

BMPC 2018 Candidates

Elder Candidates

Mary French

When, in 1945, my parents moved to Villanova, I started coming to Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church. I kept coming for years: Sunday School at 9:30 (my mother played the piano), church with my family (my father was a Deacon), and choir, first the Junior Choir and then, while I was in high school, the Senior Choir. That was a lifetime ago, but that growing up imprinted the church on me as a little duckling gets imprinted on her mother. This church is my home. I was married in the chapel, my children, Samuel and Katherine, grew up here, and I have been a member since 1956.

I am an artist at heart, and an educator. I went to The Baldwin School and then to Vassar College. I spent two years in the Peace Corps in Lima, Peru, after which I earned a master's degree in education from the University of Pennsylvania. I've done educational research and taught in private and public schools, in North Philadelphia and the suburbs. I retired from The Episcopal Academy where I was head of the art department. Over the years, I have shown my paintings often at BMPC.

As my husband was dying in 1994, I recognized how powerful a loving church can be. Both my grandfathers were on the Session when Olney Presbyterian Church decided to build a new Sanctuary; I grew up recognizing that it takes vision and hard work to make a church, both a building and the people in it. BMPC, with its superb Outreach, Education, Fine Arts and Worship, believes in living life abundantly. I am honored and humbled to be asked to serve this church as a member of the Session.

Molly Cordray (Youth Deacon)

I am a sophomore at the Agnes Irwin School, which I have been attending since Pre-K. My family joined BMPC in the 80's and have been active members since. I was baptized and confirmed at the church and have spent my entire life here. I have been involved in many of the programs in the church. When I was little I attended Bible Camp every year and loved it. Now I volunteer at Camp Kirkwood and have spent a total of 10 years attending. I have been involved in the Youth Choir and participate in our Casserole Blitzes whenever possible. I have also volunteered with the Upward Basketball program. I have made many friends at the church who I am close with and I have many family friends there as well. I look forward to getting even more involved in the church and participating in future Youth programs.

Siobhan Daley-Gibson (Youth Elder)

I am a junior at Harriton High School. My parents, four sisters and I have been a members of BMPC since I was in sixth grade. I am an active participant in the church Youth activities and have attended every summer camp and multiple Mission trips. I belong to Student Serve and have participated in the Bryn Mawr Tutoring Program since ninth grade. I have also been a volunteer at Upward Basketball for the past five years. I am excited to serve the church as a Youth Elder.

Bayard Graf

I joined BMPC in 1980, having moved from Wayne Presbyterian Church at that time. I taught Junior High Sunday School for a year and Confirmation class for five years. I started and personally funded the first two Thanksgiving Day morning Pancake Breakfasts and wrote the original manual for my successors. I served two terms as a Deacon and served for several years on the Education Council. I served several years on the General Services Council, including as its chair for one year. I have ushered for more than 20 years, and I am a Board Member and Chair of the Main Line Adult Day Center, which is a mission of the church.

Joan LaLeike

Over 20 years ago, Mark, Miyoki and I were introduced to BMPC through a mini-music class of the Young-In-Arts program. We began attending worship services, Adult Education classes, and joined the church soon after. After being involved with Y-Group and Membership Council, I served two terms on Session, co-chaired an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, was moderator of Membership Council, Youth Council, and the Nominating Committee. Most recently, I have been engaged through Outreach Council, Mission Council and the Eugene C. Bay Fund Committee.

The friendships we made back in the 1990s are still strong and active today. In addition, the support and love we have received from this congregation and pastoral staff have been immeasurable. I look forward to serving on Session once again, in between designing gardens, and tending to my own.

William H. Matthai, Jr.

I was first drawn to BMPC in the early 1990s, as so many people are, by the music (specifically, the Christmas Eve service!). I joined so that our children (Alice, now 25, and Charlotte, now 22) could be assured of a spot in the Weekday School to be nurtured by Mrs. Lee and her staff. I remain committed to BMPC for the words from the pulpit and for its mission and outreach work. Over the years, I have been a Deacon, and I have served on the Fine Arts Council, Hunger Committee, and Stewardship Committee. I was a member of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee for Kellen Smith. I am a cardiologist at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, and my wife, Jan, is a retired nurse practitioner. I look forward to continuing to serve BMPC, its members, and its mission.

Deacon Candidates

Colleen Kanaan Bertrand

I have been attending BMPC with our three children regularly since moving from Falls Church, Va., in 2011. We became members and baptized our youngest child shortly after Agnes Norfleet was installed. (For the record, I do not recommend waiting until toddler years for baptism!) I am so grateful for the spiritual sustenance and social connection that our church provides. It is like family for me! I've been involved with a variety of programs including Vacation Bible Camp, Urban Plunge, Y-Group, Filling the Well and Digging Deeper Bible Study over the years. I have been teaching yoga and wellness in a variety of settings since 2008. I previously worked in management consulting to the healthcare industry and banking. I was born and raised in the Detroit area.

Dave Bravo

I joined BMPC in the fall of 2001 but had been regularly attending with my wife Susan and children, Eli and Evelyn. BMPC has been a significant part of our family life. I have assisted in the past with Church School on Sunday morning, Vacation Bible School plus many other activities. I have been on an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee as well as serving as Trustee. I look forward to the personal and spiritual growth that being a Deacon will provide.

Dan Haller

Except for brief times during medical school at Pitt and residency training at Georgetown, I have been involved in church activities. Raised a Lutheran, I started singing in the children's choir a bit more than 60 years ago. Before coming to BMPC, I was active in University Lutheran Church, sang in the choir, was president of the church council, and led a \$100,000 fundraising drive, no easy task in a congregation of 100 people, most of whom were students.

I became interested in BMPC when I moved from Merion to Bryn Mawr in 2001. I live a stoplight away, and can just see the steeple from my second floor. Proximity is not the only reason for joining BMPC. I've been an oncologist at Penn for 37 years, and have trained members of the congregation when they were interns and residents at HUP and have cared for many members. Over time, I started coming as a guest, enjoying the music program, the preaching and the welcoming members. I particularly appreciate the social responsibility of BMPC. I formally became a member not too many years ago and am a member of the Music and Fine Arts Committee, a Bass II in the Sanctuary Choir, and a frequent chef for parties and receptions. I'll be helping to organize the upcoming choir tour to Israel and Jordan. I tend to be a nurturer/caregiver, so being a Deacon will be a natural extension of my skillset. My wife, Eileen, and I have been married for nearly 40 years, and share our home with our 3-year-old Golden Retriever Buddy, who has been blessed by Agnes every year on the church front lawn (in spite of which he still steals my shoes every morning).

Kathy Kreider

Our family joined BMPC more than 40 years ago. Here we found pastors who preached sermons that connected scripture with our daily lives, opportunities to be involved with outreach to inner city communities, rich educational experiences for adults and children alike, quality music, a caring community and much more. My husband, Jerry, a retired architect, has been involved with Outreach Council for many years. He is also a faithful member of the Saturday morning Men's Group. Our young adult children, Melissa and Ben, were confirmed here. Both of them have found their faith to be an integral part of their lives. I have been involved in various areas: Y-Group, Presbyterian Women, Connections, Children's Education, Homeless Task Force, Refugee Committee and Deacons. I worked for several years on the staff of the Weekday School. It was a joy and privilege for 15 years to work as the parish nurse, joining the staff in the mid-1990s. As part of the care team, I worked closely with the pastors for pastoral care and senior adults as well as the care manager. I look forward to serving our church as a Deacon.

Tricia Mackay

My husband, Scott, and I moved to the Main Line in January 2007. We had been members of National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., for almost 10 years where I worked in their Children's Ministry program. We've been members of BMPC since 2008, and we have two boys, Connor and Grant, and a labradoodle named Bogart. I am the director of development and marketing at Peter's Place, a nonprofit center for grieving children and families. I love teaching fourth and fifth grade Sunday School and serving on the following four committees: Environmental Justice, Adult Education, Environmental Justice and Children and Family. I have also served as an usher, a volunteer receptionist and on the Peacemaking and Outreach Committees.

Dave Reiner

The Presbyterian Church was a large part of my childhood and a constant as my family moved during my youth. From worship and choir to mission trips and Triennium, our church always helped me feel at home as our family settled into a new community. After moving to Rosemont in 2011, Sarah and I joined BMPC in 2013 in hopes of finding a church home to raise our soon- to-arrive child. I was drawn to BMPC because of the music, mission, and values of the church. Since then, both Charles, 4, and Amelia, 2, have been baptized here as we continue to integrate ourselves into the church community, primarily through Children and Family Ministry. I have served as an usher since joining and am looking forward to expanding my service to the church and community as a Deacon.

Sheila Rohrer

"I can't tell you what to think, all I can tell you is that it's your responsibility to think, deeply, and come to your own conclusions." The Rev. Dr. Eugene Bay spoke those words at the end of a Y-Group meeting, and I knew I had found my new church home. As someone who was raised

in the Roman Catholic tradition, those words were both deeply liberating and spiritually challenging. I joined BMPC the following year and my involvement in Y-Group deepened, eventually serving as moderator of the group. Since then I've also served on both nominating and pastor nominating committees, chaired Vacation Bible Camp, taught Sunday School, volunteered with the Children's Choir, chaperoned at Camp Kirkwood, served on New Member and Adult Education Councils, and worked part time at BMPC, planning programs for families. My husband, Henry, also joined BMPC, and we've had the pleasure of raising our three children, Louise, Jessie and Henry (now all in their 20s) in this wonderful, enriching, and challenging environment. I'm excited to serve as Deacon and continue my commitment to BMPC.

Benjamin Schmid (Youth Deacon Candidate)

Having been baptized and confirmed here, I have grown up at BMPC. I am currently in my third year helping with the four and five year olds in the Worship Center each Sunday, and I assist with the labyrinth ministry. I am a junior at Lower Merion High School and live in Wynnewood with my parents, Anne and Ted, and my older brother, Andrew. Outside of church, I spend my time with my cross-country and track teams, and enjoy being a volunteer firefighter. I am grateful for the nomination and am excited to serve as a Deacon in our church.

Bill Shinn

I have been a member of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church since 2007. My faith and church fellowship were both important in joining BMPC. My father had been a member and had loved the church; his inspiration motivated me to get involved. I currently serve on Sunday at the reception desk and assist with driving members to medical appointments and setting up communion. I also help with Wednesday Night Dinner cleanup and serve on the Common Ground Committee. Professionally, I am a Realtor with Berkshire Hathaway Fox & Roach. I am honored and look forward serving in the life and ministries at BMPC.

Grant Stevens (Youth Deacon Candidate)

I'm a junior at Harriton High School and have been active within the BMPC community for as long as I can remember. I was baptized as a baby and confirmed in middle school at BMPC. The church has been like a second home to me, and not only has it helped grow my faith as a Christian, but I've made so many friends and had many awesome experiences. I have built relationships with youth and adults that I will always cherish. I have attended camp every year starting with Vacation Bible Camp and then moving on to Camp Kirkwood. I have volunteered at Vacation Bible Camp for two years, gone on a middle school mission trip to Philadelphia and a high school trip to New Mexico. I volunteer with Upward Basketball and am an active member of the youth group and a member of Student Serve. My family includes my mother, Kathy Stevens, who is currently an elder at BMPC, and my two siblings, Natalie, 19, and Jack,

14. serving as a Deacon would help me grow and be even more involved with BMPC. Thank you for the nomination.

Trustee Candidates

David MacGregor

I was raised in the Methodist Church in the South. My wife Carol was raised as a Presbyterian in Pittsburgh. We moved to Philadelphia in 1979 and joined BMPC shortly thereafter. Our three children were active at BMPC; our two daughters were married by BMPC pastors, and our grandson was recently baptized here. Over the years, I was a member of the Senior Choir, led a Men's Bible Study Group, taught Sunday School, and served as a member of the Session. My wife Carol led the Y-Group and served as a Deacon. Professionally, I am a partner in a private law firm practicing Energy Law, and serve and have served in a variety of management positions. I also am an Adjunct Professor of Law at the Drexel Law School. I also serve and have served on a variety of non-profit and charitable boards with responsibility for legal and financial issues. I am pleased to be considered for a Trustee position at BMPC. I am deeply interested in the future of our church and am excited for the opportunity to assist in the continued success and future growth of the church on a sound financial footing.

Tom Willcox

I have been on a faith journey since my youth. I was raised in a devout Roman Catholic family and was active in spiritual activities at an Augustinian high school and beyond. I married Courtenay in 1984 in the BMPC Sanctuary and was welcomed to the church by her family and the Rev. Dr. David Watermulder, then senior pastor and co-officiator at our wedding. I officially joined the church in the mid-1990s, although by that time I had already been a regular usher for a decade, recruited and trained by my father-in-law, Thornton Smith. Since joining the church, I have served on the Outreach Council, volunteered at the Miraj Medical Center with the Mission Council, served on and moderated the Senior Adults Council, served on an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, been ordained as an Elder and served on Session, served on the Nominating Committee, and continued my ministry of welcoming BMPC members and guests as an usher and in the parking lot. Courtenay and I raised our three children in the church and were most gratified to watch our older daughter and son-in-law married by the Rev. Dr. Agnes Norfleet in the same place we were married 31 years before. Since my first introduction to BMPC - its clergy and membership - it has been the foundation and sustenance of my ongoing faith journey. In my professional life, I am an Otolaryngologist, a head and neck surgeon at Thomas Jefferson University, where I teach and train residents and medical students, provide direct clinical and surgical patient care, and participate in research. I am grateful for opportunities to be of service to BMPC in its effort to be a nurturing and transformational source to others on their faith journeys.

Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry Nominating Committee Candidates

Emily Cieri

When my husband Fred and I joined BMPC in 1997, we were just married and looking for a church to join as a couple. I was drawn here by the music and preaching. I have been a very active member of the Hunger Committee since 2003 and have served as a Deacon. My two children were both baptized at BMPC and are currently active in the youth program. Max is in seventh grade, and Leo is in ninth grade. Professionally I have worked at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania for the past 23 years and currently serve as Chief of Staff to the Dean.

Susan Daley-Gibson

I was raised in the Catholic Church and began attending BMPC in 2011 with my husband, Patrick, and our four daughters, Anna, Siobhan, Maeve, and Bridget. We all feel very blessed and grateful to call BMPC our spiritual home. We became members in 2013. Our family has been very involved in youth choir, the tutoring program, Upward Basketball, Vacation Bible Camp, Youth Mission trips, Camp Kirkwood, and Stop Hunger Now. Our oldest daughter has served as a youth elder. I have volunteered at Wednesday Night Dinners, as a Sunday school shepherd, on membership council and on the evangelism team. I look forward to serving the BMPC community on the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

Gary Davis

I am a native of Tulsa, Oklahoma, but have lived mostly on the East Coast. My family has been in the Greater Philadelphia area for the last 13 years and part of BMPC for the last six. My wife Daniela and I are physicians and the products of parochial school education. We are also the proud parents of three children ages 15, 13 and 10. We sought for them a framework rather than a curriculum for spiritual growth - a welcoming, faith-based community of their peers. They have found this at BMPC, and we have rekindled/resumed our spiritual journey, thanks to intellectual and engaging worship.

Haley Erdlen (N/A)

Stacey Fagan

I joined BMPC six years ago when I moved here with my children Olivia, 14, and David, 10. I was lucky to make friendships through the Y-Group and thankful for the fellowship and support as a new mom to the area. For the past several years, I have served on the Children and Family Ministries Council helping to coordinate and facilitate the activities for our littlest members. I also serve on the Youth Council. I have enjoyed helping the children transition into the youth program and further develop their faith. I am excited for the opportunity to continue serving our church.

Christina Haas

I have been a part of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church since I was a baby. I was baptized by Gene Bay, confirmed as an eighth grader, and I was married at Bryn Mawr by Agnes Norfleet in 2014. My daughter, Elisabeth (age 2), was baptized by Agnes. BMPC as an institution and the many members and pastors have played a critical role in my life. From Sunday School and choir as a child to youth mission trips and pancake breakfasts in middle school, from Camp Susquahannock and becoming a Youth Deacon in high school to volunteering at Vacation Bible Camp as an adult, BMPC has been a home for me for 31 years.

I have celebrated joyous moments in life and mourned sorrowful ones here, and I am proud to raise my daughter in this church. She loves spending time in the Sanctuary and nursery, and we are so happy she participates in the Morning Out program. My parents and grandparents are active members of BMPC, and I am excited to become more involved.

Emily Peetros (Youth Member)

I look forward to serving on the APNC to select a new Youth pastor. BMPC has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. I was baptized as a baby at BMPC and I went through three years of pre-school at the Weekday School. I have enjoyed singing in the choir for over ten years, and volunteering for the last two years with the Wednesdays Together Program, where I help with our youngest singers. I became a member by confirmation in eighth grade. My brother, Alex and I attend Youth Gatherings Sunday mornings, I am part of student serve and I'm looking forward to my first mission trip this summer to Mexico.

Steve Udicious

My wife Kara and I joined BMPC in 2003 after we returned to the Philadelphia suburbs, where we both grew up, following a brief sojourn to Southern California for my career. We were looking for a church home that offered inspirational worship and strong programs for families with young children and teenagers, and we found both, and more, at BMPC. Our girls, Julia, 20, and Sophia, 16, grew up in the church and count Weekday School, Sunday School and youth program classmates among their best friends. Kara and I have both volunteered for the church. We have both served on Session, and taught Sunday School. I have also served as Clerk of Session, and on the Personnel and Stewardship Committees, as well as the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee that called Susan Rice. I am honored to be asked to help the church find its next group of leaders and next Youth Pastor.

Aidan Vartanian (Youth Member)

I am in eighth grade at Tredyffrin/Easttown Middle School. I have been a member of BMPC since I was a baby and have come to church almost every Sunday since then. I am a volunteer at the church with Upward Basketball and have gone to Camp Kirkwood for the last two summers.

My family includes my dad, Tom, my mom, Kelly, and my sister, Ella. I will be confirmed this year and look forward to my journey of faith.

2018-19 Nominating Committee Candidates

Angie Baturka

My husband Brad and I have been BMPC members for 25 years. We feel blessed to call this place our church home and love it for so many reasons - the messages from the pulpit, the teaching in the Education Building, the beautiful music, but mostly we love the invaluable friendships we have formed over the years.

I am fortunate to have been involved in many areas of the church. I served on Session, chaired Family Ministries Council, taught Sunday School, taught and co-chaired Bible Camp, have been an active member of Y-Group, served on the Advent Gift Market team, served on a few nominating committees, served on the Weekday School Board and served on the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee which brought Rachel Pedersen to us. Identifying future leaders of the church is a true blessing, and I look forward to serving on the nominating committee as an at-large member.

Tim Bickhart

I joined BMPC in 2007 after being a "repeat visitor" for many years. Some of the activities in which I have participated include: the Adult Education Council; leading seasonal adult Sunday School classes; mentoring young adults through the confirmation process; assisting in the 8:00 a.m. worship service. I recently was part of the Associate Pastors' Nominating Committee that brought Frank Pottorff and Mary Steege to our church, and I am currently serving a second term on the Board of Deacons. I am married to Jeannie Hanna Bickhart, and we have two sons, Henry, second grade, and Jack, three years old and attending the Weekday School. During the week, I am an elementary school principal. It was the preaching and music that brought me to Bryn Mawr over 20 years ago. Along with these strong ministries, the opportunities and leadership for our children have solidified our commitment to this church.

Bill Bosch

I became a member of BMPC in 1994 together with my wife, Colby Madden. In the ensuing 23+ years, I've served on the Outreach Council, as a Deacon, and most recently as a Trustee (including three years as church Treasurer). I have also participated as a member of the Sanctuary Choir. Professionally I'm a scientist by training and have spent most of my career in pharmaceutical product development.

Pam Fernley

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian has always been an integral part of my life. I joined the church in 1969, and my husband, Taylor, became a member in 1984. Our two sons, Kyle and Todd, were baptized and confirmed at BMPC. I was blessed with wonderful friendships when I joined Y- Group. I was so inspired that in later years, I started Re-connections for women with teenagers. In 1992, I became the Interim Director of Children and Family Ministry. In subsequent years, I served on the Youth Committee, the Hunger Committee, the Outreach Committee, and ran BMPC's Vacation Church School. In 2001, I co-chaired the live and silent auction to raise money for the Youth Ministry Mission Trip to Alaska. From 2006 to 2008, I served on the stewardship committee and was Chairperson of the Harvest Celebration. From 2011 to 2012, I was on the Session Priorities Committee charged with providing a strategic plan for the future of the church. That year, I also served on the Development Committee and helped start a Capital Campaign. From 2010 to 2013, I was honored to serve on Session. In my professional life, I am a luxury travel advisor with Avenue Two Travel. Being a part of this vibrant church community is truly a gift. I am pleased to join the Nominating Committee, and I look forward to deepening my faith and using my experiences at BMPC to help strengthen and support our church's vital ministry.

Margaret (Peggy) Hermann

I joined BMPC in 2000. At the time, I came to BMPC for the active Young Adult/Singles programs. Since then, I have gotten married to my husband, Matt McGuirl, here, and both of our daughters (Katie and Finley) were baptized here. I love that my kids are growing up in this wonderful church and that they feel so at home here. Over the years, I've been involved with the Children and Family Ministries Council, Y-Group and taught Sunday School. A few years ago, I started the Filling the Well women's group that meets on Sunday mornings. I'm currently in my second term as a Trustee and also serve on the board of the BMPC Foundation. I work as an actuary at a small consulting firm and also have been very involved in volunteering in the community through my daughters' schools, Girl Scouts and neighborhood activities. BMPC has been a great church home, and I'm thankful for the many volunteer opportunities the church offers for both me and my family.

Cindy Pierce

BMPC has been a pillar of my entire life, beginning with baptism through confirmation and high school years in the youth program. As my two children, Scott and Caroline, were nurtured and inspired on a similar path by many devoted BMPC teachers and pastors, I was blessed by wonderful friendships and support thanks to Y-Group, Connections and Presbyterian Women. My commitment to the life of the church has been stretched and strengthened as moderator of Presbyterian Women, several terms on Nominating Committee, two terms as a Deacon and through service on the Hunger Committee, Outreach

and Worldwide Ministries Councils and most recently as an Elder. I am honored to be asked to serve as Co-Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Sarah Reiner

My husband David and I joined BMPC in 2013, after relocating to the Main Line. We were immediately drawn to BMPC by the music and ultimately choose it as our church home because, despite the size, we were personally welcomed by members after worship each time we attended as visitors. As our family has continued to grow, (Charles, 4, and Amelia,2), so has our fondness for BMPC. Similarly, I've grown in my commitment to the church as I've transitioned from a new mom tentatively attending my first Y-Group meeting more than four years ago to my current role as Y-Group Co-Chair.

On Sunday mornings if I am not in the Sanctuary, I am most likely assisting in the Sunday School Classroom, where I have learned so much about faith through the eyes of our youngest children. Together, we can often be found in the Education Building: Charles at the Weekday School, and Amelia at Mom's Morning Out. I also enjoy my role as a member on the Weekday School Advisory Council, and involvement with the Home and School Association. Outside of my primary role as mom, I co-own a small event planning business.

Steve Udicious

My wife Kara and I joined BMPC in 2003 after we returned to the Philadelphia suburbs, where we both grew up, following a brief sojourn to Southern California for my career. We were looking for a church home that offered inspirational worship and strong programs for families with young children and teenagers, and we found both, and more, at BMPC. Our girls, Julia (20) and Sophia (16), grew up in the church and count Weekday School, Sunday School and youth program classmates among their best friends. Kara and I have both volunteered for the church. We have both served on Session, and taught Sunday School. I have also served as Clerk of Session, and on the Personnel and Stewardship Committees, as well as the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee that called Susan Rice. I am honored to be asked to help the church find its next group of leaders and next Youth Pastor.