

Meet Your New Officers – Class of 2025

Elders



Christopher Bircher



Jonathan Fiedler



Sandra Ryals



Pranav Singh

Christopher Bircher . . . I am a Pennsylvanian by birth and a Virginian by choice. I am a paralegal and a medical coder by education. I enjoy reading about history, paper cutting, coin and Lego collecting, working with wood, as well as writing poetry. I love my family and serving the church. I also enjoy walking my dog.

Jeff Cutright . . . We have been members of Covenant since 1997. I am a retired railroad manager. I have served as an Elder at least once here and with a previous church session. I help out with the men's group and have been on the FFT.

Jonathan Fiedler . . . has been a member at Covenant since moving back to Roanoke in 1996 with his parents, Bob and Dusty, who formerly served as Co-Pastors. He has been employed as an Occupational Therapist locally for nearly 9 years. Jonathan is married to Christy Fiedler, with a daughter (Grace), step-son (Ethan), and expecting a daughter. Jonathan also served on the diaconate from 2017-2019.

Sandra Whitley Ryals . . . is an active member of Covenant, currently serving on the Communications and Fellowship Teams. She has twice been a deacon, most recently from 2019-2021. Both Sandra and her husband Jim joined Covenant during Jim Riach's tenure as Pastor. They have a son, Jim Ryals, daughter-in-law Holliday Polk, and two grandsons Holt and Tyler, in Bayville, NY.

Sandra is an experienced health care leader in nursing, health policy, & political networking with over 40 years from the bedside to the boardside, which includes teaching, coordinating Children's Specialty Services, Public Health Nursing as Roanoke City Nurse Director. Career highlights include ("At Will") gubernatorial appointments by two former Virginia Governors, now both U.S. Senators, Mark Warner and Tim Kaine. Her first role was Chief Deputy Director for the Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, then Executive Director of the Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation. During the last four years in Richmond Sandra was the Agency Director for the Virginia Department of Health Professions.

Sandra is a Registered Nurse. She earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Virginia and a master's degree in education from Virginia Tech. Additional preparation includes the Virginia Executive Institute (VCU), Health Policy Institute (GMU), and the Sorenson Institute for Political Leadership (UVA).

Sandra & Jim have two adorable Cavalier King Charles Spaniels: Archie and Annabell, rescues from the Cavalier Rescue Foundation. They both enjoy gardening, entertaining, and tailgating.

Pranav Singh . . . lives in Roanoke with his black labrador, Piper, and his dad, Jaswant. He enjoys music, art, and the outdoors. His older brother, Preman, currently lives in the UK, and his younger brother, Promeet, lives in St. Paul with wife, Lori. Pranav works at Optical Cable Corporation, where he is responsible for information services and business operations. He has been a member of Covenant since 2019 and has served as an Elder since 2020.

Meet Your New Officers – Class of 2023 and 2025

Deacons



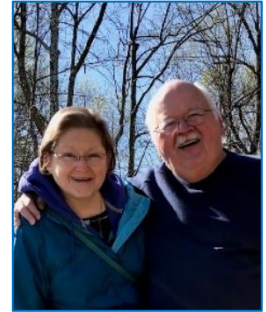
Tomi Nave



Joyce Frahm



Robert (Bob) Merritt



Teri Ponton



Scott Ramsburg



Jinx Weary

Tomi Nave (Class of 2023) . . . became a member of Covenant after graduating from Emory & Henry College and moving to Roanoke in 1980. She has served as a deacon twice. Tomi and her husband Carl have one son, Thomas (Charlotte, N.C.). She worked as a teacher and administrator for 36 years with the Roanoke County and Salem City School Systems, and is now retired. Tomi enjoys traveling, reading, spending time with family and friends, and supporting her Covenant family with her volunteer work.

Joyce Frahm . . . As a Nebraska farm girl, Joyce was raised being involved in Church activities. She has served as Deacon, Elder, and Membership Chair in former congregations in Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Virginia. She transferred her membership to Covenant five years ago from Blacksburg Presbyterian Church. Professionally, Joyce worked as an Administrative Assistant at Cotner School of Religion, NC State Department of Education, two churches, and for a financial planner. She is currently the Treasurer for the Auxiliary at Brandon Oaks. Joyce and her husband, Dick, have two daughters, Lorinda and Kathy, and two grandchildren, Erin and Chapman.

Robert (Bob) Merritt . . . is a retired IT professional. Bob has been active in Covenant working with the Communications Team, singing in the choir, supporting the churches IT infrastructure, and as chair of the Diaconate in 2022.

Teri Ponton . . . and her husband, Floyd, have one daughter, Morgan Stolp (husband, Justin Stolp) and two grandchildren, Mabry (7) and Timothy (4). She has three siblings: Laura Turner, David Pauley, and Brian Pauley. Her sister Laura, and mother, Lillian Jane Pauley, often join us at Covenant for worship. Teri is a retired emergency room nurse. Her hobbies include crafts, amateur radio, and building/solving puzzles. She joined Covenant in May 2022 and sings in the choir.

Scott Ramsburg . . . has been a member of Covenant since 2002 and has been active in the music program as well as various community service opportunities. He is currently the director of Roanoke Valley Television, a civic media production resource serving the City of Roanoke, Roanoke County and the Town of Vinton. Scott performs regularly in several local music groups including the Shoobies and our own 360 Band. He lives in the Hollins area with his wife Laura Jane and son Devon.

Jinx Weary . . . was born in Colorado Springs and lived in Cheyenne, Wyoming for 8 years and 8 years in Littleton, Colorado. At 16, her family moved to Lynchburg, Virginia. She met Paul Weary as a senior in high school and graduated from EC Glass High School in 1968. She attended Virginia Tech and graduated with a BS in Statistics (the only non-engineer in the family). Jinx and Paul married right out of college and have been married 47 years. She worked for General Electric in Roanoke and Waynesboro until becoming a stay-at-home mom with 2 children. They moved several times always landing back in Roanoke (Roanoke, Waynesboro, Roanoke, Pittsburgh, Schenectady, and back to Roanoke in 1989). Jinx and Paul have 2 children; Mark lives outside Boston, MA and Kristin lives with their two grandchildren, Isabelle and Michael, outside Albany, NY. In her spare time, Jinx is active in Girl Scouts and Garden Club.