

Church Officer and Committee Nominees 2017

Elders (to serve a three-year term)

Heewon Chang

I joined BMPC with my family (husband Klaus Volpert and daughter Hannah) in 1989. Two years later our son Peter was added to the family and the BMPC membership roster. Since 1989, I have been singing in the Sanctuary Choir, taught in the Sunday school and youth ministry, counseled in youth summer camps, held eldership for one term (2001-2004), moderated the Youth Ministry Council, served on two nominating committees and a pastoral search committee, led the 2010 BMPC self-study as a member of the leadership team, and participated in the Urban-Suburban partnership initiative and many other projects of BMPC. BMPC has been my spiritual nest over 30 years. Professionally, I am a professor of multicultural education and organizational leadership and chair the PhD in Organizational Leadership department at Eastern University. In addition to teaching, I have served two scholarly journals as Founding Editor-in-Chief for 20 years. I have authored four academic books and am working on the fifth focusing on educational leadership for justice from autoethnographic perspectives.

Douglas McCone

My family and I joined BMPC in 1992 after attending for nearly a year. Dr. Bay's preaching was the primary reason we chose to join, but there were many others, including the church's mission emphasis and solid youth program. I joined the choir after we had decided to join and am still a member. I was a member of the Trustees for six years and a member of the property committee, serving as chair for three years, so I am acquainted with the issues facing the congregation. I assisted in the youth program with Steve Ford for three years right after we joined, too. My wife Dawn taught the two-year-old class for several years as well.

I am a professional engineer and project manager working for the federal government in building and facilities alteration, renovation and new construction, skills that were very valuable while on the property committee. I also assisted with the buildings at West Kensington Ministries and was part of building the recording studio. That building is one of the few safe places for children and community members to meet in a rough neighborhood, and that is an important service mission. I also served on the Radnor Township Planning Commission for several years. I grew up in Wayne in a very active church congregation whose actions were firmly rooted in the Bible's call to serve others and to advance the cause of peace

and justice. That is why I found a spiritual home here at BMPC, and I actively support and want to advance our church's mission, both within our membership and by reaching out. Now that my children are older, I want to give back to the church and community, and serving on the Session is one way I will be able to do that. I look forward to this opportunity to serve.

Kathy Stevens

I joined BMPC shortly after my oldest daughter was born. I was looking for a church home for myself and my children, and I could not have found a better fit for us. Since joining BMPC I have taught Sunday School for more than 15 years following my children Natalie (18), Grant (15), and Jack (13) by leading their classes and helping with confirmation. My focus has always been on fellowship opportunities at BMPC, and I have enjoyed working with Presbyterian Women, first with Y-Group and then leading The Connections group and as a member of the PW Advisory Board. For the past several years I have worked with the Membership Council, and in doing so, I have been able to share my love of BMPC with our newest members. Currently, I am the Youth Council Chair and find it incredible rewarding to work with our youth and help them grow in their faith. This 18-year journey from teaching the two year olds in Sunday School, watching them go through confirmation, and then sending them off to college has helped me grow so much in my own faith.

I am looking forward to serving on Session and having this new role in the life of our church. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity.

Youth Elders (*serving a one-year term*)

Cara Guernsey

I am a junior at the Baldwin School. I have been a part of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church since birth. I was baptized at BMPC and grew up at the church, starting in the baby room and now spending every Sunday at the Middle and High School Youth Worship. I have enjoyed seeing the church expand to include many different Sunday school teachers, pastors, and programs. Over the years, I have fostered many relationships at BMPC as it has become a home for me. My favorite aspects of the church are the sense of community, the local and international outreach, and the emphasis on the youth. Every year, I attend Camp Kirkwood and participate on the student serve committee, and every Sunday, I sing with the youth band at youth worship. In the past, I have participated in the youth choirs and enjoyed singing in the Sanctuary. I am also fortunate enough to

have traveled on many of our youth mission trips. In middle school, I attended all three years of the Urban Plunge in Philadelphia, and while in high school, I visited both Belize and Peru. Through all these wonderful opportunities, my faith has grown as I have grown and as the church has grown. BMPC has set the foundation of my faith and has nurtured it all these years through Sunday School, mission trips, and leadership in the church. I look forward to enhancing my leadership responsibilities by becoming a youth elder and serving the church to the best of my abilities.

Cameron McKendrick

I am a junior at Harriton High School and an active youth member of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church. I have been involved with BMPC since my family moved from England and joined in 2000, two months before I was born. I was baptized and confirmed in the church. I have been involved with Sunday School (both in the education building and youth program), children, youth, and hand bell choirs, 12 years of Vacation Bible Camp (as either a camper or youth leader), I attend BMPC Camp Kirkwood every year and am a member of Student Serve. My family includes my parents, Andrew and Kiki, and three siblings, Lindsay (21), Gavin (19), and James (15). I look forward to serving BMPC and the Youth Program.

Deacons (*serving a three-year term*)

Jean Bay

I joined BMPC in spring of 1987 after my husband, Gene, was called to become senior pastor. After reading the church information form, I knew immediately that this was the church for both of us! Their commitment to outreach and mission spoke to my desire for a church community that would nourish my faith and promote spiritual growth. While at Bryn Mawr, I served on the Fine Arts Council, the homeless task force, Outreach Committee, and I was actively involved in several interest groups as well as Presbyterian Women. Also, during the years of Gene's ministry, I worked at Child Study Institute of Bryn Mawr College as a reading and dyslexia specialist. We are happy to be back at BMPC, and I look forward to "serving the Lord" as a Deacon.

Steve Harding

Although I only recently (October 2012) rejoined BMPC, I grew up in the church, during the Dr. Watermulder years. In fact, I was married by Dr. Watermulder in the Chapel in 1979. My late wife, Debbie, though, was raised Catholic and did not enjoy the liturgy at BMPC so we attended less liturgical churches while we were married. I, though, missed BMPC and started attending BMPC about a year

before I rejoined. Following the passing of my wife, I began dating a wonderful Christian woman, Susan, whom I married in November 2015. She loves BMPC and recently joined the church.

I attended Gordon College in the mid 1970s and graduated with a BA in Biblical and Theological Studies, but was lead by the Lord to attend nursing school and that, I believe, was my ministry. I retired from nursing in February 2016 after about 37 years of caring for children. As such, I am very acquainted (and comfortable) in a hospital setting and hope to visit BMPC members in the hospital as part of my Deacon duties. I am open to any other aspects of being a Deacon as BMPC deems appropriate. I look forward to the training and serving the members of BMPC.

Dave Heaton

I have been a member of the church for over 35 years, and I really appreciate being a part of this congregation. My wife, Barbie, and I have done many things here over the years and have believed that to be involved is the best way to make church meaningful and a home. I believe that we should enrich our faith through education and fellowship and therefore have consistently participated in classes, Bible studies, and prayer groups. Recently I served on the Session for six years and was chair of the adult education council during that time. My first commitment in the church was to teach fourth grade Sunday school which was perhaps my favorite activity of all.

For 30 years I worked in the nonprofit field creating two organizations that reached out to Philadelphia homeowners with a helping hand in repairing their homes. Both organizations were really started in our church and became popular mission projects for many members. This work was always considered an act of faith that began daily with prayer, reached out in love, and taught homeowners basic housing skills as they worked with us in their homes. Barbie and I raised our two children in the church and find most of our best friends here. Recently our oldest grandchild has been attending Sunday School, and our grandson was baptized. Grandpa sure is happy about this and loves meeting up with them at BMPC.

Marilyn Irwin

I have been a lifelong Presbyterian, first in Pittsburgh then as a member of Media Presbyterian Church, where I served as an Elder. My husband Daniel, daughter Julia Schott and I joined Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church in 2014. We love being a part of this church community. I currently serve on the Senior Adult Council, assist

with the tutoring program on Tuesday evenings, volunteer as a “Minister of First Impressions” at the Reception Desk and lead the discussion group on world affairs called “Great Decisions.” I am excited about and welcome other opportunities to be of service to others as part of my faith journey.

Stephen McConnell

BMPC has been a mainstay of my life from confirmation as a youth through today as a parent. My wife, Mandy, and I have two sons, Peter and Paul, both of whom are active in BMPC choirs and children and youth ministries. I have had the pleasure to support these choirs and ministries through service on the Music and Fine Arts Council and the Youth Ministries Council, as an usher, and as a substitute Sunday school teacher. Professionally, I am an attorney with a practice focusing on real estate and commercial transactions. I look forward to the opportunity to serve God and the congregation as a Deacon.

Rob Mygatt

BMPC to me is home, and not just my church home. Having grown up in the church, I have now been a member for nearly 20 years since being confirmed here. Music is a huge part of my faith, and I currently sing in the Sanctuary Choir, ring in the hand bell choir, and play the carillon. Additionally, I head the group of volunteers who run the sound system for services in the Sanctuary, and also serve on the Technology Committee of the church. Both these activities have strong ties to my professional life, where I am a programmer for an audio-visual company. To me, faith is also very much about relationships and the ways we care for each other. I hold as a very close truth that whenever two or more are gathered in Christ’s name, Christ is there also. Faith is meant to be lived in community, and I look forward to fostering those relationships as I serve this community as a Deacon.

Judy Sherry

I’ve been a member of BMPC for 17 years (just not consecutively) having joined in 1982, transferred in 1997 to Wayne Presbyterian, and returned in 2014. My husband, Dan, and I have five grown children (3 were confirmed here), three grandchildren, and an extraordinary black poodle. Two exceptional opportunities for service through BMPC that have deepened my faith and love for my neighbors: volunteering in a horticultural program at Graterford Prison and currently chairing the Refugee Support Committee.

Susan Thorkelson

My husband Bill and I have been members of BMPC since 1985 when we returned to the Philadelphia area. My love for our church began long before that

time. I attended Sunday School as a child and was confirmed in the ninth grade. Bill and I were married at BMPC. We have three grown children and five grandchildren. What an amazing blessing it has been to witness the baptism of each grandchild at BMPC! They are the fifth generation of our family to call BMPC their church home. When our children were young, I was active in Y-Group, children's choirs and Family Ministry. Since then, I was involved in directing the Tutoring Program and am currently serving on the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

Youth Deacons (*servicing a one-year term*)

Kate Lautenbach

I am a junior at Harriton High School. My family consists of my three brothers, William, Thomas and John and my parents, Ebbing and Gillian. I have a dog named Lucy, two parakeets named Pineapple and Blueberry and a Bearded Dragon named Sahara. I have been a member at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church ever since I was a baby. At BMPC, I was baptized as an infant and confirmed as a youth. I am an active youth member in the church community, and am part of Student Serve. I have a thriving pet sitting business and have been a coach at Upward Basketball for the past four years. I'm extremely grateful for this opportunity to deepen my faith. The Church is a wonderful and sacred place for me, and I look forward to contributing to our amazing church community. BMPC has truly changed my life for the better by helping me develop my faith, and this opportunity is one more chance to further serve and grow in my church home.

Kirk Robinson

I am a junior at Lower Merion High School. My family relocated from West Hartford, Conn., in 2011. My father, Graham Robinson, grew up in BMPC and is now a Presbyterian minister. My two brothers, Tyler and Morgan, my mom, and I joined BMPC five years ago. I was confirmed into the church in 2014. I have attended almost every BMPC Youth camp. I was fortunate to be a participant of the Belize and Dominican Republic mission trips. Additionally, I am a part of Student Serve and fellowship activities. I partake in multiple clubs in school and I'm a year round athlete playing high school and club soccer and running track. Thank you for the honor of being selected as a Deacon.

Trustees (*serving a three-year term*)

Timothy R. Chitester

My spouse Marian and I have been members at BMPC for over 20 years. Even during a brief move to Florida, we maintained our home base at BMPC, awaiting our inevitable return. Both our children, now 27 and 25 years old, grew up in the church and have enjoyed the benefits of this loving congregation.

As a licensed professional engineer with a 37+ year career to date, I have traveled and worked from the high desert of Peru to the back streets of Beijing to near the Arctic Circle in Russia, and in all cases have found many people who desire two things: stability in their physical lives and stability in their spiritual lives. I have been able to offer the first, stability in physical lives, through my engineering profession. I believe, through the mission of BMPC, I can play a role in assisting the Church in its work with the spiritual lives of others as well.

BMPC forms the spiritual foundation of my faith and family. It is an honor to be able to give back to this congregation by being asked to serve as a Trustee.

Eric Johnson

Since 1987, my wife Lindsay and I have been active members of BMPC where we witnessed our children Cam (34), Ashley (30) and Beverly (25) grow and flourish in the many programs and opportunities the church offers.

Prior to joining Bryn Mawr, I was a deacon and adult Sunday school teacher at Paoli Presbyterian Church. Here I have served the Youth Ministry Council for five years and am currently a member of the Adult Education Committee where I have served in the aggregate 15 years. I led an adult Sunday School class for seven years and have for the past six years been the facilitator of Dimensions in Literature, a weekday education offering sponsored by Presbyterian Women.

Recently retired, I was a lawyer who first practiced primarily tax law and later was a writer of professional and legal education materials. Now, for several hours a week I can be found at the Ministries Center greeting guests and answering phone calls as a “Minister of First Impressions.”

Steve Ryan

For over 35 years, I have been a member of BMPC, as my marriage to my wife Janney brought me into the church. Since that time, we have enjoyed our journey of faith, as the church plays a major role in our lives. We are blessed with three children (all three baptized and one married at BMPC) and two grandsons (one

baptized at BMPC). Extended family are also members of the Church, which has added to our enjoyment of being active members of the BMPC.

My contributions to the church include serving as a Deacon, a consistent member of the General Services Council as an usher and member of the parking crew, a member of the Stewardship and Pastor Nominating Committees, and head of the annual Blood Drive. Professionally, my career focuses on the financial services and technology industries where I currently lead the U.S. business development for an international banking software company.

Within our community, I have filled a number of leadership roles within various non-profit organizations, clubs and affiliations where I have been able to effectively work with diverse teams to enhance our respective missions and improve upon the work delivered.

The church is an amazing resource with a promising future under our pastoral leadership. I am honored to be considered for election as a Trustee. Building upon our solid foundation, I look forward to further serving the Church in this capacity.

Mary Wachterhauser

My husband and I joined BMPC 34 years ago during the Watermulder years. We were drawn to the preaching, music and mission of the church. Both of our children were baptized at BMPC. Over the years, I have been involved in the Y-Group and Adult Education Council. I also served on the Middleton Center Board, the Timothy School Board and most recently on the Worship Committee. One of my spiritual highlights was my time in spiritual direction through the Middleton Center. Professionally, I am a family law attorney and manage my firm in Media Pa. I have been deeply involved in community service over the years and have tried to live my faith in the wider community. Our church has a long rich history and enormous opportunity, and I will be honored to serve in the capacity of a trustee.

Kent Walker

Opportunities to participate in God's work with fellow BMPC Christians who share both their own commitments and often extraordinary talents has been a gift of God's grace to me. Stumbling along a rocky journey of faith, I had a life-changing experience of God's grace several years ago and shortly thereafter took up the suggestion of a choir member that I renew a long disused ability to sing, participating first in the summer choir, then joining the Sanctuary Choir.

Another choir member invited me to join the group of men who meet at the church every Saturday at 7 a.m. to share personal experiences, support one another with male empathy and discuss issues of faith and personal development. Yet another choir member recruited me to the Worldwide Ministries Council. I also participate with three other church members in Habitat for Humanity's weekly repair of houses in West Philadelphia.

I am retired from the for-profit practice of corporate, litigation and criminal law and have turned to helping poor undocumented immigrant children fleeing gang violence and poverty to avoid deportation and to gain legal status. My wife Helene and I have three adult children and three grandchildren living in the Midwest and California.

2017 Nominating Committee

Keith Brinks

I have been married to Becky for 32 years and we have son Will who is 27 and daughter Jane who is 25. We have been members since 1985. I have served as Deacon, Elder and Trustee. I currently chair the Foundation Development Committee and enjoy ushering at the 8:00 service and doing parking lot duty. Professionally, I'm in the equipment leasing business. I try to demonstrate my faith through action and appreciate the support and opportunities provided by BMPC.

Paul Burgmayer

Members for many years, Sharon and I raised our now-grown boys, Alan and Andrew, in the church. As a commitment to my faith, I've served on many church committees including two terms on Session, three Pastor Nominating Committees, the Adult Education Council, the Middleton Center Advisory Board, the Joshua Team examining church benevolences, and the interim self-study team. With a strong interest in education and spiritual formation, I've volunteered for the tutoring program, been a leader on mission trips and at youth camp, and taught both Adult Ed and youth classes. I enjoy playing trumpet with Sharon and singing in the Sanctuary Choir. Outside BMPC, I am a high school chemistry teacher, serve on a township storm water advisory committee, have an active spiritual direction practice, and, for the past five years, have taught an eight-month weekend course on prayer and contemplation at the Kairos School of Spiritual Formation in Wernersville.

Barb Heaton

I became a member of BMPC in 1978, shortly after getting married. My husband David and I jumped right into the life of the church by teaching Sunday School and working with the middle school youth group, including attending summer camp, mission trips and retreats as teacher/leaders. I have participated in the educational programs and service opportunities offered by the church. I have served on several church councils, the Nominating Committee, an APNC, as BMPC's coordinator of the Interfaith Hospitality Network, and as a deacon. Our children, Matthew and Emily, grew up in this church, and our grandchildren were baptized here. BMPC has been a place of friendships and support for me in my life and faith journey. I feel blessed to be a part of such a wonderful church family.

Tricia Mackay

Scott and I joined Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church shortly after moving to Rosemont from Washington, D.C., in 2007. We have two sons, Connor (4) and Grant (1), and both were baptized at BMPC. Our church has given me lots of opportunities to volunteer including ushering, attending a mission trip, Sunday School sub, front desk greeter, Vacation Bible Camp teacher and serving as a member of the Environmental Justice Committee. I've also enjoyed Y-Group and served on the leadership committee for two years and served on the Outreach Committee getting to know the nonprofits that BMPC supports within the Philadelphia community. Scott and I met at Vanderbilt University and hail from Tampa and Atlanta, respectively.

John Vaughan

I have been a member of BMPC since 1977 when Ann and I joined with our three daughters, Cammy, Marcy and Lissa. My primary activities have been in the Outreach and Mission areas. I have served on the Outreach Council, the Mission Council (now Worldwide Ministries) as Chair, the Urban Suburban Committee and the Hunger Committee. I am an Elder and the permanent BPMC Commissioner to Presbytery Meeting, appointed by Session. I have led the Presbytery in Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts and begun the Stop Hunger Now program at BMPC. I have served on one Nominating Committee and two APNC teams. I am retired from the food management profession but continue to enjoy and appreciate the many opportunities for community service through BMPC and beyond.