

ELDERS



Gayle Bundschu

I was born into a church-going, multi-generational, Southern Baptist family and felt led to make a personal profession of faith at 8 years of age. My immediate family is my husband, Chris, and we have no children, unless you count dogs and cats. I've been an active part of New Hope since its inception and always attended Sunday School class, served in numerous Vacation Bible Schools, volunteer in the church office, served on the building & finance committees as well as on our recent Associate Pastor Search Committee. My husband and I have also been a part of a

New Hope small group for five years and hope to host our own new small group after the first of the year.

2020 has been a difficult and critical year in our lives in many ways, and our church is pressured with all that, plus the need to seek God's will as we discern how the church will function in a new, and maybe different way, while seeking a new senior pastor. I am excited to work with the elders toward that end to the glory of God!



Jerry Elliott

I am one of the many founding members of New Hope and have been involved in various ministries over the years. I have previously served as an Elder, been involved with youth and family activities for a number of years and served with my wife and another New Hope couple as co-chairs of our capital campaign that raised funds to construct the church building on this site. I've been married to Jackie for 29 years and have two grown

daughters, one already married and one getting married in January, 2021. I have witnessed God's faithfulness to New Hope through the years and I look forward to all that is ahead. I believe we have opportunities to grow and strengthen our congregation in the months and years ahead while striving to provide solid Christian education, opportunities for connection and a continued desire to provide worship in multiple formats to meet the needs of a diverse congregation.

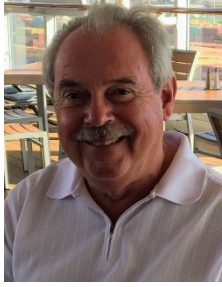


Bill Enslin

I committed my life to Christ in 1967 and have a wonderful extended family. My dear wife, Cindy, and I were married in 2009, after my first wife had died from ovarian cancer in 2006. I have three biological children and when I married Cindy, she blessed me with three wonderful stepsons. Our children have given us wonderful in-laws, 16 grandchildren & 3 great grandchildren.

I have been a member of our church since its beginning, having started to attend Covenant in 1986. I am a co-teacher of the Living Word Sunday school class, I have been a small group leader, deacon and this will be my third time to serve as an elder on session. I serve on the personnel committee of session, I have taught classes on Wednesday evenings and I am on the Counseling Center board of directors. Session and the congregation have recently given me the honor to represent them on the new search committee for a senior pastor.

I love this local church that God has placed here & it has been and it is my privilege to serve Him as He leads me & provides opportunities.



Jim Glatz

I accepted Christ 42 years ago and Christine & I have been married for 52 years. We have two daughters and four grandchildren. Our son passed away in 2017 and as a result, we became involved in the ministry of Grief Share. We retired from the insurance business 5 ½ years ago, moved to Fort Myers and immediately found New Hope. We had been attending an EPC church in Grand Rapids so it was a natural fit.

Since coming to New Hope, we have been Life Group Leaders, lead facilitators for the Grief Share ministry, attended Hope in the Word, and became part of the safety team. New Hope will be going through a period of transition and I am excited about helping Session navigate through this period. It is great to serve the Lord.



Duane Higgins

As a covenant child my heavenly Father drew me into His all redeeming love. By His grace through faith, I received Jesus Christ as my Lord & Savior. Since then my life has been journey of highs & lows, joys & sorrows, as God worked in me to conform me to the image of His Son.

I am married to the wife of my youth, Cynthia. God has blessed me with four children—three who are married—and one grandson.

My wife & I have been members of NHP for 12 years. I have previously served on New Hope’s session. Currently, I have the privilege of teaching two adult Sunday School classes. I love Christ’s church. I am encouraged when Scripture teaches that it is a fine work to aspire to the office of elder, 1 Tim. 3:1. It is an honor and a great responsibility to be a part of shepherding the people of God.



Carolyn Melton

I asked Jesus to be my Lord & Savior 66 years ago and have spent the last 50 years living in Ft. Myers. Through the years, I have served as an elder, deacon, Sunday School teacher and choir member. I am a charter member of New Hope and been active in prayer ministry, Grief Share & women’s ministry in recent years.

I am the mother to 3 children, 9 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. My husband passed away in 2016.

I am looking forward to serving our growing congregation as we proclaim Jesus and the gospel in community at New Hope and throughout the county.



David Milligan

I grew up in a devout Presbyterian family and came back into a fresh relationship with Christ as an adult. The Lord brought David and Sandra Raak together and they were married in 1994. Together they raised David’s son, Matthew.

I am a founding member of New Hope, a member of the property search committee, participated in mission trips to the Dominican Republic and with the mission organization, Ends of the Earth Cycling. Currently, David serves on the Property Council and Building Committee.

Putting ups and downs of life in perspective, I truly believe that we could recognize and be more responsive to many miracles, blessings and small opportunities to participate with God’s work in and through our daily lives. God calls us to not only be light to the world, but to take on the mantle of a servant. I am humbled, yet excited, to be a servant in God’s plan for New Hope.



Kathy Orr

Previously being an Elder at the inception of New Hope, then again as we moved into our current building, God showed us how he could do immeasurably more than we ever dreamed! Through the years I have been involved in Hospitality, Women in Ministry, Bible Studies, Sunday school, and served on various councils such as Personnel, Finance, Nomination and special events.

One of my greatest loves was serving in Stephen Ministry. After selling my business, I volunteered as Administrator for New Hope, then taking an actual staff position for about 1 ½ years. I left that position, sadly, due to my husband's terminal illness. Since Jon's death in February of 2020, I have been in prayer that God would give me direction for getting back to life. Within a matter of days, I got the call once again to serve, which I believe is God's will for me at this time. I am looking forward to tackling the challenges we face, trusting always in God!

TRUSTEE



Dick Grosse

I have been married to the love of my life, KC, for 56 years and we have 2 daughters, their husbands and 2 grandsons as part of our extended family. Retiring in 2000 as a General Motors manufacturing executive, we bought a home in Fort Myers have been here full time for 15 years. Our retirement life consists of golfing, boating, bridge, travel and church.

We became charter members of New Hope and I was an elder when we officially joined the EPC. I was involved in the new campus capital campaign and the celebration of the opening of the new building. I've been an active part of a men's Bible study, an usher and served as a trustee over the last 3 years.

I feel my understanding of what Jesus Christ is telling me has been enhanced by the strong biblical teachings of our New Hope pastors. I consider the New Hope members to be family and have missed the social interaction during this pandemic.

I am excited about New Hope and its future and its return to some normalcy and look forward to what else God has planned for us.

DEACONS



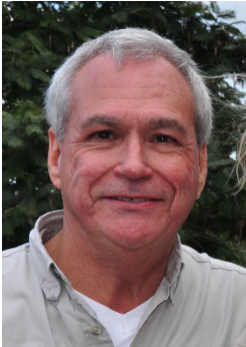
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I was raised as a Catholic but as a young adult in my 20's, I always knew something was missing and I began to study the Bible. The peace and love that I have found through the Holy Trinity and in relationship with Christ, are beyond comprehension - even in the worst of times. My story will always be ongoing as you can never stop learning and growing in our Lord.

I am the mother of two beautiful daughters and one granddaughter. They are my joy and greatest accomplishments in my life. I also have Cooper, my beloved Chihuahua.

I officially joined New Hope in December, 2018 but started attending in October. I knew the minute I walked in the door I had found my church family as I had been searching for a church when I moved back to Florida. I immediately started serving as a greeter and usher and continue to do so.

I am excited to become a Deacon because it is another opportunity to serve God by helping others, which is our purpose for living on this earth



Chris Bundschu

My family came to Ft. Myers in 1957, Gayle and I met at the U of FL in Gainesville in 1970 and after graduation returned to Ft. Myers and married. I was raised in the Episcopal Church. In college I wandered into studying philosophy and different types of new age religions but returned to Christianity after college and joined New Hope in 2015.

I am currently a Deacon, a Stephen Minister, a Colonial School Mentor, a member of the Property Council and a member of the Safety Team. I enjoy and look forward to gathering, working, serving and worshiping with the loving and caring members of the New Hope family.



Kay Diller

I am grateful to have been raised in a believing family who had a deep love for Jesus and his church. I became a Christian at a young age and this love for Jesus and a deeper understanding of His love for me grew as I matured. My husband, Jerold, and I will celebrate our 30th anniversary next year and are parents to 2 daughters and our son was recently married.

I have been attending New Hope for 7 years. I have been active in Sunday School classes and in our family life group since attending.

I love New Hope and I know that the Holy Spirit is at work at this church. I believe that New Hope strives to care for those within the church as well as for those in the community spiritually and physically. It excites me to be a part of a church that is true to God's word and who wants to share the Good News of Jesus locally and abroad.



Cheri Karkalits

I accepted Christ as my Lord 50 years ago and have been a member of New Hope since 2009. I have one daughter and granddaughter and have been married to my husband, Karkey for 16 years. I have served as a Mentor Mom in MOPS, a circle leader, attended The Well, VBS & children's Sunday school volunteer and am currently one of the leaders of the prayer partner ministry.

I am honored and excited for the opportunity to get to know more of our church family members and provide whatever assistance is needed. This chance to serve is truly an answer to prayer and shows me once again that our God is an awesome God!



Sue Morton

I began my relationship with Christ at the age of 8. My husband, Wayne, and I were high school classmates and married in 2000 after my first husband had passed away. I have three adult children and Wayne and I are grandparents to their six children.

After much prayer and searching, we found New Hope in 2016, two years after moving to Florida from Minnesota. Wrapped in Love knitting ministry, volunteering at CityGate, Deborah Circle, The Well, and Hope in the Word classes have been areas that afforded me the opportunity to meet people and function in this body of believers. One of my first observations was the friendliness of New Hope. I believe my spiritual gifts are Helps and Hospitality and am excited to use them to serve the New Hope family.



Kathy Orkowski

I think I was always seeking to know more of God all my life, but in 1969 I gave my heart to Christ. My cousin gave me the gospel and told me I had to be "born again". I told God I wanted to do His Will and that began my journey to where I am today.

I am a widow with 3 daughters, 4 grand-children and 4 great-granddaughters. My late husband and I started attending Covenant in 2001. I have attended years of the Well, sing in the choir, assisted teaching in the children's ministry and worked at Vacation Bible School. I have been a Deacon from 2012 -2015 and 2017-2020. I'm excited to be helping fellow Christians when they are grieving and need encouragement when struggling with illness.



Richard Riley

My wife Norma and I moved to Ft. Myers in 2017 from Kansas and have been attending New Hope ever since. I have been married 44 years and have 3 children, 9 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

I enjoy playing guitar in the contemporary service praise band and serving on the safety team. I look forward to serving along with the other deacons and glorifying God as part of the ministry at New Hope.



Jack Walmsley

I began my relationship with Christ as a child and was married to my lovely wife Sandra for 30 years before she died in September of 2020. We joined New Hope in 2019, I am a member of the choir and served as a Colonial Elementary mentor.

Each day I look for opportunities to help people or make a person's life more memorable and happy. I believe that joining the deacon team will give me many such opportunities and ways to help more people. I'm looking forward to beginning this new adventure.