



**Happy Thanksgiving from the bridge Staff**

**Doug**

**Judson**

**Dave**

**Wanda**

**We are thankful for our bridge family!**

The church office will be closed  
Thursday and Friday, Nov. 27 & 28th  
It will reopen on Monday, Dec 1st



# *Currents*

910-769-4951

thebridgepres@gmail.com

thebridgepres.org

What is happening at *the bridge*.

## **Connecting at the bridge**



Sunday Nov 30, 2025

*Insist On Hope When Things Seem  
Impossible:  
Zechariah and Elizabeth*

**8:45 - Early Worship Service**

**10:30 am - Second Service**

Second services in person and livestreamed on

Facebook and YouTube

**Links to all videos posted by the bridge on YouTube:**

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



**Sunday, November 30th  
after the 2nd service**

The Congregational meeting is for the purpose of voting on the  
recommendation from the Nominating Committee on

New Elders for the Class of 2026

# Bios for Nominations for Elder

## **Sheila Davis - Small Group Elder**



I grew up in Goldsboro, NC going to a Southern Baptist church. After moving to Virginia for 10 years, we returned to NC. At that time, my daughter wanted to attend the youth group with some of her friends at the Presbyterian church, so began our lives as Presbyterians. My daily prayer is to become more knowledgeable of Christ and to grow stronger in my faith. I believe by leading the small groups, this may be His way of guiding me. I am excited (and perhaps a little nervous) to begin this amazing opportunity!

## **Mary Early - Clerk of Session**



I'm a lifelong Presbyterian attending two different churches in Fairfax, Va. before relocating to Leland permanently in 2020. In Fairfax I served as a Deacon working with new members and also worked with children's ministry. My husband, Tom, and I have two daughters - Rachel in Chicago and Rebecca in San Diego. I love sports (Commanders, Nats, Caps, UNC, UVA and South Carolina, in particular). Tom and I wanted to be part of a church in our immediate community and felt called to become a partner at the Bridge in Dec 2022. I am humbled to be asked to serve as your Clerk of Session. I look forward to serving and hope I can fill the position faithfully and effectively.



## **Ruth Fitzsimmons - Hospitality**



A blend of Midwestern and Southern, Ruth comes to us from Indiana and Ohio. Eight years ago, she left the cold snowy winters of Central Ohio and her career at JP Morgan Chase to retire here in beautiful Southeastern North Carolina. It's been hard for Ruth to transition from the demands and pace of corporate America to the retired lifestyle, so she's turned her energy, skills and work experience to further promote neighborhood and church activities. Raised in a devout Southern Baptist home, Ruth has been searching for a church home since she moved to Leland, some were too loud, some were too big, some were cold and uninviting...then she found the bridge and a sincere and loving Christian church family. She has been leading the Women of the Bridge Group this past year and is both honored and intimidated in being nominated for this role.

## **Tom Hall - Long Term Planning and Human Resources**



A Philadelphia native now happily settled in Leland since July 2021 with my wife of 36 years and two of our three sons, I retired from the Department of Defense after 36 years in Logistics Program Management—far easier than raising twin boys and cheering for Philly sports. I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and personal Savior in 1998 and later served over a decade as an elder with our previous church prior to moving to Leland, proving that God can use anyone (even lifelong Eagles fans).



### **Dr. Doug Invites You Into Advent and Christmas At The Bridge!**

Can you believe it! The season of Advent is upon us. For those of you who are new to all this, Advent means ‘coming,’ and the season of Advent consists of the four weeks leading up to Christmas Eve and the celebration of the birth of our Lord. During the Advent Season, Christians are invited to spiritually prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Therefore, the posture believers typically take during the Advent season is one of anticipation, waiting and hoping for Christ to come anew – into the world and into our lives.

The theme for this year’s Advent season is: “Insist on Hope.” The sermons will explore gospel stories where the characters were forced to insist on hope when things seemed impossible or when hope was running low. With all the challenges and uncertainty we face every day, it’s only natural to respond with fear and discouragement. This Advent season you will hear our Lord challenge us to respond to life’s challenges by insisting on hope. Our hope is in Jesus Christ, the Incarnation of God who promises to be “God with us.”

Below you will find a snapshot of what is happening at the bridge during Advent, Christmas and into the new year. Please consider inviting a friend, neighbor or co-worker with you to the bridge this Advent season.

#### **Sunday Nov 30<sup>th</sup> – First Sunday of Advent**

Join us for the first Sunday in Advent as we behold our worship center decorated for the holiday season. The theme in worship will be: “Insist on Hope When Things Seem Impossible,” and we will look at the God’s promise of a son to Zechariah and Elizabeth.

#### **Monday Dec 1<sup>st</sup> – Women of Christmas Study**

Join women of the bridge in the four-week study at the Warnock Building.

#### **Tuesday Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> – Women of the bridge Christmas Celebration**

Fun, fellowship and belonging await all who attend this annual event sponsored by the Women of the Bridge!

### Sunday Dec 7<sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday of Advent

The second Sunday of Advent will feature our praise band under the direction of our new Director of Music, Judson Hurd. The theme for this Sunday will be: “Insist on Hope When Hope is Running Out” and we will look at John the Baptist’s struggles as he awaits execution in a Roman prison.

### Monday Dec 8<sup>th</sup> – Annual Red Cross Blood Drive

Plan to join as the bridge hosts this annual event from 11 – 4 in the Warnock Building.

### Saturday Dec 13<sup>th</sup> – Belville Christmas Fair

The bridge will be a vendor table to tell fairgoers about our church and meet new people.

### Sunday Dec 14<sup>th</sup> – Third Sunday of Advent

As we move deeper into Advent, our Celebration Chorus will be singing in both worship services. The theme for worship will be: “Finding Hope Within the Pause,” as we look at how Mary finds hope within her prayerful pauses while conversing with an Angel.

Beginning at 4:30 in the afternoon, Elder and therapist Bruce Garriss will lead a workshop of grief during the holidays. This will be followed by a light meal and then our annual community-wide Blue Christmas evening worship service at 6:30pm. Working in conjunction with the Town of Leland, we will invite families from the greater Leland community who have lost a loved, to join us for an evening candlelight service of remembrance.

### Wednesday Dec 17<sup>th</sup> – Holiday Meet & Greet

This year our holiday meet and greet will be at the home of Charlie and Pat Smith. Join us from 4:00 till 7:00pm for holiday cheer and fellowship.

### Sunday Dec 21<sup>st</sup> – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Our final Sunday in the season of Advent we will look at how Joseph made the courageous decision to extend a hopeful, helping hand to pregnant Mary. Our theme will be “Helping Others Insist on Hope.”

### Wednesday Dec 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve

The bridge will host the very popular Christmas Eve candlelit communion service at 7:00pm. You’ll want to come early to celebrate the birth of Lord and enjoy the candlelit splendor of the worship center and reserve a seat for you and your family.

### Sunday Dec 28<sup>th</sup> – Lessons & Carols Sunday

The Sunday after Christmas will be an informal worship gathering to listen to the Christmas story and sing your favorite Christmas carols. Bring extra cookies to share and enjoy the joyful celebration of the holidays with your church family.

# Connecting by Serving

Sunday, Nov 30, 2025

## Coffee Servers

8:45 - Susan

10:30 - Linda W

## Greeters/Ushers

8:45 - Broadwaters

10:30 - Wells.

**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

# Connecting in Generosity

	11/23/25			
Total Local Deposits	\$2,601		9:00 am Attendance	37
Online Donations	\$3,250		10:30 am Attendance	55
Total Weekly Offering	\$5,851		Total Attendance	92
Pledge Fulfillment			Attendance (4 wk avg)	102
Total Deposit	\$5,851		Weekly Offering (4 wk avg)	\$4,943



# Connecting In Prayer

PRAYER LIST Nov 27, 2025

Please remember that this prayer list can also be seen on the Bridge Website within Currents. **Avoid including private information in your requests unless you plan it to be public knowledge.**

- Prayers for Jim Bath. Jim is doing well recovering from open heart surgery. He is home.
- Prayers for Anne Graham. Anne is now battling the flu. Please continue to pray for her.
- Prayers for Terry Hickey's sister-in-law Sandy Coppola, who had surgery for stage 4 brain tumor 4 weeks ago and still hospitalization.
- Constant prayers for Marilyn Vernon on her journey with cancer.
- Prayers for Eric Peterson as he is recovering at home.
- Prayers for Ken Campbell who is recovering at home.
- Prayers for Mike Marchand's journey towards open heart surgery
- Prayers for John Larkin who is starting radiation. Peace and good news for John and Regina
- Prayers for Ruth Fitzsimmons as she recovers at home with foot in cast.
- Prayers for Mary Campbell preparing for her second corneal surgery
- Prayers for Donna Maher who had a stent placed for a blockage in her heart.
- Prayers for Larry Arnone who had bladder surgery. Prayers for a good report and rapid healing
- Prayers for Dennis and Barbara Anderson having problems this week. Prayers for Dennis and Barbara as they make life decisions.
- Prayers for Joyce Rodman's sister and brother-in-law, Becky and Lonnie as they both have cancer. Prayers for strength and healing
- Prayers for the session as they grapple with the life of the church

To make a prayer request, contact Elder Mary Campbell at [carlislecampbell@gmail.com](mailto:carlislecampbell@gmail.com) or (910)269- 9696 text or phone. There are also yellow request cards available in the church hallway across from the coffee bar. You can also send a request through our website. Prayer requests remain in Currents for two weeks unless an extension is requested



**Are you coming to our Christmas Eve  
Service at 7:00 pm?**

Do you have extra room in your car?

**If you said YES - WE NEED YOU!!!**

We have a couple people who would love to attend but need a ride.

If you can help - please email Mary Campbell  
at [carlislecampbell@gmail.com](mailto:carlislecampbell@gmail.com)



Dear Bridge Friends,

I wanted to share this good news with you. I have now completed chemotherapy, and my follow-up PET scan was clear! The 2 radiation treatments and 6 cycles of chemotherapy seem to have been successful.

Now we will monitor things with PET scans every 3 months for the foreseeable future, but for now everything looks good.

Thank you all for your support and your prayers! They meant so much to us! We have a lot to be thankful for this Thanksgiving!

Cathy & Andrew Purves

# Connecting Through Missions



THE BLUEFIELDS  
MEMORY CARE

The Bluefields is located at 1935 Lincoln Rd. NE in Leland.

Our next Worship Service at The Bluefields Memory Care will be **Thursday, Dec 4th 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 [sstanewick@gmail.com](mailto:sstanewick@gmail.com)

Craft Day at The Bluefields was all about being thankful. We were thankful for Tony Honeycutt who led us in singing hymns and Christmas carols. Our volunteers helped the residents decorate a "Thankful Tree" with blessings we thank God for, and we made crosses.



# ***GRIEF...***

## **“Let’s Talk About It”**

Sunday December 14th at 4:30pm,  
the bridge will host a 1-hour **“Managing  
Grief”** workshop. *ALL ARE WELCOME!*

And... Bring a small Hors-d’euvres to share  
afterwards, as we will spend time together  
in conversation and fellowship before the  
Blue Christmas service at 6:30pm



**Signup sheet in the hall is helpful, but not needed**

**Community-wide  
Blue Christmas  
evening worship service at  
6:30pm  
at the bridge Presbyterian  
Church**

Working in conjunction with the Town of  
Leland, we will invite families from the  
greater Leland community who have lost  
a loved, to join us for an evening candle-  
light service of remembrance.





**Dec. 17th  
4:00 - 7:00pm**

The meet and greet will be held at the home of **Charlie and Pat Smith.**

**Their address is 1005 Lismore in Waterford, Leland.**

**There will be a sign up in the hall**

Guests should bring an appetizer to share and their choice of beverage. Typically, this is wine, beer, or soft drinks. The host and hostess will provide paper plates, napkins and utensils. They will also provide name tags.

This is an informal get together so that we may get to know each other a little better.

**Sign up Sheet on table in Hall**

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## **Are you interested in leading in worship as a Liturgist?**

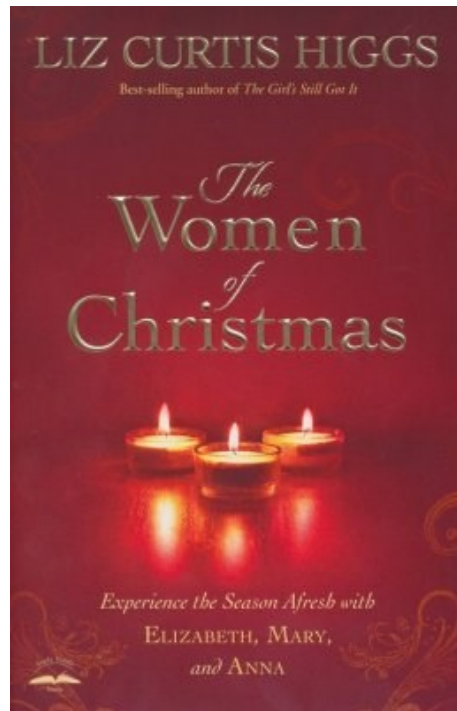
We are looking for more people will to lead in worship reading the liturgy.

There will be a class in January, lead by Doug, for anyone wanting to become a liturgist.

If you are interested, please sign up in the hall

Wanda will contact you when the class time is determined.





## ***Women of Christmas***

Sheila Davis and Suzanne Veen will facilitate a book discussion on *Women of Christmas* by Liz Curtis Higgs starting on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

It will be on Mondays at 1PM in the Warnock Hall and is a 4 week series. The book can be purchased online, and everyone is encouraged to read the first two chapters before the 1<sup>st</sup>.

This is a great way to start Advent and prepare our hearts for Christmas.

Even if you have attended this class before, it can still bring hope and joy into our lives as we begin to celebrate the birth of Christ.

So come, and bring a friend or neighbor. A sign up sheet is on the table in the hall.

# Matthew's Ministry

Food Changes Lives



## Change of Packing Day

We will be packing on

**SATURDAY, December 6, at 10AM.**

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Corrected Date - December 13th

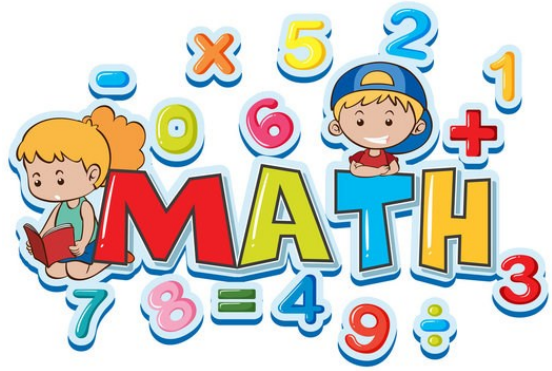
***Join us at the  
Belville Christmas Fair!  
December 13th, 10am-3pm  
Belville Riverfront Park!***

Come and join us for a couple of hours at our booth and support the bridge as we meet kids and families attending this fun annual event!



We will offer prizes and fun snacks for everyone!  
Signup sheets for two-hour slots are in the lobby,  
and remember to bring your chair!

**Come Volunteer!**



Math Skills Needed.....

Leland Middle School is looking for math tutors. You will need a Brunswick County background check.

Please contact RuthThompson at [rthompson@bcswan.net](mailto:rthompson@bcswan.net).

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**Office Coverage needed from 9:00 - 12:00  
noon**

**while Wanda is gone on vacation**

This will include answering the phone and checking  
the mail

If you are able to cover the church office  
on **Monday Dec 8th, Wednesday Dec 10th or Mon-  
day Dec 15th**

please let Wanda know at 910-769-4951 or  
[thebridgepres@gmail.com](mailto:thebridgepres@gmail.com)



# Blood Drive

## The Bridge Presbyterian Church

**American Red Cross Bus- Warnock Building**  
**1444 Lanvale Rd**  
**Leland, NC 28451**

**Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

For an Appointment please visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code:  
Bridge or call 1-800-RedCross.

Snack will be provided before and after drive in the Warnock building, behind the church. Please be sure to bring your identification to register.



**Give a gift, get a gift! Give blood 12/8-18 & get a \$15 Amazon Gift Card by email! [rcblood.org/gifts](http://rcblood.org/gifts)**



**Schedule your blood donation appointment today!**

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App



To everyone who donated toys to *Fill the Sleigh*,  
to all who adopted a senior in need  
and  
to all who gave money to help a family.....

Thank you so much for your generosity and compassion  
in giving to those in need!

Greer Broadwater and BFA



# Upcoming Happenings

## November

27th - Thanksgiving - Office Closed

28th - Office Closed



## November Birthdays

Jim Manaro	28
Lynne Lewis	29
Steve Wingert	29

Gary Westphal	12
Virginia Hight	14
Judy Hogg	14
Tom Broadwater	19
Doug Cushing	20
Stephanie Billingslea	22
Gary Lewis	23
Mary Early	28
Lisa Myers	29

## December Birthdays