

Personnel Committee Report
Rev. Connie Button, Chair
April 25, 2023

We give thanks to God for the dedication, enthusiasm, and faithful service of all our staff in the first quarter of 2023 to the Presbytery, which serves 94 congregations in 23 counties.

Your Personnel Committee has been hard at work with the help of Presbytery Staff to fill three Presbytery Associate positions, Guatemala Partnership Coordinator, and to secure a new position of Director of Communications. (Attachment FF-1). There will be a time of orientation for our new staff members on April 26, 2023. They will begin their time of service to the Presbytery by May 1, 2023.

We have also completed and received approval from the General Council for the review and update of the PWNC Personnel Manual which had not been updated since 2006. Each new Staff member receives a copy, and present Staff will receive one as well.

Submitted by Connie Button, Chair, PWNC Personnel Committee



FF Attachment 1

NEW PWNC

STAFF MEMBERS



We are blessed to have new Presbytery staff members! Each of these persons have impressive gifts and skills, and a commitment to work for the Presbytery. And most importantly, to work with you! The associates will be working in specific geographical regions of the Presbytery with the main purpose of building relationships with pastors and congregations, and providing training opportunities (mission studies, PNCs, etc.).

In addition, you will have the opportunity to meet everyone at our Presbytery meeting in Montreat on April 25th. Please make sure you introduce yourself to them!



Tom Phillips

Presbytery Associate



Schaap Freeman

Presbytery Associate



George & Beverly Thompson

Presbytery Co-Associates



Sarah Robinson

Guatemala Partnership Coordinator

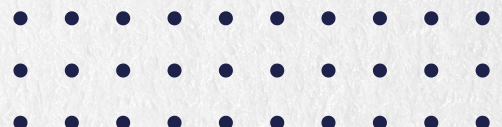


John Pea

Director of Communications



www.presbyterywnc.org





JOHN THOMAS (TOM) PHILLIPS, PRESBYTERY ASSOCIATE FOR CLUSTERS A & C

I was born and grew up and received my primary education in education Mills River, NC where my family was very active in the Mills River Presbyterian Church. We were very much a rural family and raised much of our own food with our own cow for milk (and yes, I milked her from age 9) and raised pigs, chickens and a huge garden. It was an idyllic childhood which I did not appreciate until I was an adult.

I received my first call to ministry as a young teen and quickly dismissed such an absurd idea – don't make God laugh unless you are prepared for the consequences! My second call was as a senior in high school and could NOT be ignored and was received into the former Asheville Presbytery as a Candidate for Ministry at age 18. I attended Brevard College for two years and graduating from Gardner Webb College in 1974. My wife of 49 years (Karen) and I were married in 1974 and went off to Columbia Theological Seminary together, in the fall of 1974. I graduated with my MDiv 1977.

I have been blessed to have served in four churches over the course of my ministry and was further blessed to know and work with talented, giving and forgiving women and men over 41 years of ministry.

We retired in the fall of 2018 and moved back to Mills River and to be near family. After following me for a lifetime in 4 different churches we decided that Karen would choose our retirement church. So I currently attend Etowah Presbyterian Church where Karen is an member and a newly elected, first time Elder.

We have two married daughters, the oldest with her husband and our only granddaughter Isla, lives in Ontario Canada. Our second daughter lives with her husband in nearby Pisgah Forest with a grand dog. We are enjoying retirement and I enjoy traveling, walking/hiking and working out of doors.

I look forward to working with churches in the Presbytery in my assigned area as needed/wanted and hope over the year to visit most of them at least once.

SCHAAP FREEMAN, PRESBYTERY ASSOCIATE FOR MADISON, BUNCOMBE, MCDOWELL, BURKE & CALDWELL COUNTIES

Rev. Schaap Freeman earned a B.A. in Economics at Davidson College and worked in banking in Charlotte, NC prior to attending Columbia Theological Seminary.

She has served congregations and ministries in Charleston Atlantic Presbytery, Charlotte Presbytery, Providence Presbytery, the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, Holston Presbytery, Abingdon Presbytery, and the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. Schaap has also served the church in retreat settings as a keynote speaker, conference chaplain, workshop leader, and worship leader. Rev. Freeman lives in Black Mountain, NC where she enjoys trail running and hiking. (Pronouns: She/Her/Hers)

GEORGE & BEVERLY THOMPSON, PRESBYTERY CO-ASSOCIATES FOR CATAWBA, LINCOLN & GASTON COUNTIES

The Rev. Dr. George B. Thompson, Jr. George has served in a pastoral role with several congregations over the years. For 14 years, Thompson was Professor of Leadership and Ministry Practice at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta. His Ph.D. dissertation explores the dynamics of congregational decline and renewal. Among his several books are *How to Get Along with Your Church*, *How to Get Along with Your Pastor*, *Church on the Edge of Somewhere*, and—with Beverly Thompson—*Grace for the Journey: Practices and Possibilities for In-Between Times*. George's latest book was written for general audiences, *Welcome to the One Great Story! Tracing the Biblical Narrative from Genesis to Revelation*. With Beverly, he continues to provide coaching and training to pastors and churches.

The Rev. Dr. Beverly A. Thompson Beverly is a third-career pastor with experience in gerontology and hospice chaplaincy. She has served several congregations and is a certified spiritual director, earning a D.Min. degree in Spirituality. She and George served as the Missional Transformation Coaches in the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina for seven years. Beverly's writings include *A Spiritual Companion to 'How to Get Along with Your Church'*; she is co-author with George of *Grace for the Journey and Ready to Lead: Harnessing the Energy in You and Around You*. Beverly provides Sacred Circles and grief share groups via Zoom and in person. They live in Black Mountain NC.

SARAH ROBINSON, GUATEMALA PARTNERSHIP COORDINATOR

Sarah Robinson Bryan is originally from Columbia, SC but spent 10 years in Asheville, NC before moving to Lake Atitlan, Guatemala with her family in 2019. Sarah's love for Guatemala started in 2006 when she served for a year as a Young Adult Volunteer with the PC(USA). She lived with a host family in Coatepeque and served with the Presbyterian Women's groups in the Presbytery of Sur Occidente. With her husband and 2 young boys, she travels regularly from Guatemala to NC and is looking forward to supporting the Guatemalan Partnership in both places.

JOHN PEA, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

John Pea takes on the new position of temporary director of communications for the Presbytery. Pea serves as commissioned pastor for Robinson Memorial Presbyterian Church in Gastonia, a role held since graduating from the Church Leadership School in 2015. He served on the Committee of Ministry for nine years including three as moderator and two as vice moderator. He currently serves on the Committee on Preparation for Ministry and was a commissioner to the 222nd General Assembly. He has been both a broadcast and print journalist since 1980 including leading newsrooms at three newspapers, including 10 years as editor of The Gaston Gazette.

