The Communicator

Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church

JANUARY 2025
Monthly Newsletter

Glorifying God, Growing in Christ, Giving to Others

A Year in Review from Your Session

Since our first Community Dinner on September 20, 2022, we have provided a hot nourishing free meal to many in our community as well as our church members. The mission statement is "Building Community Around the Table" and this has truly happened. Over the past year, we have served 1,898 dinners. The budget for these dinners was $2,500. The expenses for the year were $6,937.18 and the donations received each Tuesday were $4,954.74 making the expenses for the year $1,982.44 far short of the $2,500 allocated in the budget. Thanks to the generosity of church members and the community.

The Membership Ministry Team has worked hard on providing church members with a new updated **church directory**.

The Worship Ministry Team has purchased three silk flower arrangements to use when no one has signed up for flowers.

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Monthly Scripture:
Therefore we were buried with Him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. *Romans 6:4*

Following Hurricane Helene aftermaths:

The **Community Dinners were weekly events in October**, three dinners in November and three dinners in December. Because of the generosity of this church family, the newly formed Disaster Relief Contingency Fund was created and received nearly $40,000 and continues to accept donations. These funds will be spent on local relief rather than region-wide efforts.

The **Outreach Ministry Team** will determine the distribution of funds. This Ministry Team voted to immediately send $25,000 to Habitat for Humanity of Transylvania County to help address the housing shortage created by Helene.

It was decided to use the **upstairs apartment at the manse as temporary housing for a Transylvania County family/individual displaced by Helene**. Several Session and other members went to work on cleaning, repairing, stocking, and redecorating the manse inside and out. It is now ready for a displaced family to use on a temporary basis. Habitat will determine who qualifies to rent this space. The church will not be responsible for determining this choice.

Session approved the **sale of the church van to El Centro** for $25,000 and set up a designated account for the purpose of renting a van for church related activities.

The Church and the City of Brevard were in partnership to consider a proposed **Lease/Option to Purchase concerning the back church property for affordable housing**. A Congregational Meeting approved this proposal. However, after the City Council received two soil tests on the property that were not feasible to build in the current soil condition, this was put on hold.

Boy Scout Troop 703 has had a busy year.

They accomplished:

Two Eagle Ranks; Seven Service and Community Help Projects; Five Campouts,
14 Rank Advancements; and 61 Merit Badges in 2024

2024 Campouts:

Butter Gap (March), Black Balsam Knob (June), Shining Rock (June),
Camp Daniel Boone (June), Camp High Rocks (October)

Events

Ski Trip for Snow Sports merit badge - February (Sugar Mountain, Boone, NC)
Winter Court of Honor - February (Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church)
City Hike 2024 - 10 miles - April (Estatoe Trail, Brevard, NC)
Mountain Hike 2024 - 10 miles - May (DuPont State Forest, Cedar Mountain, NC)
Spring Court of Honor - May (Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church)
Annual Hike-in to Camp Daniel Boone 2024 - 16 miles - June (Art Loeb Trail)
Summer Camp with 14 Scouts and three Adult leaders - June (Camp Daniel Boone, Canton, NC)
French Broad River canoe & camp; cleanup - August
Annual Troop Mixer - September (Lake Toxaway, NC)
Fall Court of Honor - October (Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church)
Caving @ Worley's Cave - November (Bluff City, TN)
University of Scouting - November (Mars Hill, NC)
Brevard Christmas Parade - December (Brevard, NC)

Service Projects and Community Help

Eagle Project 1 - repaired fences and river frontage cleanup (Sycamore Flats, Pisgah National Forest); Eagle Project 2 - built a bocce ball pit for Special Olympics Team (Pisgah Forest, NC)

Camp cleanup and service (Camp Daniel Boone, Canton, NC); French Broad River cleanup;
Flag Placement for Veterans (Davidson River Cemetery; Evergreen-Gillespie Cemetery);
Packing food boxes for Hurricane Helene relief (Anchor Baptist Church);
Trail clearing and cleanup post Hurricane Helene (Camp High Rocks, Brevard, NC);
In 2025, the Troop will send a nine-person crew to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico!

Scout Troop 703 falls under our Local Outreach Ministry Team.

The **solar panels** continue to reduce the church's power expense and a Solar Panel 30% Rebate for this project should be coming soon thanks to Bob Kellar's persistence.

The **Church Family Fellowship Ministry Team** provided an Easter Egg Hunt; ice cream for the Willie Nelson Life Cycles by Keith Thompson; provides coffee and goodies following each worship service and other special brunches. The Community-Wide Dinners fall under this Ministry Team.

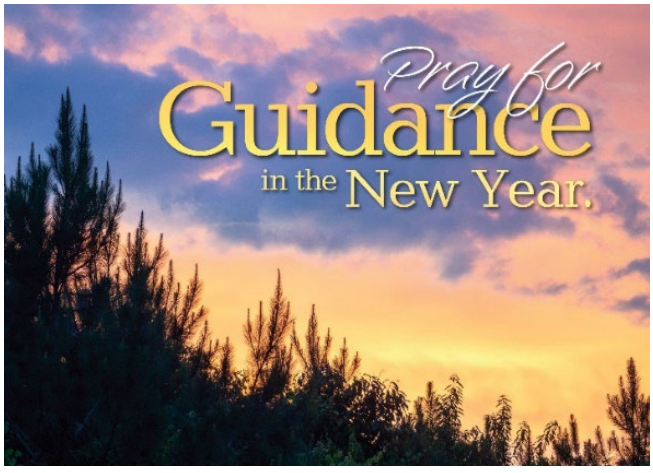
Black Mountain Home for Children continues to be an important mission partner. The Annual Ice Cream Open House at Whitewater Cove was well attended. Since the Fall Festival was cancelled because of Helene, all the Silent Auction gift baskets were brought to our church and filled Davidson River Hall. They raised approximately $11,000. Because of the generosity of members bringing in items each week to put in the special bins, the thrift store has received clothing and other household items to sell. The big truck was also here on a Saturday to collect furniture and other items for the store. **Black Mountain Home falls under iyr Local Outreach Ministry Team.**

B-DRPC continues to be a generous church in opening their doors rent free to approved **local organizations** – AA, Alanon, AARP Tax-Aid, Parkinson's Group, Young Life Steering Committee, tutoring for El Centro students, Philharmonic planning meetings, and others.

The Preschool continues to be an important part of the church with qualified teachers and assistants teaching infants to preschoolers about Jesus, sharing, playing, learning, and getting them ready for kindergarten. They just had their Christmas Program and everyone enjoyed a pizza dinner afterward. Their Carolyn Winchester Scholarship Fund helps qualified families enroll their children in this program. This is a valuable mission of our church and falls under the **Preschool Ministry Team**.

The Director of Music, Michael Helman, has provided members with musical events during the year that are open to the community and enjoyed by all. **The Chancel Choir** with the **chamber orchestra** have provided everyone with beautiful music during special programs. **The Westminster Bell Ringers** have contributed their talents for various services as well.

Your Session *looks forward to 2025 as we continue to provide leadership and opportunities for mission right outside our doors.*



Happy New Year 2025!

January Preaching Schedule

Jan. 5	Matthew 2:1-12	"A Wise New Year" – *Communion* Keith Thompson
Jan. 12	Luke 3:15-22	"A Day to Remember" Bob Edmunds, Guest Minister
Jan. 19	John 2:1-11	"Free from Shame" - *Daily Change Offering* Keith Thompson
Jan. 26	Luke 4:14-21	Keith Thompson

2025 MINISTRY TEAMS SPOTLIGHT

ADMINISTRATION/FACILITIES DIVISION

Personnel Ministry Team
Jack Britt, Chair/Lead Elder
Richard Black, Elder
Freddie Hart, Elder
Keith Thompson, Staff

Property Ministry Team
Richard Black, Chair/Lead Elder
Carlton Ward, Elder
Gregg Hall, Staff

Interior Design Subcommittee
Janet Saucier, Chair

CHURCH FAMILY DIVISION

Membership Ministry Team
Richard Clark, Chair/Elder
Freddie Hart, Elder

Church Family Fellowship Ministry Team
Ginny Bradford, Chair/Elder

Kitchen Subcommittee
Ginny Bradford, Chair/Elder

OUTREACH DIVISION

Outreach Ministry Team
Frank Porter, Chair/Lead Elder
Gary Seacat, Elder
Richard Black, Elder
John Allemeier, Elder

FINANCE DIVISION

Finance Ministry Team
John Allemeier, Chair/Lead Elder
Frank Anderson, Elder
Frank Porter, Elder

Generosity Ministry Team
Frank Anderson, Lead Elder
Keith Thompson, Staff

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

Publicity Ministry Team
Janice Hiner, Chair/Lead Elder
Carlton Ward, Elder
Tammy Nye, Staff

Information Technology Subcommittee
Frank Anderson, Chair/Elder
Tammy Nye, Staff

Photographer: Frank Porter

PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL DIVISION

Preschool Ministry Team
Hayden Pollack, Chair/Lead Elder
Frank Anderson, Elder
Casey Barrow, Staff
Keith Thompson, Staff

CARE GIVING DIVISION

Board of Deacons
Ann Hinze, Chair

SPIRITUAL LIFE DIVISION

Worship Ministry Team
Janice Hiner, Chair/Elder
Gary Seacat, Elder
Michael Helman, Staff
Keith Thompson, Staff

Christian Education Ministry Team
Hayden Pollack, Chair/Lead Elder
Frank Anderson, Elder
Rick Clark, Elder
John Allemeier, Elder

Earth Care Subcommittee
Judith West, Chair

STANDING COMMITTES OF THE SESSION

Committee on Ministry
Ginny Bradford, Chair/Elder

Garden of Remembrance Trustees
John Stroup, Chair

Nominating Committee
Ginny Bradford, Chair/Lead Elder
Janice Hiner, Elder

B-DRPC 2024-25 Concert Series

Coming Soon!

<u>Sunday, February 9 at 3:00 pm – Four Hands in Motion</u>

Michael Helman, Director of Music at B-DRPC and Tim Shepherd, Director of Music at First United Methodist Church will present a program of keyboard music for two players. Music will include selections for four-hand piano, organ and piano duets as well as four-hand organ. Pieces will include arrangements of "Sheep May Safely Graze" by Bach, Pachelbel's "Canon in D," "Sonata in D major" written for four-hand piano by Mozart, and hymn tune arrangements for organ and piano duet by various contemporary arrangers. The program will end with an organ duet on the dynamic "The Stars and Stripes Forever" by Sousa. This will be an enjoyable experience you won't want to miss!

Mark Your Calendar!

<u>Sunday, May 4 at 4:00 pm – Blue Ridge Ringers</u>

The Blue Ridge Ringers is an auditioned community handbell ensemble founded in 1995. The ringers are from western North Carolina and upper South Carolina. They will be presenting a varied program of arrangements, transcriptions, and original compositions for handbells. They ring with five octaves of bells and chimes.

To keep our concerts free for our members and the public, we are asking you to be a sponsor of the series. Sponsorship levels can be found below. Consider being a patron of the arts here at B-DRPC.

<u>Concert Series Sponsorship</u>

Bronze Level - $50 - $100 Silver Level - $101 - $250

Gold Level - $251 - $500 Platinum Level - $501 - $750

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women Circles will meet this Thursday, January 2. The **Sarah Ruth Circle** will meet at 10:30 AM in the Activities Room at College Walk. The **Mary Martha Circle,** a small group Bible study and fellowship, will meet at 1:00 PM in the Church Lounge.

Women on Wednesdays (WOW) will be starting a new Bible Study on January 15. Bob Edmunds will lead us in a study of Women and Jesus in John. This is a six-week study. Women (in all denominations) are invited to attend Wednesday mornings from 9-10 AM in the church lounge. Call Ellie Mercer at 828-885-7276 or e-mail at eleanormercer@outlook.com for more information.

Outreach Ministry Team

GREAT JOB!!!!

Thank you to everyone that participated, either by ringing the Salvation Army Bells or by donating during our sponsorship days. We raised more than in the past! We took in $1,498.98 on Saturday, $956.73 on Monday, and $1,301.71 on Tuesday…for a grand total of $3,757.42!

Transylvania Habitat for Humanity®

A THANK YOU NOTE FROM HABITAT . . .

We received the following thank you note from Adam DeWitte,
Community Outreach Manager for Transylvania Habitat for Humanity,
in response to our recent $25,000 donation to assist them in their disaster relief efforts:

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church for your incredible support. Your generosity has played a vital role in helping us build and repair homes, bringing hope and stability to families across our community.

The devastation caused by Hurricane Helene and subsequent flooding presented us with new challenges – and new opportunities to serve. In addition to constructing and repairing homes, we have been deeply involved in disaster relief efforts, working tirelessly to support neighbors in need of rebuilding, raising, or even demolishing homes rendered unlivable by flooding.

Your partnership means everything to us. Together, we can continue building homes, rebuilding lives, and creating stronger foundations for our neighbors in need.

Thank you for walking alongside us in this mission of faith and action.

Christian Education Ministry Team

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES IN JANUARY . . .

The **FAITH AND LIFE Adult Sunday School Class** will begin a new study this month of some of the Old Testament's books with teacher, Larry Sitton. The class meets every Sunday morning at 9:45 AM in the Davidson River Room, just off Davidson River Hall. You are always welcome!

The **SEARCHERS Adult Sunday School Class** meets on Sundays in Room ED 9 at 9:45 AM. Trusting in the work of the Holy Spirit and following a format of answering three simple questions, the class reads and shares thoughts about one of the scriptures assigned for the week in the Revised Common Lectionary. Each week, a member of the class volunteers to provide background to the scriptures and facilitate the discussion. Join us!

Our Sunday School Offering in January will go to El Centro.

Finance News

Charitable giving is an important area of year end income tax planning. For example, you can bunch into 2024 charitable gifts that you usually give over multiple years. Conversely, if you are expecting to have more income next year, then you would want to defer some charitable donations and instead make them in 2025.

Also, know the timing rules for charitable donations. Mail checks by year end to lock in your 2024 write off. As long as it is postmarked 12/31/24, it will be good.

JANUARY EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
MT stands for Ministry Team, WOW – Women on Wednesdays			Church Office Closed	Sarah Ruth Circle 10:30 am Mary Martha Circle 1:00 PM		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Worship – 8:30 am & 11 am **Communion**	Staff Meeting 1:30 PM	Westminster Ringers, 5:15 pm	WOW – 9 am Christian Ed MT 4:30 pm Chancel Choir 6:30 pm	Outreach MT – 9:30 am	Church Family Fellowship MT 9 am	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Worship – 8:30 am & 11 am *Bob Edmunds Preaching* Guatemala Presentation During Sunday Hour.	Shawl Ministry 1:30 pm	Property MT, 9:30 am Preschool MT 12:30 pm Worship MT, 1:30 pm Publicity MT 2:30 pm Westminster Ringers, 5:15 pm **Community-Wide Dinner, 5:30 pm**	WOW – 9 am Chancel Choir 6:30 pm			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Worship – 8:30 am & 11 am **Daily Change Offering**	Staff Meeting 1:30 pm	**Community-Wide Dinner, 5:30 pm** Westminster Ringers, 5:15 pm	WOW – 9 am Chancel Choir 6:30 pm		Session Stated Meeting 10 am (Lounge)	**Presbytery Meeting**
26	27	28	29	28	29	30
Worship – 8:30 am & 11 am	Shawl Ministry 1:30 pm	Westminster Ringers, 5:15 pm	WOW – 9 am Chancel Choir 6:30 pm			

JANUARY

- Candice Burchill – January 1st
- Carol Hall – January 2nd
- Carter Kelley – January 2nd
- Nita Porter – January 6th
- Mike & Jo Stewart – January 8th
- Dori Miller – January 10th
- Martha Spencer – January 10th
- Paul Polito – January 11th
- Les Saucier – January 11th
- Eddie & Mandy Wade – January 11th
- Shirley Holler – January 12th
- Fred & Beth Schenberg – January 12th
- Ralph Tilly – January 13th
- Jay Hinze – January 14th
- Rosalind Nielsen – January 14th
- Elaine Long – January 15th
- Charles Whitmire – January 15th
- Eric & Lavonne Ellis – January 17th
- Ellen Stinchcomb – January 19th
- Larry Sitton – January 20th
- Grey Hollingsworth – January 21st
- Dave Crandal & Penny Colman Crandal - January 22nd
- Anita Dorfman – January 23rd
- Richard & Sharon Black – January 24th
- Lisanne Masterson – January 24th
- Bobbie Jean Whitmire – January 24th
- Jack Britt – January 25th
- Kathy Kelley – January 26th
- Sharon Nunnelee – January 27th
- David Kelley – January 27th
- Madison Baldridge – January 30th
- Treese Lawlis – January 31st

JUST FOR FUN

RIDDLE:
What is the Center of Gravity?

New Beginnings

Ans-a-gram The initial letters of the answers (in order) will provide an anagram of the final solution, which is an Old Testament book.

- ☐ 1. His offering was not favourably viewed (4) [Genesis 4:5]
- ☐ 2. God first said, 'Let there be …' (5) [Genesis 1:3]
- ☐ 3. Where Abram's brother, Haran, died (2) [Genesis 11:28]
- ☐ 4. Called while ploughing a field (6) [1 Kings 19:19]
- ☐ 5. Garment to conceal the face (4) [Exodus 34:33]
- ☐ 6. God with us! (O.T. spelling) (8) [Isaiah 7:14]
- ☐ 7. First Christian martyr (7) [Acts 7:59]
- ☐ 8. What God renamed Jacob (6) [Genesis 35:10]
- ☐ 9. Disciple of Jewish mother and Greek father that Paul met at Lystra (7) [Acts 16:1]

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(All Bible references from NIV)

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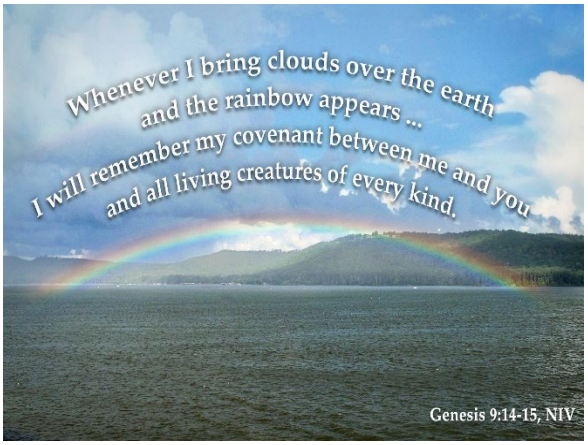

Answer:
The Letter "V"!