



**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**  
LAKELAND, FLORIDA

**KIMBERLEE BOWERS** was born and raised in Weymouth, MA. In 1998 God brought Kim and her husband, David, to FPC, which is where she became a Christian. Kim is currently serving in the Elder Class of 2021. She has served on the Finance Committee, Children's Ed Committee, Elder Nominating Committee, Youth Pastor Search Committee, and others. She's been involved in Sunday School, VBS, Kids Club, etc., and served in Fine Arts. Kim started the adult Sunday school called Parents of Young Children. She disciples teens, leads youth and adult small groups, and the Third Grade Bible program. She has volunteered in her children's schools, as a Girl Scout leader, and for Relay for Life. Kim and her husband have three wonderful children.

**SANDRA ELLINGTON**, a native Floridian, has been a member of FPC since 1978. Sandra recently served in the Elder Class of 2020. She has served on Session for two terms along with serving as Stewardship Chair, Congregational Care Chair, 125th Anniversary Chair, and on the Building Committee, VBS Committee, and Vine Development Committee. She was also employed by FPC for eight years as Assistant to Jerre Wilson and as Director of Building Operations. Sandra is currently serving on the Fine Arts Council as Chair of the Hospitality Committee for the Fine Arts Series. She has been married to Dr. John Ellington for 46 years. They have two grown children and four grandchildren.

**SUSAN HOLMES** was born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama, where she went to college and met her husband Louie. After getting married, they returned to Louie's hometown of Lakeland, and she became a member of FPC in 1992. Susan has been a part of the FPC choir for many years and has supported the children's ministries by helping with Bible school. Susan and Louie have two wonderful children, Mixon and Victoria.

**RICHIE JOHNSON** has attended FPC for more than 25 years and was previously on staff as Assistant Director of Student Life Ministries. He was an Elder in the Class of 2007 and served on the Elder Nominating Committee. Richie is currently serving in the Elder Class of 2021. He is employed by Southern Homes of Polk County as a purchasing manager. Richie and his wife, Kristin, have three children and they love spending time together outdoors.

**DONALD (WASH) RESPESS, JR.** has been a member of FPC since 2003 and was a member of the Elder Class of 2016, Chair of the Evangelism Committee, and member of the 2016 Visioning Committee. He is a current member of the Evangelism Committee and serves as an usher. He has been involved with numerous community programs including Rotary International, Boys and Girls Club of Lakeland and Mulberry, Lakeland City Baseball, and was a member of Leadership Lakeland Class 24. Wash and Lauren have been married for 20 years and are blessed with their son, Cade.

**ABBY RODDA** has been a member of FPC since 2003. Abby began serving in January in Elder Class 2023. Outside of FPC, Abby is the Central Florida Area Advisor for Bible Study Fellowship International. She and her husband, Jason, have four children, keeping them active in children's, youth, and adult ministries at the church.

**DANNY RODRIGUEZ** was born in the Bronx of New York City and moved to Florida in 1990. Danny is currently serving in the Elder Class of 2022. He became a member of FPC in 2001 and has served on the Evangelism and Finance committees. In 2011, he took on organizing the inaugural Journey to Bethlehem, which he joyfully oversaw for six years. Danny served as an elder from 2014 through 2016. He is married to Laura and together they have two daughters, Madelyn Grace and Penelope Anne. The family recently welcomed their son, William Elijah.