

Class of 2027 Officer-Nominees

Dear Rivermont Family, **September 1, 2024**

With joy and thanksgiving to God, the Officer-Nominating Committee has completed its work and presents the following slate of nominees:

For Ruling Elder: Ken Bradford, Ben Moomaw, Ben Reeves, Matt Schubert

For Deacon: Andrea Adams, Ron Meng, Erick Petersen, Neil Selz, T.J. Smiley, Christopher Steed, Brad Weaver, Brandon White

We will also be electing new members to the Nominating Committee, Class of 2026:
Russ Matney (Co-Chair), Jacob Caldwell, Brandon White
Returning members are: Earl Weaver (Chair), Sarah Grace Barkley, Kelli Johnson, Kaye Moomaw,

The election will take place at the Congregational Meeting called by the Session on **Sunday, September 1**, in the Sanctuary, during the Sunday school hour. Please read through the testimonies of personal faith and enjoy getting to know our officer-nominees.

Thankful for your partnership in the Gospel,

The Officer-Nominating Committee

Nominated to the Officer of Elder:



Ken Bradford

I had a dramatic conversion experience in 1992 that drove me to my knees as I recognized my sinful state and received Christ’s forgiveness. Early in my faith walk I taught a 4th grade Sunday School class. Soon afterward, I was teaching adult Sunday School, serving on the church council, directing VBS, and leading evening Bible studies. In 1997 I became a fundraiser for a Christian ministry in Big Island, which brought us to Bedford. I served in various teaching and leadership positions in our church in Bedford. I also organized an ecumenical men’s fellowship, helped create an annual community prayer breakfast, and held a weekly Bible study for inmates at a local jail. In 2009 we returned to Northern Virginia to provide live-in

assistance to my mother-in-law. I worked in homeless services nonprofits and we joined an EPC church where I was elected Deacon. We returned to Bedford in 2020 and joined Rivermont in 2021. At Rivermont, I serve as an adult Sunday School teacher, a Dawn Patrol teacher, volunteer with VBS, and lead a small group. I owe Jesus my life and try to be obedient to his call. I have faith that Jesus will empower me by God’s grace through the Holy Spirit to accomplish all he calls me to do. Melinda and I look forward to celebrating our 50th anniversary in 2027. We have two adult children, Scott and Kristen, who along with their spouses love Jesus. I also have an African Grey parrot named Sailor.



Ben Moomaw

Kaye and I have called REPC our church home since the 1970’s. We have six children and nine grandchildren, and we both help our daughter, Maggie, at the flower farm we started 30 years ago. I accepted Christ with my mom at my bedside when I was 7. At 17, while attending a REPC summer youth conference, I was intensely convicted of my sin and again committed my life as an adult to Christ. Since then, God has changed me through so many experiences, including an IT career, parenting, farming, overseas mission work, and anxiety/depression. The most influential book I have read in the past 15 years is “How People Change” by Paul Tripp. Ephesians 2:1-9 is one of the most meaningful life scriptures for me. I have been involved in leadership in several capacities at REPC over the years. I am currently on the Vision Committee and I help lead the Foundations Sunday

school class. What motivates me most is helping people see how God continually changes each of us through scripture, prayer, relationships, and every tough experience He allows us. I want to connect with people deeply to share and demonstrate the love of Christ, and to challenge others to increasing maturity in Him.



Ben Reeves

My family moved to Lynchburg in 1999 and we soon joined REPC. It has truly been a blessing to raise a family here. My wife Beth and I have two children; Will, 27, and Carson, 24. At Rivermont, I have previously served as elder and deacon, taught Sunday School, worked in the nursery, and directed the Father-Daughter dance. Other local ministries included the Young Life Committee, Meals on Wheels, Daily Bread, and the Legacy Education Center. I am currently serving the community as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for neglected and abused children. As I reflect on the years past, I am amazed at how God sustained me and provided through the difficult

times. I also have seen how He uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things for His glory. I do not pretend to be a projection of perfection but rather brokenness and repentance. But in our weakness God is strong! Two of my favorite life verses are Galatians 2:20 and Philippians 3:13-14. The ministry, teaching, and fellowship we have received at REPC has been a blessing and I continue to grow in my faith and serve God by leading others to know Him.



Matt Schubert

As a child, I expressed my need for a savior and a desire to have a relationship with Christ. In middle school, I experienced the personal frustration of being unable to keep the law and wrestled with the question of whether the law and its expression in rules at church and at home were keeping me from something better. A small group leader introduced the book “Right from Wrong” – where I discovered that God’s word was designed to protect and provide for His people and to point us back to the person of Christ. As I began to see His love expressed through His Word, my heart began to soften and my doubts turned to a desire to submit myself to an authority that was all-powerful and righteous yet loving and just. I began counseling at a Christian camp each summer and became active in my youth group; experiencing

personal growth and learning to serve and communicate God’s love to others. I increasingly committed my ways to Him, choosing to save myself for my future wife, and increasingly found my identity rooted in Christ. God used marriage (what is now 28 years), in part, to expose my selfishness and pride. In later years, I learned to identify as an adopted child, that did nothing to deserve His grace - yet was welcomed fully as His child. God used this to grow my heart for foster care & adoption, growing the capacity to provide unconditional love and deepening our faith as we were moved out of comfort and into greater dependence on Him. At work, I serve as a Chief Strategy Officer for a mid-size payroll and HR Software company. I tend to see an assortment of pieces and can visualize how they can be brought together to create value, seeking to place each piece into its highest and best use. I love building teams and creating cultures where people are valued, the mission is clear, and our teams are known for the care they demonstrate to one another. I take great joy in discovering the way God has created each person to reflect His glory.

Nominated for the Officer of Deacon:



Andrea Adams

I grew up attending church weekly but did not have a strong grasp of Christianity. God opened my eyes to the truths of salvation in my late 20s through discipleship by a friend. As I studied scripture, God revealed my utter sinfulness and showed me nothing I did had any bearing on salvation. Through God's forgiveness of my sins because of Christ's perfect life and atoning death and the power of the Holy Spirit, my faith grew and my desires changed. I have been a member of Rivermont for 18 years and attend with my daughter, Sydney, my son-in-law, Jackson, and my son, Nick. God has graciously used the preaching of the Word, teaching in Sunday School and women's Bible studies to grow my love for him and my understanding of His Word. Over the years I have served in children's ministry, women's ministry, Grief Share, and as a deacon. I am thankful to be a part of the Rivermont body and honored to serve again as a deacon.



Ron Meng

I was born into a Christian family that worshipped and served the Lord regularly. My knowledge and acceptance of the Lord was more of a nurtured belief that grew as I worshipped the Lord and attended Sunday school and youth activities at our family church, an Evangelical Reformed Church. Unlike most, I attended Sunday services every week while in college. Worship was mandatory, but my faith did not grow during this time as my heart was not in attendance or worship. After our marriage, my wife and I committed to attend Sunday services to include Sunday school in local Presbyterian churches. My wife's mother was the Lord's work to ensure our learning of God's salvation. As our family grew in number and age, we made Sunday worship a strong part of our life including teaching

Sunday school and ensuring our children were active in youth activities. My wife and I became active in men's and women's Bible studies during the week as well. I was always available to assist with "work" around the church that needed a little more muscle. Our family friends were usually members of our current church. Once our children left home, we became very active in Bible studies (learning and teaching). A class/study of "Experiencing God", by Blackaby, led my wife and I to become Foster Parents and eventually adopted two infant children into our family. I also provided help to the community for home repairs and eventually became a regular with the local Habitat for Humanity team culminating with a mission trip to Guiana. I also served as an elder in the Presbyterian church we attended. In 2015, we began attending and joined Rivermont EPC. I am looking forward to serving the Lord through Rivermont now that I have retired from the "workforce".



Erick Petersen

I was born in Puerto Rico but grew up stateside, and I've spent most of my life in Lynchburg, VA. Mom and Dad met in Puerto Rico where Mom is from and where Dad was stationed during his time in the US Navy. They married, had me and raised me (somewhat haphazardly but somewhat consistently) in the Christian faith. We mostly went to Baptist Churches growing up, and at age 11, Dad led me to the Lord in my room when we were living in Texas. I've been saved ever since 1990, but there were periods in my life (mostly during adolescence) where I found myself drifting away only to experience God's tremendous love and grace in pulling me back to Him. I have been

extremely blessed to be married to my wife Cassie, and to be the father of our 5 children. Every day I feel thankful and blessed to be able to proclaim the Gospel of Christ to my children and watch as God has chosen them to be His. Outside of my relationship with Jesus, my family is what I cherish the most. I am grateful to have an opportunity to serve Rivermont Evangelical Presbyterian Church as I have been so blessed by what REPC has done for me and my family. Our family has been attending Rivermont since 2017. Outside of Church and family I spend my time working in the structural steel industry as a sales manager for Lyndon Steel, as well as supporting my wife in our marketing business. I like to read the occasional book and, outside of The Bible, I consider various works by GK Chesterton, Francis Schaeffer, Walker Percy, and CS Lewis among books that have helped to shape my Christian faith. I'm particularly fond of Lewis's "That Hideous Strength" and this quote: "There are a dozen views about everything until you know the answer. Then there's never more than one". Regarding hobbies, my interests are golf, fishing, and camping.



Neil Selz

I was raised in the church by Christian parents and came to know Jesus Christ as my savior at age 9. I was baptized and continued to mature slowly as a believer. I felt called by God to enlist in the United States Marine Corps and was sent to Iraq. There, I was given the awesome opportunity to see God's power at work as He caused death to pass by me many times. I was shown very clearly that He controls all things, and that I control nothing. I experienced an awakening and refreshment of my spiritual life, and really began to study Scripture for the first time. When I was discharged, I entered college and met a Christian woman that I was immediately called to marry. However, over the years I began to worship her and her good opinion of me instead of keeping the Lord

first in my life. At the same time, she began to struggle with addiction to alcohol and our marriage deteriorated. At my lowest, I began to angrily question God why he had called me to a life such as this. In 2022, she passed away. I realized that my purpose had been to ease her burden during life, and that I had tried to do it using my own strength, which is nothing. I was powerfully reawakened by the Lord and fully convicted that he alone is sovereign, and that he does all things for His glory and our good.



T.J. Smiley

I was blessed to be raised in a Christian home and came to faith in Christ at an early age. I don't remember a time when I did not believe in God and Christ as our Savior but do recall when I first professed faith and was baptized. My formative years were a time of steady growth in my faith and knowledge of Christ while being an active member at the churches my family attended and being homeschooled in a Christian home. After graduating high school, I attended the Naval Academy and served as a Submarine Officer in the Navy. My college and Navy years were a time when God's faithfulness was evident to me although my focus on worship was often distracted. Just before turning 30 I left the Navy, moved to Lynchburg for work, and married Lee. Our first child, James, was born about a year and a half later with 3 more (Susanna, Luke, and Samuel) now following in the 12 years we have been in

Lynchburg. While God has grown our family he has also used our family to continue to grow my faith and reliance on him. We have attended REPC for several years and have been members for most of that time. At REPC I currently take part in the church ministry through leadership in our Trail Life Troop and help to teach a 3-4th grade Sunday School Class.



Christopher Steed

I grew up with my mom taking me and my siblings to church. Unfortunately, it was more to teach us morals rather than to find and enjoy the love of God. At age 11, I became "saved", but it wasn't until the age of 17 that I began to see God and pursue after Him. I initially went to college at East Carolina University but did not feel this was a good fit as I felt that it was very liberal and against God. At that time, I was building in the faith. I transferred to Liberty University during my sophomore year when I continued to learn more and more about God and how to follow Him. At the end of my sophomore year, I had the opportunity to go on a mission trip to Guatemala for 2 months. It was a very enriching experience that led me to do it again at the end of my junior year of college with the exception that I did not go with any particular group. I decided to work for the same ministry and stay with the same family as I did the previous year. Unfortunately at the end of the trip, I was involved in a motor vehicle accident. I was a passenger in the back seat of a Jeep Cherokee when we were involved in a head-on collision with an 18-wheeler. I do not remember the event or the next 8 days. The next thing I became aware of was my mom, aunt, and girlfriend (now wife) were at my bedside. I thought I was in a dream. I did not know I had been in an accident or even

that I had been injured. As it turns out, I had a moderate to severe traumatic brain injury, fracture in my neck, collapsed lung, perforated intestine, and splenic rupture. This required that I go into surgery to have my spleen removed and my intestines repaired. I also had a chest tube for my collapsed lung. It took several weeks to convince me that I had been in a wreck and had gone through such turmoil. In the following few months, I stayed home from college to take a break for a semester but slowly recovered. During this time, I felt most alive in God. My prayer life was abundant. My faith in God grew as I daily awaited a full recovery. Following my recovery and wreck, God has been good by blessing me with every step I take. God has blessed me with a beautiful wife and four daughters. He allowed me to have a full recovery-minus the spleen-which enabled me to become a physician in the emergency department where I help people at their most vulnerable and trialing times. I do attempt to pray with patients during these times. At home, I have been able to build a farm which my daughters can help. We have used the farm to host various activities such as wilderness medicine lectures for the LUCOM medical students, wilderness race for the

medical students, and the emergency department staff, as well as hosting a multigrade end-of-year party over the last few years. All of these things we do to point others toward Christ.



Brad Weaver

My family moved to Lynchburg when I was a baby (I am the youngest of four) and I was raised here except one year in Danville. After high school, I attended college and soon after moved to Atlanta only to return to Lynchburg with a wife and daughter years later at the invitation of my brother, Earl, to join his insurance business in 1999. Lynchburg has been my earthly home ever since. I was raised in a Christian home by two loving parents and attended a local Baptist church as a youth. For most of my life, however, I did not take my faith seriously until a dark period between 2010 and 2012. It was during this period that I was drawn to the Lord. This was evidenced by certain events which occurred that could not be explained by mere coincidence, but only by the workings of the Holy Spirit who continues to be at work in my life today. Being drawn meant realizing that my only hope of salvation is through the life, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, who died a terrible death for my sins, was resurrected on the third day, and who sits on the right hand of God the Father in heaven and who will one day come back to judge all of mankind. This realization made me determined to trust in the Lord and His word, to begin letting go of my worldly desires, and to begin living more for Him and less for myself. This was not an overnight event; however, there

was a moment when I knew that I was justified because of Christ and that justification has led to my ongoing sanctification ever since. Understanding what God has done for me and countless others compels me to want to live for and to serve Him. It has also allowed me to experience a “peace that surpasses all understanding.” (Philippians 4:7) I am a single dad to three children ages 26, 20, and 18. They have all attended Rivermont for various periods and have been influenced by the Gospel brought by Shane and so many others. I praise God for making this happen. Since joining Rivermont in 2011, I have helped teach our youth in Sunday School under Shane’s and now Davis’s leadership and have assisted in the Usher’s Guild. I hope to serve the Lord at Rivermont by participating where the greatest needs exist, all for His glory. I am humbled to answer the call to serve on the Diaconate and am grateful for the opportunity to do so.



Brandon White

I grew up in a God-fearing church attending home in rural North Carolina. My parents sent me to a Christian school and had me in church any time the church doors were open. I walked down the aisle as a seven-year-old child made a profession of faith and was baptized. From the outside, I appeared to check all the boxes of following the “rules” until I went off to college at which time in retrospect it was apparent that I did not have a regenerated heart. I lived like the world for the entirety of my undergraduate education and well into dental school. I began attending church with a friend while in dental school and consistently heard the Gospel preached. This all culminated in a conversation with my younger sister who had come to faith in college in which she confronted me about the sin in my life and

the lack of fruit present therein. I was heartbroken and repented of my sin and came to saving faith in Jesus Christ. Following my conversion, I began to grow in my faith and knowledge of the Gospel. I found a great church community that encouraged me in my faith. During this time I began to pursue my then-dental school classmate, Julie, and just after graduation we were married. Julie, who came to faith several years before I did has been instrumental in my Christian growth. We moved to Roanoke after graduation and lived there for six years during which time we attended Christ the King PCA. The Lord continued to grow in my understanding of Reformed Theology and gained a greater understanding and appreciation of the grace and sovereignty of God and my need for Him. In 2019, we took over the dental practice of Dr. Ron Hendricksen and moved to Lynchburg. Our pastor in Roanoke encouraged us to check out Rivermont and we knew quickly after visiting that this would be our church home. We joined shortly thereafter. We feel grateful for the Rivermont church community and the faithful preaching of the Word as we continue to experience God’s grace in our lives. I believe that God has made me very relational and has gifted me in being able to connect easily with all kinds of people and I look forward to using this in service to the church. God has blessed Julie and me with three children, Emerson (10), Audrey (7), and Jack (4). I enjoy my work as a dentist, playing golf, exercising, and spending time with my family.

