



BROWNSON

MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
A missional community called to love and live in Christ

2023  
ANNUAL REPORT

*God's* provision throughout  
THE LIFE OF  
Brownson Church

# A LETTER FROM SESSION

Dear Brownson Church,

"The Lord is our Shepherd." This last year continues to affirm this deep truth about our lives together. We, as the Session of 2023, write to you to give thanks to God for a Good Shepherd who guided us throughout this year. In the pages before you, you can see God's goodness and provision. In the midst of so many challenges this last year, you can see the provision of God.

- Local Missions collected over 100 coats for our friends at Southern Pines Elementary School. The gift of a coat made one recipient say, "This makes me feel like I'm somebody."
- Five Brownson Youth participated in Confirmation and officially joined the church! It is a full house on Sunday nights during Youth Group!
- Brownson Kids welcomed hundreds of children through summer programming like Stellar VBS, Mission Possible Camp, Family Nights, and Community Camp.
- Congregational Care held a *Longest Night* service in December where 75 attendees who might be experiencing grief worshiped with candlelight and prayer.
- Adults in our congregation showed up in large numbers to participate in our two small group series during Lent and in the fall.
- Brownson Learning Center loves 77 children representing 60 families each week in the BLC sharing the love of Jesus with each one of them.
- Brownson packaged 25,000 meals during our annual Rise Against Hunger meal packing event.

**We are grateful for the** amazing people who are a part of this church. As we continue to live in this challenging time, may Brownson Church continue to be the hands, heart, ears, and feet of Christ. May we continue to be a *missional community called to love and live in Christ*. May we **together "lead a life worthy of the call to which we have been called."**

Grace and peace,

2023 Session of Brownson Church

Alice Herrington	<i>Alice Herrington</i>	Don Power	<i>Don Power</i>
Alicia Riggan	<i>Alicia Riggan</i>	John Bullard	<i>John Bullard</i>
Amelia Kirkland	<i>Amelia Kirkland</i>	Kathy McPherson	<i>Kathy McPherson</i>
Andrew Benbow	<i>Andrew Benbow</i>	Ken Goodman	<i>Ken Goodman</i>
Ann Edgerton	<i>Ann Edgerton</i>	Larry Riggan	<i>Larry Riggan</i>
Art Edgerton	<i>Art Edgerton</i>	Lee Pittman	<i>Lee Pittman</i>
Beverley Pellom	<i>Beverley Pellom</i>	Mollie Calhoun	<i>Mollie Calhoun</i>
Charlene Kinelski	<i>Charlene Kinelski</i>	Morgan Strickland	<i>Morgan Strickland</i>
Chris Jordan	<i>Chris Jordan</i>	Ryan Ciccone	<i>Ryan Ciccone</i>
David McNeill	<i>David McNeill</i>	Sara Conti	<i>Sara Conti</i>
David Wood	<i>David Wood</i>	Sara James	<i>Sara James</i>
Dixie Parks	<i>Dixie Parks</i>	Scout Cain (Y)	<i>Scout Cain</i>
Don Branch	<i>Don Branch</i>	Wesley Little (Y)	<i>Wesley Little</i>
Rev. John Hage	<i>Rev. John Hage</i>	Rev. Elizabeth Doolin	<i>Rev. Elizabeth Doolin</i>
Rev. Austin Vernon	<i>Rev. Austin Vernon</i>		

THE CONTENTS OF THIS ANNUAL REPORT  
WERE PROVIDED BY THE MINISTRY TEAMS  
AND THE ELDERS OF BROWNSON CHURCH.

# PSALM 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.

## LET US PRAY

Dear Heavenly Father,

With grateful hearts, we at Brownson have so much to be thankful for. For all the babies and children, thank you Lord for their sense of wonder and joy. For our youth and college students, thank you Lord for their questions and teachable moments that inspire them. For our young parents and military families, thank you Lord for their tireless service - at home and abroad. For our aging adults, thank you Lord for their wisdom and their life stories to share. And especially for our pastors and staff, thank you Lord for their leadership, their prayers, and their shepherding us to unite as one body in Christ - This family of Brownson STRONG. With gratitude, we offer these gifts received today. May they be used in your name for those neighbors, near and far, in need of a helping hand. Lord of all to Thee we raise this our prayer of grateful praise.

Amen

Prayer of Thanksgiving - Kathy McPherson, Elder

# BY THE NUMBERS

2023 Confirmation Class



# 16

DURING 2023, BROWNSON  
OFFICIATED 16 FUNERALS OR  
GRAVESIDE SERVICES

# 24

WE ALSO PROVIDED CARE TO  
24 FAMILIES OF MEMBERS  
WHO DIED IN 2023.

# 19

BROWNSON CELEBRATED THE  
SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM WITH 19  
FAMILIES.

## SERMON SERIES

IN 2023, BROWNSON HAD FOUR  
SERMON SERIES THAT INCLUDED:



*Life in the Spirit*



# 59

NEW  
MEMBERS



Dennis & Trina Baggett



Joan Boeger

BROWNSON WELCOMED  
59 NEW MEMBERS  
IN 2023. FIVE YOUTH  
JOINED THROUGH  
CONFIRMATION.





James & Madison Broadwell



Steve & Debbie Brooks



Elizabeth Brummett



Cathernie (Cathy ) Crocker



Hope Dugenske



Barbara Eidam



Barbara Eldredge Everett



Nick Ellis



Matt Franks



Christian E. & Christian B.  
Freberg



Bob Friesen



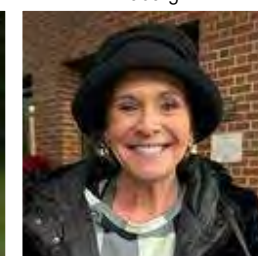
Michael & Sarah Garry



John Hall & Shannon  
Greenbacker



Chris & Marisa Hall



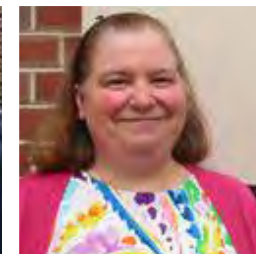
Lisa Hecht



Drs. Ben & Mary Judd



Russell & Ann McAllister,



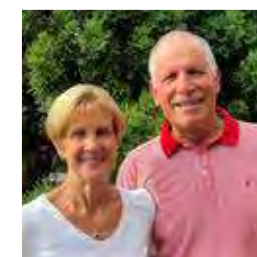
Stephanie & Catie  
Musselwhite



William & Gracyn Myrick



Sharon Ramsey



Donald & Shirley Ruffy



Christine Schild



Sandy Smith



Patrick & Stephanie  
Soderlund



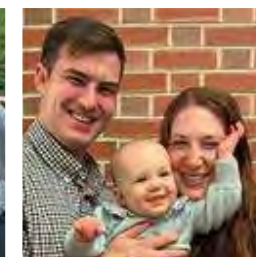
Cynthia Strohm



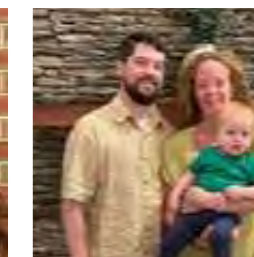
Matt & Sara Tanea



Zach & Axia Wilson



Casey & Emily Wood



Ben & Reba Wurst



Robbie & Emily Zalneck



2023 was a great year for the Adult Discipleship Ministry Team. On reflection, we again recognized that discipleship means putting our phones down to discuss real life issues, studying the Bible, being together, sharing, asking questions, and being willing to listen and learn. Our approach was exciting and creative! During the year, we sponsored...

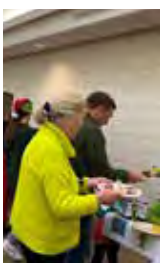
- Small groups that reflected on "Meeting Jesus at the Table" during the Lenten season, and in the fall, explored Psalm 23 through a series entitled "The Lord is My Shepherd: Provision and Presence for Everyday Living." We also organized several smaller "Connect Groups" such as "All God's People" for kids, youth, and adults during the summer, and other small groups throughout the year such as "Women of the Way" on Sunday morning and "Moms of all Ages and Stages" during the week.

- We partnered with other ministry teams and members of the congregation to augment our seasonal studies. For example, Denny Smith shared his woodworking skills by crafting a beautiful communion table. Jennifer Telles, a gifted ceramics artist, created a beautiful cup and plate for communion. In addition, a local artist created a painting of Jesus during his 40 days in the wilderness.

- We enhanced our continuing Bible study classes, prepared "Soul Care" offerings and spiritual direction groups, and helped with the fall church-wide retreat. In addition, we helped launch a first-of-its-kind "Chili Cookoff" in December.

- We began organizing a faith-based travel program which will schedule trips that explore the lands of the Old and New Testaments.

- We continued our coordination with the Bill Jones Committee to invite gifted guest speakers and preachers throughout the year.



# ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

# PROPERTY AND GROUND

## PLAYGROUND WORK & STEEPLE REPAIR



Significant Projects beyond normal maintenance of the Church and its grounds included new projects to enhance the experience of our children and youth at Brownson. Pictured here is the new youth playground which includes a basketball court, a gaga ball pit for dodge ball, a four-square court, and a hopscotch court. The gaga ball pit will be built in the spring as Wesley Little's Eagle Scout project.

Other significant projects included the repair of the church steeple due to water and termite damage and the addition of a fenced area for the nursery children's playground.





# LOCAL MISSIONS

TO MOBILIZE GOD'S PEOPLE TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS AND ALLEVIATE COMMUNITY SUFFERING.

The Local Missions Ministry Team (LMMT) began 2023 with a budget of \$120K+ for funding our 12 partners: CARE Group, Food Bank, Family Promise, Sandhills Coalition, Moore County Free and Charitable Clinic, Habitat for Humanity, Boys and Girls Club, Friend-to-Friend, Sandhills Childrens Center, Northern Moore Family Resource Center (NMFRC), Tambra Place and Southern Pines Elementary School (SPE). Our partners submit grant applications each year requesting funding for needs from operating expenses to funding scholarships. All grants were issued as well as one-time donations to Adult & Teen Challenge and Camp Monroe to assist with repairs. To educate the congregation on LMMT Partner organizations, we instituted monthly Meet & Greet sessions during Higher Grounds so that volunteer opportunities could be explained.

This year Brownson added Adult & Teen Challenge of the Sandhills (ATC) to our list of Mission Partners that will receive annual funding grants from our LMMT. ATC is a faith-centered, long-term residential recovery program for those struggling with life-controlling addiction. In 2023, Brownson donated \$5,000 to help fund some needed repairs and upgrades to their dormitories on their main Carthage campus.

Our annual Habitat Apostles Build was a team effort with Village Chapel in April. Our strong volunteer crew worked 3 days in the house in Aberdeen, putting up siding, installing windows, etc.

We thank our generous congregation for the donation of 100+ coats for the children at SPE and Southern Pines Middle School. One young lady, who was helping her mother pick out coats for her younger siblings, got to pick out a coat for herself. Her comment, as she wrapped the coat around her, "This makes me feel like I'm somebody," will never be forgotten. Also, at SPE, we began our second year of Brownson Buddies Homework Helpers, adding some new volunteers and meeting every Monday to help with reading and spelling homework.

After a three-year hiatus due to COVID and the power outage of 2022, LMMT was finally able to return to NMFRC in Robbins to assist Santa's Workshop. Many former and new volunteers aided families in "shopping" for coats, clothing, toys, and books for children of all ages. LMMT is considering other ways we can assist with Santa's Workshop in the future.

Overall, the LMMT is committed to finding community partners where our grant funding can have the greatest impact and to look for ways that provide volunteer opportunities for Brownson members. Come and join us!



# GLOBAL MISSIONS

The Global Missions team once again hosted a successful Rise Against Hunger event in October. This inter-generational event accomplished packaging 25,000 meal kits to be distributed to those in need around the world, providing much needed nutrition in those locales.



2023 saw continued support for our Peruvian Mission Co-workers Jed and Jenny Koball. Jed had the opportunity to visit Brownson in November, delivering the sermon that Sunday and sharing details of his current mission efforts in Peru. Our financial support assisted in the construction of an additional classroom at the School for the Deaf in Nueva Cajamarca, Peru.

Global Missions funds were provided to support a student scholarship at Daystar University in Kenya - assisting with that University's mission to provide a Christ-centered education for future servant leaders in that African nation. Funds were also distributed to the Medical Benevolence Foundation to assist with the transformation of multi-faceted medical mission in Haiti and African nations.



# A LETTER FROM OUR STEWARDSHIP TEAM

## STEWARDSHIP FINANCIAL REPORT

2024 Pledges total \$985,592  
275 Pledge Cards Received

### 2024 Budgeted Income and Expenses

OPERATING INCOME	
Contributions:	
Pledges	\$ 985,592
Non-Pledged Gifts	\$ 140,000
New Member Giving	\$ 15,000
Loose Plate Receipts	\$ 19,409
Prior Year Pledges	\$ 5,494
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$ 1,165,495</b>
Other Income	\$ 20,000
<b>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 1,185,495</b>

OTHER INFLOWS	
*Endowment Transfers:	
Bill Jones Trust	\$ 19,991
Children/Youth Endowment*	\$ 4,934
Global/Local Missions*	\$ 6,059
Main Endowment	\$ 66,555
Music Endowment*	\$ 11,656
Personnel Endowment	\$ -
P&G Endowment	\$ -
<b>Total Endowment Transfers</b>	<b>\$ 109,195</b>
BLC Contribution	\$ 8,500
<b>TOTAL OTHER INFLOWS</b>	<b>\$ 117,695</b>

OPERATING EXPENSES	
Christian Growth - Adults	\$ 15,500
Christian Growth - Children *	\$ 23,333
Christian Growth - Youth*	\$ 15,150
Communications	\$ 14,500
Congregational Care	\$ 9,779
Global Missions*	\$ 9,971
Local Missions*	\$ 101,140
Operations	\$ 65,290
Personnel	\$ 769,663
Presbytery Missions	\$ 15,275
Property & Grounds	\$ 204,695
Worship*	\$ 58,894
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,303,190</b>

Dear Brownson Church Family,

Happy New Year! As we embark on a new year, we begin this letter with gratitude to God. We want to take a moment to look back at 2023 and how God's provisions were abundant and deeply woven throughout the life of our church.

Although 2023 came with some challenges financially, we persevered to end the year financially strong. God's provision and abundance shined through with growth in new membership, we baptized nineteen babies and children in 2023, we had phenomenal intergenerational events like Rise Against Hunger and the Church Retreat along with an amazing coat drive for our friends at Southern Pines Elementary School. Our preschool has seventy-seven children that we serve throughout the week in a Christ-Centered learning center full of life and love.

On January 4, 2023, the church was struck by lightning and although we have a great insurance policy, some items were not fully covered by our claim. An aging HVAC unit had depreciated so much that our out-of-pocket expenses were just over \$20,000. Over Easter weekend, our steeple sprung a leak causing \$19,000 in repair costs and finally, the unexpected legal fees related to the personnel issue we experienced last year came in at \$75,000. The entire Session committed to slow down spending in 2023 to accommodate these unexpected and unbudgeted expenses. We received an unexpected estate gift and Session voted to approve that the gift remain in our Operating Fund to offset our deficit for 2023. Even with these unplanned expenses, our church finished the year with a deficit of only \$14,698. Giving remains strong and for that we are grateful to God's provision.

Our 2024 Stewardship Campaign was slightly lower than in 2023, but in line with our campaigns in 2021 and 2022. As of December 31, 2023, we received 274 Pledge Cards totaling \$985,592.

The Session of Brownson continues to be great stewards of all that God provides and we are fully committed to that again in the coming year. We continue to operate with no debt, healthy reserves, growing endowments and a vibrant and growing church community. For all of this, we are grateful to God's provision.

In Christ,

Ryan Ciccone, Chair - Stewardship  
Ken Goodman, Co-Chair - Stewardship  
David Wood, Elder



# 2023 YEAR END CASHFLOW DECEMBER 31, 2023



	2023 Actual	2023 Budget
<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>		
Contributions:		
Pledges	\$ 1,040,952	\$ 1,072,388
Non-Pledged Gifts	\$ 133,054	\$ 153,450
New Member Giving	\$ 11,179	\$ 18,077
Loose Plate Receipts	\$ 18,528	\$ 9,517
Prior Year Pledges	\$ 4,005	\$ 13,576
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$ 1,207,718</b>	<b>\$ 1,267,008</b>
Other Income	\$ 82,640	\$ 1,500
<b>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 1,290,358</b>	<b>\$ 1,268,508</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
Christian Growth - Adults	\$ 21,229	\$ 23,085
Christian Growth - Children *	\$ 27,687	\$ 24,275
Christian Growth - Youth*	\$ 15,928	\$ 16,635
Communications	\$ 17,296	\$ 18,910
Congregational Care	\$ 9,583	\$ 19,830
Global Missions*	\$ 24,037	\$ 25,684
Local Missions*	\$ 103,190	\$ 117,800
Operations	\$ 156,628	\$ 73,227
Personnel	\$ 744,656	\$ 766,589
Presbytery Missions	\$ 14,000	\$ 12,330
Property & Grounds	\$ 215,958	\$ 211,770
Worship*	\$ 70,379	\$ 70,719
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,420,571</b>	<b>\$ 1,380,854</b>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>\$ (130,213)</b>	<b>\$ (112,346)</b>
<b>OTHER INFLOWS</b>		
Endowment Transfers:		
Bill Jones Trust	\$ 19,037	\$ 19,122
Children/Youth Endowment*	\$ 4,830	\$ 4,830
Global/Local Missions*	\$ 5,833	\$ 5,833
Main Endowment	\$ 65,334	\$ 65,580
Music Endowment*	\$ 11,981	\$ 11,981
Personnel Endowment		
P&G Endowment		
<b>Total Endowment Transfers</b>	<b>\$ 107,015</b>	<b>\$ 107,346</b>
BLC Contribution	\$ 8,500	\$ 5,000
<b>TOTAL OTHER INFLOWS</b>	<b>\$ 115,515</b>	<b>\$ 112,346</b>
<b>NET CASH FLOW</b>	<b>\$ (14,698)</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

1) Non-pledged gifts are normal contributions with no pledge card; other unrestricted gifts (including from estates) are unforeseen contributions which Session voted to apply to this operating budget rather than to an endowment.

2) Endowment transfers are normal withdrawals which were applied to the respective above operating expenses.

3) Contributions to endowments, Bold Initiatives Fund, etc. are not included above and are excluded from operating revenue.

Over the course of the year, Brownson Youth has seen wonderful growth in Sunday night youth group participation. Over 60 youth have come to eat, fellowship, learn and have fun in the happily full youth suite.

The youth actively served their church and their community in 2023 through Trunk or Treat, VBS, Parent's Night Out, Higher Grounds, ushering and Sunday Serve. When the call went out for help, they answered readily and served with love.

Fifteen youth traveled to the mountains of North Carolina for the annual ski retreat while seventeen youth participated in summer retreats to Massanetta and Montreat and volunteered with Appalachia Service Project, trips that were life changing and formative.

In April, Brownson welcomed five new members from the confirmation class of 2023. The confirmands shared their faith stories, explained the scripture they had selected for their stoles and answered membership questions in front of the congregation as they publicly took an important step in their faith journeys.

# BROWNSON YOUTH





# BROWNSON CHILDREN & FAMILIES

## BROWNSON KIDS

- Expanded Kids Worship to include Preschool and Elementary Worship experience.
- Engaged families in important church holidays through the Family Easter Adventure and the Advent Ornament gathering.
- Welcomed hundreds of children through summer programming like Stellar VBS, Mission Possible Camp, Family Nights, and Community Camp
- Expanded our nursery and continued to welcome precious babies and their families.
- Watched children serve in a variety of ways – at Sandhills Coalition, at The Food Bank, at various retirement communities, and just showing and sharing love everywhere they go





# BROWNSON LEARNING CENTER

“HE GUIDES ME ALONG THE RIGHT PATHS  
FOR HIS NAME’S SAKE.” PSALM 23:3



Brownson Learning Center is designed to provide a developmentally appropriate early education within a safe and loving Christian environment. We desire to set the foundation for a life long love of learning!

- BLC Opened in 2016
- Calendar runs Labor Day – Memorial Day (9 months)
- Current enrollment – 77 students, representing 60 families
- Class structure:
  - One year olds – two 2 day classes
  - Two year olds — two 2 day classes
  - Threes – one 3 day class and one 4 day class
  - PreK (four year olds) – two four days classes



# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Presbyterian Women  
at Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Women at Brownson will celebrate their 88th Anniversary March 2024. Originally known as the Women's Auxiliary, all meetings began with prayer, scripture, and singing the hymn "The Church's One Foundation." Held in the home of Millie DuRant, Brownson's first pastor, Rev. Ernest L. Barber, was also present.

These women were devoted to helping build a Presbyterian Church in Southern Pines while simultaneously assisting with the needs of people in the community. Originally named the Women's Auxiliary the name was changed to The Women of the Church during the early 40s.

Scholarships were offered in 1959 for a college education or divinity school degree.

In the early 1980's the official name became Presbyterian Women, and that name continues to the present time.

Throughout their 88-year history, Missions have remained a constant endeavor. **The Fellowship of the Least Coin**, the **Thank Offering** in the fall, and the **Birthday Offering** in the spring fund new and creative ministries that help build and continue agricultural development, childcare, community organizations, literacy, homelessness, and many times helping the most marginalized people of God's family.

**The Fellowship of the Least Coin** is a global, ecumenical prayer movement linking prayer and the least coins of many countries around the world. Setting aside the least coin as a token of prayer symbolized the oneness of women and their families, communities and nations.

# CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND CONNECTION

## MISSION STATEMENT:

We are a ministry team called to care and connect MEMBER TO MEMBER in Christ's love.  
With the help of God,

- We respond to God's call to love one another. "I give you a new commandment, that you should love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." - John 13:34
- We care for all members of Brownson Church.
- We reflect God's love and care by encouraging, listening, praying, and being present.
- We engage the congregation in caring for and connecting with each other.

## 2023 MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS



The Brownson Flower Ministry



All Saints' Evensong Service - November 5



Lemonade on the Lawn



Advent Season "Parents Night Out"



The Longest Night Service



# 2023



Brownson held its second annual Church Retreat at Camp Caraway September 22-24. We didn't let the weather get us down, so we moved all activities indoors and an amazing time was had by all!

Join us for our 2024 Retreat at Camp Caraway September 27-29. Camp Caraway is just an hour from Brownson in the beautiful town of Sophia, NC. Save the date – registration details coming soon!

## SECOND ANNUAL CHURCH RETREAT











# ELDERS SERVING

## CLASS OF 2023

Scout Cain (Y)  
Ryan Ciccone

Sara Conti  
Ann Edgerton

Chris Jordan  
Charlene Kinelski

Wesley Little (Y)  
Dixie Parks

Don Power  
Larry Riggan

## CLASS OF 2024

David McNeill  
John Bullard

Amelia Kirkland  
Sara James

Don Branch  
Ken Goodman

Alicia Riggan  
Beverley Pellom

## CLASS OF 2025

Andrew Benbow  
Mollie Calhoun

Art Edgerton  
Alice Herrington

Kathy McPherson  
Lee Pittman

Morgan Strickland  
David Wood

# BROWNSON

## MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A missional community called to love and live in Christ

Rev. John Hage, Senior Pastor  
[john@brownsonchurch.org](mailto:john@brownsonchurch.org)

Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin, Associate Pastor for  
Congregational Care and Connection  
[elizabeth@brownsonchurch.org](mailto:elizabeth@brownsonchurch.org)

Rev. Austin Vernon,  
Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Missions  
[discipleship@brownsonchurch.org](mailto:discipleship@brownsonchurch.org)

Matt Franks, Interim Director of Music,  
[bmppcmusic@gmail.com](mailto:bmppcmusic@gmail.com)

Kelli Garbett, Director of Children and their Families  
[children@brownsonchurch.org](mailto:children@brownsonchurch.org)

Erin Pollock, Director of Youth and their Families  
[youth@brownsonchurch.org](mailto:youth@brownsonchurch.org)

Sandra Arrington, Administrative Assistant  
[office@brownsonchurch.org](mailto:office@brownsonchurch.org)

Marilyn Baxter, Director of Member Ministry  
[members@brownsonchurch.org](mailto:members@brownsonchurch.org)

Darlene Bostelman, Administrative Assistant  
[assist@brownsonchurch.org](mailto:assist@brownsonchurch.org)

Dick Hart, Facilities Manager  
[facilities@brownsonchurch.org](mailto:facilities@brownsonchurch.org)

Tracy Kelly, Bookkeeper

[finance@brownsonchurch.org](mailto:finance@brownsonchurch.org)

Stacey Ostlund, Church Administrator  
& Director of Communications

[news@brownsonchurch.org](mailto:news@brownsonchurch.org)

Kacy Depenbrock, Director of Brownson Learning Center  
[blcdirector@brownsonchurch.org](mailto:blcdirector@brownsonchurch.org)

Jed & Jenny Koball - Mission Co-Workers in Peru

910.692.6252

[www.brownsonchurch.org](http://www.brownsonchurch.org)

## BROWNSON MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

330 S. May Street  
Southern Pines, NC 28387

Sunday Worship

9 AM in-person

11:10 AM in-person and online @

[brownsonchurch.org](http://brownsonchurch.org)

Office hours

Monday - Thursday  
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

910.692.6252

[www.brownsonchurch.org](http://www.brownsonchurch.org)

Electronic Service Requested

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