



Currents

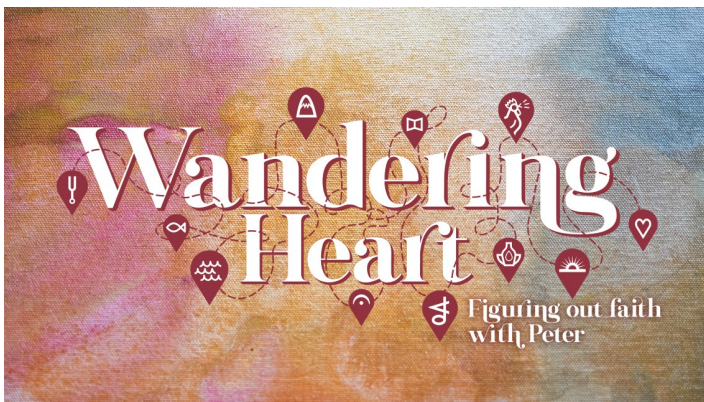
910-769-4951

thebridgepres@gmail.com



What is happening at *the bridge*.

Connecting at the bridge



Sunday March 9, 2025

Wandering Heart
"Jesus Sought Us"

9:00 am - 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>

Great News For The bridge From Coastal Carolina Presbytery

At a called Congregational Meeting on Sunday Feb 16th, the congregation of the bridge Presbyterian Church approved two recommendations from the session. The first recommendation was to sell the property we hold in trust on Zion Church Rd. The second recommendation was to petition the Presbytery for a \$60K grant which would be used to retain an architect, pay for engineering needs and hire a capital campaigner to conduct a feasibility study for a future capital campaign.

After approval by the congregation, those requests were sent to Coastal Carolina Presbytery to be voted upon at the March 1st Presbytery meeting. As a reminder, our church polity dictates that matters pertaining to the buying or selling property must be approved the local congregation and the Presbytery. Dr. Doug attended the Presbytery meeting and spoke to the Presbytery audience about the two requests. Additionally, the video presentation that Elder Bruce Garris created, was played for the entire Presbytery to see.

The good news for the bridge is that both requests were unanimously approved without any dissenting votes. In fact, there was widespread appreciation and gratitude expressed to Dr. Doug from the Presbytery for the work the session and congregation of the bridge have done over the past few years.

The next steps in the process will be for the Bridging The Gap Task Force to meet and begin the process of engaging an architect, putting the property up for sale and engaging a capital campaigner to conduct a feasibility study at the bridge. The feasibility study will give the Task Force a clearer understanding of our congregational readiness to enter into a capital campaign. The Bridging The Gap Task Force will meet on Tuesday March 11th at 1:30. Please keep our Task Force in your prayers as the Lord leads these important efforts at the bridge.

A Congregation-Wide ReFocus At The bridge Presbyterian Church

At the bridge Presbyterian Church January Leadership Retreat, the elders of the bridge engaged in a daylong time of prayer and discernment, listening for God's direction in light of the collapse of our children and family ministry.

The conversations the elders engaged in at the retreat were part of a larger conversation that had begun in October. For a brief history of the collapse of our children and family ministries follow this link to the sermon Dr. Doug preached on Sunday March 2nd.

[The Sailing Life march 2 2025docx.pdf](#)

At the retreat, the elders unanimously agreed that our Lord was calling the bridge to refocus our mission and vision toward active adults. This, in no way means we will be abandoning our core habit to cherish children. Those families with children in our congregation will always be cherished and welcomed and included. Additionally, we will continue to cherish children through our many sustainable mission partnerships that focus on children such as Matthew's Ministry, Scouts, Brunswick Family Assistance and Brunswick Co Schools.

Making this decision was very difficult while at the same time obvious. This was a difficult decision given the years of hard work and effort of the bridge to connect with young families and children. Additionally, the idea of refocusing our resources and vision toward active adults came not without grief and sadness. Finally, this decision was difficult because the leaders know of no church that is consciously attempting to make this sort of dramatic shift. So, this was a difficult decision on the one hand.

Yet, it was also an obvious decision. At the leadership retreat, the elders became convinced that this decision was simply naming what was already happening at the bridge and that things wouldn't change very much after we shift our focus to active adults. Elders expressed these sentiments:

- We need to shift from what we think we should be doing to what God is doing.
- Instead of trying to do everything for everyone, we need to do one thing well.
- Rebranding is doing what the Lord is already doing among us.
- We can still cherish children through our mission partners.

Most importantly, however, the current and most recent elders shared an overwhelming sense that this is what God has been doing in our church and this was, without a doubt, God's will for the bridge.

With the above as background, the elders agreed that one of the high-level goals for 2025 is to: **Rebrand / Promote the bridge as an Active Adult Church**. While the leaders freely admit that nobody except our Lord knows exactly what this will look and feel like at the bridge, the leaders have outlined the initial steps that will be take as follows:

Collect data and analyze it - internal and external. This has begun with elder-led conversations in our nine ministry teams and with pastor-led listening sessions.

Present to Congregation – This occurred at the annual congregational meeting and will be ongoing.

Share with outside community – This will occur as the leaders settle on the language we will use to describe this refocus in mission and ministry.

Develop New Programs through our ministry teams – our ministry teams have already begun the work of imagining how a refocus to active adults can reach and bless the Leland community with the good news of the gospel.

Speakers geared towards Active Adults – work has begun on locating speakers and organizations that will help the bridge in our efforts to reach the active adults in Leland for the gospel.

More recently, Dr. Doug has begun sharing this decision to refocus our mission toward active adults with pastoral colleagues and seminary professors. Ministry colleagues have expressed gratitude to the bridge for doing what so many other congregations need to do and excitement for the bridge as we begin this journey. Additionally, Dr. Doug has begun a conversation with Fuller Theological Seminary Prof. Dr. Mark Roberts – leading scholar in this area and someone who is keenly interested in our journey. Thus, the work we do, together, will not only bless our church and the Leland community. It will also bless the larger church as we develop a new paradigm.

The way forward will not be linear or abundantly clear. But the elders are embracing this exciting challenge and invite the congregation to be patient, prayerful and open-minded as we traverse this unmapped landscape, together. Finally, the leaders invite the congregation to ‘Imagine.’ Imagine...

- How things might change if, in one year, we were able to develop a ministry to help active older adults learn how to use technology and maybe even create a technology center to teach computer skills?
- How things might change if, in one year, we were able to develop a ministry to help active older adults honor their bodies by staying in shape through gentle aerobics classes and maybe even create dedicated space for that ministry?
- How things might change if, in one year, we hosted faith-based support groups meeting at the bridge for those newly widowed; for those who are full time care givers to their spouse; for those looking for a new post-retirement calling; for those wanting to learn new skills in retirement?
- How things might change if we were able to hire a part time Parish Nurse to help provide programs on health and nutrition for active older adults and coordinate mobile health care in our parking lot?
- How things might change if we were able to hire a part time Director of Activities and Community Engagement – who could help attract the new residents of Leland to the bridge by hosting faith-based activities; lunch outings; field trips, concerts.
- How things might change if we became known to new retired residents as the congregation that stands on the other side of their transition waiting to welcoming new residents, helping those in the community connect with other people, a purpose and, most importantly, with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

Connecting by Serving

Sunday, March 9, 2025

Coffee Servers

9:00 - Patricia
10:30 - Susan

Greeters/Ushers

9:00 - Wingerts
10:30 - Barretts

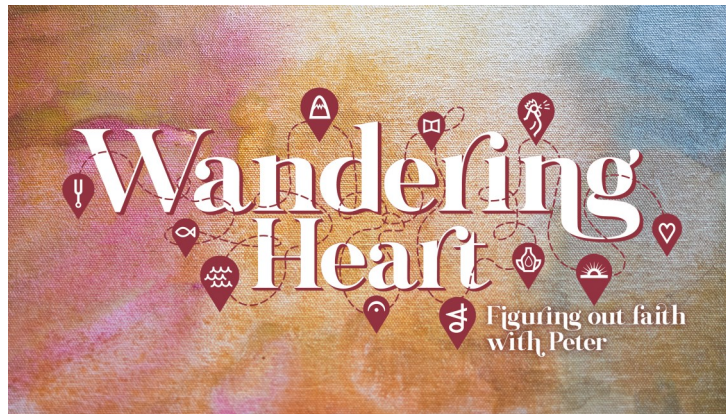
Are you ready to be Connected by Serving?

*Help with Coffee * Greet People * Usher*

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

Connecting in Generosity

	3/2/25		
Total Local Deposits	\$3,257	9:00 am Attendance	56
Online Donations	\$1,840	11:00 am Attendance	66
Total Weekly Offering	\$5,097	Total Attendance	122
Pledge Fulfillment	\$2,500	Attendance (4 wk avg)	84
Total Deposit	\$7,597	Weekly Offering (4 wk avg)	\$3,389



New Sermon-Based Small Group Series For Lent

This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us.

While we journey with Peter through Lent, we will focus on the hymn: "Come Thou Fount". It's as if Peter himself wrote this song. And so, for each step in Peter's journey, we will focus on a phrase from this hymn. As we follow Peter's story, we will sing our way through Lent, binding our wandering hearts to God. Like many of us, Peter has a wandering heart. His journey is not polished, or linear, or perfect, but he is always tethered to the love of God.

We will also be offering 4 Sermon-Based Small Group Studies for each of the six-weeks of Lent.

Anyone is welcome to join a small group. Small groups are a great way for folks to grow in their faith and get to know others at the bridge.

Sign up at the Sign Up Table after worship.

Available Groups

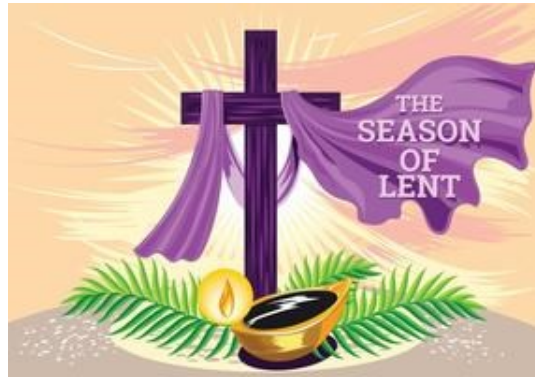
Mondays at 1:00 pm - Facilitated by Peggy Fulton and Suzanne Veen - at the bridge

Tuesdays at 11:00 am - Facilitated by Karen Santone/Cathy Boettcher - at 116 Belvedere Ct.

Please not time change above from 1:00 to 11:00

Wednesdays at 10:00 am - Facilitated by Greer and Tom Broadwater- at the bridge

Thursdays at 3:30 pm - Facilitated by Becky and Steve Dare - at the bridge



Join us this Lenten Season

Sermon Based Small Groups begin week of March 9th

April 13th - Palm Sunday - Invite a Friend Day

Services at 9:00 am and 10:30 am

Palm Sunday Brunch at 9:45

April 17th - Maundy Thursday Service at Noon

April 18th - Good Friday Service at Noon

April 20th - Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service at 6:30 am - gates to park open at 6:00 am Belville

Riverwalk off of Hwy 133

Worship Service at 10:30 at the bridge Pres. Church

Pick up a Lent daily devotion set on the table entering the sanctuary

Connecting In Prayer

Prayer list March 6, 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 Ruth planning for dental surgery.
- Prayers for Joyce as she facing arm reconstruction
- Constant prayers for Marilyn Vernon on her journey with cancer.
- Prayers for Mary and Kens' friends Oton, Jack, Rhonda and Cathy. Each person with their own issues and illnesses. May they get well and find peace.
- Prayers for Doug's family and his father, Mr. Cushing. It is hard for each family to see their parents age and become unwell.
- Prayers for those who are sick and hurting, we might not know who they are, but God does. Prayers that we learn how to help them.
- Prayers for our Country and the World. Protect us from evil and oppression
- Prayers for Church World Services and the difficulties they are facing.
- Prayers for the people who are in peril and uncertainty. Prayers to calm their fears. Prayers for a way for us to help them.
- Prayers for our Mission Projects. Help us all to make a difference.
- Prayers for Days with Girls. Help us remember how hard it is for adolescents living in third world countries
- Prayers for our church, task force and session as we continue to make difficult decisions and plans for growth.
- Prayers for the Bridge and we learn how to reach out and serve the ever-growing adult population in Leland.
- Prayers for Holy Week. Help us remember God in our lives.

YOU WILL NEVER FORGET A PERSON WHO CAME TO YOU WITH A TORCH IN THE DARK.

To make a prayer request, contact Elder Mary Campbell at 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

Connecting Through Missions



March Mission Partners

Church World Service

Beginning on January 27, 2025 the US Refugee Admission Program was suspended by Executive Order. The program will be re-evaluated every 90 days, with no set criteria or timeline for when it will restart.

Unfortunately, this means that CWS Wilmington will be receiving no new arrivals for at least the next three months and all federal funding has been eliminated, resulting in the furloughing of 20 of the 25 employees at CWS Wilmington.

The bridge is continuing to support Kiza Masanga and Alexi in their re-settlement efforts. Alexi recently returned from South Dakota to once again reside in Wilmington.

They continue to struggle to meet their budget for housing, utilities, transportation and communication.

You can help by giving to the bridge's CWS fund, which will directly support them in meeting their budgetary needs, while they continue to seek long term, full time work. Currently their shortfall is about \$800/month.

If you would like to make a financial donation, Make check out to the bridge with CWS in the memo line.

Connecting Through Missions



THE BLUEFIELDS
MEMORY CARE

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

Our next Craft Day at The Bluefields Memory Care will be **Thursday, March 6 at 2:00 p.m.** in the Activities Room.

ART &
CRAFTS

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

For more information contact Patti at ppirher@gmail.com.



Many thanks to all who contributed to our collection for The Bluefields Memory Care in February.

The greeting cards, bingo prizes, craft kits and supplies, games, makeup, snacks and soda, will brighten our friends' days.

Please keep the residents and The Bluefields staff in your prayers.



We have a group of women who get together each Friday to make “Freedom Kits” . These kits are for young girls in countries where they are shunned and face hardships -- just for being female. We are making the kits that currently will go to Egypt, South Africa and Uganda. Each kit is made to last a young girl for 3 years.

In our group, we have women who cut patterns, some iron material, and those who sew, all while having fun and fellowship together.

You can help us financially if you don't sew

We have a need for financial help for buying the materials needed to make these kits. One of the local fabric stores is going out of business and we can get materials at a reduced price.

We also need to purchase a snap installing machine.

You can give in the offering with Days for Girls in the memo line or online by selecting the Days for girls fund.

If you have any questions about Days For Girls, what this group is doing, to see a sample kit or how the money will be used, please contact Wanda at thebridgepres@gmail.com or at 910-769-4951, she would love to tell you about this project!



Spring Cookbook Sale

Was \$20

Now \$10

Proceeds equally support North Brunswick
Charities: New Hope Clinic and Hope Har-
bor House

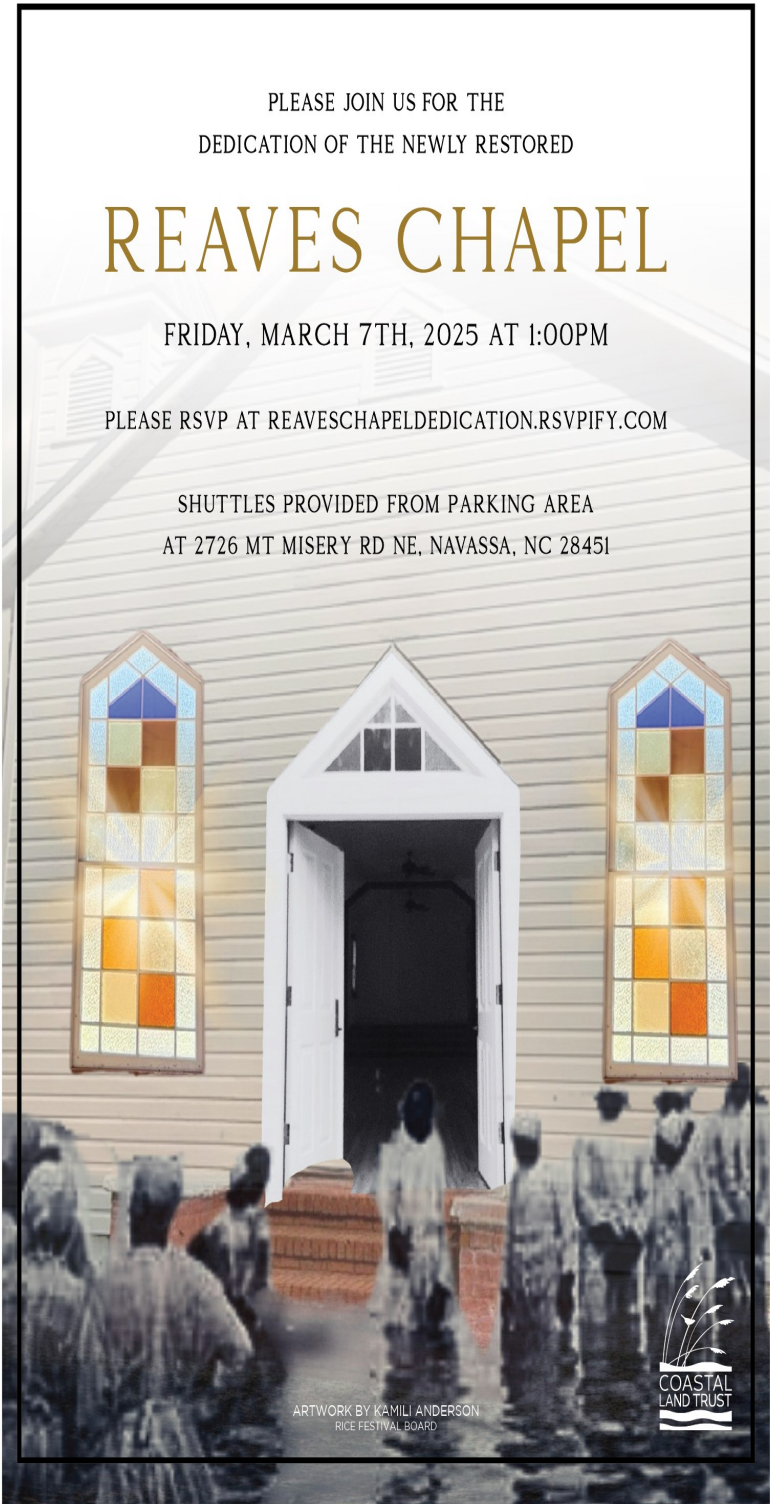
On sale by the coffee or come by church
office during the week

You Are Invited To: Historic Reaves Chapel

Dedication

For the past 5 years, Dr. Doug has served on the board of directors of the Cedar Hill West Bank Heritage Foundation whose work is to restore the historic Reaves Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church. The Chapel dates back to the late 1800's. It was built on the Cape Fear riverfront by slaves who worked the rice plantations along the Brunswick River.

Around 1922, the congregation moved Reaves Chapel to its present location on Cedar Hill Road. Restoration on the church began in 2019. Dr. Doug is inviting the congregation to join in the dedication service for the restored Reaves Chapel on Friday March 7th from 1:00 to 2:30pm.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
DEDICATION OF THE NEWLY RESTORED

REAVES CHAPEL

FRIDAY, MARCH 7TH, 2025 AT 1:00PM

PLEASE RSVP AT [REAVESCHAPELDEDICATION.RSVPIFY.COM](https://reaveschapel Dedication.RSVPIFY.COM)

SHUTTLES PROVIDED FROM PARKING AREA
AT 2726 MT MISERY RD NE, NAVASSA, NC 28451

ARTWORK BY KAMILI ANDERSON
RICE FESTIVAL BOARD





You Are Invited To: The Annual North Carolina Rice Festival

For the past 6 years, Dr. Doug has served on the board of directors of the NC Rice Festival and currently serves as board President. Dr. Doug would like to invite you to the 2025 North Carolina Rice Festival which will be held on March 08, 2025, 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM at Brunswick Town Fort Anderson, 8884 St. Phillips Road SE, Winnabow NC.

Surrounded by some of the county's largest former rice plantations, this venue offers an excellent site for festivities and reflection on the Rice Festival's dual themes of education through celebration. With plenty of free parking, scenic views, and a delightful riverwalk, the site provides ample room for a day chalked full of music, entertainment, food and vendors.

For example, the Festival's Come Hear NC Stage will be full of outstanding live music and local bands. The Gullah Geechee Corridor Commission Stage will be hosting historical presentations and panels under a giant tent, and the Brunswick and North Carolina Arts Councils' Children's Pavilion, where lots of fun, educational activities, storytelling, and demonstrations for young children and teens will take place.

There will be food trucks, vendors and plenty of activities for all ages. Come learn more about the history and culture of rice in North Carolina and learn more about the descendants of those formerly enslaved on the plantations: The Gullah Geechee people. No need to register in advance.
Plan to join us at the 2025 NC Rice Festival.

Happenings in March

6th - Bluefield Crafts- 1:30

Week of 9th - SBSGs begin

Sallie Bohn	6
Carol Spradley	6
John Vernon	8
Cathy Boettcher	10
Barbara Hedin	10
Ben Lindsey	10
Dave Bohn	11
Gidget Karlof	13
Cindy Rupprecht	14
Lora Rissmiller	15
James Bozeman	23
Carol Nelson	28
Wayne Myers	30
Susan Stanewick	31

March Birthdays

If your Birthday is not listed - it is not in REALM -You can go and edit your profile or let Wanda know so we can include you!!