
DEACON AND ELDER CANDIDATE BIOS

The following men have been examined by the Session and approved as candidates. The congregation will vote December 4 at 10am. Please be in prayer in this matter until then. The brief biographies below include (italicized) each man's Christian testimony and sense of call to office.

DEACONS

Chip Beatty was born in Rome, NY and has lived in this area for 39 years. Chip and wife Shara have been married for 15 years. They have 2 sons: Bruton, age 11 and Bentley, age 6. Chip attended NC State University after graduating from East Gaston High School. He currently works as a manager at a local landscape supply company. Chip was a member at FPC for nearly 10 years before going off to college. Chip, along with Shara, re-joined the FPC family in March of 2019.

- *I grew up at First Pres but then I grew away from the faith. As life events occurred, the Lord brought me back into a full relationship with him. I am grateful and ready to serve.*
- *I am a servant-oriented leader and a cheerful servant of my Lord.*

Robert Billings was born in Wilkesboro, NC in 1967. He has been living in Gaston County since 1989. Robert and wife Judy have been married for 31 years. They have 2 children: Zane, age 24 and Chloe, age 20. Robert holds a Bachelor and Master degree in Civil Engineering from UNCC. In addition to his job as a Construction Project Manager with Mecklenburg County he owns a civil engineering firm. Robert was baptized and became a member of FPC on Easter, 2008.

- *I came to Christ over an extended period of time. My family attended FPC for several years before I became a member. While on a mission trip to Biloxi, MS in 2007, during an early morning walk along the beach, I asked Christ to come into my life.*
- *Over the years, as we were raising our children, life seemed to be very busy. Shortly after our daughter went off to college and we became "empty nesters", someone asked me to consider being a deacon. At this moment, it just seemed right.*

Josh Clevenger was born and raised in Gaston County. He currently lives in Mount Holly with his wife of almost 12 years, Melissa along with their 2 daughters, Peyton, age 10, and Kaylyn, age 5. Josh graduated from NC State University. He is a Plant Manager at American & Efird. He has been a member of FPC for 10 years.

- *In 2012, after the birth of my daughter, I came to know Christ. I realized how lost I was and began to study scripture more.*
- *I have been called to the office of Deacon to not only grow closer to God, but to spread the grace and love of Jesus Christ.*

Born in Charlotte, **Jamie Revels** has been a life-long resident of Gaston County. He has been married to his wife Lisa for 22 years. They have 3 children: Emily, age 18, Harrison, age 12, and Jack, age 11. Jamie graduated from Belmont Abbey with a B.S. in Information Systems. He currently works as a Cyber Incident Response Consultant with Wells Fargo. Jamie has been a member at FPC since 1998.

- *I grew up in church at Westview Presbyterian in Mount Holly. I made a public profession and was baptized at 15 years old on Easter Sunday along with my sister.*
- *I feel led to contribute more in light of the current state of the church overall.*

ELDER

Mark Beatty was born in Raleigh and has lived in this area 60 years. He and his wife of 14 years, Deanna, have between them four children: Chip, 42, Jennifer, 41, Josh, 37, and Alyssa, 28. Mark holds a B.S. in Electronic Engineering Technology and works as a project manager at Keller Technology Corporation. He has been a member of FPC for 30+ years.

- *I have attended church for most of my life but I didn't accept Christ until I was 30 years old. I answered the alter call at Second Baptist Church in Mount Holly. I think the Christian walk is a journey that covers our whole life and we should try to grow in our walk each day.*
- *I have been on sabbatical from the Deacon board for a couple of years now. I feel I have grown in my walk with Christ during that time and hope this growth will enable me to serve Christ better in whatever He asks me to do.*

Dan Ormsby was born in Norfolk, Virginia, and has been a resident of this area for 30 years. He and Sally have been married 41 years and have three adult children, Dawn, 40, Jeff, 38 and Matt, 36. Dan studied photography in the U.S. Navy and has made his living as a professional photographer ever since. He has been a member of FPC for 37 years.

- *I grew up in a Christian home believing in God, and through his grace I continue to grow in my walk with him.*
- *I feel that God has given me a heart for serving him and his people.*

Ron Smith, a life-long resident of Gaston County, has been married to Debbie 36 years. Their children are Julianne, Heather, and Morgan. The Smiths have four grandchildren. Ron graduated from Belmont Abbey with a B.A. in Business. He retired from Duke Energy's Nuclear Oversight Division in April, 2016. He has been a member of FPC for 29 years.

- *I grew up in a church-going family and came to Christ around the age of ten. During my teen years, I began to stray away from what I knew God desired for my life. After Heather was born, I felt the Lord calling me back.*
- *I believe God has placed in me the desire to serve him and his church, and through this calling grow closer to Him.*