

CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF

# DEACON

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
JACKSON, MS



2014



## WHAT IS A DEACON?

In the Presbyterian Church there are two types of officers: elders and deacons. Within the office of elder, there are the two kinds: teaching elders (commonly referred to as ministers or preachers) and ruling elders. The elders jointly are responsible for the government and spiritual oversight of the church, including teaching. In conformity to Scripture, the office of elder is open to men only. The office of deacon, too, is an office to be held by godly men and those who hold this office are jointly responsible for leading the mercy ministry of the church. Our Book of Church Order states: "The office of deacon is set forth in the Scriptures as ordinary and perpetual in the Church. The office is one of sympathy and service, after the example of the Lord Jesus; it expresses also the communion of the saints, especially their helping one another in time of need."

## WHAT DO DEACONS DO?

The Book of Church Order supplies this helpful summary: It is the duty of the deacons to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress. It is their duty also to develop the grace of liberality in the members of the church, to devise effective methods of collecting the gifts of the people, and to distribute these gifts among the objects to which they are contributed. They shall have the care of the property of the congregation, both real and personal, and shall keep in proper repair the church edifice and other buildings belonging to the congregation."

## WHAT ARE THE BIBLICAL QUALIFICATIONS?

The Bible is clear about the qualifications for a deacon. Paul says in 1 Timothy 3:8-10,12-13 that "Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus."

Deacons were first appointed by the Apostles in Acts 6. A problem had arisen in connection with church aid given to some of the widows in the congregation in Jerusalem. The apostles determined that it would be wrong for them to neglect their job as elders, but that the ministry of mercy was also too important to neglect. Thus, we read "Therefore,

brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word. And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them (Acts 6:3-6).”

This is why our Book of Church Order says: “To the office of deacon, which is spiritual in nature, shall be chosen men of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly spirit, warm sympathies, and sound judgment.” Thus, to summarize, the Bible identifies godly Christian character, family spiritual leadership, and firm belief in the truth of the Word as indispensable qualifications for the diaconate.

## HOW SHOULD I VOTE?

We elect a man to the office of deacon not because he is popular, or an influential businessman or professional, nor because he is a personal friend.

Rather, we elect a man to office of deacon because of his godliness and giftedness. So, we prepare to vote by prayerfully considering the nominees in light of the scriptural qualifications and responsibilities. Then we ask ourselves two questions: (1) Does this brother meet the requirements of Scripture for this high office? and (2) Does he evidence the abilities to perform the duties of the office?

We hope that you will use this booklet to better prepare for the upcoming election of officers. Remember, your participation in the election of the church officers is one of the greatest privileges and responsibilities of your church membership at First Presbyterian Church. One of the great strengths of First Presbyterian Church down through the years has been the Christian character and wisdom of its officers. May our God be gracious to grant us His favor again providing a new generation of godly officers.

## PROCEDURE

1. Twenty (20) deacons will be elected.
2. The election process will begin on Sunday, September 14, 2014

# CANDIDATES



**MATT BALLEW**

**Wife:** Helen

**Children:** Bess Sullivan, Lee

**Occupation:** Financial Advisor

**Church Member:** 1977

**Church Service:** Men of the Covenant, Peyton House Volunteer, Usher, Gateway Rescue, Session Finance Committee, Evangelism Explosion, Greeter



**JAY BROWN**

**Wife:** Mary Tison

**Children:** Gibson, Andy, Owen

**Occupation:** Physician

**Church Member:** 2003

**Church Service:** FPDS Crusader Club Chaplain, Usher, Sunday School Class Officer



**STEVE BROWN**

**Wife:** Kristen

**Children:** Ellie, Wyche Anderson, Mac

**Occupation:** Administrator of Assisted Living Facility

**Church Member:** 2002

**Church Service:** Adult Sunday School Substitute Teacher, Usher, Christian Education Committee, Children's Sunday School Volunteer, Sunday School Class President



## DAVID CASE

**Wife:** Genneysa

**Children:** Madeleine, Samantha, Olivia

**Occupation:** Database Administrator and Information Technology Manager

**Church Member:** 1999

**Church Service:** Children's Sunday School Teacher, Sunday School Class Vice President, Children's Choir



## JONATHAN DAVIS

**Wife:** Mary Linley

**Children:** Motte, Charlie

**Occupation:** Financial Advisor

**Church Member:** 1993

**Church Service:** Men of the Covenant, Neighborhood Christian Center Volunteer, Sunday School Class President



## AUSTON EDWARDS

**Wife:** Rachel

**Children:** Carson, Caleb

**Occupation:** High School Teacher

**Church Member:** 2007

**Church Service:** Discipleship Group Leader, Usher, Sunday School Class President, Vacation Bible School Volunteer, Short Term Mission Team



## PARKER ELLISON

**Wife:** Mary

**Children:** Lee, Claire, Daniel, Emily,

**Occupation:** Physician

**Church Member:** 2011

**Church Service:** Usher, Short Term Mission Team, Men's Small Group Bible Study



## SPENCE FLATGARD

**Wife:** Lou Ann

**Children:** Andie

**Occupation:** Attorney and Lobbyist

**Church Member:** 2006

**Church Service:** Children's Sunday School Teacher, Men of the Covenant, Vacation Bible School Volunteer, Sunday School Class President



## MATT GLOVER

**Occupation:** CPA

**Church Member:** 2010

**Church Service:** Usher, Short Term Mission Team, Student Ministry Volunteer, Young Adult Leadership Team



## BUDDY GRAHAM

**Wife:** Frenchie

**Children:** Dawn Jones

**Occupation:** Interior Design Consultant

**Church Member:** 2010

**Church Service:** Men's Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Men of the Covenant, Usher, Flower Committee Chairman, Sunday School Class President



## MATT GRAVES

**Wife:** Cassie

**Children:** Ethan, Jack

**Occupation:** Orthopedic Surgeon

**Church Member:** 2002

**Church Service:** Usher, Short Term Mission Team, Sunday School Class President



## HENRY GREAVES

**Wife:** Lisa

**Children:** Julia, Henry Jr., Mary, Charles

**Occupation:** Geologist

**Church Member:** 1998

**Church Service:** Adult Sunday School Substitute Teacher, Men of the Covenant, Usher, Sunday School Class President, Mission Committee, Children's Sunday School Volunteer, Short Term Mission Team





## ANTHONY HALL

**Wife:** Julia

**Children:** Jackson

**Occupation:** Brokerage Manager

**Church Member:** 2005

**Church Service:** Usher, Wednesday Night 6th Grade Boys Volunteer, Men's Prayer Breakfast, Sunday School Class President



## STUART HARMON

**Wife:** Beverly

**Children:** Avery, Brooke, Kelsey

**Occupation:** Attorney

**Church Member:** 1997

**Church Service:** FPDS Board, Neighborhood Christian Center Volunteer, Men's Prayer Breakfast, Men of the Covenant, Sunday School Class President



## STEPHEN KRUGER

**Wife:** Phoebe

**Children:** Stephen Jr, Andrew, Peter, Philip

**Occupation:** Attorney

**Church Member:** 1981

**Church Service:** Usher, Benevolence Committee, Children's Sunday School Teacher, Children's Sunday School Volunteer, Neighborhood Christian Center Volunteer, Usher, Short Term Mission Team, Sunday School Class President, Twin Lakes Board, Worship Committee, Stewardship Committee



## ROB LAKE

**Wife:** Lisa

**Occupation:** Business Executive

**Church Member:** 2009

**Church Service:** Evangelism Explosion, Men of the Covenant, Neighborhood Christian Center Volunteer, Sunday School President, Gateway Rescue Center Volunteer



## KELLY MCMULLAN

**Wife:** Lindsey

**Children:** Nathan

**Occupation:** Attorney

**Church Member:** 2003

**Church Service:** Men of the Covenant, Neighborhood Christian Center Board, Usher, Sunday School Class President, Choir Member



## JASON MCNEEL

**Wife:** Joanna

**Children:** Connor

**Occupation:** Construction Project Manager

**Church Member:** 2010

**Church Service:** Usher, Sunday School Class Vice President



## NATHAN OAKLEY

**Wife:** Deborah

**Children:** Sanders, Wynn, Rebekah, Harris, Lathem

**Occupation:** Director of Curriculum and Instruction

**Church Member:** 2008

**Church Service:** Children's Sunday School Teacher, Usher,  
Christian Education Committee



## ROB OATES

**Wife:** Tina

**Children:** Charlotte, Anna Clare, Lucy, Coit

**Occupation:** Loan Officer

**Church Member:** 2006

**Church Service:** Children's Sunday School Teacher, Children's  
Sunday School Volunteer, Usher



## TROY ODOM

**Wife:** Brittany

**Children:** Caroline, Hayes

**Occupation:** Lawyer

**Church Member:** 2010

**Church Service:** Children's Sunday School Teacher, Usher,  
Sunday School Class Officer



## MARK PHILLIPS

**Occupation:** Director of Third Party Billing

**Church Member:** 1990

**Church Service:** Sanctuary Sound Technician (Volunteer from 1995 to 2009, Staff from 2010 to present), Children's Sunday School Teacher, Discipleship Group Leader, Neighborhood Christian Center Volunteer, Usher, Sunday School Class Officer



## TAYLOR POLK

**Wife:** Christina

**Children:** Banks, Leigh Wilson

**Occupation:** Attorney

**Church Member:** 1991

**Church Service:** Children's Sunday School Teacher



## JIM PRINCE

**Occupation:** Newspaper Publisher

**Church Member:** 1995

**Church Service:** Children's Sunday School Teacher, Usher, Special Needs Coordinator, Pastoral Care Search Committee, Communications Committee



## TIMOTHY SMITH

**Wife:** Lesley

**Children:** Luke, Sydney

**Occupation:** Attorney

**Church Member:** 2005

**Church Service:** Men of the Covenant, Neighborhood Christian Center Volunteer, Sunday School Class President, Evangelism Explosion, Usher



## RYAN SWINDELL

**Wife:** Molly

**Children:** Mary Emerson, Katherine, Ford

**Occupation:** Financial Advisor

**Church Member:** 2011

**Church Service:** Discipleship Group Leader, Men of the Covenant, Adult Sunday School Teacher, College Intern, Senior High Intern



## HUGH TRUSSEL

**Wife:** Donna

**Children:** H. David III, Daniel, Cameron Lee

**Occupation:** Real Estate Development/ Management

**Church Member:** 1988

**Church Service:** Men of the Covenant, Usher, Adult Sunday School Teacher, Evangelism Explosion, Greeter, Men's Prayer Breakfast, Neighborhood Christian Center Volunteer, Short Term Mission Teams, Sunday School Class Officer, Student Ministry Sunday School Teacher, Student Ministry Volunteer, Mission to Jackson Committee



## MATTHEW TURNAGE

**Wife:** Taylor

**Children:** Cecilia, William

**Occupation:** CPA

**Church Member:** 2004

**Church Service:** Adult Sunday School Teacher, Usher, Sunday School Class President



## DAVID TURNER

**Wife:** Amy

**Children:** Alex, Thomas, Anna

**Occupation:** Building Contractor

**Church Member:** 1999

**Church Service:** Discipleship Group Leader, FPDS Board, Men of the Covenant, Usher, Student Ministry Sunday School Teacher, Children's Sunday School Teacher, Neighborhood Christian Center Volunteer (Peyton House building project), Short Term Mission Teams



