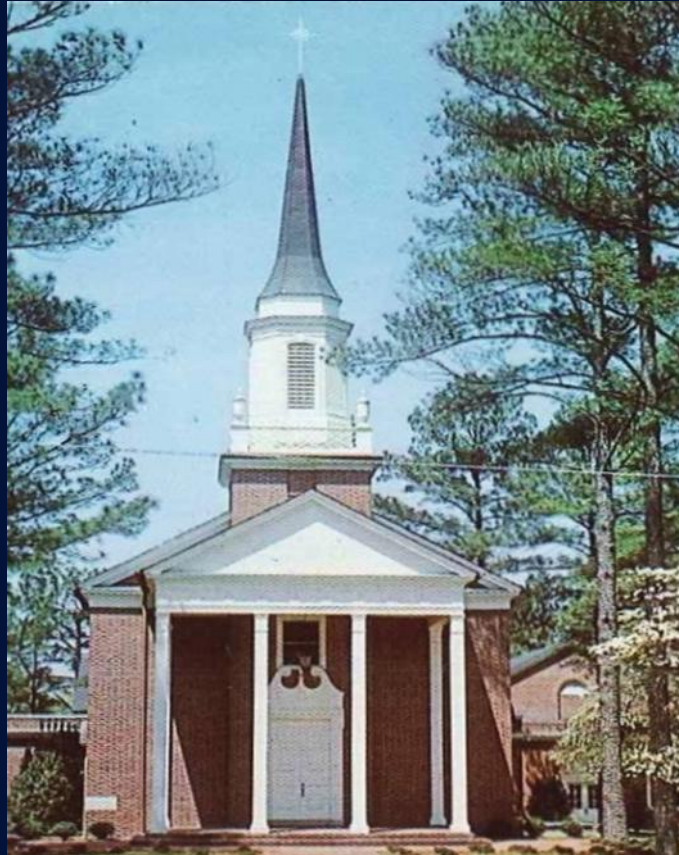


BROWNSON

MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A missional community called to love and live in Christ



*Ninety Years of Grace
Our Story
God's Faithfulness*

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we reflect on 2025, our hearts are filled with gratitude as we celebrate a remarkable milestone: ninety years of grace and God's faithfulness. This anniversary invites us to remember our story—how God has shaped, sustained, and grown this church from its earliest days to the vibrant community we are today.

Our congregation began with humble beginnings, built brick by brick by faithful visionaries who trusted God and dared to dream. Through prayer, sacrifice, and steadfast commitment, that dream took root and continues to flourish. The 2025 stewardship campaign offered a meaningful opportunity to look back on our history and rediscover what makes us the church we are today—a community grounded in faith, generosity, and love.

Today, we are a thriving and growing church, committed to helping people deepen their relationship with Christ and grow in their faith. Our children and youth programs are bursting at the seams, a joyful sign of new life, energy, and hope for the future of the church. Because of your generosity, we are able to provide immeasurable resources to our local and global communities. Through financial gifts, "boots on the ground" volunteers, and the sharing of countless pounds of food, shoes, and other essential items, lives are being touched and hope is being restored in Christ's name.

As we look ahead, Brownson has identified four strategic goals that will continue to guide and shape our ministry into 2026: fostering intergenerational worship, cultivating intentional leadership development, strengthening meaningful connection, and living more fully into our calling as a Matthew 25 church. These priorities reflect both who we have been and who God is calling us to become.

We are deeply grateful for the care, support, and generosity of this congregation and for the legacy you are continuing to build for future generations. Your faithfulness is a powerful witness to God's work among us, and we are truly blessed to serve alongside you as part of this church family.

With sincere thanks and confidence in God's continuing work among us, we move forward together—rooted in our past, strengthened in the present, and hopeful for the future.

In Christ's peace,


John Hage
Senior Pastor


Art Edgerton
Clerk of Session



2025 Session of Brownson

Alex Bowness | Andrew Benbow | Anne Friesen | Art Edgerton | Betsy Robinson | Bill Berger
 Chris Hunt | B. Christian Freberg | David Malan | David Wood | Gena Smith | Jane Howard | Kara Vonderkall
 Kamron Monroe | Kathy McPherson | Keith Walvoord | Lee Pittman | Lisa Hughes | Mandy Berg
 Mollie Calhoun | Morgan Strickland | Pat Henry | Roy Cameron | Ryan Morrison | Luke Markotich (Y) | Janie Monroe (Y)

By the Numbers

21

Member Deaths

9

Officiated
Nine Memorial
Services

12

Celebrated the
Sacrament of
Baptism with 12
Children & Youth

2

Officiated two
Wedding
Ceremonies

45

Brownson Welcomed
45 new members into
our church family



Front Row: Brooklyn Riggan, Ella Vonderkall, Emerson Freberg, Tanner Ginos, Sam Kessell

Back Row: Joelle Cole, John De Blasio, Sam Depenbrock, Henry Harris

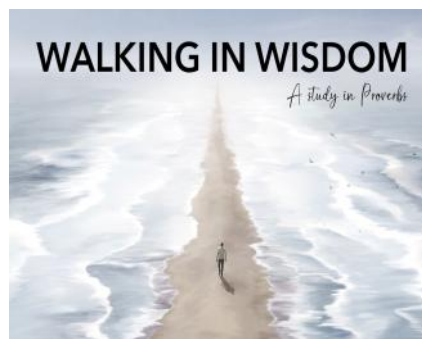
Brownson welcomed 45 new members in 2025.

Nine of these joined through Confirmation.



4

Sermon Series
In 2025, Brownson had
four Sermon Series that
included:



Andi Allen**John and Linda Anderson****Bob & Debbie Bell****Josh and Mandie Beneviat
Julian and Abby****Stephanie Bossert****Cooper Carter
(Liddy & Eve)****Troy and Nichole Disser****Nick and Natalie Eddins
Jackson, Kate, Emma and Andrew****Barbara Gaylord****John Greer****Cindi Hamilton****Joseph & Donna
Harrell****Jeff and Liz Hunter
Carmie and Will****Andy & Molly
Jaimes****Lynn Lineberger****Chan and Lucy
Roberts****Kyle and Carrie Simmons
Ava and Will****Alex & Katie Smith
Carson, Jack & Mary****John & Mary Tramazzo
Mary & Robbie****Don and Cindy Wells**

Not Pictured
Kyle and Steffi
Entzminger
Liam and Raleigh

Elizabeth Carter
(Liddy & Eve)

**2025
NEW
MEMBERS**



Worship & Music

One of the four strategic goals set by Session for 2025 was increasing intergenerational participation in our worship services. Significant progress was made during the year through intentional dialogue among members of the Worship, Youth, and Children's Ministry Teams, with a broad spectrum of congregants representing all ages, experiences, and faith expressions with specific roles in our services. As the pictures show, special emphasis was placed on how our music is experienced during worship, including the creation of the Children's and Youth Choirs and revitalizing the Hand Bell Choir.



Eight church members traveled to Nueva Cajamarca Peru to visit the L'Eppe School for the Deaf in August - the first organized international mission trip since before the COVID 19 pandemic. In addition, our church provided more than \$25,000 in budgeted and member-directed additional funds to operate the school including teacher salaries, transportation, and needed improvements to the schoolhouse and property.

More than 140 members from age four to 90+ participated in the Rise Against Hunger food packaging event creating 20,000 meals for the worldwide hunger abatement organization. This annual event remains one of the most fun intergenerational events in our church calendar.





Global Missions



Mission:

To mobilize God's people to build relationships and alleviate community suffering. As a Matthew 25 Church, Brownson seeks to serve the most vulnerable in our community by addressing food insecurity, poverty, housing needs, addiction, and mental health challenges. In 2025, the Local Missions Ministry Team (LMMT) set measurable goals—and the congregation exceeded them.

Brownson donated **5,909 pounds of food** (goal: 3,500) and logged **1,102 volunteer hours** (goal: 900). Highlights included **Rise Against Hunger**, with 250 volunteer hours and 20,000 meals packed, and **Commitment Sunday**, when 2,900 pounds of food were donated in response to frozen SNAP benefits during the government shutdown.

Brownson participated in the **2025 Habitat Apostle Build** in Pinebluff, joining 16 churches to build a home for the Shanelle Taylor family. More than 16 Brownson members volunteered during the May 29–31 build dates.

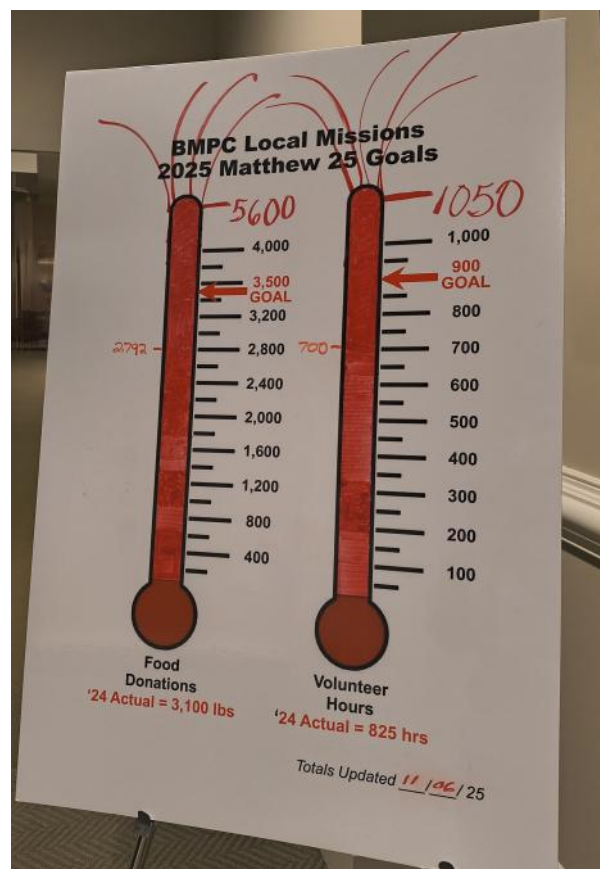
Additional outreach included a **shoe drive** benefiting the Northern Moore Family Resource Center (160 pairs donated), support for **Family Promise** through meals and overnight hosting, and strong participation in the **Sandhills CROP Walk**, where 250 participants helped raise over \$24,000 to fight hunger locally and globally.

Through **Coalition Christmas**, 60 families were adopted and supported with gifts and grocery assistance. **Brownson Buddies**, our third-grade reading program at Southern Pines Elementary School, continued its fourth year with 12–15 weekly volunteers and collected 100 coats for families in need.

Our church also supported youth development through **Scout Troop 223** and **Cub Pack 73**, providing leadership, service, and community engagement opportunities while contributing valuable service to Brownson.

Local Missions





The youth are involved in volunteering and serving others! In 2025 they 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.

The student leadership team, which is made up of current and future youth elders, had a large impact on youth ministry this year. They informed decisions about events and curriculum, took over a youth group, and led every aspect of it and even taught a four-week middle school Bible study.

In the summer of 2025, Brownson sent the largest group yet of youth and adults to Virginia for a week-long mission trip through Appalachia Service Project. They did large construction projects at two homes while Brownson raised over \$16k for other ASP home projects. Ella Hall, who has gone on the ASP trip for 5 years, was nominated to attend the ASP Youth Leadership Summit in February of 2026. She will be the first youth representative from Brownson to participate in this event.

The youth have traveled this year! The high school ski trip and beach trip were full of fellowship, laughter, and joy. In the summer, trips to Montreat, Massanetta and Appalachia Service Project gave youth the chance to grow in their faith, serve others, and deepen their friendships.

In the first half of the year, the youth focused on Proverbs 3:5-6 and what it means to fully trust in the Lord. Their study culminated on Youth Sunday, when they shared what they had learned in their personal faith journeys. Starting in the fall of 2025, the theme verse has been Psalm 139:14 and the focus has been on our identity in Christ and who we are according to Scripture.

Nine youth completed confirmation class and became members of Brownson in the Spring of 2025. In the fall, a new class of sixteen youth began their year-long confirmation class process.

The adult leadership team for youth group expanded this year to 10 adults. These adults give their time, talent, energy, and guidance to the youth throughout the year and play a huge part in building relationships and guiding faith formation.

BROWNSON

YOUTH

A missional community called to love and live in Christ





BROWNSON KIDS

A missional community called to love and live in Christ

Our ministry team was thrilled to introduce the Milestones Program this year. Though it is still a work in progress, we are excited for our children to continue their faith formation through these monthly, age and topic appropriate sessions and conversations!

A 5th Grade Leadership Team was created to offer insight, guidance and direction for Brownson Kids - from a kids perspective! Their input is invaluable, and we are grateful for their leadership!

During Kids Worship, preschoolers and elementary children alike were introduced to hand bells! They love ringing them and are excited to share their gift of music in worship!

Many of the Brownson Kids participated in the cantata, and we are so thankful for their sweet voices!

Kids Connect continues to be a place of connection, faith formation, outreach, and fun! Our student leadership team suggested that we begin learning in the Old Testament, so we've done just that on Sunday evenings. From dinner, to games, to Bible study, music, and just time for kids to be kids together – Kids Connect is such a joyful and energetic time!

We recognize, now more than ever, that Kids Ministry is a family ministry. For that reason, we've been intentional about involving parents in growth and learning. From small groups, to 4th Sundays with Families, to family nights and family service projects, growing together as a family is such a gift!

We love summers around here! This year, we had our biggest Vacation Bible School ever, with over 225 participants and volunteers learning how Jesus is our "True North." We traveled to Camp Monroe with our 3rd – 5th graders, and hosted Community Camp for our younger friends and the community!





Brownson Learning Center, a ministry of Brownson Church, continues to provide excellent play-based Christian education to the youngest in our community. We are grateful that parents entrust us with their most precious gifts and allow us to nurture their children's minds, bodies and spirits.

- We offer half-day, four day a week programming for ages one to five.
- Current enrollment is 81 students, representing 69 different families and 14 church member families. We continue to be at capacity in each age group with a waitlist of students each year.
- We partner with and participate in local missions alongside the church.
- Favorite events of 2025 include our annual Bike-A-Thon, our Kalawi Farms field trip, and our annual Christmas Nativity program.
- Current projects include the renovation of the outdoor playground, expansion of our enrichment program Little Explorers, an evening Art Showcase.



Brownson Learning Center



Adult Discipleship

Go Forth! Dearest Friends and Partners. In 2025, we were brimming with hope in the halls of Brownson Church! Our God opened new doors, changes occurred, new people arrived, and forward-facing strategies emerged which were focused on *Intergenerational Worship, Connection, Intentional Leadership Development, and Being a Matthew 25 Church*. Working with other ministry teams, these new goals were implemented through carefully developed pathways. Throughout the year, our ministry team was on the move, and everywhere God was glorified! We worked passionately to lead Adult Discipleship into its next era of disciple-building ministry. Here are a few of our amazing accomplishments, knowing that our best years are still to come.

Connection Groups (Ligon Bible Class, The Living Word Today, Donuts and Devotionals, Theology on Tap, Moms of all Ages and Stages) explored scripture and biblical themes through published curriculum and informal conversation. All are welcome, including partners from other denominations!

Small Groups offered opportunities for Intergenerational Worship.

In the spring, our six- week series on the Beatitudes examined Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount. This study offered a powerful vision of what it means to live a life of faith, blessing and discipleship.

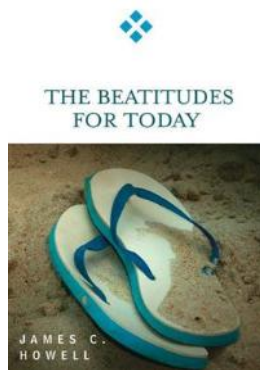
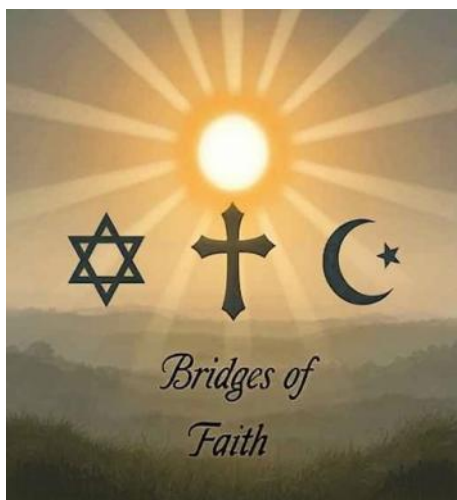
In the fall, we journeyed together in a five-week series called "90 Years of Grace: Our Story, God's Faithfulness." Each week we reflected on remembering moments from Brownson's ninety-year history that reveal God's hand at work.

Bridges of Faith, an Interfaith Dialog. After over a year of hard work and planning, a team of leaders from the Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths helped provide our community a chance to come together at Sandhills Community College in a spirit of mutual respect, learning and understanding. Panelists from each faith shared insights and stories, followed by questions from over 200 attendees. This exciting event was sponsored by Brownson's Adult Discipleship Ministry and Bill Jones Speaker Series.

Summer of Psalms. During the summer, our members were invited to take a devotional journey through the Book of Psalms referred to as "Summer in the Psalms." This collection of poems and songs have served as a prayer book for people of faith for centuries. Each Psalm provides a snapshot of faithfulness to God through the highs and lows of our lives.

Bible Study. Alice Herrington led, and continues to lead a comprehensive study of the Book of Matthew. This highly popular program emphasizes the teachings and miracles of Jesus, and the establishment of God's Kingdom.

Family Meals and the Annual Family Retreat. Adult Discipleship teamed with other ministry teams to continue these favorite intergenerational church activities. Family meals, including the very popular Chili Cook-off, foster community, strengthen faith, build healthy relationships, and help us connect with one another. The family retreat is multifaceted, focusing on spiritual growth, the family, group unity, and allows us to step away from our busy lives. Most importantly, these activities help us enjoy the wonders that Jesus brings to our families.



Congregational Care and Connection

2025 Highlights

- Hosted Parents' Night Out for Brownson & BLC Parents with over 50 kids in attendance
- Offered "Care 101" Sunday school class in the Fall – a 5-part series led by pastors and care professionals on the art of care
- Held first ever "Blessing of the Animals service" – giving thanks for God's gift of pets in our lives
- Trained a new Class of Stephen Ministers, with 4 Brownson members and 3 members from Pinehurst UMC
- Delivered 37 items from the Prayer Shawl Ministry (including shawls, pocket shawls, and baby hats)
- Held first ever "Prayer Shawl Sunday" – highlighting the work of the Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Delivered 36 poinsettias to homebound and grieving members at Christmas
- Groups from Brownson sang Christmas carols to 31 homebound members
- Continued special worship services centered around care, including the All Saints' Evensong Service and The Longest Night Service
- Stephen Ministers gave 258 hours to their caring relationships
- Visitation Team Members visited 21 homebound members, making 301 visits
- Welcomed 43 new members into fellowship at Brownson Church



Presbyterian Women



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

21

The Presbyterian Women of Brownson Church are, like the church itself, an inclusive, caring community. We welcome women who seek to grow in their faith through Bible study, mission, and fellowship. We care deeply for one another and seek to demonstrate God's love in our support of each member. Each time we part, we say the Mizpah Benediction: "May the Lord watch between me and thee while we are apart one from the other."

The entire group comes together four times a year for a "Gathering" to connect and hear an inspiring program. Five circles meet monthly to study together and work toward our yearly goals. This year, by selling Christmas ornaments during the previous Fall, we were able to provide mission assistance in the following ways:

International: We provided a fishing boat and accessories through the Presbyterian Mission Program to a family in an underdeveloped country, making it possible for them to earn a living.

National: We provided assistance through Presbyterian Disaster Relief for Hurricane Helene recovery efforts in the North Carolina mountains.

Local: We provided seed money for the Brownson 90th Anniversary Celebration.

We also provided meals to mothers and children through Family Promise and participated in A Coalition Christmas by adopting several families which included thirty four children.

Our support of children extends to our older youth, as well. In 2026, we provided twelve scholarships, made possible, in part, by proceeds from our Stay-At-Home Tea fundraiser. In June, we provided Prayer Journals to our graduating seniors.

As we move forward, we will strive to continue to fulfill God's mission through the women of Brownson.



Property & Grounds

The Property and Grounds team had another busy and productive year, marked by significant progress in both maintenance and campus improvements.

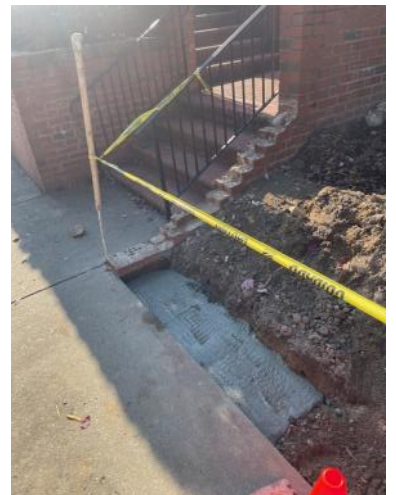
We are pleased to share some exciting news: **approval has been granted for the installation of a new playground for the Brownson Learning Center and Brownson's Children's Program**, with construction scheduled to begin in February. This addition will provide a safe, engaging space for children and enhance the overall functionality of our campus. The cost share for this project is 80% paid by the Brownson Learning Center and 20% paid by the church. This wasn't something we just wanted, it was something we needed. Significant drainage issues caused by excess sand clogging the drains, created an unusable space and required the repair of the drainage and replacement of equipment.

Earlier this year, we addressed a **major erosion washout near the choir room** caused by the heavy late-summer rains. The repair was completed successfully and will help prevent further damage in that area. Across the campus, **new mulch was added by Brownson supported Scout Troops**, helping to refresh our landscaping. Regular pruning, tree trimming, and routine grounds maintenance were carried out throughout the year to keep our two-city-block campus looking its best.

We replaced **two** HVAC units on our campus totaling \$42,000 which were unbudgeted expenses.

We extend our gratitude to the volunteers and team members whose efforts made these accomplishments possible. Their dedication ensures our campus remains safe, welcoming, and well cared for.





Stewardship

Thank you. In October, I stood before you to kick off the 2026 Stewardship Campaign asking you to consider increasing your 2026 pledge by 10%. You listened and responded. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

With your increased support, we have had the most successful pledge campaign since our records go back to 2008—likely of all time! This allows us to meet our personnel obligations and increase funding for our ministry teams.

With your help we can care for the most vulnerable among us through increased funding to local and global missions, demonstrating that we are a Matthew 25 church. We have increased funding for the Moore Free Care & Charitable Clinic, Sandhills Coalition, and the Boys & Girls Club, as well as to our support for our mission work in Peru, Rise Against Hunger and Day Star University.

The Session is committed to offering more opportunities for intergenerational worship by expanding the music programs with new music and incorporating visiting musicians during special times of the church year, such as the Cantata, Christmas Eve, and Easter. We are also exploring new ways to meet our members where they are, including those online. We are excited for new music opportunities with our children, youth, and adults as we strive to reach one of our goals for intergenerational worship!

In the fall, the Board of Pensions initiated significant increases in insurance costs. While the increase percentage is higher than anticipated, we can maintain the overall cost of personnel below what was budgeted in 2025. This is made possible due to Rev. Austin Vernon's call to a new church. The 2026 budget includes only funding this vacant position for the fourth quarter of the calendar year. Leaving this position vacant most of the year will allow the Personnel Ministry Team adequate time to evaluate the needs of the church for this position and time to recruit someone to fill it. There have also been other staff changes that have provided opportunities to reduce costs or to better align job responsibilities. Church members have also increased volunteer hours to assist in the office. Eligible church staff received a 5% cost of living adjustment as they hadn't received one since 2021.

Our facilities have aging systems, especially HVAC. This has impacted the Property & Grounds Ministry Team's budget in recent years. The 2026 budget includes a contingency to cover minor emergency repairs.

The 2026 budget also includes funding for the 90th Anniversary Celebration.

Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church remains in a healthy financial position. We carry no debt, maintain strong reserves, and have a new initiative fund that currently has \$72,000 available. Over the past two years, we have taken important steps to align our highest expenses with endowment support, helping us systematically address rising costs over time. In addition, we have worked to lower overall staff costs while increasing reliance on the gifts and leadership of volunteers.

With your help and dedication, you are making a difference and making it possible for us to continue our shared mission and vision. Thank you again for stepping up and increasing your pledge.

With gratitude,

The Stewardship Ministry Team

Lisa Hughes – Stewardship Co-Chair

David Wood – Stewardship Co-Chair

John Cates

Ryan Ciccone

Ken Goodman

John Hage

Pat Henry

Scott Kittrell

CONTRIBUTION INCOME

	Jan - Dec 25 Actual	Budget 2025
Pledge Receipts	993,090	996,138
Non-Pledge Gifts	168,232	150,000
New Member Giving	1,785	34,000
Loose Plate Receipts	16,725	19,000
Prior Year Pledge	3,107	2,000
Total CONTRIBUTION INCOME	1,182,940	1,201,138

OTHER INCOME

Bank Interest - Operating Funds	9,097	5,343
Building Use Income	529	1,000
Other Income	16,780	9,000
Total OTHER INCOME	26,407	15,343
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	1,209,348	1,216,481

EXPENSES

CHRISTIAN GROWTH		
CG - ADULT	11,203	11,000
CG - CHILDREN	22,212	22,000
CG - YOUTH	13,586	14,000
COMMUNICATIONS	9,699	13,000
CONGREGATIONAL CARE	7,607	8,000
GLOBAL MISSIONS	27,477	21,000
Total LOCAL MISSIONS	101,302	100,000
Total OPERATIONS	77,216	68,281
Total PERSONNEL	746,788	794,281
PRESBYTERY MISSIONS	15,379	15,379
PROPERTY & GROUNDS	247,658	203,195
WORSHIP EXPENSES	62,795	64,994
	1,382,185	1,335,130
	-199,440	-118,649

ENDOWMENT INCOME

Bill Jones Trust	20,143	19,991
Main Endowment Fund	66,071	66,071
Music Endowment	12,329	12,329
Global/Local Missions Endowment	6,626	6,626
Property & Grounds		
Personnel		
Children/Youth Endowment	5,432	5,432
	110,601	110,449
	8,198	8,200
	118,799	118,649
	118,799	118,649
	-54,038	0

2025 Year End Cashflow

2026 Campaign Results

2026
Pledge
Total
\$1,113,456

256
Pledge
Cards
Received

CONTRIBUTION INCOME

600100 · Pledge Receipts	1,113,456
600103 · Non-Pledge Gifts	120,000
600105 · New Member Giving	0
600110 · Loose Plate Receipts	14,520
600120 · Prior Year Pledge	3,000

Total CONTRIBUTION INCOME

1,250,976

OTHER INCOME

600200 · Bank Interest - Operating Funds	1,500
600201 · Money Market Interest	7,000
600205 · Building Use Income	600
600215 · Other Income	250

Total OTHER INCOME

9,350

TOTAL INCOME

1,260,326

EXPENSES

CHRISTIAN GROWTH

CG - ADULT	17,100
CG - CHILDREN	22,300
CG - YOUTH	15,800

COMMUNICATIONS

9,300

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

10,310

GLOBAL MISSIONS

27,000

LOCAL MISSIONS

107,500

OPERATIONS

98,454

PERSONNEL

767,164

PRESBYTERY MISSIONS

16,212

PROPERTY & GROUNDS

243,669

WORSHIP EXPENSES

60,350

1,395,159

-\$134,833.00

ENDOWMENT INCOME

600122 · Bill Jones Trust	19,991
600123 · Main Endowment Fund Transfer	69,256
600124 · Music Endowment Transfer(s)	13,597
600126 · Global/Local Missions Endowment	7,124
600127 · Property & Grounds	3,893
600128 · Personnel	6,987
600130 · Children/Youth Endowment	5,785

126,633

Brownson Learning Center

8,200

134,833

0

2026 Approved Budget



2025 Church Retreat



STAFF TEAM

- Rev. John Hage
Senior Pastor
john@brownsonchurch.org

Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin
Associate Pastor for Congregational Care
and Connection
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Director of Children and their Families
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Erin Pollock
Director of Youth and their Families
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Amy Shortt
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Kacy Depenbrock
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Jody Marley
Bookkeeper
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Stacey Ostlund
Church Administrator
stacey@brownsonchurch.org
910.692.6252
www.brownsonchurch.org

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9-4 PM
Sunday Worship: 9 & 11:10 AM
Livestream Worship: 11:10 AM



Brownson Church
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Southern Pines, NC 28387

