



thebridgepres@gmail.com

thebridgepres.org

910-769-4951

Currents

Letting God's currents carry us through Life

The Mission of the bridge Presbyterian Church is to help active adults connect with God's people, discover God's presence, learn God's promises, and embrace their unique God-given purpose for their lives.

Worship Together Weekly

Welcome back Dr. Doug

Sunday, Sept. 6, 2026

No Longer Needed

I Corinthians 12: 12 - 27

10:00 am – Worship Service

livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube

Links to all videos posted by the bridge on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@thebridgepresbyterianchurc4433/streams>



Dr. Doug Is Back!

Oliver Wendell Holmes once wrote: "Where we love is home, home that our feet may leave, but not our hearts." After nearly three months away, I am back – refreshed and ready to lead the bridge Presbyterian Church.

My sabbatical was a blessing. Sabbatical began with Sharon and I enjoying some relaxing time together traveling to Greece and Italy. Then, I spent a month enjoying the slower, daily rhythm of reading, praying, journaling and listening for the still small voice of God. During that month, I spend a number of days on a silent retreat, living with the monks of Mepkin Abbey, a Trappist monastery outside of Charleston SC.

Sabbatical has been a tremendous blessing for me.

I want to thank the congregation, the session and the staff for your full support of my sabbatical. I also want to thank Dr. Bill Young for filling the pulpit while I was away. I look forward to seeing everyone in worship this Sunday!

With Deep Appreciation,
Dr. Doug



Fifth Sunday Potluck 8-30-26

Good Food and Good Fellowship as we thanked Rev. Young for his pastoral care this summer and wished him well!



Words from Pastor Bill.

What a Wonderful Summer. I cannot say enough about my time with you all at the Bridge.

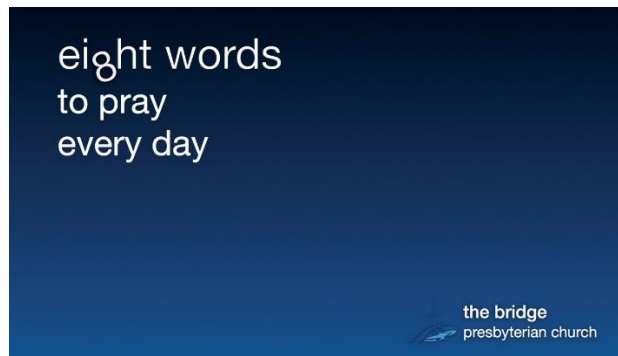
You were welcoming, supportive, and so affirming as you walked this journey giving your Pastor a deserved time away. Having taken a few sabbaticals over my career, I knew the benefits for Doug but also for the congregation.

I looked forward to every week and felt comfortable from the beginning helping to lead you in worship. Your wonderful worship team made that easy but so did everyone.

Thank you for your attendance, support, and kindness. Thank you so much for the wonderful send off. I did not know I wore so many hats.

As you continue God's work in that place, always call upon the Spirit to guide and direct you in your ministry.

God Bless you all.



New Sermon Series: Eight Words To Pray Every Day:

**“Better a single word spoken from a heart of love
than a thousand from a heart of indifference.”
Evagrius Ponticus.**

Maybe your spiritual life is on autopilot and you're going through the motions. Perhaps you're keeping the religious treadmill spinning, but your soul is empty or tired. Or maybe you've fallen victim to the 'Too's' - Too many other obligations...too much guilt...too many changes in life; ...too many questions...too much pain...too much disappointment.

However, you're still asking: "How can I experience a life with God day by day?" What if there were eight simple words that, when prayed every day, help you genuinely connect with God?

Eight Words to Pray Every Day is a new sermon series that transforms eight ordinary words into one-word prayers. Each of these words are simple, practical and, most of all, reliable. Once we learn to use these words as prayers, we will begin to authentically connect with the living God.

If you struggle to start or keep a daily devotional life or if you need a fresh way to stay connected with the Lord while always being on the go, Eight Words to Say Every Day can change your life; and draw you closer to the Lord.

This new series will kick-off Sunday September 13th at the bridge Presbyterian church. Each week a new word will be unveiled and discussed in a pastor-led mid-week study in Warnock Hall.

Sign up for the noon Wednesday study at the sign-up table or on Realm

Join us as we learn to pray Eight Words to Pray Every Day.



Wanda will be out of the office from Sept 2nd and back on Monday, Sept 21st.

Things to Note:

Currents will still be published but the financial graphs will be in the 9/24 Currents.

The church email will not be checked – if you need something before Wanda returns – reach out to Doug or an elder or call the church office at 910-769-4951

The office will be covered by volunteers Tues – Thursday 9:00 – 12:00

For Prayer Requests – email them to Susan at ssanewick@gmail.com

For questions regarding the Blessed Bargains event – contact Bruce Garris (910) 297-3551
To reserve a table – you can call the office.

Find Purpose through Service

Sunday, Sept 6, 2026

Coffee Servers - 10:00 – Marcia and Theresa

Greeters/Ushers - 10:00 – Wesenbergs

Liturgists
10:00 – Ruth F.

Communion – Sept 6th
Charlie R., Tom H., Sheila D., and Ruth F

Are you ready to be Connected by Serving?

*Help with Coffee * Greet People * Usher*

Let Wanda in the office know and she will get you connected.

Give Gratefully

	8/30/26		
Total Weekly Giving	\$5,333	10:00 am Service	106
Pledge Fulfillment			
Total	\$5,333	Attendance (4 wk avg)	105

Pray Daily

PRAYER LIST September 3, 2026

Prayers for the following:

ADDITIONS

- Wanda for a wonderful visit with her family and for safe travels.
- Dr. Doug who has returned to the bridge renewed and refreshed. He has expressed his appreciation for the time he and Sharon had on his sabbatical.
- Rev. Bill Young, gratitude for the weeks he served the bridge while Dr. Doug was on sabbatical.
- Taylor, Donna Maher's daughter and Donna who need God's guidance, strength and care.
- Karen Santone's neighbors, Margie and Mike. Margie is having heart surgery next week. Praying for a successful surgery and a quick recovery.

ONGOING

- Betsy Broadwater, sister of Tom Broadwater who will not need a liver transplant. Prayers answered.
- Matt, a good friend of the Christianos who has been diagnosed with an acute form of leukemia and is undergoing chemo treatments.
- Diane Jobson former covenant partner who has asked for our prayers as she lives with end-stage heart failure and is in hospice care.
- George Robertson in his care in rehab and for Peggy his wife.
- Tom Rodman as he continues to improve at home. Prayers have been greatly appreciated.
- Debbie Cote who has returned home following major surgery.
- Rich Haggerty, friend of Jim Bath's sister Sue who has recently been diagnosed with esophageal cancer. Prayers as he has further tests and meets with doctors for a plan of treatment.
- The Spells for the Lord's guidance as they plan their return move to Florida.
- Manny Rosenfeld for healing and ultimate restored sight following his eye surgery.
- Kayne, continued prayers for successful treatment at Children's Hospital in DC.
- Robert (Bob), a relative of Donna Maher's family who has had an emergency liver transplant with critical complications.
- Sean Fleming, Bettye Weihs' friend. He has had reconstructive surgery and is home with

continued rehab.

- Marilyn Vernon for strength and God's plan in her uncharted journey ahead.
- Lynn Hale as she continues her cancer journey.
- Mark Painley and his family. He has returned home. Joyous gratitude for his healing.

AROUND THE WORLD

- Prayers for our country and leadership.
- Prayers for the countries around the world dealing with natural disasters.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

Philippians 4:6

Please send any prayer requests to Susan Stanewick at sstanewick@gmail.com or call the church office at 910-769-4951

Find Purpose through Service

**Matthew's
Ministry**
Food Changes Lives



September Mission Partner **Matthew's Ministry**

Matthew's Ministry motto is Matthew 25:40 which is a verse that many believe expresses the idea that serving the poor and needy is equivalent to serving Jesus. "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew's Ministry (MM) is dedicated to helping reduce childhood hunger for Brunswick County school kids.

In northern Brunswick County, MM provides food bags for kids in 7 schools, which is about 1,200 food bags each month. Each food bag contains 11 food items. The Bridge works with Leland Rotary Club, Port City Community Church - Leland, and Reach Community Church to pack food bags and distribute food bags to schools. We have 3 storage units that hold food and food bags until bags are packed and delivered. Matthew's Ministry food program is a community service.

The Bridge church packs food bags monthly and delivers bags weekly to Town Creek Elementary, Town Creek Middle, and Classical Charter of Leland schools. At The Bridge, we pack about 400 food bags each month during the school year, and we deliver food bags to 100 kids each week.

As **September's Mission Partner of the month, the church will collect monetary donations to purchase food. Write "Matthew's Ministry" on your donation check or donate via REALM to Fund "Matthew's Ministry".**



Find Purpose through Service



Our next Worship Service at The Bluefields Memory Care will be **Thursday, Sept 3rd at 1:30p.m.** in the Activities Room. Volunteers are needed to help the residents with songbooks, purchase/serve cookies, sing along, and enjoy worshipping God with our Bluefields friends.

If you would like to join us in this ministry, please wear your bridge tee shirt, if you have one, and arrive by 1:20p.m. For more information or if you are bringing cookies for the residents, contact Susan Stanewick at ssanewick@gmail.com



Our next Craft Day at The Bluefields Memory Care will be **Thursday, Sept 24 at 2:00 p.m.** in the Activities Room.

If you would like to join the fun in helping our friends, please arrive by 1:45 and wear your bridge tee shirt, if you have one.

Any questions please email

Patti Pirher at

ppirher@gmail.com



**DO YOU LOVE TO SING?
COME JOIN THE CELEBRATION CHORUS!**

Do you love to sing? Do you want to lead others in our bridge church family to honor and worship God? Have you sung in choirs or choral groups before OR always wanted to do so?

Then we are looking for you! By now, you have probably heard the chorus sing and know what a great job they are doing under Rebecca's leadership. She has chosen a collection of worship songs that will be easy to learn so all levels of ability are welcome.

Practice begins again on Wednesday, September 9th at 4:30PM and the chorus will be singing about 5 or 6 times throughout the year.

Please consider coming and invite a friend!!
All are welcome from the Community as well as our church.

Just let Judy Bath know you are coming so that she can have some music ready.
Send a text to 412-289-5128 or email her at jannbath@hotmail.com.

Registration Closed – We've Reached our Limit!
IMPORTANT: If you've invited guests, please email Ruth at "r.fitzsi55@gmail.com"

All Aboard for the Christ Cruise!

September 27th, 2026

Boards at 2:45 PM – Departs @ 3:00 PM

100 Carl Winner Avenue – Carolina Beach NC

FREE – FREE – FREE – FREE





*On Saturday, October 17th, from 10am to 2pm, The Bridge Presbyterian Church will be hosting an event called "The 'Blessed Bargains' Community Yard Sale and Flea Market" *The event will be open to the public and will take place at the church, located at 1444 Lanvale Rd. in Leland, NC.

*Anyone with something (legal) to sell, from crafts or other created items, to "traditional" yard sale fare like things you might sell as you clean out your garage, can purchase a table for \$20.

*YOU MUST BRING YOUR OWN TABLE. Electricity will NOT be provided. All tables must be reserved in advance- No spaces will be sold on the day of the event. Limit of 40 vendors (not including any Mission Partners that wish to have a FREE space).

*All proceeds from the sale of table SPACES will go to benefit our 12 local "Mission Partners" that The Bridge supports in Brunswick County. Vendors KEEP any money they make from their own individual sales from their tables- Their only cost is the \$20 fee to rent the space for their table.

*Many of our Mission Partners will be represented at our event, to share stories about their work in the community.

*Vendors must agree to remove any unsold items. No trash service will be available.

*Food and beverages will be available, and appropriate "happy" music will be provided throughout the event by DJ Sunray, a local artist, who will donate all "tips" to The Bridge.

*New Hope Clinic will be bringing their "mobile clinic" and may offer some health screenings (Thanks Mary Early!), and we hope to see friends for our New Beginnings congregation as well!

*The event does NOT have a rain date.

*There is not a process for dropping off sale items in advance, for Covenant Partners who have items they may want to donate. If there is something someone wants to offer, we may be able to work out something, but there will have to be a plan for any donated items to be disposed of after the event, should they not sell.

*AT THIS TIME there is not a plan for the Bridge itself to have a table, however if the Men's Group, Women's Group, etc... would like one, we will certainly make that available at no cost, and in this case, all monies from those sales would go to Mission Partners.

*For more information call Bruce Garriss (910) 297-3551 or to reserve a table spot, please call the church office at (910) 769-4951



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Angelic Artists

– Creations Donated by Women of the Bridge –

I'm hosting the *Angelic Artists Table - Crafts by Women of the Bridge.*

I know we have painters, quilters, crocheter's, knitters, seamstresses, and many other talented women in our congregation and I'm asking each of you to make and donate at least 1 personally created item to the cause. All proceeds from the sale of your donated craft items will go to our Mission Partners.

For more information, call **Ruth Fitzsimmons** to arrange for craft item donations.

614 588 2390

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

27

SEPTEMBER

CHRIST CRUISE

Opportunities to connect with others in the community

Encouraging worship/fellowship

Beautiful scenery and peaceful time on the water

SEE THE [SIGN UP SHEET](#)

29

OCTOBER

CHRSTIAN ILLUSIONIST

Here's an alternative to Trick-or-Treating! Come be DAZZZLED &

AMAZED by Don Townsend

6:00 - 8:00 PM in the sanctuary

Snacks provided

**A LOVE OFFERING WILL
BE TAKEN**

All
Month

NOVEMBER

TECH TALK

Yes, for those who missed it last year, Ruth will be offering a 4-week basic skills series on the computer, internet, and Windows-based products (**Microsoft Office**)

5 PARTICIPANT MINIMUM

12

DECEMBER

MIKE'S FARM

This Sell-Out Event includes the "Ho-Ho-Ho Christmas Variety Show", All You -Can Eat Buffett, and a hayride through a spectacular light show!

**WE'LL HAVE TO BUY TICKETS
EARLY – PRICES TBA**

Celebrate Life's Milestones

September

Birthdays

Regina Larkin	8
Steve Dare	11
George Patterson	11
Pat Smith	12
Becky Dare	15
Charles Riddle	17
George Robertson	18
Bill Wesenberg	18
Linda Faulk	29

Anniversaries

Bill and Marcia Wesenberg	Sept 3rd
Stephanie and David Billingslea	Sept 25th

Upcoming Happenings

September

1st – “The Leland You didn’t know” – 1:00pm

3rd - Bluefield Worship - 1:30 pm

4th - New Hope Mobile Clinic

7th - **OFFICE CLOSED for Labor Day**

24th - Bluefield Craft - 2:00 pm

27th – Christ Cruise – 3:00 pm

***** Eight Words to Pray – Sermon Based Small Group - Weekly on**
Wednesdays at Noon from September 16th – November 4th