



Dillard Leverkuhn

Family: Nina and I will celebrate 31 years of marriage on December 4, 2013. Our son, Andrew, will be 24 this month. Our daughter, Jill, is 20.

Background and training: A CPA for 29 years currently in tax and investment management. Prior work in bank accounting and construction accounting. Graduate of Houston Baptist University in 1982.

My life prior to accepting Christ as Savior: Grew up on a farm in north Waller County. Dad was a farmer, rural mail carrier, and a deacon in a small country church. Mom was always at home for me and my younger brother and sister. It was a home with Christian values and hard work.

How I came to accept Christ as Savior: Accepted Jesus as my Savior at age 13. I was an extremely shy kid that was praying hard for Christ to come into my life. With my eyes closed one Sunday morning during the invitation I felt a tap on my shoulder. The pastor had walked directly to me and asked me if I wanted to accept Jesus. Tears of joy ensued.

My life since having accepted Christ as Savior: He is more merciful and gracious than I deserve. Sometimes I don't understand how He can be so patient with me. He is my compass and my loving Father.

How long a member: A member for approximately 20 years.

How long a Baptist: A Baptist for approximately 40 years from Shiloh Baptist in Waller County to College Park Baptist and Westbury Baptist in Houston to FBC Bryan.

My heart's desire for this church is: To truly be the beacon of God's love for our community.

My prayer request for service on the Senior Pastor Search Committee is: That we would fully feel the Lord's guidance and that we are patient for the Lord's perfect timing.



Doy Shipman

Family: My husband Nolan and I will celebrate 30 years together on December 1. We share our 9 children, and 10 grandchildren. We love being home together, working together, and doing ministry together. We cherish our friends and family. My mother, Alice Gene Butler, has lived in our home for seven years. We have a special love in our hearts for S.O.S. Ministries and the Salvation Army in addition to FBC Bryan.

Background and training: We both have come from strong and loving Christian families, and Nolan is the child of missionaries. I am a graduate of Rice University with a major in foreign languages. I have studied the Scriptures in numerous formal studies and have attended numerous church and evangelical conferences with emphases in Biblical studies. I have served in many different roles in the service of the church.

My life prior to accepting Christ as Savior: I enjoyed the loving example of Christian parents and grandparents and have had a model of leadership from my family my entire life in First Baptist Church Bryan.

How I came to accept Christ as Savior: I walked down the aisle of FBC Bryan as a young child of six, knowing who Jesus was and that I needed Him to gain eternal life. In college my faith was challenged and in my early twenties I decided to make a profession of faith as an adult and to be baptized again in another Baptist Church. Since that time, I have never doubted that I belonged to Christ and I publicly acknowledged Him to be my Lord and Savior.

My life since having accepted Christ as Savior: I am always aware of His presence. I want to listen to His guidance. I have a strong desire to honor Him with my life and for my choices to count for eternity.

How long a member: I began in the Cradle Roll at First Baptist. With the exception of membership at an independent Bible Church for a time, I have always enjoyed membership at a Baptist Church in Texas.

How long a Baptist: Lifelong Baptist.

My heart's desire for this church is: That we, as one body, live out our combined giftedness for God's glory and that in doing so, we draw all men to the foot of the Cross. That is where my life was changed, and I want to share that reality with all who will listen. I long to see First Baptist Bryan as a warm and welcoming invitation to the Lord Jesus in our community and the world beyond.

My prayer request for service on the Senior Pastor Search Committee is: That each of us will be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading. I pray, that as a group, we will allow God to work among us. I pray for wisdom, discernment and God's affirming peace when we have been led to the man that the Father has chosen to lead our church.



Gay Craig

Family: My husband Ronnie and I have been married for 24 years and have been blessed with two daughters – Emily, age 20 and Kinsey, age 17.

Background and training: Graduated from Texas A&M with a BBA in Accounting in 1983, certified as CPA in 1985, and have worked for over 30 years in public accounting specializing in audit.

My life prior to accepting Christ as Savior: I was raised in a loving Christian church with parents and older twin brothers who taught me Christian values.

How I came to accept Christ as Savior: I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior at the age of 8.

My life since having accepted Christ as Savior: My Christian walk has been a journey where I have experience God's grace and mercy. I have been blessed with the opportunity to be involved in churches and ministries that reinforce that I am a child of His, deepened my understanding of His Word and challenged me to live my faith.

How long a member: I was born and raised at FBC Bryan, left B/CS after college for about 11 years while working in Midland and Dallas and returned in 1994 – aggregate of 33 years as member of FBC Bryan.

How long a Baptist: Always

My heart's desire for this church: It is my prayer that this body of believers leads people to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, grows those believers through teaching and training and is a light to our community and world through missions and ministry.

My prayer request for service on Senior Pastor Search Committee: Please pray for perseverance, discernment of God's will and direction, unity and understanding of needs of our church body.



Harold Chilton

Family: My wife Wanda and I have been married for 47 years and have three sons and four grandchildren. We have twins, one of whom lives in the Dallas area, and the other twin is career Navy now stationed in Okinawa. Our youngest son, married his wife Sarah and has four children is in the process of planting Declaration Church in Bryan College Station area.

Background and Training: I graduated from Texas A&M University in 1966 and again in 1976 and have been in the corporate world with various organizations spending the last sixteen years with and retiring from Ace Hardware Corporation as a Business Consultant three years ago.

How I came to know the Lord: Gave my life to the Lord at age twelve in a brush arbor revival but really came to know and acknowledge the Lord more fully at about age forty.

My life since trying to serve the Lord more: Deacon and Head Usher at local church for twenty-five years and joined First Baptist Church Bryan about four years ago. Served on various committees and now serve as Chairman of the Adult 55 Plus Council, the Transition Team, One Church-One Body Committee and as a Deacon.

How long a member: About four years

How long a Baptist: Sixty years

My heart's desire for this church: To become a unified church that is spreading the gospel and serving people



Harry Hogan

Family: My wife, Georgia, and I are approaching our 34th wedding anniversary this November. We have 2 grown children, Aaron and Carol. Both are married. Aaron and his wife, Emily, live in College Station, and have two sons (Graham, 2 years and James, 2 weeks old). Carol and her husband, Ryan, live in Texarkana (TX).

Background and training: Georgia and I were members of FBC Bryan during my graduate school years at Texas A&M (1981-84), and we joined again as soon as we moved back in 1986 when I joined the faculty at Texas A&M (Mechanical Engineering). I have taught 1st and 2nd grade Sunday School pretty much ever since then, which has included not only the great blessings of working with the youngsters but also the long-standing ministry training of Division Director Georgia Hogan. Serve as a Deacon and most recently on the Transition Team. Enjoyed lots of volunteering in youth activities when our children were active in the youth program.

My life prior to accepting Christ as Savior: Did not attend church regularly growing up, though nominally Methodist and sporadically participating. Lived selfishly and in rebellion to God but generally fairly well behaved and not a big trouble-maker. Happily adrift.

How I came to accept Christ as Savior: First really heard the gospel message, or took it to heart, at age 15, and accepted Jesus as personal Savior. Ironically, this was from a Catholic priest through participation in Charismatic Renewal prayer meetings in south Louisiana.

My life since having accepted Christ as Savior: He gives true, eternal purpose to my life and has blessed me in innumerable ways and measures. He has proven faithful even when I am not. His love and grace continue to humble me and mold me.

How long a member: 30 years total.

How long a Baptist: Been a Baptist for 34 years.

My heart's desire for this church is: Deeper levels of love for one another, unity of purpose and passion, and willingness to repent, obey, and reconcile individually and corporately. All for God's glory and for maximum effectiveness as a body in reaching out to minister and share the gospel with hurting (and happily adrift) people. Openness to, and excitement for, all God has in store for our future.

My prayer request for service on the Senior Pastor Search Committee is: Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and ever yielding to His will, direction, and guidance. Discernment and wisdom. Love and unity among committee members and throughout the entire congregation during this time. Knowing He is in control and in charge no matter what challenges may arise.



Jerry Ransom

Family: My wife, Glenda, and I have been married 53 years. We have two grown children, two married granddaughters and two great grandchildren on the way. Our family is the center of our lives.

Background and training: 30 years Government service – U.S. Military, U.S.

Government/Panama Canal Company. While living in Panama, my family and I attended a Baptist Church wherever we resided, at one point helping to establish a new church plant. I have been an ordained Deacon for 39 years. Glenda and I had the opportunity to serve alongside many IMB Missionaries on the field. After retirement in December, 1988, my family and I returned to the US and established residence in College Station. Since retirement I have served in various volunteer positions including serving Creath Brazos Baptist Association as Mission Project Coordinator for five years and continue my service with them as a Trustee. I currently hold the position of President of the Board of Directors of a Public Utility in the area, a position I have held for ten years.

How I came to accept Christ as Savior: I grew up in a Christian home, the son of a Baptist Preacher, attending Sunday School and learning about how Jesus Christ died to pay the penalty for my sins. At the age of nine, after talking with my parents and realizing that I needed to invite Christ into my life, I accepted Him as my personal Lord and Savior.

My life since having accepted Christ as Savior: He has been the rock I could hold on to knowing that no matter what life brings here on earth, it is only temporary, and I will spend eternity in His presence. Great is His faithfulness.

How long a member: I will have been a member of FBC Bryan 20 years in November.

How long a Baptist: Been a Baptist for 63 years.

My heart's desire for this church is: That we will be known as a loving family where our children are taught God's love and that the community will be drawn to Christ by the gospel we teach and the example we set.



Jim Moore

Family: My wife, Nancy, and I have been married for 45 years. We have two adult sons and five grandchildren. Our son, Derek and his wife Holly, and their two daughters, Grace and Emily, are all members of First Baptist Bryan. Our son, Darren and his wife Terri, with their three children, Jacob, Stella and Alex, live in Pantego, Texas. We enjoy sharing time together with our family and friends, and our time spent traveling.

Background and training: Graduate of Texas Tech University with a degree in finance; worked twenty- two years in the financial services industry and have owned and operated my own management consulting business for the past sixteen years.

My life prior to accepting Christ as Savior: I was raised in a small farming community in West Texas by Christian parents and a Christian grandfather. Two of the most important things that I learned as a boy growing up in that environment were how to work hard and how to worship God with all my heart. I was fortunate enough to hear the Word of God preached and taught in church and discussed and debated in my home.

How I came to accept Christ as Savior: When I was ten years old, my grandfather was injured in a very serious accident. He remained in the hospital in a coma for almost a year before he passed away. Week after week praying by his bedside with my parents, I came to a full comprehension of my own helplessness and the helplessness of all those around me. The truth of my need for a Savior became crushingly real. I prayed during a visit to my grandfather's hospital room for Jesus to come into my life, to bring me the peace that I desperately needed. I made my public profession of faith before my local congregation and declared my decision to follow Jesus as His disciple through believer's baptism.

My life since having accepted Christ as Savior: I asked Jesus into my life over fifty-four years ago and during those intervening years I have at various times wandered through valleys filled with darkness and climbed mountain peaks filled with sunlight, but I have never felt alone or helpless again. The Holy Spirit has always been there to comfort me, to strengthen me, to guide me into truth and to bring me peace.

How long a member: I have been member of First Baptist Bryan for eight years; an ABF teacher for the last six years; a deacon for the last three years.

How long a Baptist: I have been a Baptist for eight years.

My heart's desire for this church is: For First Baptist Bryan to follow Jesus Christ and to live out the "Great Commandment" by seeking to make disciples of all nations. My prayer is that we will humble ourselves and allow the Holy Spirit to shine through our lives as a beacon of light to draw this community and the world to our Lord Jesus Christ.

My prayer request for service on the Senior Pastor Search Committee is: That we place our faith in God knowing that He is trustworthy and mighty and that if we will humble ourselves before Him, He will use us to glorify Himself.



Kim Dooley

Family: My husband, Larry, is a deacon who teaches in the Homebuilders Adult Bible Fellowship and works in the TV ministry. We have been married for 28 years. We have two daughters. Britni is 25 and getting married in December to a 4th year Vet Student at TAMU whom she has been dating for 6 years. Brooke is 21 and graduating from the University of North Texas in December with a double degree in International Studies and French. My mother, Ruth Walters, is also a member of FBC, Bryan.

Background and training: I am currently the Associate Dean for Academic Operations for the College of Agriculture and Life Science and Professor in the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications. I received my PhD in 1995, MEd in 1987, and BS in 1984 from Texas A&M University and have worked at A&M for over 20 years.

My life prior to accepting Christ as Savior: I was raised in a loving, Christian home in Orange, Texas.

How I came to accept Christ as Savior: I was saved at the age of 8 when Angel Martinez preached at a revival at my home church. I was raised in the church and active in my youth group, including being a member of an auditioned singing group called *The Witnesses*, who toured and recorded Christian albums when I was in high school.

My life since having accepted Christ as Savior: I am blessed by my Christian friends, family, and co-workers. I have lived in this community since 1980 and have tried to use the talents and abilities the Lord has given me to serve him. I am a sinner who is not perfect, but I believe that God put me here for a reason.

How long a member: Larry was a member when we married. We were also active at FBC, College Station for 8 years.

How long a Baptist: All my life. I won't say because it will divulge my age!

My heart's desire for this church is: Unity. Larry and I used to teach the high school seniors in the youth area and I sang in the Praise team in the contemporary service. I know that generational differences impact our worldview, but I believe that we serve the same Savior and the rest is just a style preference.

My prayer request for service on the Senior Pastor Search Committee is: God knows and is preparing the leader that we need. Help the committee to have the vision for the future of FBC, Bryan.



Michelle Sanderson

Family: My husband Robert and I will celebrate 33 years of marriage on October 11, 2013. We have two children and 6 grandchildren. We enjoy camping, kayaking with family and friends, and just sitting in the middle of a pasture doing nothing.

Background and training: Lead Griefshare Fall 2009 – Fall 2012. Coordinator for Share the Gift. Mission trips to Zimbabwe in March and August 2010. Preschool worker. Born and raised in Bryan. We have lived in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Louisiana and Laredo. My work background has been primarily management in banking and local businesses. Worked at SOS Ministries, now a volunteer.

My life prior to accepting Christ as Savior: Godly parents kept God at the center of our family. Youngest of 5 children.

How I came to accept Christ as Savior: I accepted Christ as my Savior at the age of 27 after hearing a sermon on Psalm 37:4. We joined FBC Bryan May 2009. It was at that time I knew I had found my church family and was baptized January 2010.

My life since having accepted Christ as Savior: God's presence in my life is a constant reminder of the love He has for His children.

How long a member: 4 ½ years

How long a Baptist: 4 ½ years

My heart's desire for this church is: My life verse, 'Delight in the Lord and He will give you your heart's desire'. My desire is to spread the gospel with the love of Jesus Christ. My heart's desire for FBC Bryan is for each member to find one person and walk beside them, disciple them, learn from them and then send them out to do the same.

My Prayer request for service on the Senior Pastor Search Committee is: I pray we will keep Christ as our focus, and that we will set aside our will, our needs and seek only the will of God.



Paula Downie

Family: I have been married for nearly 17 years to my high school sweetheart and greatest supporter, Michael Downie. We are blessed to have three beautiful girls, Emily who is 11 years old, Megan who is 9 and Katie who is 7.

Background and training: I have been involved in church leadership in a number of ways. As a college student, I served as the university worship leader. I initiated and coordinated the current MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) group. I have also served as a leader in the areas of adult bible fellowship and vacation bible school.

I am a teacher. I have experience teaching at the college and high school level. I have a Bachelor's degree in Biology and a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Texas A&M University. I currently teach science at Navasota High School.

My life prior to accepting Christ as Savior: I was unchurched. I would describe myself as a seeker, especially in my early teen years.

How I came to accept Christ as Savior: A friend invited me to attend church at First Baptist Church Mansfield, Texas. I never stopped going. At the age of 17, my youth pastor helped me pray and surrender my life to the Lord.

My life since having accepted Christ as Savior: I am always growing. God continually places me in new situations that stretch and mold me into the person He wants me to be.

How long a member: I have attended FBC Bryan for 19 years. I first came as a college student and joined by watch care. Shortly after graduation I became a member by moving my letter from FBC Mansfield.

How long a Baptist: 20 years.

My heart's desire for this church is: One definition of the Glory of God is, "the beauty of His spirit." My desire is to see the Glory of God in this church, the beauty of His spirit evidenced in who we are as a body. I believe this beauty will draw others closer to Christ.

My prayer request for service on the Senior Pastor Search Committee is: My prayer for the pastor search committee is that we remain focused on our task and fully committed to our Lord, our church and each other.



Sam Smith

Family: Wife of 37 years Katrina, daughter Amber, son and daughter-in-law James and Carly, grandson Jackson and coming in December is granddaughter Savannah Rose.

Prior to knowing Christ as my Savior and Lord, my life was simple and dependent upon my parents and family for all my needs. Pretty much as for most kids life was about me and I was pretty happy with that.

Growing up in the church I had plenty of opportunities to hear and respond to God. However on a summer evening at the age of 12, God spoke to me during a county wide revival meeting held at local football stadium. This was my first time to experience church outside the traditional setting. God called me to be his and I responded to the invitation. I began to understand that God will go anywhere and take us to any place necessary in order to do business with us.

Since giving my life to Christ everything has changed. Life has become about Jesus. My relationships, family, job and possessions are about Him. When I struggle or have difficulty in any area in my life it is most often when I take my focus from Him and put it on me. I pray that each day will find me a little better at doing that. Jesus chose to use his followers to reveal himself to the lost world. The world needs us, especially me, to do a better job.

I have been a member of First Baptist Bryan for 21 years.

I have been a Baptist for 59 yrs.

My desire for our fellowship is that we would desire to be all things to all people so that many would come to salvation through Jesus.

Please pray that we as a committee and as a church would be submissive to the instructions of the Holy Spirit. Pray for humility and passion for the lost.



Zerle L. Carpenter

Family: Wife-Lou Married for 55 years; 2 daughters- Jane and Kim; 4 granddaughters; 2 great-grandsons. Our favorite activities are enjoyed together at Camp Creek Lake with the entire family and their friends. In addition, as a family we have continued to make Worship of the Lord Jesus Christ a priority.

Background and training: Born and reared in Southwestern Oklahoma. Mother was a first grade teacher for 35 years; Father was teacher and administrator in public school systems and State Education Department for 50 years. Following High School graduation, recipient of B.S. degree in Animal Science at Oklahoma State University and following active military service received the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Meat and Animal Science, Biochemistry and Food Science.

- Joined the Department of Animal Science Faculty at Texas A&M in 1962 with responsibilities for teaching, research and public service. Served as Head, Department of Animal Science (1978- 1982); Director of Texas A&M Extension and Associate Vice Chancellor of Agriculture (1982- 1997); Retired in 1997.
- 1975-Present: small beef cattle production operation in Robertson and Brazos Counties.

My life prior to accepting Christ as Savior: Reared and mentored in Christian home with responsible, loving parents and a younger sister. Christian ethics and values were emphasized in our daily lives. Attended a rural Missionary Baptist Church and present at virtually all services.

How I came to accept Christ as Savior: Accepted Christ as a teenager at a revival meeting and was baptized on a Sunday afternoon in the Salt Fork of the Red River. Christ has continued to bless my life since that time.

My life since having accepted Christ as Savior: I have been a member of seven Baptist Churches in three states. He has watched continuously over me and my family through demanding situations and times and has blessed us in many, many ways.

How long a member: We were members of FBC-Bryan in the 1960's and 1970's and again 2007 to present.

How long a Baptist: Been a Lifetime Baptist!

My heart's desire for this Church is: This Church will be a place for people to experience extraordinary Worship and Bible study; a loving, caring people unified in serving the Lord.

My prayer request for service on the Senior Pastor Search Committee is: Pray that we will discern the Lord's Leadership in seeking the person He has prepared for FBC Bryan. We must seek the Lord's direction in this awesome responsibility.