

BROWNSON

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

Annual Report 2024



All in!

Brownson is **ALL IN**
Giving our best to **God**.
All the **time**.
Every **day**.

all **gifts** | all **ages** | all **individuals** | all **together**

A Letter From Session

Dear Brownson Church,

The Session has had an opportunity to reflect upon 2024 that was marked by continued blessings received from our Lord. An active, engaged congregation continued to discover a variety of ways to serve each other and the community in which we live. In so doing, many experienced the joy of assisting others as with the hands of Christ. The 2024 Annual Report provides a summary of the activities of the various Brownson ministry teams. Accomplishments include the following:

- Local Missions collected 125 pairs of new shoes for the Northern Moore Family Resource Center.
- 11 Youth completed the Confirmation process and became members of the church.
- 17 Youth and Adults participated in the Appalachian Service Project and Brownson raised over \$11,000 to support this amazing non-profit organization.
- Nearly 200 children participated in Vacation Bible School at Brownson.
- We welcomed 63 new members into our church family.
- Brownson Learning Center provided a loving learning environment for 81 students in our preschool program.
- Brownson packaged 20,000 meals through Rise Against Hunger's annual meal packing event.
- We welcomed a new Director of Music Ministries, Amy Shortt to our staff team.
- Three Global Missions volunteers visited Peru to reestablish our relationship with the School for the Deaf in Nueva Cajamarca post-COVID.
- Brownson staff participated in the Fellowship of Churches - a thriving group of local pastors working together throughout Moore County.
- The Congregational Care team visited scores of members hospitalized or at home and provided prayer shawls during times of grief. They initiated a new important ministry to welcome and shepherd new members.
- Brownson received \$34,000 from the American Cancer Society for Breast Cancer Assistance and Montreat received \$34,000 from the American Cancer Society for Breast Cancer Assistance.
- Over 275 members and friends of the congregation participated in the Lenten Small Group series "Finding Courage" and the fall series "Wonder Sparked and Reborn."
- Even more of these examples can be found throughout this Annual Report.

Additionally, the Session established four ALL IN goals to guide our 2025 commitment to sharing our time, talents, and treasures to answer the call to serve as the hands and feet of Christ. Those goals are:

- 1) Focus on living into the commitment of being a Matthew 25 Church - caring for the most vulnerable among us.
- 2) Reinvest in Connection and the relationships that bind us together as a community of faith.
- 3) Focus on developing pathways for leadership development.
- 4) Focus on reinvesting in worship and music.

Together with every member of Brownson, it is our hope that the current year will continue to present a myriad of opportunities to share the gifts received from a benevolent Lord. In so doing, we may once again demonstrate a response to His grace that shows Brownson to be a missional community called to love and live in Christ.

The Session of Brownson

2024 Elder Class

Alex Bowness | Alice Herrington | Alicia Riggan | Amelia Kirkland
Andrew Benbow | Anne Friesen | Art Edgerton | Betsy Robinson
Beverley Pellom | Bill Berger | David McNeill | David Malan | David Wood
Don Branch | Jane Howard | John Bullard | Kara Vonderkall
Kathy McPherson | Ken Goodman | Lee Pittman | Mollie Calhoun
Morgan Strickland | Ryan Morrison | Sara James
Dixon Ciccone (Y) | Arianne Monroe (Y)

The contents of this Annual Report were Provided by the
Ministry Teams and the Elders of Brownson Church.



Brownson held its third annual Church Retreat at Camp Caraway in September. This group didn't let Hurricane Helene mess with the fun and fellowship that was had by all!

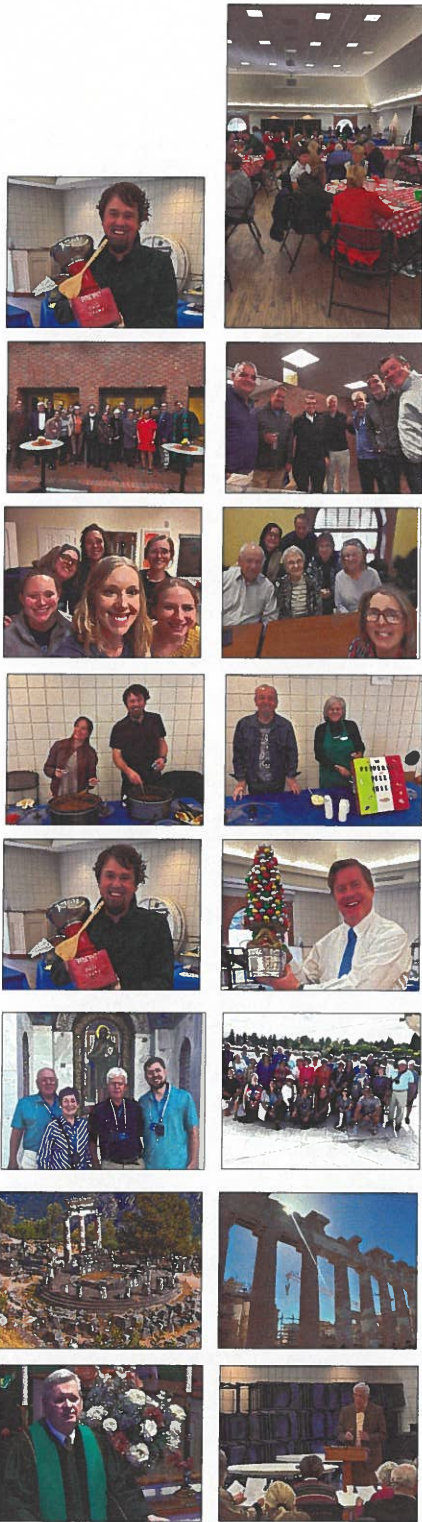
Join us for our 2025 Church Retreat at Camp Caraway November 7-9. Camp Caraway is just an hour from Brownson in the beautiful town of Sophia, NC.

Save the date – registration details will be coming this spring.

Third Annual Church Retreat



Adult Discipleship



Adult Discipleship: Looking back at our ministry team's seventh year, we worked hard to focus on faith-building through community and connection. Whether it was through a Sunday School class, a small group, or a Bible study, we continued our commitment to growing in our relationship with God and each other. At its core, our Adult Discipleship ministry is the process of learning and following the teachings of Jesus Christ. It involves mentoring, guidance, and support, allowing individuals to cultivate a deeper understanding of their faith and implement those teachings in their daily lives. Here are a few of our accomplishments:

- **Community Involvement:** As in many communities, there have been incidents of antisemitism and islamophobia in the Sandhills. In 2024, we assembled a planning team of Christian, Jewish and Muslim representatives from the community to discuss the tenants of the three Abrahamic Faiths in a non-political, non-denominational manner. In 2025, we will develop a presentation, or series that will seek to develop shared understanding of our three faith traditions and harmony in our community. Through a public forum, we will explore similarities and differences in the beliefs and manner of worship of the deity we share.

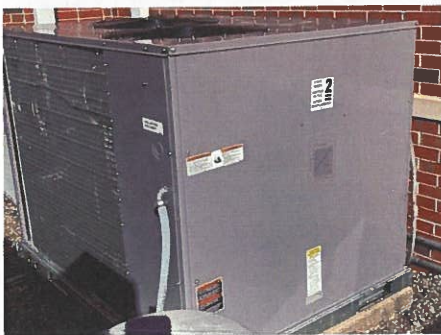
- **Small Groups:** In 2024, we continued our successful Small Groups. In the spring, we conducted a six-week Lenten series focused on "Finding Courage" which explored how we find courage through our faith in Christ. In late fall, we explored "Wonder Sparked and Reborn." Music, art, and poetry opened us to awe and wonder, beauty and imagination, transporting us to the wonders of our world, empowering us to live more faithfully. These weekly events are transforming many participants into a continuous journey of faith and community.

- **Family Meals Ministry:** This year we organized two family meals that profoundly impacted the spiritual life and health of our congregation. In the summer, our "Taco Luncheon" provided a treat for all ages, and later, the "Chili Cook-off" provided a perfect meal for the chilly days of December. Meals like these were a common practice in the early church, and they also help build a thankful and connected community.

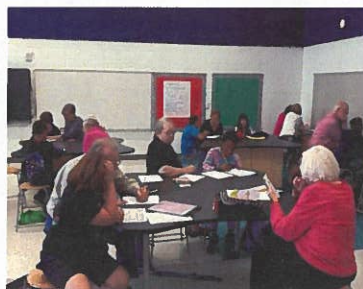
- **Travel Ministry:** Exciting news! Our newly developed travel program took off this year with a trip to Greece, as our travelers "Followed the Footstep of Saint Paul." Stops included Amphipolis, the site where Lydia and her household were the first Christian converts baptized on European soil, Delphi, where Paul faced spiritual opposition in preaching the Gospel, and the city of Corinth where Paul received a vision from the Lord. We hope to continue and expand travel opportunities that build community and deepen faith in 2025.

- **Engaging Speakers:** Each year, we strive to invite guest speakers who can enrich the spiritual life of our church, provide fresh insights, and help stimulate interest in faith and fellowship. In 2024, we teamed with the Bill Jones Committee to bring **Rev. Dr. Donovan Drake**, Pastor/Head of Staff, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN to preach a sermon entitled "The Beginning of the Good News." Rev. Drake also made a special presentation in the Fellowship Hall between services. A special thank you to the Bill Jones Committee for making Rev. Drake's visit possible. We also invited our own Dr. **Rev. Dr. Bill Giles** to teach a "Presbyterian 101" class. Dr. Giles focused his teaching on an exploration of the Presbyterian identity and our unique system of governance.

Property & Grounds



Significant, both seen and unseen, projects beyond normal maintenance of the church and its grounds included an HVAC replacement in the Sanctuary, filling and restriping the parking lots on campus as preventative maintenance, the final completion of the Youth Play Area that includes a basketball court, a gaga ball pit which was the Eagle Scout Project of Wesley Little, and also includes four square and hopscotch courts.



Local Missions

Local Missions Ministry Team Mission Statement

To mobilize God's people to build relationships and alleviate community suffering. As a Matthew 25 Church, we strive to contribute to the well-being of the most vulnerable in our community. To help those struggling with food insecurity, poverty, racism, lack of affordable housing, addiction, and mental illness.

Local Missions Ministry Team (LMMT)

The Local Missions Ministry Team (LMMT) began 2024 with a budget of \$105,000 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, Northern Moore Family Resource Center (NMFRC), Tambra Place, Adult and Teen Challenge (ATC) and Southern Pines Elementary School (SPE).

This year we are establishing KEY measurable goals. For example, volunteer hours, pounds of food collected, and more. Brownson Church is so generous with their Time, Talents, and Treasures!

Our annual Habitat for Humanity Apostles' Build was a team effort with Emmanuel Episcopal Church in April. Our strong volunteer crew worked 2 days on the house in Aberdeen (Thursday got rained out), putting up siding and installing windows. **Volunteer hours=114!**

Local Missions Ministry Team assisted NMFRC in Robbins and their Santa's Workshop by holding a shoe drive. Our generous congregation came through with donations of 125 pairs of shoes! We then had 13 volunteers assist families in shopping for over 200 children. **Volunteer hours=60!**

Along with several other churches, BPMC brought the Crop Hunger Walk back to Moore County in April after a five-year hiatus. 175+ people from throughout the county walked around the track at Union Pines, raising over \$18,000! The funds will be split 75% globally and 25% locally.

Local Missions continues to provide dinners and overnight hosts for Family Promise five weeks throughout the year. We're thankful for some new volunteers who are spending the night and will deliver healthy meals to single mothers and children who are trying to get back on their feet. **Volunteer hours=200 hours!**

Our weekly food request for Sandhills Coalition was measured this year...over 3100 pounds of peanut butter and jelly, rice and macaroni and cheese was delivered to assist the Coalition with providing food boxes for families in need. Coalition Christmas (formerly Empty Stocking) was supported most generously by our congregation with 35 families being adopted! Again, we shared our treasures by fulfilling gift requests and providing Food Lion gift certificates.

Brownson Buddies at SPE completed their second school year of tutoring and started their third in October with 12 students and 13 tutors. All are excited to work on spelling words, improve reading and comprehension skills and learn third-grade math skills. **Volunteer hours=317 hours!**

Adult and Teen Challenge continues to use their grant from Brownson to transform lives through faith-based addiction recovery services. They served 148 people, assisted them in finding employment after graduation and maintaining their sobriety. Your treasures at work!

We're setting new KEY measurable goals for 2025: **900 volunteer hours and 3500 pounds of food!** We'll keep you posted when the chance to volunteer for the Food Bank returns. And please feel free to ask questions on how you can help the Local Missions Ministry Team accomplish their Mission Statement.

Hurricane Helene - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Montreat received \$34,000 from Brownson for hurricane relief efforts.

By The Numbers

Local Missions Boots on the Ground
Brownson is **AllIn** for Service

125 Pairs of Shoes

1391 Volunteer Hours

3500 Pounds of Food Donated



The Global Missions team initiated a Visioning Process to identify where the Holy Spirit is leading the Brownson congregation to provide mission support globally. The process led the team to put emphasis on supporting a specific international project with our ongoing relationship with The School for the Deaf in Nueva Cajamarca, Peru.

The visioning process received clarity following a mission trip to Peru in August. This provided an opportunity to reconnect with the leadership of the School for the Deaf. The relationship began in the years prior to Covid and endured despite the barriers presented by the global epidemic. The school continues to meet the mission of providing educational support for children disadvantaged by their hearing impairment.

A further benefit of the August mission trip was an enhancement of Brownson's collaborative relationship with Peace and Hope International. This organization works in Latin America alongside communities in poverty, so that they can live with dignity, free from violence and injustice. The two organizations will continue to work together in supporting the School for the Deaf.

The GMMT sponsored another successful campaign with Rise against Hunger in October. This intergenerational event was successful in packing 20,000 meals for those less fortunate and suffering from food insecurity.



Global Missions



Congregational Care and Connection

Congregational Care and Connection Ministry Team Mission Statement

We are a ministry team called to care and connect Member to Member in Christ's love. With God's help, we cared for and connected with:

- 260 members through our Card Ministry
- 24 homebound members through our Visitation Ministry's 288 visits
- 18 care receivers spent 236 hours with their Stephen Ministry caregivers.
- 63 new members
- 65 members who were remembered with Easter and Christmas flowers.
- 43 members received prayer shawls and grief books.
- Those who received flowers lovingly arranged by our Flower Ministry
- Grieving members through Martha's Friends
- Members who were visited weekly in the hospital
- ALL members through our faithful weekly prayer ministry

We honored God through meaningful worship and fellowship at:

- Lemonade on the Lawn
- 100th Birthday Celebration for three wonderful centenarians
- All Saints' Evensong Service
- The Longest Night Service
- Parents' Night Out



Reading of Necrology

Rev Elizabeth H. Doolin, Rev John Hage



Stewardship Financial Report

2025 Pledges Total: \$988,138
274 Pledge Cards Received

A Letter From Our Stewardship Team

	2025 Budget
OPERATING INCOME	
Contributions:	
Pledges	\$ 988,138
Non-Pledged Gifts	\$ 150,000
New Member Giving	\$ 34,000
Loose Plate Receipts	\$ 19,000
Prior Year Pledges	\$ 2,000
Total Contributions	\$ 1,193,138
Other Income	\$ 15,343
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	\$ 1,208,481
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Christian Growth - Adults	\$ 11,000
Christian Growth - Children *	\$ 22,000
Christian Growth - Youth*	\$ 14,000
Communications	\$ 13,000
Congregational Care	\$ 8,000
Global Missions*	\$ 21,000
Local Missions*	\$ 100,000
Operations	\$ 68,281
Personnel	\$ 789,281
Presbytery Missions	\$ 15,379
Property & Grounds	\$ 203,195
Worship*	\$ 56,994
Contingency Fund	\$ 5,000
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 1,327,130
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$ (118,649)
OTHER INFLOWS	
Endowment Transfers:	
Bill Jones Trust	\$ 19,991
Children/Youth Endowment*	\$ 5,432
Global/Local Missions*	\$ 6,626
Main Endowment	\$ 66,071
Music Endowment*	\$ 12,329
Personnel Endowment	
P&G Endowment	
Total Endowment Transfers	\$ 110,449
BLC Contribution	\$ 8,200
TOTAL OTHER INFLOWS	\$ 118,649
NET CASH FLOW	\$ -

*ministry teams with endowment transfers

*Bill Jones and Main Endowment transfers fund the general operating fund to offset our operating expenses.

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 2024 and how God and Brownson Church were ALL IN!

2024 came with some challenges financially, but we made it our mission to end the year financially strong. God's goodness shined through with growth in new membership, we Baptized 13 babies and children in 2024, we had amazing intergenerational events like Rise Against Hunger, the Church Retreat, and a successful shoe drive for our friends at Northern Moore Family Resource Center. Our preschool has 81 students that we serve throughout the week in a Christ-Centered learning center full of life and love.

A few of our challenges include aging systems throughout our campus. We had the need to replace one HVAC unit that heats and cools one half of the Sanctuary (\$21,000), and we chose to do preventative maintenance on our parking lots by filling and paving them (\$9,000), and our Property Insurance premiums increase by \$10,000 to name a few.

We give thanks for a significant estate gift that we received in the fourth quarter of 2024. This \$25,000 gift will go in our Endowment for the use by future generations.

Even with these unbudgeted expenses, our church finished the year with a minimal deficit of only \$2,631. Giving remains strong and for that we are grateful to you for your generosity and to God for his steadfast love.

Our 2025 Stewardship Campaign was just slightly above our 2024 campaign. As of 12-31-24 we have received 274 pledge cards totaling \$988,138.

The Session of Brownson continues to be great stewards of all that God provides and we are fully committed to this promise in 2025. 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.

In Christ,

The Stewardship Ministry Team

Ken Goodman, Chair – Stewardship
David Wood, Co-Chair – Stewardship
John Cates
Ryan Ciccone
John Hage
Patrick Henry
Lisa Hughes
Scott Kittrell



2024 Year End Cashflow

	2024 Actual	2024 Budget
OPERATING INCOME		
Contributions:		
Pledges	\$ 983,524	\$ 985,592
Non-Pledged Gifts	\$ 147,495	\$ 150,000
New Member Giving	\$ 42,994	\$ 15,000
Loose Plate Receipts	\$ 18,330	\$ 19,409
Prior Year Pledges	\$ 13,895	\$ 13,895
Total Contributions	\$ 1,206,237	\$ 1,183,896
Other Income	\$ 13,614	\$ 20,000
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	\$ 1,219,851	\$ 1,203,896
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Christian Growth - Adults	\$ 11,515	\$ 15,500
Christian Growth - Children *	\$ 25,800	\$ 25,800
Christian Growth - Youth*	\$ 16,777	\$ 17,617
Communications	\$ 15,084	\$ 14,500
Congregational Care	\$ 8,273	\$ 9,779
Global Missions*	\$ 13,970	\$ 13,000
Local Missions*	\$ 104,170	\$ 104,170
Operations	\$ 72,301	\$ 65,290
Personnel	\$ 765,414	\$ 765,414
Presbytery Missions	\$ 15,275	\$ 15,275
Property & Grounds	\$ 222,715	\$ 204,695
Worship*	\$ 70,689	\$ 70,550
Contingency Fund		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 1,341,983	\$ 1,321,590
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$ (122,132)	\$ (117,694)
OTHER INFLOWS		
Endowment Transfers:		
Bill Jones Trust	\$ 19,882	\$ 19,991
Children/Youth Endowment*	\$ 4,934	\$ 4,934
Global/Local Missions*	\$ 6,059	\$ 6,059
Main Endowment	\$ 66,555	\$ 66,555
Music Endowment*	\$ 11,656	\$ 11,656
Personnel Endowment		\$ -
P&G Endowment		\$ -
Total Endowment Transfers	\$ 112,003	\$ 109,195
BLC Contribution	\$ 7,500	\$ 8,500
TOTAL OTHER INFLOWS	\$ 119,503	\$ 117,695
NET CASH FLOW	\$ (2,631)	\$ -

*ministry teams with Endowment Disbursements

*Bill Jones and Main Endowment transfers fund the general operating fund to offset our operating expenses.

- 1) Non-pledged gifts are normal contributions with no pledge card or gifts given above and beyond someone's pledge.
- 2) Endowment transfers are normal annual withdrawals which were applied to the respective above operating expenses.
- 3) Contributions to the endowments, Bold Initiative Fund, etc. are not included above and are excluded from operating revenue

By The

Brownson welcomed 63 new members. Eleven of these joined through **confirmation**.



Numbers

28

During 2024, Brownson officiated 28 Memorial Services. 26 Active Members, one Friend of Brownson, and one non-member.

63

New Members

19

We also provided care to 19 families of members who died in 2024.

13

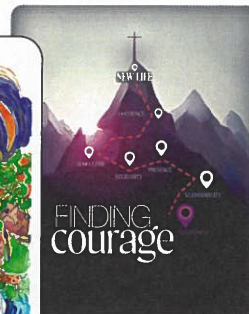
Brownson celebrated the sacrament of Baptism with 13 families in 2024.

SERMON SERIES

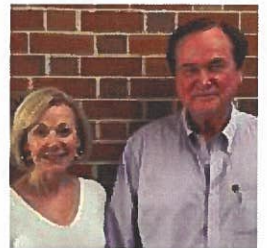
In 2024, Brownson had four Sermon Series that included:



The Fabric of God's Family in Genesis



Mary Ann Blake



Tommy & Linda Bradford

Not Pictured
Jocelyn Bradley



Beth Carpenter



Shannon Carpenter



Laura McKenzie, &
Steven Dean



Shawn & Grace
Driesbaugh



Rudy & Neely
Fleischmann



Katherine McGriffen &
Bryant Gauthier



Mary Hamblen



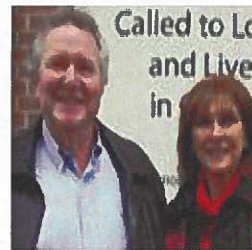
Tom & Beth Hill



Ashley & Evelyn Maier



Marilyn McAllister
Gavin & Carol



John & Billie McCaskill



Carole McFarland



Linda McKarney



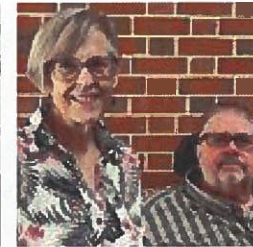
Lisa Metro



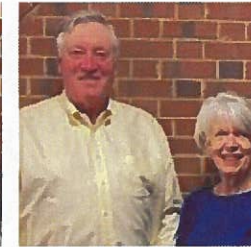
William & Allyson
Metro



Robert & Maria Milligan



Jeffery & Fran Moran



Robert & Mary Jo
Newman



Ryan & Sarah Orway



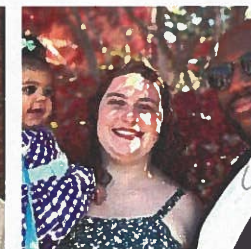
Lauren Owen



Calvin Riddle



Henry Rohrer



Ravon, Erin & Ruby
Sheppard



Patricia Smith



Ransie & Lillian Stokes



Wayne & Carolyn Tucker



Jack & Kerrie Ulrich



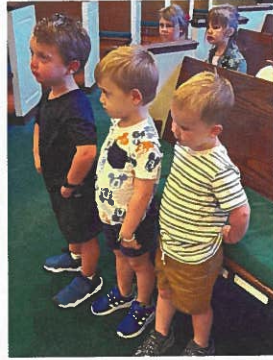
Michael & Katherine
Whatley

Brownson Children & Families

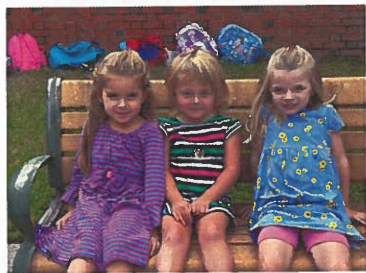
Children & Families Ministry Highlights:

- Continued to grow preschool programming, to include Preschool Worship, Preschool Family Nights, and Second Sundays with Little Friends. Some of our fun activities have been Pizza in the Park, A Charlie “Brown-son” Thanksgiving, our annual Christmas ornament creation, and “God Made Me Unique” Snow Party.
- Promoted faith formation and fellowship for students in grades K – 5 through Kids Worship, Kids Connect, and the 3rd – 5th Grade Bible Challenge.
- Fostered a partnership with the Worship Ministry team to reinstate the Brownson Children’s Choir.
- Welcomed 200+ children to Brownson’s Campus in the summer through Vacation Bible School and Community Camp.
- Encouraged and supported nursery staff as they faithfully loved and supported our always-growing nursery of babies and their families.





Brownson Learning Center



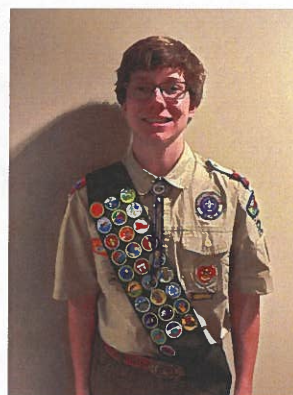
The Brownson Learning Center and its amazing staff continues to serve our church and community by being ALL IN, each day. We are proud to provide developmentally appropriate, play-based Christian education to the youngest in our community and church congregation. Beyond the classroom we offer music education, children's church, lunch bunch, and after school enrichment opportunities for our older students.

- Educational program offerings for ages 1-5 in a half-day, four day a week format.
- Current enrollment is 81 students, representing 70 different families and 13 church member families. We continue to be at capacity in each age level with a wait-list of students.
- Raised \$5,000 through our annual Bike-A-Thon fundraiser for scholarships, new equipment, and curriculum.
- We expanded our program offerings to include after-school enrichment in Old Testament stories, famous artists, gardening, and theater.



Brownson Youth

- Youth group is bursting at the seams, with attendance reaching into the 60's on some Sunday nights. Youth group has also become an outreach of the church with more than 30 youth attending who do not have any other family connection with Brownson.
- In the summer of 2024, Brownson sent the largest group yet of youth and adults to Virginia for a week-long mission's trip through the Appalachia Service Project. They built a ramp for a woman with mobility issues while Brownson raised over \$11k for other ASP home projects.
- The youth are involved in volunteering and serving others! In 2024 they prepped a church meal, served through ASP, helped lead VBS, served other church members through Sunday Serve, ran games for Trunk or Treat, helped with church decorating, did Rise Against Hunger Setup, and participated in caroling, singing in church services, and ushering.
- This year a student leadership team was developed to give the youth a voice in the direction of Brownson's youth ministry. This team is made of up current and future youth elders who work together to plan youth events, lead middle school Bible study, and provide feedback that informs decision making.
- Wesley Little, a member of Brownson Youth, worked toward completing the requirements for his Eagle Scout by building a gaga ball pit on Brownson's campus. His leadership and service to others has been a blessing to Brownson Youth and the gaga ball pit has been a place of fun and fellowship for all.
- Eleven youth completed confirmation class and became members of Brownson in the spring of 2024. In the fall, confirmation was revamped to become a year-long process to encourage connection, community, service, and time for meaningful conversation.





Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women is an organization for all women in Brownson. We meet monthly in small groups—there is a circle where each woman can find a place where she is welcome to participate in our Bible Study. We meet as a full group four times a year in what is called our Women's Gathering. There is always an interesting program presented, and delicious refreshments are served.

Beyond Bible study and fellowship, our purpose is to live out our Christian ideals by supporting missions and working for justice and peace. To that end, we raise money and contribute to special offerings to fund our mission projects and those of the larger church. These include:

Mission Pledge (yearly)

Gifts to the PW PC(USA)'s Annual Fund (Mission Pledge) make possible the ongoing mission and ministry of PW at all levels of our denomination.

Thank Offering (fall)

The Thank Offering was started in 1888 as an expression of a "thank offering to her Lord" over and above one's usual contribution. Offerings are collected in the fall and at least 40% of this offering supports health ministries, often helping the most marginalized members of God's community.

Birthday Offering (spring)

The tradition of giving a PW Birthday Offering in the spring was started in 1922 to help support new and often innovative mission projects both overseas and in the U.S.

Fellowship of the Least Coin (monthly)

Fellowship of the Least Coin is a global, ecumenical prayer movement linking prayer and the least coins of many countries as the symbol of prayer for peace and reconciliation. The coins are put into a common fund that symbolizes the oneness of women.

Brownson Ministries (weekly)

The women of Brownson work tirelessly throughout the year in numerous church ministries and in the community in cooperation with the Local Missions Ministry Team. Every woman in the church can find a ministry to which her skills are best suited.

In 2024, Brownson's PW helped fund PCUSA Rock Well in Africa, Moore County Coalition for Human Care, the Moore County Free and Charitable Clinic, a Sandhills Community College scholarship among other causes.

Recognizing our commitment to education and to nurturing the faith of our children, PW distributes scholarship money to graduating high school seniors and college students.

The Worship Ministry Team

consisting of Elaine and Milton Sills, Pam Zell, Charlene Kinelski, Cornelia Morris, Matt Franks, Luke Markotich, Jared Garbett, John Hage, Elizabeth Doolin and Chairs Mollie Calhoun, Alex Bowness, and Betsy Robinson, had a noteworthy year.

- With the broad goal of providing a fitting environment where the Clergy can deliver their compelling and meaningful worship messages, the Worship Team oversees the many logistical details associated with the church service including the music, ushering, and communion activities, the flower ministry, and decorating the Sanctuary for the six Seasons of the Christian Liturgical Year.

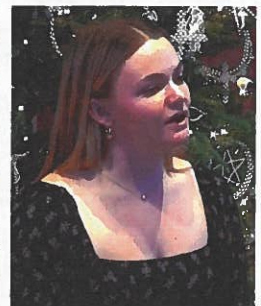
- This year the Team is particularly proud of how our music ministry program has grown due to the intentional design, under the leadership of Director of Music Ministries, Amy Shortt, to involve many different groups and musicians of all ages within our congregation in our services.

- o This includes notable soloist appearances by Will Franks, Coco and Callie McHarney, Caraugh Gary, Janie Monroe, Eliza Hage, Erin Pollock, Charlie Taylor, and Wesley Little on percussion, as well as Chancel Choir Staff Singers, Liz Cox, Matt Franks, Erin, and Ravon Sheppard.

- o A female youth ensemble sharing their talents on Christmas Eve

- o aCHOIRing Voices, offering the opportunity for singers unable to commit to the demanding weekly choir schedule a chance to sing periodically at a service

- o a Men's Ensemble



Praise to thee O Lord for all creation.



Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.



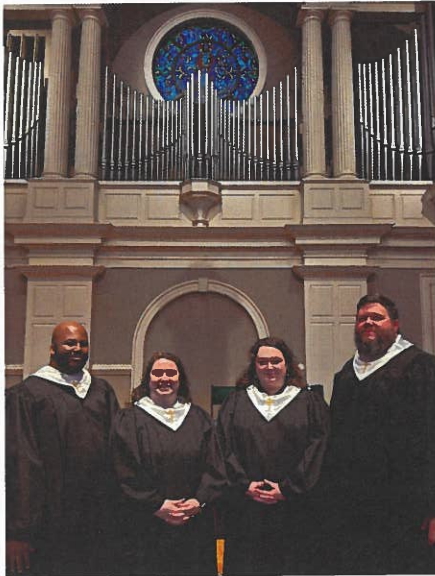
Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.



The Lord is my light, the Lord is my light and my salvation.
The Lord is my light. Whom shall I fear, of whom shall I be afraid?



"Come, Messiah, Come"
The Children's Choir



"she danced in the rain"
Amy Shortt - Piano, Hannah Markum - Trumpet



Look at the world everything all around us.
Look at the world and marvel every day.
Look at the world, so many joys and wonders.
So many miracles along our way.



Christ has no body now but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes with which He sees.
Yours are the feet with which He walks.
Yours are the hands with which He blesses all the world.



o The Brownson Children's Choir where children learned singing techniques, sight reading skills, and shared their faith through music in worship.

o In addition, throughout the year, several guest musicians graced our worship services including Michael Stephenson (saxophone), Hannah Markum (trumpet), and Kathryn Mueller (soprano).

o On June 19, Brownson hosted a community concert of three local musicians for a noonday "Brahms at Brownson" concert.

o On December 15, our Chancel Choir and organist, along with numerous instrumentalists and soloists from throughout the state of North Carolina, presented Camille Saint Saëns' Christmas Oratorio to both members and many welcomed visitors during both church services.

- We also focused on incorporating more reverence to the process of celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion, which takes place the first Sunday of each month as well as on Ash Wednesday and Christmas Eve. In addition, Mary Tart, Micki Hage, Cornelia Morris, and Pam Ferguson became the unofficial Communion Guild, assisting with the setup, replenishment between services, and cleanup of the Communion elements. We even have another team of volunteers who polish the silver serving pieces!

- Our eight usher teams consisting of 56 volunteers who serve as ushers throughout the year greeting and seating members and visitors with a warm smile and welcoming heart. They also collect the offering, take attendance, and tidy-up and secure the church following the second service.

- Many volunteers came together to decorate the beautiful sanctuary for Easter and Christmas for which we are grateful. We are particularly indebted to Steve and Debbie Brooks for organizing and leading these efforts.