The Communicator

Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church

SEPTEMBER 2026
Monthly Newsletter

Glorifying God, Growing in Christ, Giving to Others

TREE WORK SCHEDULED

Please be aware that Brooks Tree Service is scheduled to wind trim the Red Oak in the back of the church on September 7th. The Church Office and Preschool will be closed for Labor Day, which will help with traffic.

Community-Wide Dinner

SECOND TUESDAY IN SEPTEMBER!

Our next Community-Wide Dinner will be **Tuesday, September 8**, (*2nd Tuesday this month*) from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Menu: Smoked Sausage pieces, Macaroni & Cheese, Green Beans, Rolls, Salad Bar, & Dessert. All are welcome to this FREE dinner. Let's Build Community Around the Table!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 At 11 a.m. There Will Be ONE SERVICE ONLY:

That Sunday, we will welcome Dr. Mary Louise "Mel" Bringle as our speaker for the day. Mel is Professor of Religious Studies and Coordinator of Integrated Studies at Brevard College. She also chaired the committee that put together our current Presbyterian Hymnal. Mel is also a well-known hymn writer, with several of her hymns in our hymnal. She will lead us in a service of scriptural reflections interspersed with hymns and responses. You are encouraged to attend this insightful and enlightening Worship Service.

MINISTRY TEAMS SPOTLIGHT

ADMINISTRATION/FACILITIES DIVISION

Personnel Ministry Team
Frank Porter, Chair/Elder
Keith Thompson, Staff

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

Interior Design Subcommittee
Janet Saucier, Chair; Janice Hiner, Lavonne Ellis

CHURCH FAMILY DIVISION

Membership Ministry Team
Richard Clark, Chair/Elder

Nursery Subcommittee
Nursery Coordinator TBA

Church Family Fellowship Ministry Team
Ginny Bradford, Chair/Elder

Kitchen Subcommittee
Ginny Bradford, Chair/Elder

OUTREACH DIVISION

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

FINANCE DIVISION

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

Generosity Ministry Team
Frank Porter, Chair/Elder
Keith Thompson, Staff

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

Publicity Ministry Team
Carlton Ward, Chair/Lead Elder
Hayden Pollack, Elder
Tammy Nye, Staff

Information Technology Subcommittee
Website: Frank Anderson
Photographer: Frank Porter
Live Steaming: Janice Hiner, Frank Porter

PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL DIVISION

Preschool Ministry Team
Janice Hiner, Chair/Lead Elder
Frank Anderson, Elder
Casey Barrow, Director
Emily Worley, Assistant Director
Keith Thompson, Staff

Scholarship Subcommittee
Janice Hiner, Chair/Lead Elder
Frank Anderson, Elder
Ann Hollingsworth, Kathi Clark

CARE GIVING DIVISION

Board of Deacons
Missy Seacat, Chair

Memorial Reception Chairs
Ann Hinze, Peggy Padgett, Janet Saucier

SPIRITUAL LIFE DIVISION

Worship Ministry Team
Mary Johnson, Chair/Lead 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

Earth Care Subcommittee
Sharon Ward, 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
Mary Johnson, Elder

Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church

Glorifying God, Growing in Christ, Giving to Others

Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church
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Brevard, NC 28712
(828) 884-2645, churchoffice@bdrpc.org
www.bdrpc.org

Monthly Scripture: Philippians 2:12,13

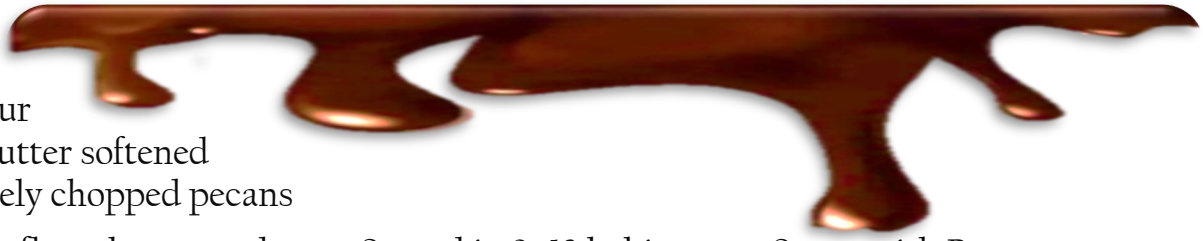
Shining as Lights in the World

12 Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, **13** for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

September Preaching Schedule

September 6	Luke 5:36-39	Communion – KT preaching
September 13 – *One Service at 11 a.m.*	Guest Speaker	Mel Bringle
September 20	Matthew 20:1-16	KT preaching
September 27	Acts 6:6-10	KT preaching

Chocolate Dream Dessert (*A Community-Wide Dinner Favorite!*)



<u>Pastry:</u>
1 cup flour
1 stick butter softened
1 cup finely chopped pecans

Combine flour, butter and nuts. Spread in 9x13 baking pan. Spray with Pam.

Press mixture down with glass bottom or another smooth item. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 min. Let cool.

<u>First layer:</u>
Mix together and spread on baked pastry: 1 cup confectioners' sugar, 1 pkg 8 oz cream cheese softened, 1 cup whipped topping from a large carton. Beat sugar and cream cheese together. Add and mix whipped topping with a spoon.

<u>Second layer:</u>
1 pkg instant vanilla pudding, 1 pkg instant chocolate pudding, 2 cups milk. Whisk mixes with milk until thick. Spread on first layer.

<u>Third layer:</u>
Spread with remaining whipped topping from first large carton used in first layer.
Sprinkle with finely grated chocolate bar.

Refrigerate

KITCHEN REMODEL FUNDRAISER:

After 30 years of heavy use, the church kitchen renovation will include new cabinets and countertops. The cost for the remodel is expected to be $40,000. During the month of September, you will have the opportunity to donate to that cost. If you would like to give to the kitchen renovations, please send or bring the donations to Pat Crosby, our bookkeeper, with the memo line: "Kitchen Renovations." Online giving on our website: bdrpc.org under "Giving" – with the sub tab: "On Line Giving."

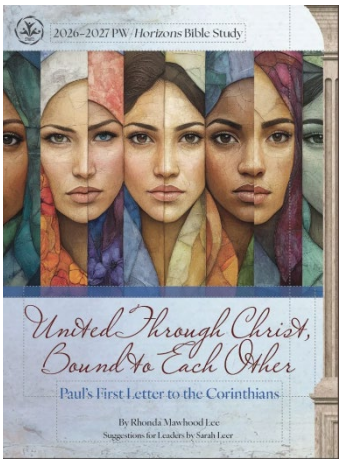
Our Sunday School
Offering For September goes
To The Black Mountain Home for Children.

Presbyterian Women Circles

The Presbyterian Circles both meet the 1st Thursday of each month:

Sarah Ruth Circle meets in the College Walk Activity Room, Sept. 3 at 10:30 a.m.

Mary Martha Circle meets in the Church Lounge, Sept 3 at 1 p.m.



Both small groups will begin a study of First Corinthians, Paul's First Letter to the church at Corinth, entitled "*United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other*," by Rhonda Mawhood Lee. This study explores the letter's setting, divisions within the congregation, and ultimately, the gifts given to all through the work of Christ.

New members and visitors are especially invited to join with one of the groups in this fascinating journey to Corinth and how Paul's timeless message of loving unity calls us as Christ's followers today. For more information, please contact members: Sara Kellar or Martha Spencer.

Women on Wednesdays (WOW)

Women on Wednesdays (WOW) will start up again on September 9 in the Church Lounge from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. This will be a time for fellowship and to discuss the coming year. We meet every Wednesday at the same time, and would be delighted to have some new members. We have exciting plans for the coming year, starting on September 16th, and including video Bible studies on Genesis and Moses for the first few months. We take turns presenting material, but no one has to do so – you can just listen and respond if you like. We keep in touch by email when members are absent, and prayer is an important part of our time together. Please join us, and bring a friend!!!

WOW!

Music Ministry

Chancel Choir will be returning for weekly rehearsals on Wednesday, September 2 at 6:30 pm. Westminster Ringers will be beginning rehearsals on Tuesday, September 22 at 5:00 pm. We are looking for one or two new ringers to be a part of our handbell ensemble. Anyone who would be interested in being a part of Chancel Choir or Westminster Ringers can contact Michael Helman at the church office or email music@bdrpc.org

Concert Series programs for 2026-2027

Friday, October 23 @ 7 p.m. – Astralis Chamber Ensemble
"An Evening of Baroque Music"

Sunday, December 6 @ the 11 a.m. Worship Service
B-DRPC Chancel Choir and chamber orchestra will present an "American Christmas"

Sunday, February 7 @ 3 p.m. – Organ Recital
Members of the Blue Ridge Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will present their annual members recital.

Sunday, May 9 @ 4 p.m. – Blue Ridge Ringers
The Blue Ridge Ringers return with another varied program of handbell music.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS:

Friday, November 20 @ 5 p.m. – Evensong Service
B-DRPC Chancel Choir and Westminster Ringers will join with the choirs from St. Philip's Episcopal Church for a celebratory Evensong Service at St. Philips. This service celebrates St. Philip's 100th Anniversary.

Sunday, March 14, 3 p.m. – Brevard Philharmonic Chamber Concert
This is a ticketed event and tickets can be purchased on the Philharmonic website.

2026-2027
Concert Series

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.

Bronze Level - $50 - $100 Silver Level - $101 - $250
Gold Level - $251 - $500 Platinum Level - $501 - $750

Deacons Den

Greetings from your deacons.
Deacons serve as ministers of compassion and care, focusing on the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of the congregation and community. We are here to help spread kindness and compassion to our parishioners.

Meet Your Deacon for September, **Janet Saucier:**

Janet was born and raised in Upstate New York, while her husband Les grew up in Mississippi. They met in Brevard at one of Les's photography workshops, and the rest is history. Janet jokes that her north and his south met in the middle in the mountains. They joined Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church four years ago this September.

"Late bloomer" may be the appropriate description for Janet in terms of her walk with God. Though she was brought up by Christian parents and attended a small-town federated church, Janet didn't take to a Christian life until God changed her heart at age 52. "I went to a Presbyterian church plant meeting in Beaufort, SC, where I lived at the time. I attendeed only as a favor to a dear friend, not because I was interested. During the meeting I heard one of the speakers say the words 'Christ centered in your heart' and at that moment I recognized that my heart was not in a good place. I felt drawn to ask Christ to fix my heart, which, of course, He did because I did ask. I began attending church, studying God's word and changing my life for the good."

Less than two years later, Janet's first husband died suddenly. Two months later her father passed away. She said that if not for the strength that God gave her through prayer, scripture, her church, and the love of friends and family, she doesn't know how she would have gotten through the terrible months that followed. "I was, and still am, so grateful that God called to me during that church meeting," she said.

Janet still finds strength in this favorite scripture, "Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will also help you, I will also uphold you with My righteous right hand." – Isaiah 41:10

And, God *was* with her. Janet and Les know it was God who drew them together throught their mutual love for photgraphy. And they feel it was God who brought them to our church, where they found open, friendly people who welcomed them from the very first moment. If you haven't met Les and Janet yet, it may be because they attend 8:30 a.m. services. They are regulars at Searchers Sunday School class, so look for the in the halls between services if you'd like to say hello.

DEACONS Note

Are you praying for someone you know to get better, to find peace, or just thinking about them? Please let us know the name and address of the person, as well as the reason, and our deacons will send them a card. Call or email Missy Seacat with requests and she will pass them on to the deacons. Missy can be reached at mlagaccia@gmail.com or 239-898-4681. Also, if you have any greeting cards, excluding Christmas cards, please consider donating them to the deacons. You can place them in the Deacons mailbox in the Office Suite. Also, look for our prayer request box that is in the narthex. Prayer request cards are in the pews. If you have a prayer request that is more personal, you may place your request in the prayer box. The deacons will be bringing these prayer requests to God weekly, and your identity and requests will be kept confidential.

One final note: Praise to the God of All Comfort - *2 Corinthians 1:3-4* "Praise be to the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

Monarch population in Mexico higher for second consecutive year

Monarch Winter 2025–2026 Population Numbers Released *(This article has been modified to fit.)*

By Karen Oberhause

On March 17, the National Commission of Protected Natural Areas in Mexico (CONANP) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) released data from the winter 2025–2026 monarch population counts. In December 2025, monarchs occupied 2.93 hectares, compared to 1.79 hectares at the same time in 2024. This area is slightly higher than the average of 2.81 hectares over the past decade and represents a 64% increase over last year's area.

At the wintering sites in central Mexico, where most monarchs from east of the Rocky Mountains overwinter, monarch population size is compared from year to year by the number of hectares (one hectare = 2.47 acres) occupied by trees with clusters of monarchs. WWF and CONANP have been monitoring this area since 2004, with similar data from 1993-2003 collected by the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (MBBR). While the number of monarchs in a hectare varies from year to year and is difficult to estimate, our best estimate is that it is about 21 million.

The monarchs that migrate to Mexico each autumn represent the culmination of an amazing multi-generational story. Each spring, monarchs fly north from the Mexican wintering sites, mating and laying eggs as they move into about the southeastern quarter of the U.S. The 2026 story is beginning now, as monarchs that spent the winter of 2025-2026 in Mexico move northward. Their offspring become the first generation of the new year, and will fly north into their summer breeding range (roughly the northeastern quarter of the U.S. and southern Canada), where they and their progeny and grand progeny will mate and lay eggs throughout May to August. The final generation of the year will fly southward from mid-August through October, then spend the winter at the Mexican wintering sites before beginning a new cycle the following spring.

The best way to support monarchs is to create more habitats throughout their range, thus providing resilience when some areas are dry. It's important that these habitats are free from harmful insecticides and that we advocate for decreasing the total amount of insecticides used throughout monarch breeding and migratory areas. But we also need to do what we can to mitigate climate change.

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SEPTEMBER EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 B-DRPC/El Centro Partnership Meeting 1 p.m.	2 Christian Ed MT 3 pm Chancel Choir 6:30 pm	3 Sarah Ruth Circle 10:30 am Mary Martha Circle 1 pm	4	5
6 Worship – 8:30 am & 11 am	7 Church Office is Closed.	8 Preschool MT, 12:30 pm Publicity MT, 2 pm Worship MT, 2 pm **Community-Wide Dinner, 5:30 pm**	9 WOW, 9 am Outreach MT, 10 am Chancel Choir 6:30 p.m.	10	11	12
13 Worship – 11 am Only Guest Speaker Mel Bringle	14 Staff Meeting 1:15 pm	15 Earth Care Subcomm.,11 am	16 WOW, 9 am Chancel Choir 6:30 pm	17	18 Session Stated Meeting, 10 am	19
20 Worship – 8:30 am & 11 am Daily Change Offering	21 Staff Meeting 1:15 pm Shawl Ministry 1:30 pm	22 Bell Choir 5 pm	23 WOW, 9 am Chancel Choir 6:30 pm	24	25	26
27 Worship – 8:30 am & 11 am	28 Membership MT 3 pm	29 Bell Choir 5 pm	30 WOW, 9 am Chancel Choir 6:30 pm	**Bell Choir = Westminster Ringers** **MT = Ministry Teams** **WOW = Women on Wednesday**		

SEPTEMBER

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- Ethan Huggins – September 1st
- John Winston – September 2nd
- Pat Crosby – September 2nd
- Lynn McManus – September 3rd
- Beth Schenberg – September 3rd
- Sue Carter – September 4th
- Joan Musgrove – September 4th
- Charles & Bobbie Jean Whitmire – September 4th
- Penny Colman-Crandal – September 5th
- Barbara Schroeder-Buck– September 5th
- Marty & Martha Spencer – September 8th
- Nancy Plummer – September 9th
- Sandy Gustafson – September 10th
- Laura Lane – September 10th
- Michael Helman – September 12th
- Chet Terry – September 12th
- Seth & Cassie Gerring – September 13th
- Kathe Harris – September 13th
- Christian McLauchlin – September 13th
- Bill Hale – September 14th
- Walker Huggins – September 14th
- Grace Gentle – September 15th
- Larry Jennings – September 15th
- Nora Holmes – September 16th
- Ann Hollingsworth – September 17th
- Gretchen Greene – September 17th
- Sara Champion – September 18th
- Tom Smith – September 18th
- Chuck Gerlach – September 19th
- Chase Hancock – September 20th
- Chip Webb – September 20th
- Janice Hiner – September 21st
- Don Bieger – September 22nd
- Bob Mertens – September 23rd
- Sue Barrett – September 27th
- Lee Collins – September 27th
- George Robbins – September 27th
- Rick Clark – September 27th

JUST FOR FUN

RIDDLE:

What do Alexander the Great and Winnie the Pooh have in common?

Autumn Colors

Y	E	J	H	D	C	F	B	B	U	T	W	A	L	Y
L	U	O	L	M	T	H	G	O	R	C	X	X	R	E
D	W	B	R	M	A	Q	E	T	T	O	G	X	E	L
L	U	F	O	A	N	B	N	S	U	S	W	A	P	L
O	B	T	O	X	N	W	U	H	T	Y	K	N	P	O
G	E	M	B	Q	E	G	A	T	T	N	F	E	O	W
B	I	R	A	D	I	Y	E	I	S	A	U	U	C	L
Z	G	Q	E	H	S	D	N	M	E	G	W	T	C	C
D	E	R	D	X	I	N	O	J	V	O	V	B	V	M
G	R	X	G	H	R	U	S	F	I	H	F	W	W	A
X	U	V	P	B	E	G	M	E	L	A	E	J	L	R
E	S	X	Q	O	B	R	I	X	O	M	N	S	Z	O
Z	T	W	V	D	M	U	R	J	H	E	Z	T	S	O
A	Q	V	T	V	A	B	C	D	S	J	Q	X	X	N
A	U	L	A	F	K	E	X	N	G	T	X	F	A	U

Word list:

AMBER
BEIGE
BROWN
BURGUNDY
CHESTNUT
COPPER
CRIMSON
GOLD
MAHOGANY
MAROON
OLIVE
ORANGE
RED
RUST
SIENNA
YELLOW

Answer:
Their middle names.