



MEET THE DEACON NOMINEES

2024 Deacon Election: May 6



Beverly Bradley

I grew up in Gaffney, South Carolina and became a Christian at age 6. While I studied piano and organ, I came to Charleston to the Medical University to study nursing. My first Sunday in Charleston I came to First Baptist Church and knew I had found a “new home church” and quickly became involved in the music ministry. Soon I met the Citadel cadet that would become my husband, John Bradley, at a Friday night Baptist student supper. After our graduation, FBC continued to be our church home where we raised our four sons, who all attended First Baptist Church School. John and I were both active deacons for many years and we served on numerous church committees. Sadly in January 1998 we lost John to cancer, and this church family that had been a regular part of our lives during the happy times of our lives became an even more important part of our lives as we started a more challenging journey. I am the proud grandmother of 9 grandchildren, continue to direct the preschool choir, and serve as church organist. I have served on the Long Range Planning Committee, the Music Committee, and the First Baptist School Board. It has been a joy to serve God in the many ministry opportunities of First Baptist Church.



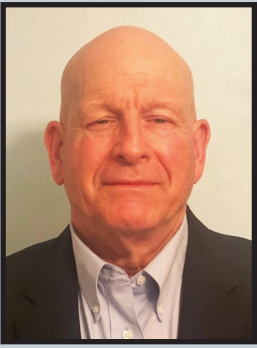
Bob Causby

I grew up in a Christian home and attended First Baptist Church, Shelby, NC, where at an early age I accepted Christ and was baptized. I graduated from Mars Hill College with a Major in Religion, and during my college days I took a semester on a University Ship around the world in four months, to 14 port cities. I was able to visit several Baptist missionaries in those countries. After college as a Baptist Missionary Journeyman for 2 years, I taught Bible classes in a public school in Liberia, West Africa. I spent 18 years in Charlotte, with my first job being a traveling furniture salesman for Bassett Furniture. I married and we had 2 sons. We joined Carmel Baptist Church, where I was a deacon and choir member as well as going on several mission trips overseas. Single again, I moved to Charleston 16 years ago. I joined FBC and love singing in our choir. Of my 2 sons and 6 grandchildren, Gordon and wife, Hui, are teachers in China with their 3 children. I enjoy working at Infinger Furniture in Goose Creek. I have a great love for travel and have been to 58 countries. The Lord has blessed my life in many ways.



Fred Lentz, Sr.

My wife, Linda, and I joined First Baptist Church in 1978. After serving our Nation for six years in the U.S. Navy, I returned to Charleston where Linda and I both grew up. I currently serve as Church Treasurer and as a member of the Safety Team. Linda and I have served our church by teaching Sunday School over the years in children’s and youth classes, and now on the team teaching our adult class. We have taught VBS for years and always enjoy watching young people grow in their faith. I have previously served as a deacon and one year as chairman. I have always enjoyed the chance to serve our Lord and Savior through serving the church by serving as a deacon.



Tom Mack

I was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in a Christian home and accepted Christ as my Savior at a Billy Graham Crusade in September of 1968. After graduating from high school, I came down South to attend The Citadel. During my sophomore year, my classmate, Buster Brown, long-time pastor of East Cooper Baptist Church, invited me to come with him to Lucille MacLennan's college Sunday School class where I met my wife of 47 years, Debbie. After we were married in August of 1976, I became a member of First Baptist Church. This church family has loved and supported our family through many life experiences, and numerous periods of separation during my military service, both in the states and overseas after 9/11. God has blessed us with four children and five grandchildren. During my years at First Baptist, I have served a number of terms as a deacon, many years on the parking lot and usher committees, and currently serve on the church security team. I am retired from the South Carolina Army National Guard and Nucor



Sue Murner

My Christian journey began when I declared my faith in Jesus Christ and was baptized at the Summerville Baptist Church at the age of seven. Baptist groups such as the Sunbeams and the Girls Auxiliary provided more support to the foundation of believing parents. Church membership at First Baptist Charleston dates back to 1989 and is a major influence in my life. Involvement in the church includes various positions in the Sunday School, such as a team teacher of the Nonie Wilson Class, Chairman of the Finance Committee, two mission trips to Romania, previous service as a Deacon and currently a member of the Safety Team. After teaching chemistry at Savannah High School and working at MUSC as a research tech in Thoracic Surgery and in Nephrology, I am now making time for volunteer projects which give me new purpose.



Conor Nixon

Hi there! I'm Conor, a devoted family man and active member of First Baptist. By day, I am a technology executive, specializing in leading software engineering teams worldwide. I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior when I was 18 and have been following Him ever since. Here at FBC, you'll find me engaged in various roles, including the Safety Team, overseeing the construction of the new sidewalk on the side of the church, participating in the Men's Wednesday night Bible study, and occasionally filling in for Walker in the Parenting Class on Sunday mornings. I was fortunate enough to have married my beautiful wife, Corrie, here at First Baptist, and we are grateful to be raising our daughter, Olivia, within this community.



Carl Piland

I grew up in Raleigh, NC and after graduating from NC State I moved to Charleston in 2013 for work. I met my now wife, Heather, in 2016 and we were married in 2018. In January of 2023 we welcomed a beautiful baby boy, Ellis, into the world. Our family has truly found a home at First Baptist Church. It will be an honor to serve First Baptist Church as one of the deacons.



Paul Pinkston

My Christian life started with my profession of faith and being baptized at Hillcrest Baptist in Augusta Georgia, at the age of ten. I graduated from Mars Hill College and married my bride of fifty-three years, Judy. We have two children and three grandchildren. Over the years I have been a Sunday School teacher, nursery volunteer, deacon, team leader of youth ministry and facilitator of a youth minister search team. Since joining First Baptist, I have continued my service here by serving on the Safety Team, Men's Ministry and, as needed, taught Sunday School in the Teaching Friends class. Judy and I believe that it was a blessing from God that we were led to First Baptist.



Ed Rodelsperger

I made a profession of faith and was baptized at FBC Newberry, at age 11. I first attended FBC Charleston, while attending medical school in 1980. I became a member prior to my marriage to Karen in 1981. After my medical training, we returned to Charleston and FBC. I have served over the years at FBC Charleston as a deacon, served on the School Committee, and have participated in and organized many mission trips to Peru and Romania. I was very active in Youth Ministry when my three children were in Youth. Now being retired, I volunteer at Barrier Island Free Medical Clinic and enjoy spending time with my wife, children, and 6 grandchildren. I currently am active at FBC in the Matthew 18:20 Sunday School Class, Men's Bible Study, Prayer Room Ministry, and serve on the FBC Safety Team.



Valerie Sessions

I was born in Aiken, SC and raised in First Baptist Church, Aiken. Upon coming to Charleston for college, I attended FBC, Charleston, met Joyce and Floyd Tyler and never really visited any other Charleston churches. I met my husband, Kip Hooker, here and we have raised our children - Austin (19) and Remley (17) - in our church. I work at the Naval Information Warfare Systems Center, Atlantic (NIWC) as a computer scientist and I am also an affiliate professor of computer science at Charleston Southern University. I currently serve on the Acts 1:8 committee and will be helping with the Amsterdam trip this summer. In my free time I love to read, travel, watch Star Trek (any of them old or new), and catch up on the 'tea' with my family.



Richard Tucker

I made my profession of faith in Christ at age 12, but like so many adolescent boys and young men, I drifted away distracted by worldly pursuits. After graduation from The Citadel in 1979, I was commissioned in the US Navy. Lorraine Chleborad and I were married in March 1980. In May, underway on my first ship, late one night standing bridge watch under a moonless, cloudless sky, I was overwhelmed by the awe of the canopy of stars that stretched out forever, I realized just how insignificant I was without God and resumed my walk with Christ. After my Navy career we returned to Charleston to help my parents with health issues. Lorraine and I started attending First Baptist Church in 2003. Soon after we realized FBC was where God meant for us to be and joined in 2005. We have served together on the Ordinance Committee and church fellowships. Over the years I've served on the Facilities Committee, Long Range Planning Committee and as an usher. I currently serve on the Safety Team and monitor social media for FBC related content. Lorraine and I have two grown children and three grandchildren.



Shawn Willis

My wife, Elizabeth, and I have been members of First Baptist since 2012. We live in Mount Pleasant with our four young children: two girls, Mary Frances (11) and Maggie (7), and two boys, Cothran (10) and Miles (4). Elizabeth and I moved to Charleston from Columbia, SC in 2011, and we both grew up in Lexington, SC, where our parents still reside. We have always felt that one of the reasons God led us to Charleston was to find our family's church home, which we found here at First Baptist. Our oldest three children currently attend First Baptist School, with Miles joining them next year. We continue to be blessed watching His plan for our family unfold here. I work as an attorney and Elizabeth is a speech therapist. I have previously served as a deacon and on various committees, as well as on the board of the Church Foundation, and I look forward to continuing to serve in any way possible.

