

The National Presbyterian Church

NOMINEES FOR OFFICE

Fall Congregational Meeting
October 31, 2021

Report of the Congregational Nominating Committee

Chair – Elder Jim Bridgeman

Members 2022 - Grant Franke, Janice Sessing, Scott Herndon

Members 2023 - Laura Atchison, Lewrene Glaser, Robert Levy

SLATE

Elders: Class of 2025

- * Trevor Blow (returning)
- * Jim Bridgeman (returning)
- Betty Elliott (returning)
- * John Forlines (returning)
- * Mark Goodin (returning)
- * George Kabwe
- May Yamate (returning)

NPC Fund for Charitable Giving Board:

Class of 2025

- Brad Bailey
- Megan Schmol

Pastor Nominating Committee:

- Joanna Chai
- Rudy deLeon
- Joy Eckert
- Peggy Lewis
- Katherine Pippert
- Glenn Schmitt
- Joel Velasco
- Herma Williams

Deacons: Class of 2025

- Debra Burton
- Jessie Chanthunya
- Kristy Chikes (returning)
- Lucy Cummings
- Cheryl Hatch
- Cindy Holman
- Alison Kaufman
- Kim Meyers
- Bob Palmer
- Mary Palmer
- Rachel Rajaseelan
- Trudy Singh
- Doug Stewart
- Brandy Treaster
- Grant Treaster
- Patricia Wingfield
- Nancy Zabaloieff

**Indicates has particular skills and experience in finance, business, legal, or property matters. As per congregational policy over 1/3 of Session should have these skills and/or experiences.*

Qualifications for Nomination

Core

Spiritual maturity
Graciousness in speech and actions
Open-minded, capable of working harmoniously and actively in a group environment towards the mission of the group
Active NPC member, regular attendee and financial supporter
Evidence of willingness to serve
Supports Biblical standards (personal, spiritual, leadership) for Christian church leaders

Additional emphasis

Elder - leadership skills
Deacon - heart of compassion for others
Fund for Charitable Giving and Elder-financial and management background
Congregational Nominating Committee - familiarity with NPC ministries and congregants

Elder Class of 2025

***Trevor Blow (renominated)**



I was born in New Orleans and I grew up in Columbia, Maryland.

Education/Career: I graduated from the University of South Carolina. I learned to fly in the Navy and flew for several years with United Airlines. I currently work downtown at U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Spiritual Life: My faith has really been influenced by my wife, Laurel. She grew up in a very faithful church family. I knew her faith was important to her, so I started to attend regularly with her after we were married. We have raised our two daughters here at NPC.

NPC Activities: I have attended NPC since 2002 and I was actually baptized at NPC as an adult. I served a three-year term as a Deacon and I taught a Sunday School Class for two-years. I enjoy sandwich making on Sundays and emergency meal packaging on the Great Day of Service.

Thoughts About Stewardship: Giving is a key component of our Christian faith. It is a reminder that the things that we have are provided by God and we are just borrowing them for a short period a time. Our gifts are a small expression of the sacrifice that Christ gave for our redemption.

***Jim Bridgeman (renominated)**



I was born in Nashville, Tennessee and lived there until the age of twenty-one.

Education / Career: I graduated from David Lipscomb College in Nashville and the University of Virginia School of Law. After practicing law for several years, I moved to Washington to work for the Treasury Department. Since leaving the government I have been engaged in private law practice.

Spiritual Life: My parents were active in the Church of Christ. Our family attended services on Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Wednesday night. After moving to Washington, my wife Chris and I began attending the Church of the Pilgrims, a Presbyterian congregation near Dupont Circle, where I served as an elder. We moved to NPC when our children were young because of the strong Christian education program.

NPC Activities: I have been a member of the Session for almost three years and a member of the Personnel Council for almost eight years.

Thoughts About Stewardship: I grew up in a congregation that emphasized giving to fund a strong program of outreach ministries. Stewardship is essential to our individual spiritual lives and our life as a congregation.

Elder Class of 2025

Elizabeth (Betty) Elliott (renominated)



I was born and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota, and lived in Massachusetts until moving with my husband Randy to the Washington DC area in 1983. We have two children who grew up in the children's and youth programs at NPC.

Education / Career: I graduated from Wellesley College with a BA in English Literature and hold a master's degree from the University of Virginia in the same field. I've worked as an editor, children's librarian, teacher and volunteer coordinator.

Spiritual Life: My father was a Presbyterian pastor and my mother a seminary professor and advocate for women in the church. They provided a wonderful example of commitment to Jesus Christ through their partnership in ministry. I committed myself to Jesus Christ as a very young child and my faith has been nurtured by the church throughout my life. Randy and I met at Park Street Church in Boston, where we grew in our faith through strong biblical teaching. I continue to nurture my relationship with Jesus Christ through personal Bible study and prayer, and by meeting with other Christians for study, prayer and fellowship.

NPC Activities: Randy and I joined NPC in June of 1984. I'm currently on Session and chair the Grow Council. In the past I've chaired the Children's, Adult Nurture and Officer Nominating Committees. I've also served on search committees for pastors and directors of children's ministry, and on the Worship and Mission Councils. My great love is working with children; so I've taught Children's Sunday School for many years, and currently mentor two Syrian refugee children.

Thoughts About Stewardship: We give our time, talent and treasure in response to God's grace and faithfulness to us. We grow in the spiritual discipline of Stewardship as we discover our call to serve God, share in ministry and give financially to God's work in the world, seeking to proclaim the salvation of Jesus Christ.

*John Forlines (renominated)



I was born and raised in Raleigh, NC. My wife, Janet, and I joined NPC in 2007. We have twin sons, Robert and Jack who are 19 years old.

Education / Career: I graduated from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a BS in business administration with a concentration in accounting. I have an MBA in human resources management from the University of Dallas. I am currently the Chief Risk Officer for Home Point Financial, an independent mortgage banker headquartered in Ann Arbor, MI. I worked at Fannie Mae for 33 years, holding positions including Chief Risk Officer, Chief Audit Executive, and Chief Credit Officer. I am a Certified Public Accountant in DC.

Spiritual Life: I was active in a Free Will Baptist church from birth until I went to college. I attended a Presbyterian church for the first time when Janet and I started dating. We were married at Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas in 1998 and I joined shortly thereafter. We were active members in Highland Park Presbyterian until we moved to Washington, DC in 2006. We were attracted to NPC after our children were admitted to NPS. NPC was the first church we attended after our move and it immediately felt like home. We joined in 2007. We attend church at NPC regularly and our children participated actively in the youth program until their high school graduation in 2021. Worship is an important part of my weekly spiritual life.

NPC Activities: I am currently an elder and serve as the Chair of the Finance Council. I previously served one term as an NPC Elder from 2011 to 2014. During my previous tenure I was Chair of the Finance Council for two years and was a member of the Personnel Council. I also currently serve as the Treasurer, Executive Committee member and Board member for Friendship Place, an NPC mission partner.

Thoughts About Stewardship: I believe it is important to use your time, talents, and treasure to help others and to support efforts to spread the gospel throughout our local area and the world. I feel fortunate that I have been able to use my financial and management skills for the benefit of NPC and other organizations in the communities in which I have lived.

Elder Class of 2025

***Mark Goodin (renominated)**



I was born in suburban Chicago and lived the first 12 years of my life in Glencoe, Illinois. My wife, Joanna, and I have two daughters (Cate and Nora), and we reside in McLean, Virginia.

Education / Career: I received a B.A. in History from the University of Virginia. I subsequently graduated from law school at George Washington University and practiced law at two firms in Washington, DC. I then worked at the Federal Election Commission before moving to my current position of Associate General Counsel at Freddie Mac.

Spiritual Life: I was baptized in the United Church of Christ at Northfield Community Church. Both of my parents were great Christian role models to me. After attending church in several Protestant denominations from high school through my late 20s, I found my way to NPC and became a member in 1998.

NPC Activities: My primary activities at NPC have involved service at National Presbyterian School, where our daughters each attended from age three through sixth grade. I served as President of the Board of Trustees of NPS from 2014-16, during which time the school undertook a significant expansion of its facilities and selected a new Head of School. Throughout my two terms as a Board member at NPS, I served on the Executive, Governance and Finance Committees.

Thoughts About Stewardship: A good steward is one who cares for God's creation -- in ways both large and small. I believe that the starting point of stewardship is a focus on striving to love God and to love our neighbors.

***George Kabwe**



I was born in Lusaka, Zambia. Grew up there until my late teenage years, when I left for university in Birmingham, England.

Education / Career: University of Birmingham, England (Bachelor's degree in Engineering, 1990); UK Chartered Accountant (1993); MBA Wharton Business School, University of Pennsylvania (2004).

I worked for seven years with KPMG – 1990-95 in Birmingham England and 1995-97 in Baltimore, MD.

I joined the International Monetary Fund, Washington DC in 1997 and have been there since. My primary work experience has been in audit, consulting and finance.

Spiritual Life: I was born into a very religious family. My mother especially has been a spiritual inspiration to my siblings and me. I attended Sunday school and continued to attend church regularly in young adulthood through the present time. I cannot point to a singular moment of coming to Christ, rather it is the value system and spiritual home in which I was brought up that I try to emulate in my own home and with my children. My growth primarily comes from the fellowship at the NPC church services. The sermons provide moments to reflect on my day-to-day life and contribution and service to my family and community at large. My service has as a deacon has brought me closer to service for the NPC community and broader outreach.

NPC Activities: I began attending regularly in 1997 shortly after I came to the area. Dr. Craig Barnes was the Pastor then and was pivotal in my decision to come to NPC. I became a member in 2004. Prior to being a Deacon, I had not held any positions at NPC. The care ministry has been a spiritually enriching time of service.

Thoughts About Stewardship: The sense of community at NPC is unique – I have not seen it in this form at any of the other churches that I have attended. The push for wider stewardship seems to have grown in recent years – and I see it in many forms, including the Sunday school, which my children have grown through. It has provided a strong foundation for them and with gratitude to this warm community, I would like to continue to contribute in a meaningful way.

Elder Class of 2025

May Yamate (renominated)



I was born in San Leandro, California and I am the daughter of immigrant parents. My father is from Hiroshima, Japan and my mother is from Fukuoka, Japan.

Education / Career: I attended San Francisco State University where I received my B.S. in Cell and Molecular Biology with a minor in Chemistry. I received my M.S. in Epidemiology from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. I am a public health researcher in the field of substance use and behavioral health.

Spiritual Life: I was told to go to church by my parents, attending a Japanese Christian church. Even though my parents attended church, Christian practices such as prayer and reading the Bible were never practiced at home. Despite this upbringing, in all the different states I have lived in, finding and having a church home have been a very integral part of my life. God in all His goodness has led me to wonderful churches. Over the years I have used a number of different daily devotions, since 2016, my daily devotion has been from *Die Losungen* (The watchword).

NPC Activities: I became a member in 2004. I have served the church as an usher, a Deacon, a Stephen Minister and Stephen Leader, and now as an Elder.

Thoughts About Stewardship: Understanding the importance of stewardship came from my time as a graduate student in Amherst, MA. The church God led me to, one of church's ministries was their passionate ministry toward college students. The members knew that we (students) will leave their church once we completed our education. Yet, it was important for them invest their time and energy to nurture us in our faith, because they saw us as being "Ambassadors for Christ". From this church, I learned that stewardship went beyond tithing. It also meant how to use our time and abilities to serve God, to serve the church and to serve people both within and outside the church.

Deacon Class of 2025

Debra Burton



My father was born and raised in Panama, and my mother grew up in Elgin, Illinois. They met in Quito, Ecuador where my mom taught at a Christian boarding school, and my dad attended seminary. With their second child (me) on the way, they decided to move to the U.S. where they believed their children could have the best education available. I was born in Illinois, and my dad's work took us to Ohio, where I did most of my growing up.

Education / Career: I attended Christian schools from second grade until I graduated from Wheaton College. I went on to earn graduate degrees in law: JD at Ohio State, and LLM from Georgetown University. For two and a half decades, I was a public servant, starting as an immigration attorney at the Department of Justice, with the bulk of my career spent on Capitol Hill. I am now in the private sector, working in the field of government affairs.

Spiritual Life: I decided to follow Christ at a very young age, and thankfully was nurtured at every stage such that my faith grew with my age and maturity. I credit a Christian Apologetics course in college with being a pivotal opportunity to subject my faith to the same rigor as all the other subjects I was studying. That intense examination resulted in a strong foundation for my adult faith, which hasn't wavered since.

NPC Activities: My husband, Patrick Burton and I have two teenage daughters. We support the youth group as we are able and currently host the girls' small group at our home Sunday evenings. We are grateful for NPC, and especially appreciated their ministry during the early dark days of the pandemic and the isolation we all faced.

Thoughts About Stewardship: To whom much is given, much is required. I have been blessed in many ways, and I look forward to "giving back" by serving our church community.

Jessie Chanthunya



I was born and raised in Blantyre, Malawi. I joined NPC 1992.

Education/Career: I graduated from University of Maryland with a degree in Hospitality Studies. I also graduated from Convent Secretarial School in Malawi with a Diploma in Secretarial Studies. I worked a secretary in Malawi. Now, I work as an Accounts Assistant at the Embassy of Zimbabwe.

Spiritual Life: My parents were members of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian Church. They served the Church in various capacities including teaching of Bible, and Elders and Deacons. I came to Christ when I was young and have since then trusted in my Lord Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I nurture my Christian life through fellowship in a small group at the Church, and Women Bible Studies Group.

NPC Activities: I have served as a deacon at NPC. I presently teach Sunday School for 4-year-old children with my friend and colleague Ms. Mary Romano. I began teaching Sunday School in 1993 and have continuously been teaching up to the present date. I have also been involved in Church activities including serving the homeless. I am a liaison of one of the missionaries with the International Mission Committee Proclaim Team. I have also been involved in two of the Church's Mission trips to Dominican Republic. I enjoy knitting prayer shawls which I donate to cheer/comfort the sick.

Thoughts About Stewardship: I take Stewardship of my time and resources as my spiritual obligation in the service of my Lord and Savior.

Deacon Class of 2025

Kristy Chikes (renominated)



I was born and have lived most of my life in or around Washington DC.

Education / Career: I have a bachelor of science degree from the University of Maryland. My career has been all over the place. I worked for the Smithsonian in Personnel; I had a catering business while raising my four kids. I worked as the assistant to the children's ministry director at NPC for a while and then started working for Montgomery County public schools as that allowed me to have a similar schedule as my children. I still work for the county today supporting the administrators at Northwest High School.

Spiritual Life: I love the Lord and desire to know him and serve him better each day he puts breath in my lungs!

NPC Activities: I enjoy being a part of a small group. I love helping in the Local mission area. I have been and continue to be a Sunday school teacher. I've been a youth leader and worked at VBS for many years. I have organized the greeters for the past 3 years. I was a Deacon in the past.

Thoughts About Stewardship: I strongly believe that it is our joy to use all God's gifts for His kingdom purposes. That includes finances, time and talents.

Lucy Cummings



I grew up in Rye, NY. I lived in Boston, New Hampshire, San Francisco, New York City and I have now been in Washington DC for 12 years. My husband, Mat, & I have three children – Evan (13), Maggie (11) & Anna (9) – and a COVID puppy – Marvel.

Education / Career: I attended Harvard University (twice – BA, MBA). I started my career in Investment Banking, had a brief stint in Real Estate Investments and quickly moved into consulting at Bain & Company. Over the course of my nearly 20 years here, I have consulted for clients in the healthcare, financial services & retail industries, helped found our Washington DC office, and ran our global strategy practice. Currently, I run the firm's product innovation portfolio.

Spiritual Life: My mother brought me up in the Presbyterian Church in Rye. Being a Christian was always a part of me – but taken for granted. I went to Sunday School as a child and youth group throughout my teens, but then did not attend church during my 20s. My husband's deep commitment to his Quaker faith inspired me to reconnect with my own. It's important for my children to have a religious grounding – to know God, to know Jesus – and I love the way that each Sunday I get to see God through their eyes as well as my own.

NPC Activities: I joined NPC in 2012 before the baptism of my youngest daughter Anna. What drew me in were the wonderful sermons and the sense of grace & peace that I felt when in the Sanctuary. Pre-Covid, I loved volunteering for the Children's Holiday Kickoff and as a Sunday School helper.

Thoughts About Stewardship: We live in an increasingly fractured world. It is important to take care of our communities – strengthening, not weakening the bonds. I hope I can provide a positive example of what it means to be a faithful Christian.

Deacon Class of 2025

Cheryl Hatch



I was born in Michigan but grew up in the suburbs of Dallas, Texas in a loving family with three brothers.

Education / Career: I graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with a BA in music. Following college I joined the staff of Campus Crusade for Christ, an interdenominational Christian ministry now known as Cru, where I worked for ten years, 5 years with college students and 5 years with The Christian Embassy and the Lay ministries of the organization. After that I studied for two years at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School graduating with a MA in religion. I moved back to the DC area and worked for the next three decades with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in the bank resolution area, deposit insurance and contracting, retiring from the government in 2019.

Spiritual Life: I was raised in a church going family but it was not until my college years that I made a commitment to Jesus Christ through the college ministry of Campus Crusade. I have sought to grow in my knowledge of Him and commitment to Him ever since. It is a life journey. I currently study the Scriptures with a small group of Christians who meet weekly on Zoom.

NPC Activities: I became a member of NPC in 1995 after attending a couple of years, being initially attracted to the church by the preaching of Bryant Kirkland and the wonderful music program. I soon joined the chancel choir and have enjoyed singing with them ever since. I have been involved in various Sunday morning classes and small groups in the past and previously served two terms as a deacon from 2007-2012.

Thoughts About Stewardship: Stewardship for me involves supporting NPC and helping it to be the best community where we all can grow in our relationships to one another and in our faith and service to the Lord as we reach out to those in the world around us.

Cindy Holman



I was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Education / Career: At age 18, I came to the mainland to attend Bryant College (now Bryant University) in Smithfield, Rhode Island, where I received a BSBA. I then came to Washington, D.C. and received my law degree from Catholic University Law School. I initially practiced law with the National Labor Relations Board and then opened my own law practice and did residential real estate transactions. Following the birth of my third child, I became a stay at home mom and stopped practicing law. I've since dedicated my time to caring for my family.

Spiritual Life: I was born into a wonderful family of faith; mine is indeed a godly heritage. My grandfather was a Presbyterian Minister and Army Chaplain, and founded the First Presbyterian Church in Puerto Rico. I grew up learning about God through weekly church attendance and daily Bible reading and prayer. I also attended a private K-12 Christian School, Wesleyan Academy, which taught and shared the gospel on a weekly basis. Although I do not have a specific date when I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior, I know it was on a special day when He touched my heart and I became a Believer. I am married to Craig Holman and have three children. My husband and I raised our children at NPC. My children are my greatest joy as it is through them that The Lord rekindled my love for Him, taught me, has drawn me to Him, and has grown my faith.

NPC Activities: I started attending NPC on or about 1990. During my time at NPC I have enjoyed singing in the Chancel Choir, helping in the Flower Ministry, teaching in the Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry, attending youth retreats and Church-wide retreats, volunteering at numerous Church activities, and attending our wonderful array of Adult Sunday classes.

Thoughts About Stewardship: Caring for and serving our church family.

Deacon Class of 2025

Alison Kaufman



I was born in St. Louis but only lived there a few months before my family moved to Uppsala, Sweden for a few years and then to Madison, Wisconsin where I grew up.

Education / Career: I majored in East Asian Studies at Harvard University and later received a PhD in Chinese political thought at the University of California, Berkeley. Most of my career has focused on China, and for the last 14+ years I have been a researcher on the Chinese military at the Center for Naval Analyses in Arlington. Previously I also worked with university programs for first-generation college students, which was extremely rewarding.

Spiritual life: My religious background is eclectic: my father is Jewish and my mother grew up in the Baptist Church but later converted to Catholicism. I grew up in the Catholic Church where I served as an altar girl for many years. Like many, I had a rather desultory relationship to religion until I lived in China during college and met people working in the underground churches there. A few in particular were extremely influential for my spiritual life, truly demonstrating what it means to serve without regard to circumstance or affiliation. Since then, I have tried to be active in both personal devotion and institutional participation. I appreciate NPC's openness to people with a wide range of experiences and backgrounds.

NPC Activities: I attended NPC and sang in the choir from 1995-98. When I moved back to DC in 2007, my family looked for a church that cares for both heart and mind and NPC was the right place. I became a member in 2018 and my daughter was baptized into the church that year. I taught K-2 Sunday School for a few years and my husband and I have been regular attendees of the parents group. We have found it to be a wonderful church home for our family and appreciate NPC's emphasis on both vertical relationships between the individual and God, and horizontal relationships among believers and with the world.

Thoughts About Stewardship: I think of stewardship as taking responsibility for and care of the gifts, people, opportunities, and challenges that God has set before us—both as individuals and as a church.

Kim Meyers



I was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and, raised in Western Pennsylvania and Baltimore, Maryland.

Education / Career: I attended Towson State University, majoring in Mass Communications. In the DC Metro area I was the President of a Technical Executive Search Firm for 25 years. I then became Worldwide, Business Development Manager for an international operations management/supply chain organization.

Spiritual Life: I was raised in the Presbyterian Church. I came to have a personal relationship with Christ at age 15; subsequently, joining Young Life in High School. My Christian faith is at the core of my being and has continued to be nourished and has grown throughout my life. I have taken God-given opportunities to witness to others about our living Christ. In previous Presbyterian churches I have attended Bible Studies and volunteered for service opportunities.

NPC Activities: I became a member of NPC in 2003. During this time I have participated in numerous Bible Studies at NPC and externally. Studies within NPC have included: Women of the Word, Saturday Morning Bible Study and Faith and Works, where I facilitated for 1 year. I have also attended Sunday morning adult education classes. Additionally, volunteering for NPC local mission and service projects, NPC programs and events and Vacation Bible School.

Thoughts About Stewardship: As a Christian steward it is important to have a passion for bringing the message of Christ's love and compassion to others; particularly, to those in need of care and support. Additionally, employing God's gifts while exhibiting the fruits of the spirit and reflecting Christ in one's life; verbally; behaviorally and attitudinally.

Deacon Class of 2025

Robert Palmer



I was born in Ponca City, Oklahoma and grew up in Colorado.

Education / Career: I graduated from Colorado College with a BA in Political Science, then off to the LBJ School Of Public Affairs, University of Texas Austin where I received a MPA. I completed my formal education with an MBA at the University of Colorado, Boulder, CO. Even as a child I have always had a love for American history, and politics. Following my studies, I was fortunate to secure the Research Director position in a successful Colorado Senate campaign and then off to DC as a Legislative Assistant. After a couple of years on the Hill, I yearned for Colorado. Little did I know that later in my professional I would return to DC. Although I live in DC, my work is in the states. Instead of candidate campaigns, I construct issue campaigns urging state legislatures to adopt policies that promote eye health.

Spiritual Life: My parents had a strong faith foundation and I grew up in the Southern Baptist Church. I vividly remember my conversion and baptism as a young boy. But it was not till later in life that I realized conversion is just the first step. Prayer is key to continued spirit growth. Whether Pastor Renwick, Fox, or Marsh presents the weekly message, I find myself looking inside myself to my own faith inadequacies and how through prayer, I can strengthen my faith journey.

NPC Activities: When Zoe was off to college, Mary and I moved from Rockville to DC. What specifically drew us to engage in NPC was the friendliness of congregation members reaching out to us. We were not just a number on the visitor log. Before the pandemic, I was an usher/greeter in the Contemporary Service. I have participated in several Sunday school classes in person and via Zoom.

Thoughts About Stewardship: Stewardship takes several forms. Of course, scheduled financial contributions are vital to the church planning/implementing its Christian mission. Volunteering for a project, reaching out to a worker, friend or stranger is also another form of stewardship.

Mary Palmer



I was born and raised a mid-western girl in Hastings, Nebraska, the youngest of five children.

Education / Career: I attended the University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, Connecticut graduating in 1969 with an AS Degree in Dental Hygiene then in 1975 graduated with a BS Degree in Elective Studies, Business, and Social Science. I worked in clinical practice in the specialty of Periodontal Disease in Dentistry until 2019. I was active in the American Dental Hygiene Association in leadership positions throughout my career.

Spiritual Life: My parents raised us in a The First Baptist Church, American Convention. I attended Sunday School and Church weekly with my parents. During my High School years I taught Kindergarten and First grade Sunday School. I found teaching and working with children very rewarding, meaningful and fun. In this church, children were baptized “when they came of age to be able to accept Christ as your Lord and Savior” usually in the teen years. At this time children can partake of communion. Once, when I was about 8years old, I was helping my mother prepare for communion. I understood the importance of communion. I felt very guilty about not participating in communion yet thinking I would not be forgiven for my sins. That Sunday I stole a half box of communion wafers, ran to the bathroom and ate all of them so I could be forgiven. It was important to me when I became a member of the Presbyterian Church that children can be baptized at a young age so you can raised you as a child of God from very early in your life, without guilt.

NPC Activities: When my husband and I joined NCP by transferal of Letter, I had learned about the Steven Ministry. I was eager to study and be an active servant of God in this way. The breadth of my spiritual life has grown exponentially while serving God in this way while at NPC. I always felt the same way after I took the Hippocratic Oath in Dental Hygiene. I felt I was serving God in my profession. As a result, I have felt significant gratitude.

Thoughts About Stewardship: I am honored to be asked to serve as a Deacon in NPC. It is important to carry the act and belief of service in your heart. It keeps God close.

Deacon Class of 2025

Rachel Rajaseelan



I was born in California and grew up in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Education / Career: I majored in Computer Science at Yale College and also studied CS for my master's degree at Princeton University. I interned at an arts management tech start-up and at a big-tech company in New York before working in industry in Boston. I wanted to use my software development more directly for the public good, so after graduate school I joined the Department of Defense, where I have now been for two years.

Spiritual Life: I grew up Roman Catholic, and I had many role models from my family and other church members who showed me what a life of faith and service could look like. My college church had a strong focus on service and social justice, and it was there that I began growing in Christian fellowship with my peers. After college, my now husband and I had many faith discussions, and after an intense period of deep personal spiritual reflection, God led me to understand my faith in a broader Christian context. Having family and community to lean on in faith, as well as time for personal prayer, instruction, and growth, have been central to my spiritual life.

NPC Activities: My husband and I were married at NPC in 2019, and I became a member in 2020. We attend a Small Group together, and we have both been Confirmation mentors. As a member of the Military Ministry I particularly love hearing how others' faith has informed their service and what spiritual lessons they have learned in return. It is very meaningful to me that I can support current members of the military through the ministry, further connecting my career and family military background to my faith community.

Thoughts About Stewardship: The Lord has endowed each of us with gifts for His purpose, and seeking to use our gifts as He desires is the best way we can be good stewards both of our lives and of His creation.

Trudy Singh



I was born and raised in New York City, in a primarily Caribbean community.

Education / Career: I am graduate of Drexel University. I studied Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Management with a minor in Business Administration. I went on to become a Certified Meeting Professional. I have held several positions in the hospitality industry ranging from Banquet Manager to Regional Hotel Sales Manager before joining the Washington, DC office of NYC & Company. I have worked with NYC & Company, the convention and visitors bureau for New York City, for over 20 years.

Spiritual Life: Growing up, my family was members of First Presbyterian Church of Jamaica, NY. We were heavily involved in church life. I served as the youth representative to the Pastoral Nominating Committee and my siblings, and I participated in the youth choir.

I am fortunate to have realized my faith in Christ at an early age, being taught by my school, church and parents to look to Christ for my salvation. Although I cannot pinpoint a date or time of spiritual conversion, I have, and continue to grow in my conviction.

In addition to worshipping online with NPC, I have been studying the bible through an app and learning a new bible verse each week with my daughter,

NPC Activities: I began attending NPC as a new resident to DC over 20 years ago. I was drawn to how the pastoral team connects the biblical messages to everyday life. I became a member in 2013. I have participated in Sunday school classes and attended various events. I enjoy hospitality and outreach ministries as well as working with youth.

Thoughts About Stewardship: All areas of stewardship are important to the sustainability of the church. Although financial support is typically thought of first, I also believe active participation, volunteering time and talent and outreach are equally important. I strive to instill these values in my daughter and lead by example.

Deacon Class of 2025

Doug Stewart



I was born in Boston, Massachusetts. My family moved to northern Virginia when I was very young. We moved back to the Boston suburbs when I was in middle school.

Education / Career: I majored in chemistry at Vassar College (Poughkeepsie, NY), where I met my wife, Diane Cordray. We were married after graduation and then spent a year in New Zealand, where I conducted research in chemistry at the University of Auckland under a Fulbright Scholarship. We then moved to Philadelphia, PA, where I attended medical school at the University of Pennsylvania. I then trained in internal medicine and clinical genetics at Penn and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. In 2004 we moved to Montgomery County, MD so I could pursue a career at NIH, where I still work, seeing patients and investigating cancer genetics.

Spiritual Life: Growing up, my family attended St. Anne's-in-the-Fields Episcopal church in Lincoln, MA, where my parents are still active. My personal faith evolved during regular attendance and participation in youth group at St. Anne's. My wife and I were married at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church (Bryn Mawr, PA), where my wife was raised and her family remains active. We attended Bryn Mawr regularly during our time in PA and our two daughters, Madeleine and Caroline, were baptized there. Music, the spoken word and historical story of Jesus resonate most strongly with me in building my faith. In my career, it has been particularly inspiring to work with scientists of faith.

NPC Activities: We appreciated the large Presbyterian faith community with an emphasis on music and youth programs at Bryn Mawr and sought a similar community after our move to the Washington area. We joined NPC and our son, Henry, was baptized in the church in 2008. Our children have all been involved with Sunday School and youth programs. My wife and I co-taught Henry's second grade Sunday school class. We have attended adult Sunday school classes and lectures and attend services regularly.

Thoughts About Stewardship: Actions speak louder than words. Stewardship is a way to turn faith (and words) into action.

Brandy Treaster



I was born and raised in Topeka, KS.

Education/Career: I graduated from the University of Kansas with degrees in Journalism and Anthropology. After graduation I joined Teach for America and taught for two years in Charlotte, NC. During that time, I earned my Master of Arts in Teaching and developed a true passion for education. After teaching in Charlotte, my husband and I moved back to Kansas and I taught for six years in Kansas City, KS. Since moving to the DC area in 2018 I have taught 5th grade math and science in the Brightwood neighborhood of DC.

Spiritual Life: My parents were both raised in the church, but my mother's family was Baptist and my father's family was Catholic. Growing up, my family attended a Baptist church together and I participated in Vacation Bible School each summer. It was there that I made the decision to accept Christ into my life. In middle school and high school, I became involved with my church youth group and being a part of that community truly helped me to grow in my faith. Currently, my involvement in a small group Bible study at NPC helps me to grow and develop my spiritual life.

NPC Activities: My husband and I found a church home at NPC after attending Easter service in 2019 and we have truly loved the community and connections we have found here. We officially joined the church as members in February of 2021. When we first started attending the church we participated in Across the Aisle and since then we have found a small group that we attend weekly. We have also had the opportunity to serve as Sunday School teachers with the youth group and this year I am serving as one of the Middle School Girls Sunday School teachers.

Thoughts About Stewardship: Stewardship is incredibly important because it is our opportunity to show God's love through supporting our church community.

Deacon Class of 2025

Grant Treaster



I was born and raised in the suburbs of Kansas City on the Kansas side of the city.

Education/Career: I graduated from the University of Kansas with degrees in journalism and political science. After graduation I taught second grade through Teach for America in Charlotte, NC, and then worked at a marketing firm in the Charlotte area. In 2012 my wife and I returned to Kansas where I attended the University of Kansas School of Law. After graduating from law school, I served as a law clerk for a judge in the United States District Court for the District of Kansas in Kansas City, Kansas. My wife and I moved to the D.C. area in 2018, where I began working as a trial attorney in the Department of Justice's Civil Division.

Spiritual Life: I grew up attending a Presbyterian church, which provided a wonderful environment to grow my faith. I learned the stories and lessons in the Bible through participating in Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. In eighth grade, I went through the confirmation process and became a member of the church. In middle school and high school, I was a member of the church's youth group, which provided me opportunities to explore and deepen my faith in a supportive community through weekly meetings, annual mission trips, and other activities. Participating in a small group Bible study at NPC has provided me the opportunity to continue deepening my faith.

NPC Activities: My wife and I first attended NPC for the Easter service in 2019, and we were immediately struck by how welcoming and engaging the church community is. We officially joined the church as members in February 2021. After first attending the church, we participated in Across the Aisle, and we have found a small group that we attend weekly. We have also had the opportunity to serve as Sunday School teachers with the youth group and this year I am serving as one of the Middle School Boys Sunday School teachers.

Thoughts About Stewardship: Stewardship is a central part of creating an enriching and welcoming church community that reflects God's love for us. I believe as a faithful Christian it is important to model good stewardship to help foster this community.

Patricia Wingfield



The daughter of a U.S. Army Colonel, I was born in Heidelberg, Germany. Along with my mom and two older sisters, my family lived in Germany, Colorado, Washington, and Virginia.

Education/Career: I graduated from Boston University, majoring in History and International Relations. I moved back to the Washington DC area after graduation and started working at the law firm Jones Day. I have been a litigation paralegal for 17 years and greatly enjoy working on a wide variety of trial matters. I also work with the non-profit organization Children's Law Center providing children with legal advocacy in the District.

Spiritual Life; Growing up, I mostly attended the Protestant base chapel wherever we lived. The church was always present in my life as my parents instilled a strong foundation of faith, and they were amazing examples of being active in our church community. My faith started to grow deeper in middle school as I became very active in youth group, and that time in my life left a lasting impression on me. I carried that momentum into my college years and early 20s, remaining involved in my local church, which is where I would eventually meet my husband.

NPC Activities; My husband and I started attending NPC around 2013 when we were married, and officially joined in 2016. We had our son months later, and wanted to become more active as a family. We co-created a Small Group for parents with young children and have become more involved, serving on committees and attending the Parent Gatherings. We now also have a daughter, which continues to keep us involved in all the children's activities.

Thoughts About Stewardship; Stewardship is the promise we make to use the blessings we have been given to foster love, grace, and faith within our church and our community.

Deacon Class of 2025

Nancy Zabaloeff



I was born and raised in a large and wonderful family, in a small town in northwestern Pennsylvania.

Education/Career: My undergraduate degree is from Westminster College, a small private college in Pennsylvania that is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church. I received an MBA from Carnegie-Mellon University majoring in Finance. I joined Citibank in NYC and ended up on Wall Street. Six years later my husband and I moved to Washington; I spent a few years at Ernst & Young and Willis Towers Watson, until I joined Freddie Mac, which I retired from in 2020 after 32 years.

Spiritual Life: As a child I regularly attended my hometown Presbyterian church, joining the church in middle school. I attended church sporadically in high school and college, and then stopped attending as an adult. My husband's death in 2013 brought me back to the church and God. As I reflected on my husband's life, I understood God had a plan for his life, and I believe God has a plan for me also.

NPC Activities: I came to NPC in 2015 and joined the church in early 2016. I attend Sunday School, been a Connections team member (gathering Friendship Registers and as a greeter), participated in the women's retreats, and women's periodic evening lectures and classes. During Covid I joined an NPC small group. Outside of NPC, my 2021 goal has been to read the entire Bible, and I've been reading and enjoying the Bible daily.

Thoughts About Stewardship: Stewardship is a duty to humbly protect, nurture, foster and model God's love to all people, and pass along this gift to others.

NPC Fund For Charitable Giving Board Class of 2024

Brad Bailey



I was born in Columbus, Ohio and raised in a nearby suburb, Westerville, with two younger sisters.

Education / Career. I hold a BS in Finance from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, as well as a JD and a LL.M. in Taxation from the Georgetown University Law Center. I worked on Capitol Hill for several years and most recently the Treasury Department. I currently work in government affairs at a trade association.

Spiritual Life. I was raised in a Christian family. My sister currently serves as a pastor at a church in Ohio. My faith journey became more serious in college after reading *The Purpose Driven Life* as part of a fraternity Bible study. Since moving to Washington after college, I've been a part of several church communities in the DMV, have led beginner Bible studies for people considering Christianity and participated in an international mission trip. My faith is grounded in my belief that the Scripture is the Word of God. My wife and I joined NPC when we moved to Wesley Heights from Capitol Hill in 2017.

NPC Activities. My wife and I were blessed to join NPC not long after moving to this area. We have been involved in several aspects of NPC life, including regularly attending services, our small group and several church community events.

Thoughts About Stewardship. Stewardship is how we preserve and grow our church community that so many have dedicated so much to create.

Megan Schmoll



I was born in Atlanta, Georgia, and moved all over the southeast before my parents settled in Denver, Colorado. I moved to Washington, D.C. following graduate school, and it is here that I met my husband, and together, we plan to raise our family.

Education/Career: I attended Wake Forest University, where I received my bachelor's degree in Art History and French, and later obtained my master's degree in Arts Management from SUNY Buffalo. I work in development for nonprofit organizations, and have been with Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts for the past five years.

Spiritual Life: My father is a Presbyterian (PCUSA) minister, so I was baptized at a young age and grew up firmly in the Presbyterian church. The church has always been an integral part of our family life, from worship on Sundays, to youth group mission trips, fellowship gatherings, Bible study, and prayerful time in between. While I feel blessed to have grown up with Christ-centered faith, I continue to grow spiritually in my relationship with God, especially recently as a new parent at NPC—through prayer, and fellowship and Bible study with other Christians.

NPC Activities: Upon moving to DC, I searched for a Presbyterian church home and was blessed to find NPC shortly thereafter. I became a member in 2014, when I was actively involved with the *Across the Aisle* young adult group. I later became a Deacon, and most recently served as Chair of the Family Ministry Task Force and as a member of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. My husband and I enjoy fellowship with our beloved small group, and are pleased to be part of the new Parent Gathering during the Sunday School hour.

Thoughts About Stewardship: With God's extraordinary grace and by following Christ's example, I have an ever-growing commitment to living generously. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21)

Pastor Nominating Committee

Joanna Manoranjan Chai



I was born in Vienna, Austria. As my father was a diplomat with the United Nations, we moved frequently and I spent my childhood in several countries in Asia, Africa, and South America, with travels to many other countries along the way! In 1995 we came to the USA and settled in Maryland.

Education/Career: Upon moving to America, I attended the Holton-Arms School. I graduated from The George Washington Univ. (Biology major), then completed a Master of Science (Cell Biology & Molecular Genetics) at the Univ. of Maryland. I worked as a scientist for ten years at Aeras, a non-profit biotech, developing vaccines against Tuberculosis. I am currently a scientific Sr. Project Manager and Team lead, at Lentigen Technology Inc., a Miltenyi Biotec Company, developing Cell & Gene Therapies.

Spiritual Life: My parents were raised as Christians in India so I had the blessing of growing up in a Christian home. Growing up in different countries we often could not find a church to attend, so my parents played a huge role in teaching me the Bible and nurturing my faith. Faith has always been a part of my life, and I strive to live according to God's will and to share the love of Christ with those around me. Attending NPC for over 26 years has been a central part of my spiritual life. I also met my husband, Chris Chai, at church and we celebrated our marriage at NPC in 2013.

NPC Activities: I started attending NPC with my family in 1995 when I was still in high school, and NPC has continued to be an integral part of my life ever since. Early on, I helped my Mother with her activities as President of the NPC Women's Association. Then participated in many aspects of church life, including being a Greeter, preparing the Sacraments, joining the Young Professionals group. I had the joy of serving as a Deacon for two terms from 2012-2018, during which I was interim MD coordinator for a year, and Vice Moderator from 2014-2018. I was a part of the Strategic Plan Implementation Assistance Team (SP IAT) from 2015-2016.

Thoughts About Stewardship: God bestows countless blessings on us, and Stewardship is our expression of gratitude for all that has been given. I believe that part of a faithful Christian life is giving joyfully and generously in support of our Church and our family in Christ.

Rudy deLeon



Rudy deLeon and his wife of 31 years Anne were married by Rev. Peg Cantwell at the National Presbyterian Church in 1990. Their two daughters, Libby and Kerry, attended the National Presbyterian School for their elementary education, have been confirmed as NPC members, and now reside in New York City and Boston.

Education / Career: After graduating from Loyola-Marymount University, Rudy moved to Washington, DC, and started his 26 year Federal career on Capitol Hill, which included tenure as Staff Director of the House Armed Services Committee, and later confirmations as Under Secretary of the Air Force, and Deputy Secretary of Defense. In 1998 was invited to an NPC forum US military personnel to share their experiences in the Bosnian peace keeping mission. He has worked in the private sector at Boeing, and is currently at the non-profit Center for American Progress.

Spiritual Life: Two persons who had a great impact on his spiritual development were his mother, Lois Tierney, and the pastor of the neighborhood Ascension Lutheran Church. The basic tenants of faith were presented in Sunday school and confirmation class, and became the lifelong foundation for a life of faith and service.

NPC Activities: Rudy started attending NPC in the mid-1980's, became a member in 1990, and has served as a Deacon, Deacon Moderator, and Elder. As a member of the Session he served as Chair of the Facilities Committee and helped guide the settlement of campus claims following the 2011 earthquake.

Thoughts About Stewardship: At NPC, Rev. Cantwell, Dr. Evans, and most recently Dr. Renwick, all offered a foundation of sharing our faith, sharing our skills, and sharing the harvest with our church family and the broader community. We live our faith in Christ by sharing our diverse gifts every day.

Pastor Nominating Committee

Joy Eckert



I was born in Daytona Beach, Florida, but I was raised in Lexington, South Carolina.

Education / Career: I graduated from Presbyterian College with degrees in Applied Mathematics and French. I then moved to DC to attend George Washington University where I received a Masters of Public Health. I have worked in health policy research at universities and in local government, and now I work at Reagan-Udall Foundation for the FDA.

Spiritual Life: I was raised in the church and am a lifelong Presbyterian. My father modeled faith and spirituality for me and my sister by praying with us each night. In high school and college, I learned how to have a daily relationship with God through the love and accountability I found in Bible studies and small groups. I have been blessed with the opportunity to continue to grow in my faith together with my husband, Patrick.

NPC Activities: Patrick and I began attending NPC in 2017. We co-lead a weekly small group for young adults. I also volunteer with the high school youth group. Recently, I served on the Small Group Task Force. I am passionate about creating space at church for people to connect and grow in their faith together.

Thoughts About Stewardship: God has poured out his love and grace for us, and it is our calling to give thanks as well as care for what has been given to us. I seek to be generous with my time, talents, and money to further his kingdom.

Peggy Lewis



I was born and raised in Washington, D.C.

Education / Career: I attended Trinity College in Washington, D.C. where I majored in English. I spent nearly 20 years as an award-winning broadcast journalist in Washington, New York, and Miami before embarking on a career in public service which included working for President and Mrs. Clinton, U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman, and Children's Defense Fund Founder and President, Marian Wright Edelman. I taught broadcast journalism at Howard University and earned a Ph.D. in history from Howard University. I recently retired as Executive Dean of the School of Business and Graduate Studies and the School of Professional Studies at my alma mater, now Trinity Washington University.

Spiritual Life: I was raised in a Christian home, and my maternal grandfather was a Baptist preacher who graduated from Howard University's School of Divinity. I was baptized at the age of 12 at Northminster Presbyterian Church in N.W. Washington where I taught Sunday school. I have led Bible studies and attended church in every city I have lived. I have been attending National Presbyterian since returning home from Miami in 1995.

NPC Activities: Since joining the church I have participated in Sunday school classes and become a Stephen Minister and serve on the leadership team for Stephen Ministers overseeing Continuing Education. I am an Elder and chair of the Race Task Force. I also am teaching a Sunday School Class on the Congregation's big read of "One Blood" by John Perkins. I am also a small group facilitator for the Race Literacy 101 an online class of our Little Lights Mission partner.

Thoughts About Stewardship: I think tithing is important and try to do personal Bible Study every morning. I find that a close walk with the Lord is the only way to live and navigate a busy life and I try to serve Him wherever He plants me.

Pastor Nominating Committee

Katherine Pippert



I was born in New York City and grew up north of the city in Westchester and in Connecticut.

Education/Career: I received an AB in History from Princeton and an MS in Curriculum and Teaching from Fordham. I expect to finish an MA at Wesley Theological Seminary here in Washington next spring (Lord willing!). The majority of my career has been spent identifying, developing, and placing leaders in the education, not-for-profit, and philanthropic sectors. My current studies have focused, in part, on leadership in the particular context of churches and other faith-based spaces.

Spiritual Life: I grew up in a Christian family, with a strong foundation in the faith. For me, the years I spent in college and then living on my own in New York City were formative in developing a faith commitment that was truly my own. My faith has been deepened in community with other believers, and I count close Christian friendships as well as several small groups and Sunday School classes as important spaces of spiritual growth and encouragement. Recently, I've been so grateful for the space given to me by my studies at Wesley to put intellectual underpinnings under what is for me - at its root - a life-changing experience of Jesus' grace.

NPC Activities: My husband Bryce and I began attending NPC the weekend we moved to DC in 2009. We both knew quite quickly that we had found our church home and joined NPC shortly thereafter. Since then, I've been fortunate to serve as a Sunday School teacher for both adults and children, on the Stewardship Committee, and (with Bryce) as one of the co-Chairs of our recent Capital Campaign. I am currently one of NPC's representatives on the Board of the Reformed Institute, a nexus of collaboration with other local Presbyterian churches. Raising our three children at NPC has given me the great opportunity to participate in the Children's Ministry, and I think I could probably still sing along verbatim to several years' worth of VBS soundtracks!

Thoughts About Stewardship: I think that Stewardship is foundational to a faithful Christian walk and is a response to God's invitation to participate in bringing his kingdom shalom to our neighbors near a

Glenn Schmitt



I was born in Indianapolis, but grew up in Terre Haute, Indiana after my parents moved there when I was four.

Education / Career: I attended Indiana State University, where I was a double major in political science and music performance, and then law school at Notre Dame. After graduation, I practiced law at a large firm in Cleveland. After six years there, I felt a call to public service and left to pursue a Master's degree in Public Policy at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. From there I came to Washington and have spent the last 26 years in public service, first as a lawyer for the House Judiciary Committee, then at the Justice Department, and for the last 15 years at the U.S. Sentencing Commission, a part of the Judicial Branch. During that time I also served for 25 years in the Army Reserve, where I earned a Master's degree in Strategic Studies from the Army War College.

Spiritual Life: My mother was raised in Presbyterian church, and so my parents and I attended our home Presbyterian church every Sunday, where my mother was an elder and my father a trustee. After less regular church attendance in my late 20s, I began attending NPC when I moved to Washington, becoming a member in 1998. My wife began attending with me after we married, and our daughter was baptized at NPC.

NPC Activities: I've been active in the Stephen Ministry program for over 15 years, and so am drawn to a one-on-one style of ministry, but I have also served a term on Session, chaired the recent APNC, and I co-chair the Military Ministry program.

Thoughts About Stewardship: Stewardship is vital to the church's existence but, more importantly, is an expression of thankfulness for all the blessings God has given us. One of the ways we evangelize to the world is by sustaining the work of Christ's church.

Pastor Nominating Committee

Joel Velasco



I was born in Jackson, Mississippi where my father attended seminary, and grew up in Brazil before moving to Virginia for school and later to D.C. for work.

Education / Career: I graduated from a small Liberal Arts, and Presbyterian Church (USA)-affiliated college, Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia. College internships ignited an interest in politics and public service, bringing me to Washington. I received my M.A. from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. I am currently Senior Vice President at UnitedHealth Group, where I head external affairs in various Latin American markets. Previously, I was a Principal of Albright Stonebridge Group, Before consulting, I worked at a biotech startup, Amyris, leading public affairs and investor relations, and was engaged in biofuels policy. Earlier I served as a Senior Advisor to the U.S. Ambassador to Brazil and as a personal aide to Vice President Al Gore at the White House.

Spiritual Life: I am a lifelong Presbyterian and the grandson of Presbyterian missionaries to Brazil. While I cannot think of an extended period in my life when I was not "attending church" on Sundays, what brings me peace is knowing God has been with me every day of the week.

NPC Activities: My wife, Bethany, and I have been members of NPC since 2017. Our two boys, Lucas (16) and James (13), attended National Presbyterian School and have participated in Youth activities as our schedules allow. Bethany loves to "teach" (her quotes) the two- and three-year-olds on Sunday morning and, with me, has been active in our evolving parent gatherings. I currently serve on the Youth Committee and enjoy listening to sermons via podcast when traveling.

Thoughts About Stewardship: God gives us many gifts, and it is only fitting that we use them to serve and glorify Him.

Herma Williams



I was born on the Canal Zone in the Republic of Panama, Panama City. My parents, siblings, and I, immigrated to the USA when I was a preschooler. I received both my BA and MS degrees from Southern Illinois University, in Carbondale, Illinois. In 1976, my husband, Eric Williams (deceased) and I received our Ph.D.'s together from Iowa State University, in Ames, Iowa.

Education / Career: The majority of my 46 year career has been spent working as a senior academic administrator at both public and Christian colleges and universities. My most recent professional role was Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Fresno Pacific University. Prior to this, I served as Associate Provost at Gordon College near Boston.

Spiritual Life: For as far back as I can remember, I have always known and loved the Lord. This was due to my parent's strong conviction as Christians and their devotion to serving God. Together my parents established, ran, and served in inner-city ministry for over fifty years on the south side of Chicago.

When I was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to South Africa to teach at the University of the Western Cape, I connected with a Presbyterian Church and served as the first female Elder. Currently, I serve as board Chair for PEER Servants, a Christian Microfinance Partner Leadership Program in ten international countries.

NPC Activities: In 1989, a former student of mine at Bryn Mawr College started Law School at American University and invited us to hear Associate Pastor Peggy Cantwell, preach at NPC. My family was blessed; we immediately made NPC our church home. Since then, I have served at NPC in many capacities as; Wrestlers adult speaker, Elder on NPC Session, NPC search committee for Associate Pastor position (Lynn Farris), Mission Commission, International Missions, NPC Sr. Pastor Accountability Committee, and NPC leadership Center board and mentor.

Thoughts About stewardship: In my life stewardship represents putting God's plan, divine order, and word before mine. I was taught to dedicate my thoughts, talents, gifts, and time to the leading of the holy spirit. I learned that stewards: "return gifts, to God; share God's gifts with others; and receive God's gifts as an act of grace." Each day I work to exemplify and share God's abundant love, mercy, and grace.