

2023 Elections

Voting will take place at the Congregational Budget Meeting held
Sunday, December 11, 2022, 6-7 pm

Concerns about any of the candidates should be directed to Pastor Mike Notary (610-868-5501, mike@aplaceforyou.org) or Byron Roth (bdroth1969@gmail.com, 908-391-4776) by December 4, 2022.



ELDER NOMINEE (reelection for a 2 yr. term)

Swannie Griffin—Understanding my need to repent of my sin I received God's gift of salvation at age 11. I have attended EBFC since 1976 and became a member in 1977. Since that time I have been used by God to serve in several ministries: Christian Service Brigade 25 years, Haycock Camping Ministries 25 years, taught Sunday School for Junior Age boys 15 years, Middle School boys for 10 years, High School for 6 years, worked in Youth Group for 15 years and coordinated a Kinship Group for 15 years. I have had the blessing of going on 3 short-term mission trips. I previously served as a deacon and as an elder. For the past 8 years I have served on the Missions Committee and the last 7 years as Missions Committee Chairman. All have been lessons in personal growth and blessing in seeing God use me and in watching others grow. To be

an Elder is a sobering thought and not to be taken lightly. After graduating from Saucon Valley H.S. I served for 3 years in the U.S. Army and now am semi-retired and driving school bus for Bethlehem Area School District. I have been married to my wife, Deborah, for 43 years and we reside in Bethlehem. I enjoy biking, hiking and bird-watching with my wife.



DEACON NOMINEE (reelection for a 3 yr. term)

George Hardy—I grew up in a Christian home and received Christ at age 9. I have been attending Ebenezer since 1971 and have been a member since 1975. I worked at Pinebrook Bible Conference as a cook one summer, which had a positive spiritual influence on my life. I met my wife, Sarah, at Ebenezer and we've been married 44 years. I graduated with an Associates Degree from the Culinary Institute of America in 1976. I am semi-retired and work part time at Fellowship Community. I hope to fully retire next April which will give me more time to serve the Lord. I have served as a Deacon since 1988, serving on various committees, chairing the Board for several years, and serving now as chairman of the Caregivers committee and co-chairing the Kitchen Committee. Sarah and I have two sons with families: Kevin & Amy, Mark & Suzi and six grandchildren.



ELDER NOMINEE (reelection for a 3 yr. term)

Kevin Hardy—I was richly blessed to be raised by wonderful, God-fearing parents. By God's grace, my heart was opened to the Gospel when I was 7. Understanding the need for forgiveness and repentance, I put my faith in Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I have been attending Ebenezer my entire life and became a member in 1999. Throughout college, the Lord began to give me many opportunities to teach bible studies and serve in various leadership roles within campus ministry. As an elder, I've had the blessing of serving in the area of ministry assimilation, teaching the Saved to Serve class along with other various teaching roles as time permits, while helping to lead a kinship group. It continues to be a great honor and very humbling to serve in these capacities and to serve alongside such Godly men on the elder board. Amy and I have been

married for 17 years and live in Lower Nazareth. I'm so grateful for Amy and her faithfulness in serving full-time within our home so sacrificially. We have three children, Claire, Bennett, and Drew.



DEACON NOMINEE (reelection for a 3 yr. term)

Dan Lichtenwalner— While growing up, my dad was a great spiritual influence in my life. By way of the Holy Spirit, I became aware of my sin and prayed to receive Christ as my Lord and Savior at age 8, during Sunday school at Faith Church in Trexlertown, PA. Through high school, I went wayward. But by God's grace, and my wife, I recommitted my life to Christ at age 20. Since then, and now at age 38, I have been growing in His Word. Jenna and I have been attending EBFC since 2012 and became members in 2016. I currently serve as an Usher, a member of the Security Team, and the chairman of the Church/School Liaison Committee. We have been blessed with two children, Levi (9) and Leah (7). "In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance

that can never perish, spoil or fade. (1 Peter 1:3b-4)."



ELDER NOMINEE (reelection for a 2 yr. term)

Phil Norris—I was privileged to grow up in a Christian home where my parents were actively involved in church and Christian ministries. At age six in Vacation Bible School I responded to God’s call and accepted Jesus as my Savior and Lord. I graduated from Wheaton College with a Bible major and from Dallas Theological Seminary with a Master of Theology degree in Christian Education. For 28 years I taught Bible and was involved in administration at Christian School of York and was involved as an adult Sunday School teacher, elder and delegate at Faith Bible Fellowship Church in York, PA. I then became pastor at Bethany Bible Fellowship Church in Mt. Carmel for ten years and served as Principal at Faith Christian School in Roseto for one year before retiring. Carla and I were married 42 years ago and have been blessed with two daughters Rachel Marks and Angela Eia, two great sons-in-law, and six grandsons. Rachel and her family attend EBFC and Angela and her family are presently in Japan where her husband serves in the US Air Force. We joined Ebenezer in 2015 and I am currently serving as elder, member of the Pastoral Relations Committee, and leading the Senior Fellowship. I have served EBFC as teacher of adult Sunday School classes, teacher at Prayer Meeting and AWANA, and as delegate to BFC Conference.



ELDER NOMINEE (reelection for a 3 yr. term)

Byron Roth—I was blessed to grow up in a Christian home in western Canada and came to know Jesus Christ when I was 12. I have been attending Ebenezer for 27 years and have been an elder for 18 years. I am currently serving as Chairman of the Finance Committee, Chairman of the Search Committee as well as President/Chairman of the Board of Elders (while we are without a senior pastor) and support the Pastor Relations Committee. I am humbled by the opportunity to serve with the other men on the Elder Board and continue to ask for your prayers for myself and the entire board as we strive to be faithful to the task that God has called us to. Along with leading a kinship group, my wife and I continue to be blessed in teaching the pre-k/kindergarten Sunday school class. It is a joy to spend time teaching and nurturing children at Ebenezer. My wife Charity and I live in West Bethlehem.



DEACON NOMINEE (election for a 3 yr. term)

Jeff Ruth—I was blessed to have known Christ throughout my life. My mom was integral in our attending church every week at St. John’s UCC in Allentown. It was when I went away to college on a baseball scholarship to Southern Baptist College, however, that I was able to reflect deeper on my relationship with Christ. It was at that point in my life that I accepted Christ as my personal Lord and Savior and rededicated my life through Baptism. He truly is my Rock and my Salvation. In His name, I have done mission trips to India and Romania. He called me back into teaching and I have been with the Allentown School District for 15 years as a Special Education Teacher at Dieruff High School. My wife Trisha and I have been attending Ebenezer for 5 years and we are part of the Greeters Ministry, Ascetics Team, and I am the point of contact for the Ebenezer Golf Teams. My wife Trisha and I live in Palmer Township, PA and have been married for 7 years.



ELDER NOMINEE (reelection for a 3 yr. term)

Travis Schaney—I grew up in a Christian home and came to know the Lord at a young age. It was when I attended Moody Bible Institute in Chicago that I really began to grow and mature in my knowledge and understanding of the Bible. It was at Moody where I met my wife Jennifer, who was also attending Moody at the time, and we were married in 2000. After graduating from Moody with a Bachelor of Science in Missionary Aviation, Jennifer and I joined Wycliffe Bible Translators. I served in Papua New Guinea as a pilot while Jennifer served in the missionary kids’ school on our mission’s base. While serving in Papua New Guinea we went to Australia for the birth of our first daughter Alyssa who is now in her Sophomore year at Nazareth High School. The Lord redirected our path from overseas missions, and I took a job in central Virginia where our second daughter, Kaitlyn was born. Kaitlyn is in her last year at the Nazareth Intermediate School. We have been attending Ebenezer ever since we moved to PA in 2016. Jennifer is now serving as the Children’s Ministry Director, and I have been over the Kinship ministry, security team, and various positions when needed. I have a passion for discipleship by taking the knowledge of the Word and putting that into practical applications for our lives. “Apply your heart to instruction and your ear to words of knowledge.” Proverbs 23:12 (ESV)



DEACON NOMINEE (reelection for a 3 yr. term)

Gary Walleisa—God’s creation and the “great outdoors” have been a huge part of my life. I grew up in Lansdale, PA in the North Penn School District where I was always involved in sports, concentrating on baseball in High School, college and beyond. Through these activities, I became friends with a Born Again Christian who told me things about God and the Bible that I had never heard or been taught. The seed had been planted and I became very much aware that I was a sinner in need of a Savior. Also through these activities, I met Cindy and we became huge fans of each other and have been married 43 years with 2 children and 2 grandchildren. When our children were grown, Cindy went to Meals on Wheels and I went to Big Brothers looking to serve. I was matched with an 8 year old boy whom I mentored for the next 10 years until he left for college. Looking for other ways to serve, I became involved here at Ebenezer, first joining an usher team and then eventually seeking a Deacon position in which I have been the chairman of Benevolence for the past 4 years. Cindy serves on the committee as well and we also serve together as Greeters at the Welcome Center, and we are still enjoying the “great outdoors.”