

**Lexington Presbyterian Church
2010 Officer Nominee
Testimonies**

Deacon

**Jim McFarland
Russell McFarland
Darryl Milford
Jason Waters**

Elder

**Neil McLeod
Bill Maxim
Steve Gamble**

**Congregational Meeting
January 10, 2010**



Jim McFarland—Deacon

My family and I have been attending Lexington Presbyterian Church for about 21 years. It is an honor and privilege to be serving as your church treasurer and to have served three terms previously as a deacon. My wife, Frances, is the Director of Children's Ministries here and we have two children, Russell and Leslie, who are both attending LPC with their spouses.

I was raised in a Christian home. My father is a Presbyterian Elder and my mother has been a Sunday School teacher for as long as I can remember. Going to church every Sunday was the norm. I went to "church camps" and attended VBS every summer. Still, I know that none of these things make you a Christian. I needed a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. One summer, I attended a Billy Graham evangelistic film with a group of other students. An invitation was given and I accepted Christ as my personal savior. I went on to go through the regular communicant's class and join the Presbyterian Church.

Not a day goes by that I do not think about the fact that I am a sinner saved by Grace. I trust fully in the Lord for my salvation and want to do whatever I can with the talents I have to serve Him. If elected, I would be honored to serve again as a deacon.

Lexington Presbyterian
C H U R C H



Please join us on Sunday, January 10th for the congregational meeting after the worship service. It will only take a few minutes to vote on the deacons and elders for 2010.

Please pray through this process and for these men as you read their testimonies of faith and who will volunteer to help lead the LPC flock.

by **God's grace**
our vision is to be a community of people who honor
Jesus Christ as first in all things
and labor to see His kingdom grow,
both here in Lexington and throughout the world.



Russell McFarland-Deacon

I feel blessed to have been raised in a Christian home and came to know Christ at the age of 7. I knew I needed a savior and had a desire to develop a personal relationship with the Lord. I realized that the things of this world will never "fill your cup". Christ is the only one that can truly fulfill all of you need and quench your hearts thirst.

I was raised here at LPC with loving, Christian parents and I have been exposed to Christ as long as I can remember. I accepted him as my Lord and Savior one night after attending vacation bible school with a friend. I was very excited but was frightened that I might not be good enough or that I might fall out of his hands. After accepting him into my heart, I became on fire for him and my life began to change and strove to include him in every aspect of my life.

I began to study him more and tried to develop a deeper, closer relationship with him. I could now bring all of my sin before him and be forgiven. His love never failed me and he became my rock. People and worldly things may come, go, and change but, Christ is forever and he is consistently perfect 100% of the time. My life has changed in the aspect that I strive to serve him and obey is commands instead of following the things of this world. I know that I have a Savior, Defender, and Best Friend that has my life laid out for me and will never fail me. I also have forgiveness for all of my sins. No matter how far I may stray, Christ always has his hand upon me. I am motivated to serve him and do all things for his glory. What a great friend to have!

God granted me the gift of marriage on June 11th, 2005 when I married my beautiful wife Cathy. She constantly points me towards the Cross and is a true blessing in my life. We received one of the greatest blessings on October 23rd of this year with the birth of our daughter, Sara Cate. God has richly blessed me with the awesome privilege and responsibility of being a Dad and He is constantly humbling me and drawing me nearer to the cross as I grow as a father and a husband. It would be an honor to continue to serve the congregation of LPC as a Deacon.



Darryl Milford-Deacon

My wife, Mary, and I have three children , Heath, 28, his wife, Rebecca and Brandy, 25. We became members at Lexington Presbyterian in 1989.

I was born into a Southern Baptist family with a strong heritage of attending any and all church functions. I enjoyed attending Sunday School and listening and reading about Jesus. My first impression of Jesus was that he was this invisible friend who followed me everywhere. At the age of 12, I felt a need to become closer to Jesus, but felt inadequate; thinking that I would first have to attain some type of status before I could approach Christ about a personal relationship with Him. My plan was to continue to be as good as a 12 year old boy could be and one day it would just happen!!!! Months went by and the burden just got heavier. I sought counsel from a senior deacon within the Church. He told me that Christ loved me just the way I was and, while I was not perfect in His sight, I was precious in His sight. I pondered this for a number of weeks. Then, at a revival service, the congregation sang “Just As I Am”. That is when I realized that Christ had shed His blood for me to wash my sins away and had brought me to Himself.

I have had moments in my life where it seems that Christ has turned from me, but, I realize that He was actually ‘turning me’ in the direction of His Will. I have never not trusted in Him, however, I have sometimes found myself neglecting to put my trust in Him. I am thankful that He remains faithful to me when my faith is misplaced.

Neil McLeod (Continued)

Even though I had been active in our church all of my life, it wasn’t until one night in 1984 as I sat and listened to my daughter, Amy, tell of her Teen Missions experience in the jungles of Brazil and give her testimony of what the Lord had done in her life, that I knew I needed to re-examine my priorities. I listened to Amy relate how she and her team had come to trust and rely completely on the Lord to provide for them and guide them as they were completely isolated from the conveniences of the modern world they were accustomed to back home.

This made me realize how I was still trying to be in control of my life rather than trusting and letting God have control. I knew I needed to recommit my life to Jesus Christ and trust Him completely as I sought His will for my life.

I think back to that night and I thank God that He used Amy’s witness to draw me closer to Him. Over the years I have seen God’s grace poured out in many ways. Through participation in small group Bible studies, a Navigators 2:7 Series study for couples and a recommitment to the study of God’s word, I have seen the Lord at work in my life. He has sustained Dale and me during times of personal and family illnesses and the loss of loved ones. Many prayers have been answered by a patient, loving and merciful God. We have both grown in our faith and trust in the Lord and we are still growing. I thank God every day for giving me a deeply committed Christian wife who prays with and for me and encourages me every day as I seek to answer His call to serve Him. He has blessed me much more than a sinner such as I deserves. I humbly ask for your prayers if it is His will that I once again am privileged to serve as an active ruling elder in His church here at LPC.



Neil McLeod-Elder

I grew up in Dillon, SC, where our family attended the First Presbyterian Church. My deeply committed Christian parents were both active in our church and faithfully served the Lord all their lives. I thank God for their Godly influence on my life. I attended church regularly and was active in our youth fellowship group, but I had not fully committed my life to Christ. I was too involved with school activities and other worldly things to focus my attention on Jesus as much as I should have. At that time in my life I was a “Sunday Christian”. I never had any doubt about Christ as my Savior. I knew that Christ had suffered and died on the cross, that He arose from the grave, and that His sacrifice was for the forgiveness of my sins. I just had not committed to trust Him completely with my life, as I still wanted to be in control.

On October 30, 1955, God brought a wonderful Christian girl, Dale Newton, into my life. We were married in 1960 and moved to Columbia after I graduated from Clemson in 1961. Dale’s strong faith had a positive influence on my life. As a young married couple we began to walk closer with the Lord. We saw His love poured out to us in many ways. Great was His faithfulness to us! We were blessed by His provision for us as we were struggling to make ends meet during those early years. We truly found that you cannot out give the Lord. In 1964 God blessed us with our first child, a son, and then again in 1967 He blessed us with our daughter. We tried to set a Godly example for our children, and we encouraged them to be active in our church youth activities. We prayed that as they grew they would love and trust the Lord. They both are now happily married and each have three children of their own they are raising to love the Lord.



Jason Waters-Deacon

I was born in Aiken, SC, but moved to Lexington at an early age. My sister and I were primarily raised by our mother, who provided a Godly example for us, and who made sure we were actively involved in church growing up. When I was seven, I accepted Christ as my savior. However, I did not make him Lord. By the time I reached late high school/early college, I was living only for myself. The summer after my freshman year of college, I felt God’s calling that I needed to make him Lord. It was at that point that I started seeking God’s will for my life.

After college, I accepted a job with the South Carolina Department of Corrections, where I worked for about a year and a half. The Lord then provided an opportunity to work at SCANA, where I’ve been since 2001. In 2003, the Lord clearly led me to my future wife and best friend, Leslie, who grew up attending LPC. We began attending LPC together in 2004, and were married in 2005.

I have grown tremendously since joining LPC, and have had the opportunity to serve in the Children’s ministry, on the Saluda VBS team, as an usher, and on the Elite Suburban Commando Missionary Unit. I am humbled at being nominated to be a deacon, and if elected will strive to serve Christ’s bride in a manner worthy of the calling, by His grace.



Steve Gamble-Elder

I've always known about God, His love, and His Son; but not always known what being a Christian really meant. I was raised in a Baptist family that was at the church every time the doors were unlocked. I was exposed to all of God's teaching and a humble example of a follower of Christ in my father. I always was aware of how much my dad depended on God in everything, but I just didn't open my heart all the way to Him. Going off to college and the Marine Corps didn't help as I enjoyed the worldly side of life. It wasn't until I was working and began seeing this lady, that I was introduced to a daily walk with the Lord. She and I became involved with different Bible Studies that challenged us to open our minds and our hearts to the Lord. It was during these studies and attending a Bible believing church that I began to see what my father was seeing.

There has been a continual growth in my walk with the Lord and thankfully I can never complete my learning. And although, try as I can to walk the perfect step with the Lord, I know that I can't be a perfect Christian. But thankfully I know that He was perfect. And when He was nailed to the cross, it was my past, present, and future sins for which He bore that punishment. And I know that He presents me as a spotless Christian to His Father.

God has rewarded me with a wonderful wife, four great children and their spouses, and four even more wonderful grandchildren. I pray that I can show to them what my father knew so long ago.



Bill Maxim-Elder

I am thankful for this opportunity to speak of my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. My earliest recollection of acknowledging Him was in my childhood home in Maine, crawling up beside my mother and repeating the words she had taught me, "We love Him, because He first loved us." I was about nine when I responded to an evangelist's call to receive Christ, but did not feel assured of faith until several years later when I led a Bible Club for neighborhood children.

The Lord has been good through following years to allow an education in the Scriptures and in music; service in Germany with Greater Europe Mission where I met my wife, Ginny, who was also with GEM; and then spending the last 40 years in South Carolina, where we got in on the beginnings of Lexington Presbyterian Church. The church has graciously given us opportunities to participate, from Pioneer Clubs and Boys' Brigade, to teaching Sunday School and serving as Deacon and Elder. It is my earnest desire that Lexington Presbyterian Church grow as a place where the Love of Jesus Christ is shed abroad in care, encouragement, outreach and mission around the world, and I purpose to work untiringly to that end.