the LMPC youth group in 6th grade. There were many wonderful people through the youth group that poured into me and taught me about Jesus and what it means to follow him (Robbie Sweet, Andrew Novenson, Don Kent, Jonathan Jakes, and Aaron Tolson, to name a few). After graduating high school, I became involved in RUF at the University of Georgia (Go Dawgs!) and Redeemer Presbyterian Church. After moving back to Lookout Mountain in 2016, it was an easy decision for my wife and me to be a part of LMPC. She is a lifelong member, and I joined the church in 2017. I am honored to be nominated as a deacon for the class of 2026 and am thankful for the call to this office. It is a true honor and privilege to be able to serve our church.

DAVID CAINES

ELDER

Occupation: COO, Kenco Group

Wife: Mary

Children: Miles, Eleanor, Townes, Louisa, Peter

Joined LMPC: 2008

I was blessed to grow up in a Christian family and came to know the Lord personally at a young age. The Lord used my church youth group to grow and mature my relationship with him through high school. I graduated from Covenant College, where I learned to foster a Christian worldview. I enjoy leading and teaching, and was given the opportunity to exercise my passions in my role as an elder at LMPC beginning in 2015. I've been blessed through different seasons of mentorship and discipleship with older believers. God graciously continues to teach me through my wife, Mary, and through different elements of our church life, including my men's small group. I enjoy shepherding our church family, praying with and for them, encouraging them with a short note or a listening ear, teaching third grade Sunday school, and connecting with our youth group. Church life has been a blessing to me since I was very young, and I hope to create the same experience for other members of our church body.



TAD DACUS

ELDER

Occupation: Sales

Wife: Linda

Children: Trip, Molly Ford

Joined LMPC: 2007

We went to church, as respectable 60s families did, but I departed for college an agnostic with no interest in faith. Reviewing my to-do list one pre-dawn morning, a fellow student asked, "What do you want to live your life for?" Wisely, I thought, I replied, "If I had a wife that loved me and children who wanted to see me at the end of the day, I couldn't ask for more. Can you think of anything better?" His response caused me pause. "Jesus has done so much for me, I just want to live for him." I saw Christians as only obeying Jesus out of duty or obligation, not because he had been so good to them. I didn't seek God, but he sought me, and that morning I opened my heart to Jesus. Like my friend, it is now my joy to share with others what Jesus has done for me. Others have helped me so much to grow to love Jesus, understand God's Word, and rely on the Holy Spirit. I am grateful God has a part for all of us to play, and for this door he has opened for me to serve on the Session of LMPC.



CHUCK DENHAM

DEACON

Occupation: Sales Consultant, Crown Subaru
Wife: Diane
Joined LMPC: 2016

It was the utter faithfulness of Jesus Christ who drew me to himself at the age of twelve. Because of the wonder of the Gospel, the certainty of Christ's return, the power of Scripture to equip us for every good work, and the joy of what we look forward to, I humbly look forward to serving the body of Christ here at LMPC.



TOMMY GIFFORD

ELDER

Occupation: Retired from the carpet industry
Wife: Barby
Children: Alysia, Jamey, Debby
Joined LMPC: 1960

I grew up attending LMPC and joined at age 12. In 1976, as I returned to LMPC, my faith was renewed and deepened by the preaching of the Word and by the witness of a cute young girl whom I soon married. I still remember a sermon by Roger Gulick on Titus 3:4: "He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit whom he poured out richly through Jesus Christ our Savior." I realized that trying to live a clean life was not what would make me righteous in the eyes of God. My faith has grown through the teaching and preaching of the Word, through the small group ministry at LMPC, and personal time in the Word and prayer. It is humbling and an honor to serve in leadership as an elder alongside our pastors and to care for our congregation.



WILL GIVENS

DEACON

Occupation: Teacher
Joined LMPC: 2021

Growing up in a Christian home, I knew about Jesus much like I knew about George Washington. Embedded in the Christian community, I don't remember a day when I would have said I didn't know Jesus. However, it wasn't until later in high school that I began to see the depth of my sin, and through this, my need for Christ, and thus began to rest on him. In college, through the local church, RUF, and summers at Alpine, the Lord deepened my understanding of his love for me and began working in me a desire to live in response to his love. I came to see repentance as not merely turning from bad things to good things but even turning from my own appearance of goodness to trust in Christ. In moving to Chattanooga, the Lord continues to use the church to draw me to himself, to show me more of my need and to magnify my Savior. I believe in and care about the work of the local church. I've been entrusted with gifts — including the gift of availability. These, met with the nomination of trusted friends, made for a compelling call to serve as a deacon.



LARRY GOODMAN

ELDER

Occupation: Urban & Regional Planner (retired)
Wife: Mary
Children: Ian, James, Geoffrey
Joined LMPC: 2016

I had the privilege of being raised in a Christian home and can honestly say that I've never known a day that I didn't know and love Jesus. This has been a tremendous blessing, and I pray I will never take it for granted. I love the church of Jesus Christ. She isn't perfect, I'm not perfect, but God uses flawed, sinful people to build his Kingdom. My desire as a ruling elder is to encourage others with the encouragement God has given me and share with them the things he has taught me. I want to use the gifts he has given me in the service of the church and others.



DEREK HALVORSON

ELDER

Occupation: President, Covenant College
Wife: Wendy
Children: Banks, Whit
Joined LMPC: 2013

I had the great blessing of growing up in a Christian home, so there was never a time in my life when I was not aware of God's work in the world, the reality of sin, and my need for salvation. As is often the case for covenant children, I became increasingly aware of the depth of my sin and the wonder of Jesus Christ's atoning work as I grew older. I can point to a number of seasons of real growth in grace in my life. Certainly one of those was my four years as an undergraduate at Covenant College and a regular worshiper at LMPC.

Active participation in the life of the local church has always been a central part of my walk with Jesus Christ. I have looked to the body of Christ to sustain and shape me in my efforts to be faithful to my calling as a Christian and the other callings God has placed on my life. In the past, I have served in various ways: volunteering with youth, teaching Sunday school classes, leading worship, etc. Having served as an elder at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Chicago, I am eager to serve again at LMPC.



GRIFFIN HATCLIFF

DEACON

Occupation: Mental Health Counselor
Wife: Erin
Joined LMPC: 2021

I came to know Christ at an early age, while being raised in a Christian home in Jackson, Mississippi. Throughout my life, the Lord has continued to show me both my need for a Savior and the sufficiency of Jesus. The work of the Holy Spirit in my life has taken many bends and curves but has led me to being married to an amazing wife with whom I share a vocation, living in Chattanooga, and being a part of LMPC. I am humbled by the opportunity to serve the LMPC community through the diaconate and look in faith to how the Lord will use this role in my own sanctification.



CARTER HELM

DEACON

Occupation: Director, Chick-fil-A, Ooltewah
Wife: Taylor
Joined LMPC: 2022

Christ has used my wife, Tay Tay, and my close friends to show me what his love looks like, thereby helping me understand his love for me. He showed me what it looked like for me to live in my own sin during my time in college, and forgave me of sins. In the depth of my sorrow and shame, he drew me into the church during that time, and I learned what it looks like to walk as a follower of Christ as a changed man. Now, Christ is sanctifying my character as I walk through life as a young married man with a career.



EDDY HILGER

DEACON

Occupation: Entrepreneur
Wife: Carlee
Children: Jackson, Kenzie, Brooks, Kervens
Joined LMPC: 2000

In junior high school, I realized my need for God, his forgiveness, and his intimate involvement in my life. I slowly grew closer to him in high school, and while attending Covenant College, I grew tremendously. My years at Covenant shaped who I am today and continue to have a huge impact on my walk with Christ. As I've grown in grace, God has opened my eyes to some of the needs in our church and community, and ways to meet those needs. Loving your neighbor as yourself is a biblical mandate for all believers and a by-product of our walk with Christ. I believe that God has blessed me with a listening ear and the gifts of encouragement and help/service.



PAUL JACOBS

DEACON

Occupation: Financial Advisor

Wife: Lynn

Children: Barlow, Phil, Dan

Joined LMPC: 1992

I made a decision to accept Christ at age 12. During college I drifted. However, Christ continued to bring people into my life to challenge me. When Lynn and I moved to Lookout Mountain in December 1975, I was looking for a Bible study, which led us to LMPC, which had just gone through a major revival in 1974. After visiting LMPC, many new friends reached out to us over the summer. On August 18, 1976, after a lunch meeting where the plan of salvation was shared by a business friend, I was asked if I wanted to pray to accept Christ. Instead, I asked several questions. During the course of answering, he mentioned his "prayer list." My name was on page 3. I was not aware of anyone, other than my mother, who regularly prayed for me. At that point, I acknowledged that I was a sinner, asked God's forgiveness, and prayed to receive Christ. God graciously brought Lynn to saving faith at the same time. Currently, the Lord has made me increasingly aware that I am in the last quarter of my life, and that has led me to examine what it is to end well. This, in turn, has led me to a more intentional time of prayer, asking the Spirit to guide me in all that I do. I know the Father loves me, and I feel that love most when I am serving others.



DON MORTON

ELDER

Occupation: Attorney

Wife: Katie

Children: Hugh, Elizabeth, Peter

Joined LMPC: 1990

Though raised in a Christian home and recognizing my need for Christ as my Savior at an early age, I did not understand the claims of Christ on my life until college. Searching for purpose, I read *Mere Christianity* and was stunned by the simple statement that Jesus was either a madman or a liar or he was the Son of God. That stark statement forced me to respond immediately, "Yes, you are my Lord, and I am yours."

Gripped by his grace, I knew I must respond with my obedience. Grateful for his mercy, I welcome any opportunity to serve in any way that I can. Growing in grace is a lifetime process. What a privilege to be a part of God's body of believers at LMPC!



DOUG PERRY

ELDER

Occupation: Works at TVA

Wife: Ann Henley

Children: Ash, Della, Clara Parker, Kappy, Hennie

Joined LMPC: 2012

The Lord was gracious to allow me to grow up in a believing home and a church that educated me in God's Word. After a rebellious time in my life, I ended up living and working with a missionary community in the Caribbean, where Jesus showed up in a powerful way in my life. As I grew deeper in my faith, I thought seriously about becoming a pastor and even attended seminary for a time. Over the years, the Lord made it clear that my calling was not in the vocational ministry, but he has allowed me to use my gifts in several churches. This will be my third time to serve as an elder at LMPC, and I am grateful for the chance to serve you in this grace-filled church as we give our lives away on the mountain, in Chattanooga, and around the world.



ROSS SHUMATE

DEACON

Occupation: Teacher

Wife: Dodd

Children: Cy, Gilly, Wylie

Joined LMPC: 2013

I have been more and more grateful for the fact that the Lord continues to pursue me and brings me into encounters with him. I am also grateful for the men and women the Lord has brought into my life to help me grow in my relationship with him. The earliest such mentors are my mom and dad, who raised me to love the church community and to grow to love the Father through and by the redeeming work of his Son, Jesus Christ. The desire to answer the call and serve in the role of deacon is a manifestation of that gratitude. I feel honored to be allowed to participate in restoring God's creation through my service to his church.

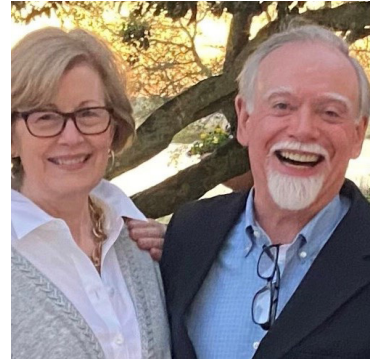


SAM SMARTT

ELDER

Occupation: Retired Dealer Principal
Wife: Donna
Children: Mary, Susan, Sam
Joined LMPC: 1965

Donna and I both became Christians through attending the James Dobson film series at LMPC in 1981, though we had no interest in the church. We joined a discussion group after each film at the church, led by Roger Gulick, who had been my youth pastor at LMPC many years before. Unbeknownst to us, this group, that included the Chapins, Watlingtons, Courtneys, Whitmores, and Wingfields, was a Bible study that had taken a break from their studies to attend the series. After the film series, they resumed meeting on Sunday nights and invited us to join them. Not knowing it was a Bible study, we said yes. In God's perfect timing, I became a believer that first night and Donna came within the next couple weeks. We later learned that the group had been praying for us by name for weeks before the film series. All those couples are still good friends of ours today.



RON THOMAS

ELDER

Occupation: Campus Grounds Supervisor, Covenant College
Wife: Deborah
Children: Katherine, Ron, William
Joined LMPC: 2013

I came to know Christ at a young age through the ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship and grew up in a Christian home. My wife, Deborah, and I seek to keep Christ at the center of our marriage and our family, as we raise our children. We have a heart for missions and have served in various capacities in the church in both local and foreign ministries. It is our passion to serve Christ and his church in all we do, and it is an honor to serve him in the role of elder at LMPC.



JACK WEBB

ELDER

Occupation: Real Estate Broker/Developer, VP, Crye-Leike Realtors
Wife: Sue
Children: Whitney, Parker
Joined LMPC: 2007



When I was 15 years old, by God's grace and leading, I asked Jesus into my life and received him as my Savior and Lord. I was very blessed at that time in my life to have several wonderful Christian mentors who shared Christ's amazing unconditional love and forgiveness with me. I have seen and felt Christ working in my life since then, in both good times and challenging times. I recognize that I am totally dependent on the Lord and am nothing in my own strength. The Lord has blessed me in so many ways in my life and with my family, for which I am eternally grateful each and every day. I am comforted by Galatians 2:20, which says, "I have been crucified with Christ and no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." I am sincerely humbled by the opportunity to serve our church and its members. I look forward to the Lord opening doors for me to love and encourage others in our congregation at LMPC.

CARTER YOUNG

DEACON

Occupation: Sales
Wife: Debbie
Children: Wes, Campbell, Jack
Joined LMPC: 1994



I was raised in a Christian home where I was encouraged, by my parents as well as grandparents, to follow Jesus. I don't recall a time when I did not believe in Jesus as my Savior. I have served numerous terms as a deacon at LMPC and feel led to continue in the role. Our family has worshipped at LMPC for years, and it is where we watched our children grow up to know Jesus. To play a small role in helping share that experience with younger families is where I feel led.