



PEAR ORCHARD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PCA

750 S. Pear Orchard Rd
Ridgeland, MS 39157

January 8, 2024

Dear Family in Christ,

Second only to the joy and love of my own dear family, the greatest privilege of my life is to have served as a pastor at POPC for nearly thirty years. Twenty-six of those wonderful years were as the senior pastor, and these last four years as Caleb's and your associate pastor. When Jeanie and I and the children moved here in the summer of 1994, I had prayed for and had hoped that the Lord would allow me to finish my ministry in this place amidst you dear servants of Christ. And so He has!

It is time for me to lay down the mantle of pastoral service from our staff and retire from salaried ministry as I turn 67, after 41 years of fulltime Kingdom labor. I have never aspired to be anything other than a faithful minister of God's sacred Word, and careful shepherd of His flock. I have hope in Christ that by His outpourings of rich grace and deep mercies that this is true of our many years together!

I will officially end my tenure on Easter Sunday this coming March 31st. Jeanie and I are not moving away and as this is our home congregation, Caleb and the elders have graciously allowed us, even asked us, to remain at POPC which we will joyfully do. Jeanie will continue in her many active roles of using her gifts and heart amidst the church. I will volunteer as an ordained minister in informal congregational care on a limited basis and continue to team teach our midweek Wednesday Bible study in addition to other service at both POPC and other presbytery churches. You will continue to see us often amidst the life of the church as we strengthen existing friendships and build new ones for the years to come. I will remain active as a minister in good standing with our denomination/presbytery.

Please know how exceedingly thankful I am that you as a congregation received the Word of God through me over these years; humbly followed my leadership under Christ; and cared for us well as you loved us and our family and were patient with us and forgave us along the way! Our gratitude to the Lord for you will carry us into eternity as we celebrate together the majesty of God in the free gift of the Good News of Christ for us by faith alone.

How grateful I am for the Lord's provision of our gifted church staff led by Pastor Caleb, and all of our officers. As we approach our 50th anniversary as a congregation in a few short years, will you pray and labor with me that the next 50 years would see the hand of the Lord work ever greater mercies to the praise of His name!

With joyful thanks and love,

Pastor Carl

Caleb Cangelosi
Senior Pastor

Carl Kalberkamp, Jr.
Associate Pastor

Dean Williams
Associate Pastor

pearorchard.org
601-956-3283



January 8, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28, at 10:00 a.m. As we do each year, we will be presenting to you the 2024 General Budget and Missions Budget, as approved by the Session (those budgets will come in a separate mailout later this month). You will also be voting on whether to call the four men recommended by the Session to serve as officers of POPC (the sample ballot and brief biographies of the men are included with this letter). There are two additional items that you will be voting on this year, and I want to detail those for you in this letter.

1. As you've just read in Carl's letter, he desires to retire from his ministry at POPC at the end of this March. I cannot adequately put into words what an incredible blessing it has been for me to serve with Carl as an associate pastor from March 2014 until March 2020, and then to have him serve with me as an associate pastor since then. Very few pastors could handle the transition in roles with the grace and wisdom that he has demonstrated these last four years, and I above all have been the beneficiary of God's work in his life in this regard. Though we knew his retirement would eventually become a reality, we will all miss having him as a member of our pastoral staff. I am thankful that he will still worship with us and volunteer in congregational care ministry among us on a limited basis, and I pray that he and Jeanie will enjoy the refreshment of retirement from active ministry. Though he will no longer be on our staff, yet your elders desire that you elect him as Pastor Emeritus, an honorary title (not a staff designation) that recognizes both his past history with us and his ongoing presence among us. Thus with deep regret, yet profound gratitude to God and to Carl, we recommend the following:

MOTION 1: To accept the resignation of Carl Kalberkamp as Associate Pastor of Pear Orchard Presbyterian Church with great sorrow and with great joy for his thirty years of ministry among us, and to concur with his request that the Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley dissolve the pastoral relation between him and the church.

MOTION 2: To elect Carl Kalberkamp as Pastor Emeritus of Pear Orchard Presbyterian Church, effective April 1, 2024, pending his being designated as honorably retired by the Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley in February.

2. At our Session retreat last February, the elders considered several facility needs raised by our Master Campus Planning Committee. These included a centralized office space for greater effectiveness, communication, unity/camaraderie, and safety of our staff; a larger foyer at the front of our Sanctuary for gathering and welcoming visitors; wheelchair accessible restrooms in the Sanctuary building; and a greater choir capacity and more efficient worship team space inside the Sanctuary. We also recognized that the last three needs could not be addressed unless we were able to relocate our pastors and other staff who have offices in the Sanctuary.

Soon after our retreat, the Deacons discovered that the building at 419 Northpark Drive (immediately north of our property and west of Sebrell Funeral Home) could possibly be for sale. After conversation with the owners, the purchase price offered to us was \$699,500. Several realities made this building desirable:

- it is contiguous to our property;
- it can house in one place the majority of our staff who need offices;
- the internal walls are non-loadbearing (so renovations would be less costly);
- it provides additional parking and meeting spaces;
- it allows us eventually to move the dumpster and the maintenance shed to a better location (increasing the efficiency of our maintenance department and freeing up space for potential future CCS development by the football field);
- it opens up the spaces where staff currently have their offices;
- and most importantly, it opens the door for us to move forward at some point with our larger vision for a renovated Sanctuary space.

The deacons were in favor of moving forward with the acquisition of this property, recognizing that its purchase would likely need to be financed. At the end of year, however, as you know, we received a large one-time tithe gift. As the Session considered several options from our Diaconate regarding how to allocate this large gift, we determined that it made sense to use a portion of it to purchase 419 Northpark Drive, renovate it, and fund its utilities and upkeep in 2024. We are encouraged by our financial situation and do not foresee that this purchase would have a negative impact on our ministries or other budgetary commitments.

Our *Book of Church Order* states that “In matters of special importance affecting the property of the church, [the deacons] cannot take final action without the approval of the Session and consent of the congregation” (BCO 9-2). So at the congregational meeting on January 28, you will be asked to vote on the following:

MOTION: To approve the purchase of 419 Northpark Drive for a staff office building.

If you approve this motion, our deacons will move forward with negotiating a final purchase price, closing on the property, and lining up renovations. Ideally, we would be able to move into the new office building by this fall. In due time, we would begin to consider the scope and cost of renovations to our Sanctuary. We are not asking you to vote on the Sanctuary renovation at this congregational meeting, but if the purchase of 419 Northpark Drive is approved, our intention would be to come back to you with a proposed recommendation regarding renovation at a later date.

Your officers and staff are excited about the potential of purchasing this new office building, not only for its own sake, but even more for the domino effect it will have to meet other facility needs on our campus. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or to any of our elders or deacons. Please be in prayer for this upcoming congregational meeting!

In the King's Service,



Caleb Cangelosi

BALLOT

ELECTION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

Congregational Meeting, 10:00 a.m. (during the Sunday School hour)

Sunday, January 28, 2024

ELDER

John Neiswinger _____ YES _____ NO

Andy Rowan _____ YES _____ NO

*(Please vote yes **only** if you believe a man is qualified before God to serve.)*

Nominees for Elder:

John Neiswinger: John grew up near Chicago before attending Geneva College in Pennsylvania and graduate school at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Maryland. He and his wife Lauren have four children: Colby (15), Ella (13), Aiden (11), and Ana (9). John is a Biology professor at Belhaven University. Former members of Trinity Presbyterian Church, John and Lauren joined POPC in the spring of 2021 and noted they were welcomed with open arms. John says he wants to serve in the office of Elder because “I love Christ and His Church and want to strengthen its members in their faith and sanctification in a world that is increasingly hostile to its claims. I feel like I have been blessed with the gift of teaching the truths about God in both Scripture and in His creation and believe I have been called to equip the saints not only to defend and answer objections to the Christian faith, but to grow in their awe and admiration of our holy and gracious God.”

Andy Rowan: Andy was born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, but was raised in Springfield, Virginia. Andy and his wife Melissa have five children: Jacob (33, married to Megan), Katie (31, married to Daniel), John (29, married to Kassie), Lizzie (21), and Rebecca (19). They also have one grandchild, June (1). Andy is retired Air Force, currently serving as a clinical psychologist doing contract clinical work in Behavioral Sleep Medicine and research consulting on military suicide prevention for the Henry Jackson Foundation. He also serves as an adjunct instructor at Regent University. Prior to their move to the Jackson area 2.5 years ago, Andy and Melissa had heard about POPC from Jeff Elliot and Tim Dryden when they were members at New Covenant Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach. They were drawn to POPC because of the strong exegetical preaching and God honoring worship, the evening services, support for children in the worship services, the special needs ministry, and the strong support for missions and ministry outside the church. Andy says he wants to serve in the office of Elder because “since becoming a believer at the age of 21, I have sought to serve in the church where I saw the opportunity to minister. In 1997, I felt the desire and call to serve as an officer in the church when I was asked to be an elder in a small PCA mission church to Americans in Germany. I also served as an elder in an OPC church while assigned in central California in 2005. The experiences serving Jesus’ flock in this office further confirmed my sense of calling and desire to serve in this way. I would count it a privilege once again to humbly rely on God and his Word to serve as Jesus’ undershepherd of his local flock called POPC.”

DEACON

Garrett McMullin _____ YES _____ NO

Steve Tackitt _____ YES _____ NO

*(Please vote yes **only** if you believe a man is qualified before God to serve.)*

Nominees for Deacon:

Garrett McMullin: Garrett was born and raised in Jackson, MS. He and his wife Cindy have five children: Trace (9), Hastings (7), Betsy (5), Margaret (4), and John Robert (1). Garrett is a realtor and general contractor with Hometown Property Group. Garrett and Cindy started visiting POPC in January of 2020 and later joined in 2021 due to the pandemic. When visiting POPC, they loved that they were included immediately and felt very much “at home” with the church. They also loved the overall makeup and vision of the church, specifically the amount of young but big families. Garrett wants to serve in the office of Deacon because “I absolutely love POPC and want to serve this church in any way possible. I personally feel the Lord has gifted me with a servant heart, specifically in physical ways. I am a doer and fixer, and I love to serve and help people.”

Steve Tackitt: Steve was born and raised in Pickens, MS. He and his wife Natalie have four children: Adam (33, married to Leah), Erin (29, married to Parker), Katie (26), and Sarah (23). Steve is semi-retired. He currently works part-time at POPC as a maintenance technician. Steve and Natalie have been members of POPC for approximately 31 years. They came to POPC seeking a local PCA church body after starting to have children, desiring to have a church home while raising a family. POPC had and always has had a vibrant youth population of covenant kids and ministry towards them. Steve wants to serve in the office of Deacon because “I feel that I have been called to serve the congregation of POPC in the particular ways that God has gifted me. I feel these gifts can best be utilized by serving on the diaconate.”