

BelPres Elder Bios
May 17, 2023

Chase Millard – Class of 2024 (Kids & Students) Youth Elder

Chase has been attending BelPres since she was a baby. She has lived in Seattle her whole life and has enjoyed getting to know communities in Seattle as well as Bellevue. She is currently a 10th grader at Roosevelt High School where she is involved in the school leadership classes, volleyball, and other activities around the school. She plays club volleyball and enjoys staying active. Chase is passionate about sharing her story and sharing her faith with those around her. She and her family have helped with Congregations for the Homeless for years and she has participated in mission and service trips to eastern Washington, New Orleans, and Alabama.

Rhett Nordberg – Class of 2026 (Kids & Students) Youth Elder

Rhett and his family have been at BelPres for 18 years. He is 15 years old and a sophomore at The Bear Creek School and participates in three sports: swimming, diving, and golf. He has three siblings, Oliver, Rosalind, and Seth. Rhett serves on Sundays by teaching preschoolers at Sunday school, and helps out at Vacation Bible Adventure. He has been on three BelPres mission trips, including one to Mexico and two to Guatemala in 2020 and 2023. Fun fact: Rhett has made it to state three times throughout his high school sports career. At state, he placed 14th and 9th in diving and 11th in golf.

Alischia Besteman – Class of 2026 (Kids & Students)

Alischia and her husband John have been members of BelPres since 2009. Alischia has been involved in Mother's Fellowship, the preschool, Women at the Well, Jubilee Reach, a COTN mission trip, summer service days, meal packing, All In Groups, Christmas boxes, the Race and Reconciliation team, and continues to serve with the high school ministry. She is a student for life and one of her passions is leading a small group in its 15th year. Alischia and John have two kids, JR and Alex, and are an active couple and family. Look for them running laps around the neighborhood, at concerts and sporting events, at the gym, or on the pickleball court.

Christine Gilbert – Class of 2026 (Finance)

Christine grew up in the music program at BelPres, singing in the kids' choirs starting at 5 years old, and now sings in the "big kids" choir every Sunday in Sanctuary Chorus! She is an avid Auto Angels groupie and has helped with the annual benefit car show for many years. She has worked in mortgage banking, startup pitching for grants/investments, healthcare administration, and earned her Executive MBA from UW Foster School of Business. She loves Cannon Beach, a good 0.9mm mechanical pencil, and proper usage of the Oxford comma. Christine firmly believes anything can be solved with chocolate or cheese. She is proudest of being a crazy aunt to her young niece and nephews, who are of course involved in the youth music program at BelPres!

Blaise Matumagu – Class of 2026 (Missions)

Blaise and his wife Roselyne are originally from Burundi and eventually settled in the Bellevue area after a stay in Tucson, Arizona. They have three kids: Abigael, Abiah and Abdiel. Blaise is passionate about prayer, reading the Word, and listening to the Holy Spirit. He loves to preach and teach others about the Good News of Jesus Christ. At BelPres, he is currently leading a Bible study, a weekly prayer meeting, and actively participates and supports the leadership of New Hope Revival.

William Starks – Class of 2026 (Leadership Development)

William joined his wife, Pam, here at BelPres after they were married in the old A frame sanctuary in 1991. They have two children, Sam and Madison, who were both baptized at BelPres. William, with Pam, taught Sunday School for eight years. William has been a member of the BelPres Planning & Evaluation Committee, Session, and the Finance Committee. He has served on two BelPres Business Administration search committees. He is currently serving on the Board of the BelPres Legacy Foundation and the BelPres Justice & Racial Reconciliation Team. After 36 years with Woodworth Capital, as VP/CFO, William has recently moved into semi-retirement. William has manned the boards of various non-profits over the years. He currently sits on the Board of the Woodworth Family Foundation and the Finance Committee of the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound. William loves traveling to visit family and friends, playing golf, and having lively discussions.

Brandon McNerney – Class of 2025 (Missions)

Brandon grew up at BelPres since first attending with his parents and brother in 2003. In those first 11 years, he was primarily discipled through the youth choirs and Sunday sermons. Now as an adult, he enjoys singing in the Sanctuary Chorus. Brandon is also currently serving on the BelPres Global Outreach team and is focused on assisting our ministry partners in Cambodia. Beyond BelPres, he participates locally in prison ministry and globally with Engineering Ministries International where he regularly uses his professional civil engineering background to serve on engineering mission trips to support the global church in countries like Cambodia, Myanmar, and Lebanon.

Jane Lewis – Class of 2024 (Finance)

Jane and her husband, Bill, joined BelPres in 1974. She has been a teacher, a principal, and served as a Christian educator at BelPres for 35 years. During her time on staff, Jane was Director of Children and Family Ministries. She was a key leader in our most recent Ripple Effect Capital Campaign which built our upper campus, Rwanda Center for Champions, and Jubilee Reach. Jane loves teaching children about Jesus and daily studying God's word through Bible Study Fellowship. She enjoys reading, golf, and spending time with family, especially her four teenage grandchildren.

John Mabbott – Class of 2025 (Finance)

John grew up at BelPres and joined our church as a high schooler. He has been involved in many ministry teams over the years and currently volunteers as a youth leader, serves on the Legacy

Foundation Board, and supports Sunday Worship services. Beyond BelPres, John works as an IT professional at Northwest University in Kirkland, serves on the Board for Joshua 1:Nine Ministries, based in Spokane, and volunteers with Young Life. In the 20 minutes a week that he isn't occupied by the above, John enjoys bicycling, working in his yard, spending time with his family, and rooting for the Seattle Sounders FC. Much to the chagrin of Pastor Dudley, John has a cat (named Chloe).