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# 2026 OFFICER CANDIDATES

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**Congregational Meeting for Church Officer Elections:** Our church Session has examined and approved the following eligible candidates for church office:

- **(Deacon):** Anthony Church, Zach Holcombe, Larry Kidd, Jack Teague
- **(Ruling Elder):** Jim Aldrich, Brett Callaway, Daniel Jensen, Steve Stroud, Leon Turlington

A congregational meeting for officer elections will be held immediately following the worship service on Sunday, **August 23**. The elected officers will be ordained (if needed) and installed during worship on **August 30**.

## The Offices of Elder and Deacon

**Elder:** The office of elder is one of spiritual oversight and government of the church (Titus 1:5 ff.; 1 Timothy 3:1-7). In the NT, elders are sometimes referred to as shepherds (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4) because they are charged with the care and nurture of the church just as a shepherd cares for his flock. Elders are also responsible for the teaching ministry of the church (1 Timothy 5:17-18). Thus, elders must both understand the truths of God's work and be able to effectively minister in the body of Christ as one who encourages, edifies and when needed, confronts and rebukes.

**Deacon:** The office of deacon is one of service, extending mercy and sympathy to those in need, especially to those within the church. Deacons are first mentioned in Acts 6:1-6, as those chosen to minister to the physical needs within the church. The spiritual nature of the deacon's service of mercy is no less vital than the elder's shepherding and ruling; the health of the church is inseparably tied to both offices. The duty of the office is threefold: 1) to minister to those in need and distress, 2) to administrate financial issues within the church (receiving and distribution of gifts), and 3) to care for the church's property.

Any man assuming the office of elder or deacon must meet the biblical qualifications listed in **1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9 (elder)** and **1 Timothy 3:8-13 (deacon)**. Both offices are perpetual – that is, for life, unless extraordinary circumstances allow or call for the dissolution of one's office.

At Arden, men in both offices serve **3-year terms**.

# CANDIDATES for DEACON



## Anthony Church

I came to faith in Jesus Christ as a sixth grader when I became convicted of my personal sin and understood my need for a Savior. After talking with my parents and meeting several times with our pastor to discuss the gospel and the assurance of faith, I was baptized and began following Christ. During college, my faith deepened through involvement in a campus ministry, where I grew in my love for God's Word, Christian fellowship, and personal devotion.

My wife, Katie, and I came to Arden Presbyterian Church in 2022 during a particularly challenging season of our lives. We were looking for a faithful PCA church after moving to the area, and from our very first visit APC became a place of clear biblical teaching, sincere encouragement, and genuine Christian fellowship. The Lord has used this church to strengthen and care for our family in countless ways. Katie and I have one son, Ezra, who is seven.

I serve as a Behavioral Health Counselor for western NC counties and work with individuals facing addiction and mental health challenges on a team of various disciplines. I endeavor to build meaningful relationships with people and helping them navigate life's difficulties, trusting God to provide wisdom and strength for the work.

At APC, I've been involved in worship, Sunday School, men's gatherings, and hospitality. I especially enjoy meeting with other men to talk about life, study God's Word, and pray together. In my free time, I enjoy reading, listening to music, hiking, spending time with my family, motorsports, and connecting with friends.

As I consider serving as a deacon, I look forward to serving alongside the other deacons and elders, caring for our church family, and helping minister to those who are hurting. APC has faithfully ministered to me through difficult seasons, and I would be grateful for the opportunity to serve Christ in serving our congregation.

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I have been a member of Arden Presbyterian Church since 2017. I was raised in a Christian home and came to a personal faith in Jesus Christ as a young teenager. Over the years, the Lord has continued to grow me in my understanding of His grace and the truths of Scripture.

When my family and I first visited Arden Presbyterian Church, we were immediately welcomed. We quickly came to see APC as a church that faithfully proclaims the gospel, encourages believers to grow in their faith, and provides meaningful Christian fellowship.

I am a dentist by profession, and one of the things I enjoy most about my work is building lasting relationships with my patients while serving them through dental care. My wife, Amy, and I have three sons, Griffin, Hayes, and Turner. I previously had the privilege of serving as a deacon at APC and have remained actively involved in the life of the church.



## Zach Holcombe

Outside of work and church, I enjoy woodworking, especially creating useful pieces from reclaimed materials. I look forward to shepherding and serving alongside deacons again, trusting that God will use me to help care for His people and to bring glory to Christ.

My wife, Shirley, and I have been part of Arden Presbyterian Church for many years. I first came to Arden from Covenant Presbyterian, because Shirley was a member here, and APC became a place where we established our church home together. Through the years, Arden has been a source of fellowship, encouragement, and lasting friendships with fellow believers. We have been blessed with a family of three children, five grandchildren, and three great grand-children. We are so grateful for God's loving care and faithfulness to our family.

I became a follower of Jesus Christ on Palm Sunday in 1959 . Looking back, I am grateful for the Lord's saving grace and His faithful guidance throughout my life.

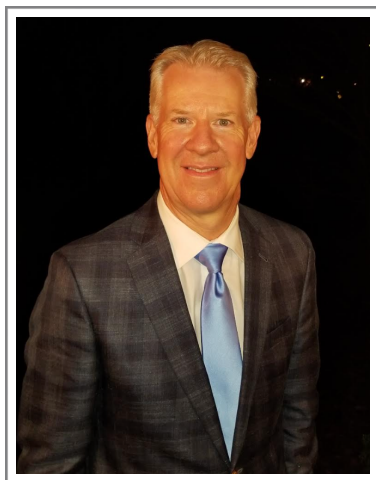
One of the ministries that has meant the most to me at Arden has been the choir. Music has been an important part of my life ever since elementary school, so it has been a joy to use that lifelong interest in serving the Lord and leading His people in worship. Singing alongside others has been one of the most rewarding ways I have experienced fellowship and ministry within the church.

Before retiring, and starting a Lawn Care business, I worked in electronics. Today I continue to enjoy my lawn care business. One of the things I enjoy most is seeing the transformation that comes from making a yard look neat and well cared for. In my spare time, I also enjoy working in our own yard. Shirley is a retired middle school teacher who enjoys reading, solving Sudoku puzzles, and traveling, and we enjoy spending time together in this season of life.

As I answer God's call to continue serving as an officer at Arden, I feel the Lord leading me to stay involved and to support the church in a greater way. If elected, I look forward to doing my part to help keep the church operating well and to faithfully serve alongside the other officers as we seek to glorify Christ and care for His people.



**Larry Kidd**



**Jack Teague**

My wife, Beth, and I have been members of Arden Presbyterian Church since around 1999. After moving closer to Arden, we were looking for a church where God's Word was faithfully preached and where we could worship in a more conservative Presbyterian setting. Over the years, APC has been the place where our three children—Jackson, Ashley, and Hunter—grew up. They attended preschool here, and our family built lasting friendships through Sunday School, Wednesday night fellowship, the Singing Christmas Tree, and many other activities.

I was blessed to grow up in a loving Christian home where church was at the center of family life. My mother served as the organist and choir director at Leicester Methodist Church, so my younger brother and I spent countless hours there. By God's grace, I don't remember a time when I didn't know Christ as my Savior. It is not a dramatic testimony, but I see it as a beautiful testimony to God's covenant faithfulness from an early age.

Professionally, I've been practicing dentistry for 35 years, and one of the greatest joys of my work has been the relationships I've developed with my patients over the decades. My wife, Beth, a chemical engineer by training, worked with Milliken Textiles, the Environmental Protection Agency, and BASF, before devoting herself to raising our family. In my free time, I enjoy hunting, fishing, golf, traveling, and spending time outdoors with family and friends.

I now believe the Lord is calling me to serve APC. Encouraged by others in our church and trusting God's leading, I want to answer that call with a servant's heart. If elected, I look forward to serving Christ's church by following His example of humble leadership, seeking opportunities to faithfully "wash some feet" as He taught His disciples.

# CANDIDATES for RULING ELDER



**Jim Aldrich**

I am grateful for the opportunity to be considered for service as a ruling elder at Arden Presbyterian Church. My wife, Loretta, and I have been part of the APC family since moving to Western North Carolina in 2014.

My journey as a follower of Jesus Christ began during my Navy career when Roman Catholic neighbors invited me to attend a Charismatic prayer group. After attending for a time, I specifically asked God for His Holy Spirit. Through that experience, God brought great joy into my life, opened my heart to Scripture, and convicted me of my need for Christ. The Bible became alive to me, and I began a deeper walk of faith.

Loretta and I previously attended Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Tampa, Florida, where I served as a ruling elder after completing elder training. After becoming familiar with Western North Carolina through mission trips with Mission to the World, we began exploring a move here. After visiting several PCA churches, we were drawn to APC because of its biblical teaching, worship, and faithful ministry. We joined APC in 2014 after completing the New Members Class with Dr. Sheppard.

APC has been a tremendous blessing to our family. We have grown spiritually through the preaching of God's Word, Sunday School, Missions Conferences, and the encouragement of many members of this congregation. I have been blessed to serve on Session, participate on the Pastor Search Committee, and serve with the Shepherding Committee. The Pastor Search Committee was especially meaningful as I saw God faithfully guide and unite a group of believers through a challenging season.

I am a retired Navy Captain after a 30-year career primarily in Naval Aviation. After retiring from the Navy, I also served as Vice President of Engineering at Dassault Falcon Jet. Throughout my career, I most enjoyed working with teams to accomplish shared goals and striving to serve faithfully in whatever responsibilities God placed before me.

In my free time, I enjoy spending time with church family, studying God's Word, participating in our study of the Westminster Confession of Faith, building and flying radio-controlled airplanes and drones, using a flight simulator I built with my grandson, and attending my son's basketball games. I also enjoy encouraging friends and family members who are facing difficult seasons by sharing the hope and love of Christ.

I have three children: Hunter, Meghan, and Griff, along with eight grandchildren. Loretta is a retired registered nurse who enjoys quilting, reading, genealogy, and faithfully studying Scripture.

If elected to serve as an elder, I look forward to working alongside the other elders and leaders of APC to shepherd this congregation, using the gifts and experiences God has given me to serve His church and bring glory to Him.

Although my grandparents were faithful Christians—my grandfather was a Baptist pastor—and I grew up hearing conversations about faith, I did not surrender my life to Christ until after college and marriage. While my family was living in Brazil, we experienced a particularly difficult and stressful season. Through those trials, God graciously broke down my resistance and showed me that nothing in life truly makes sense apart from Him.

My wife, Dorothy, and I have been part of Arden Presbyterian Church for more than ten years. We came to APC after attending another Presbyterian church in the area and have found APC to be a true church home. Here we have built deep friendships, grown in our understanding of God's Word, and been encouraged by brothers and sisters whose faith has been tested and proven through life's trials. Dorothy and I have two daughters, Jessie and Leah.



**Brett Callaway**

My church-related activities have included serving for four years as pastor of a rural Iowa church and becoming a Gideon. I have enjoyed serving at APC by teaching Sunday School, hosting a small group in our home, serving on the Session, and assisting Dorothy with the Angel Tree ministry. Teaching God's Word and opening our home for fellowship have been especially meaningful to me.

God's Creation is endlessly fascinating and wonderful. I never tire of exploring it. I received BS and MS degrees from the University of Georgia, a PhD from Cornell, an MBA from Edinburgh Business School, and studied at Reformed Theological Seminary. Before retiring in 2021, the Lord had repeatedly placed me in leadership roles, overseeing teams and operations around the world. Looking back, I can clearly see how God was preparing me to serve others through leadership. In retirement, I enjoy spending time with my family, reading, beekeeping, gardening, studying history, teaching courses on biblical citizenship and the Constitution, serving in politics, being active in a variety of outdoor activities, and writing, having published two theological books for lay readers, Crossroads of the Eternal, and Calvinism and the Emergence of the Modern World.

As I consider serving again as an elder, I am grateful for the ways God has prepared me through both my professional life and my years at APC. I look forward to getting to know people more deeply, serving alongside the other elders, and helping shepherd this congregation that has been such a blessing to my family.



**Daniel Jensen**

I have been blessed to be part of Arden Presbyterian Church since 1998. Anne and I were immediately drawn to the faithful, Scripture-centered preaching and teaching, and by God's grace we became members and have never looked elsewhere. Over the years, APC has been foundational to the spiritual growth and maturity of our family through the ordinary means of grace, Christ-centered worship, biblical fellowship, and enduring friendships. Anne and I have three children: Brooke, Andrew, and Hannah.

I was raised in a Christian home and cannot remember a time when I did not believe the facts of the gospel. I prayed to receive Christ as savior at age 6, but afterward, as I would see failures and sin in my life, I felt like I needed to start over again and again asking God for salvation. In college I continued to grow as a believer trusting that the perfect righteousness of Jesus, along with his death and resurrection are a finished work to defeat sin and death and impute the righteousness of Christ to me by grace, as a free gift, through faith alone. Jesus represents me as a perfect Great High Priest despite my ongoing sin and need for sanctification.

Serving at APC has been a great blessing to me. I have previously served as both a deacon and an elder, have occasionally taught Sunday School, served on two senior pastor search committees, a youth pastor search committee, and a capital campaign committee. Anne and I also enjoy opening our home most months for a small group Bible study and prayer, and I host a weekly men's breakfast for fellowship, book study, and prayer. Looking back, one of my greatest joys has been leading a small group during our early years at APC, where Anne and I formed lasting relationships with young families while encouraging one another in God's Word.

As I consider serving again as an elder, I have sensed an external call through the encouragement of fellow elders and members, while also feeling a sincere desire to serve Christ's church. At the same time, I recognize the weight of the office and my own continuing need for God's grace. If elected, I desire to encourage the saints through God's Word and join in worship that honors Christ, strengthens discipleship and helps cultivate a church where grace, humility and love for one another leads us to invite others to know Christ and become part of His church.

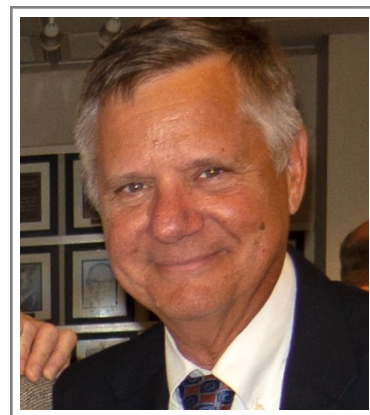
My wife, Cathy, and I have been members of Arden Presbyterian Church for about 30 years. We first came to Arden after driving by the church countless times and deciding we should stop in and see what it was all about. From the very beginning, we found a welcoming church family, and over the years APC has become an important part in our lives.

I grew up in a Christian home and have trusted in Jesus Christ for as long as I can remember. Looking back, I see God's faithful hand throughout my life, preserving and guiding me by His grace. My faith has been shaped by the example of my family and strengthened through years of worship, fellowship, and studying God's Word alongside His people.

One of the greatest blessings of being at Arden has been the Sunday School classes my wife and I have attended. The teaching, fellowship, and accountability have encouraged us in our walk with Christ, and the relationships we've built there have become a meaningful part of our lives. I especially enjoy serving others whenever I have the opportunity, both within the church and in everyday life.

Outside the church, I own and operate a plastic recycling company, where I've spent my career serving customers and building relationships. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family and playing golf. Whether at work, at church, or with family and friends, I value opportunities to encourage others and point them toward Christ. Cathy and I have two grown children, Caroline, 32, and Jacob, 30.

If elected to serve as an officer at Arden, I look forward to the opportunity to deepen my friendships with the men of the church while shepherding and serving our congregation. My desire is to serve faithfully wherever the Lord leads, using the gifts He has given me to strengthen and encourage His church.



**Steve Stroud**

My wife, Lynn, and I have been members of Arden Presbyterian Church since 1991. We moved to the Asheville area in 1988 and initially attended a church closer to our home in Mills River. As we continued to grow in our faith, we realized we needed a church where God's Word was faithfully taught. After visiting several congregations, we found our church home at Arden. Looking back over the past 35 years, I can honestly say that the Lord has planted our family here. Like any family, we've shared joys and sorrows, blessings and challenges, but through it all God has been faithful. Arden truly has become our family. Together, Lynn and I have been blessed with six children and thirteen wonderful grandchildren who bring us great joy.

The Lord began drawing me to Himself at a very young age. I remember asking Him to let me be His child when I was only four or five years old. Later, in 1973, I attended a Billy Graham Crusade in Raleigh, where I publicly responded to the invitation and prayed to receive Christ.



**Leon Turlington**

Over the years, I've had the privilege of serving Arden in many different ways. I've served as an usher, elder, and chairman of the Finance Committee, and I currently serve on the Shepherding, Super Saints, Administration, and Finance Committees. I've also enjoyed serving in our Sunday School class, first by helping with the sound system and more recently as the class facilitator. One of the greatest blessings of my time at Arden was serving with MNA Disaster Response following Hurricane Helene. It was a privilege to come alongside people in our church and community, meeting practical needs, praying with them, and pointing them to the hope and mercy of Christ during a very difficult season.

Now that I'm retired, I enjoy walking each day, which often becomes a time of prayer. I also spend time restoring old farm equipment, visiting with people, and, most of all, making memories with our grandchildren. As Arden enters this exciting new season, I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside my fellow elders and our new pastor, Wes Strebeck. I look forward to the work ahead and to seeing how God will continue to build His church at Arden.

## **Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers**

Sunday, August 23, after worship

## **Ordination and Installation of Elected Officers**

Sunday, August 30, during worship