



CHURCH CHAT

Butner Presbyterian Church

Pastors: Brian Stratton, Dewey Cassell

SEPTEMBER 2025



A Message From Dewey

It's back to school time! For kids all the way from pre-school to college, it's back to class. And that means some changes:

For one, summer is officially over. Living in North Carolina, we will likely still enjoy some warm weather for a while, but the time to enjoy it is largely a thing of the past. Put down the suntan lotion and pick up the books.

Second, it is back to a more regular schedule. One of the fun parts about summer is the ability to sleep in (at least, if you are a kid) and do things you wouldn't normally have time or be able to do, or if you choose, do nothing at all. There is an enviable freedom associated with that lack of planned activity. Now it's time to set the alarm.

Third, there is a reconnecting with old friends and making new ones as you move to the next rung in the academic ladder. School is certainly about learning, but it's not just scholastic, it is also social. Relationships are forged that can last a lifetime. (One of my best friends to this day is a guy I met in seventh grade.)

And finally, there is typically a return to regular churchgoing. With the vacations mostly behind us, the pews are more often occupied with those

familiar faces that comprise our faith community. There is a welcome comfort in that. We're still wending our way through "ordinary time" in the lectionary, but Advent is just around the corner.

Autumn is almost upon us. And yes, we have to deal with school buses on our morning commute to work, but football season has already begun. And yes, it is the start of hurricane season, but it won't be long before the leaves start to fall from the trees. Like every season of the year, there are changes we have to deal with.

The one constant in the sea of change is God. God remains our ever-present and faithful source of comfort, hope, and strength to face whatever comes our way. It is a story chronicled in the Bible of how, time and again, God has helped his people – groups and individuals – successfully journey through their sea of change. Be it back to school or some other challenge we face in our daily lives, God is with us always.

So, as we step up to face whatever changes await us, let us do so with the blessed assurance that we are not alone, and let us walk with bold confidence the path that God has laid before us.

Embrace the change!

~Dewey

September Calendar

Mon, 9/1 *Happy Labor Day!*

Wed, 9/3

CHURCH
clean-up
DAY



Sun, 9/7 11:00 am Communion Worship Service
Brian Stratton, Erma Hudgins

ACIM after church

Sun, 9/14 11:00 am Worship Service
Dewey Cassell, Michael McFadden

2:00 pm BCC Meeting
@ Community Methodist Church

Sun, 9/21 11:00 am Worship Service at
Lake Holt
Brian Stratton, Michelle Osborne

12:00 pm Potluck Fellowship Lunch
Lake Holt

Mon, 9/22



Sun, 9/28 11:00 am Worship Service
Brian Stratton, Cecil Hudgins

FOR BETTER OR VERSE

A calendar of Bible verses, one for each day.

Compiled by Paul Lintern, Joyful Noiseletter

- 1 Proverbs 9:1
- 2 Mark 9:2
- 3 Acts 9:3
- 4 Proverbs 9:4
- 5 John 9:5
- 6 Luke 9:6
- 7 Mark 9:7
- 8 Proverbs 9:8
- 9 Proverbs 9:9
- 10 2 Corinthians 9:10
- 11 Proverbs 9:11
- 12 Proverbs 9:12
- 13 Luke 9:13
- 14 Mark 9:14
- 15 Acts 9:15
- 16 Genesis 9:16
- 17 Genesis 9:17
- 18 Acts 9:18
- 19 I Corinthians 9:19
- 20 Numbers 9:20
- 21 Mark 9:21
- 22 Matthew 9:22
- 23 Luke 9:23
- 24 I Corinthians 9:24
- 25 Acts 9:25
- 26 Exodus 9:26
- 27 Mark 9:27
- 28 Esther 9:28
- 29 Luke 9:29
- 30 2 Chronicles 9:30



Romping with the Pre-K

The preschool is off to another great start. Our 2-day classroom is full, and we have one opening in our 3-day classroom. As to be expected, we had a few tears on the first day in our 2-day classroom, but most of those students have adjusted very quickly and are enjoying themselves. Our 3-day students have adjusted remarkably well, even though about 8 of them are new to us this year. We had a great turnout at orientation, and I think most of our parents are adjusting to the schedule and flow of things as well.

I am continuing to get inquiries about openings for our 2-day class, and it is rewarding as teachers to know our program is highly sought after.

We are waiting for some drier weather to complete the concrete project on the playground, but it doesn't stop us from enjoying it. It is almost always the favorite part of the day for students!

We have elected new board members to replace the parents who no longer have students. Our first board meeting will be September 18th at 6:30pm. The board decided to switch photographers for this school year. We will be using K.G. Photography and Videography for this year.

We are doing another t-shirt order this year, orders are due by 9/5 if anyone is interested, just let me know. They are \$12 each.

The preschool is closed for Labor Day 9/1. We will have our fall pictures on 9/16 and 9/17, hopefully outside, but we will move to the fellowship hall if the weather does not cooperate. Our first PRTO meeting will be 9/23 at 6:30pm in the fellowship hall.

Spread the word if you know anyone who is looking for a preschool, I still have one 3-day opening. Pray for our families and our students that the rest of the year will be just as awesome as our first week!

Many Blessings,
Susan Zink

*This is the beginning
of a new day.*

*God has given me this
day to use as I will.*

*I can waste it or use it
for good.*

*What I do today is
important, because I'm
exchanging a day of my
life for it.*

*When tomorrow comes,
this day will be gone
forever, leaving
something I have traded
for it.*

*I want it to be gain,
not loss; good, not evil;
success, not failure; in
order that I shall not
regret the price I paid
for it.*

Church News

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING BOXES

The Butner Church Council will once again use our church for the storage and assembly of the annual Thanksgiving Box giveaway to the local needy, held in the month of November.

NEW SESSION NOMINATING COMMITTEE

At the congregational meeting on August 17th, the new nomination committee consisting of Cecil Hudgins, Bebe Coleman, and Donald Wilkins was approved. They will actively seek new session members as needed in the next couple of months.

SEPTEMBER FELLOWSHIP

Our annual Worship at the Lake will be held a month early this year to ensure better weather for

being outside. Esther is planning to come and sing for us, which is always a treat! Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 21st to worship at Lake Holt. Potluck fellowship will follow.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Door Facing D Street

The side door facing D Street was replaced with a composite door, which Cecil recently painted. The woodwork around the door was rotting and Joey Johnson was hired to make the repairs. Job is complete.

Window Blind Replacements

The old blinds in the Pre-K storage room, the room off of the fellowship hall, the nursery and baby room, and the music room were dry rotted and started falling. Cecil recently replaced them. All church blinds should now be good for some time.



FUN FELLOWSHIP – DURHAM BULLS GAME



On Sunday evening, August 17th, eight church members and 2 guests gathered for a super fun time at the Durham Bulls Athletic Park. The weather was perfect and the Bulls won 8-4 against the Nashville Sounds.



Front row left to right: Nancy Wilkins, Donald Wilkins, Dewey Cassell, June Cassell, Michael McFadden, Lisa McFadden.

Back row: Guests Mike Buzzell and Kathy Brummitt with Erma Hudgins and Cecil Hudgins.

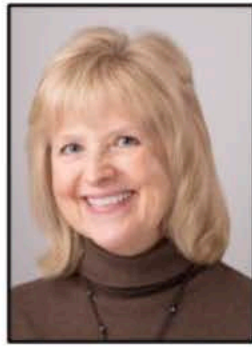
From the Editor

LET GO, LET GOD

We all at some point go through traumatic situations whether it be a financial issue, job loss, troubles at work, kids going astray, issues with elderly parents, becoming estranged from family or friends, etc. This threatens our peace and our comfort, and we seek to take control of the situation by coming up with a plan to fix it. That is our nature and responsibility. If we don't know how to fix the problem or if our plan doesn't work, we might seek council with a professional who can help us make a better plan to fix it. That is a good option. But in some cases, what we decide to do can make the situation even worse!

Maybe the situation we are trying to fix or control, is completely out of our control. Therefore, all efforts are futile.

Brian's sermon last week was about faith and evidence of faith, and it made me think about surrender. Surrendering to God is a *profound* act of faith that is also very hard to do. A definition of surrendering something to God would be to release control of something and placing it in God's capable hands to do his will. This is evidence of our acceptance that God's plan is better than ours and his timing is perfect. His solution is perfect. Our job is to pray about it. Pray without ceasing.



Our friends, even Christian friends, might scratch their heads and advise us otherwise. WE have to DO something, right? Not just pray about it but do something to take control of the situation.

We see examples of profound faith and surrender all over the bible. I've been reading Daniel lately and both he and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had a problem with worshipping God verses following orders to only worship the king. They showed that their faith and their prayer lives were profound. I suggest you take the time to read Daniel. It's a fantastic book in the bible.

When we are faced with difficult decisions, particularly the ones out of our control, we cannot depend on our own strength to solve it. We cannot depend on the wisdom and strength of a professional either. We must always be in prayer about it and seek God's will. Be assured that God hears us and he hears our prayers. Then, and this is the really hard part, we must patiently wait for God to move. Regardless of outcome, praise God and thank him for hearing your prayer.

Pray without ceasing, trust God's plan, be patient as God's timing is perfect. Be at peace in knowing that it is in His capable hands. And by trusting, we deepen our faith.

In times where situations are completely out of our control, let go and let God.

Peace,
Erma

RANDOM THOUGHTS FOR THE FUNNY BONE

I've always wondered if songbirds get mad at hummingbirds for not knowing the words.

My neighbor suggested I put cow manure on my strawberries. Tried it. I'm going back to whipped cream.

To make a long story short, I became an editor.

I went to the paint store to get thinner. It didn't work.

My wife told me to put ketchup on my shopping list. Now I can't read anything.

My neighbor couldn't afford his water bill, so I got him a get well card.

My therapist said I have trouble expressing emotion. Can't say I'm surprised.

I didn't realize how bad my driving was until my GPS said, "In 400 feet do a slight right, stop, and let me out!"

I'm not saying that my wife orders a lot from Amazon; I'm just saying that if I got a job as an Amazon driver, they'd probably let me work from home.

I've always wondered why lemonade is made from artificial flavors but furniture polish is made from real lemons.

Ninety percent of bald men still own a comb. They just can't part with it.

Did you know that laughing at your own mistakes can lengthen your life while laughing at your wife's mistakes can shorten it?

When you clean out a vacuum cleaner, you become a vacuum cleaner!

Hitting a stationary object at high speeds can be disastrous, according to a recent pole.

Life would be perfect if cheesecake made you healthier.

Why did the Pope cross the road? He crosses everything.

As long as there are tests, there will be prayer in public school.

How many country western singers does it take to change a light bulb? Five. One to put in the new bulb, and four to sing about how much they miss the old one.



**"MATTHEW, MARK, AND LUKE, SEE ME
AFTER CLASS.**



**YOUR BOOK REPORTS ARE SURPRISINGLY
SIMILAR."**

*There is no storm that
God won't carry you
through.*

*No bridge that God
won't help you cross.*

*No battle that
God won't help you
through.*

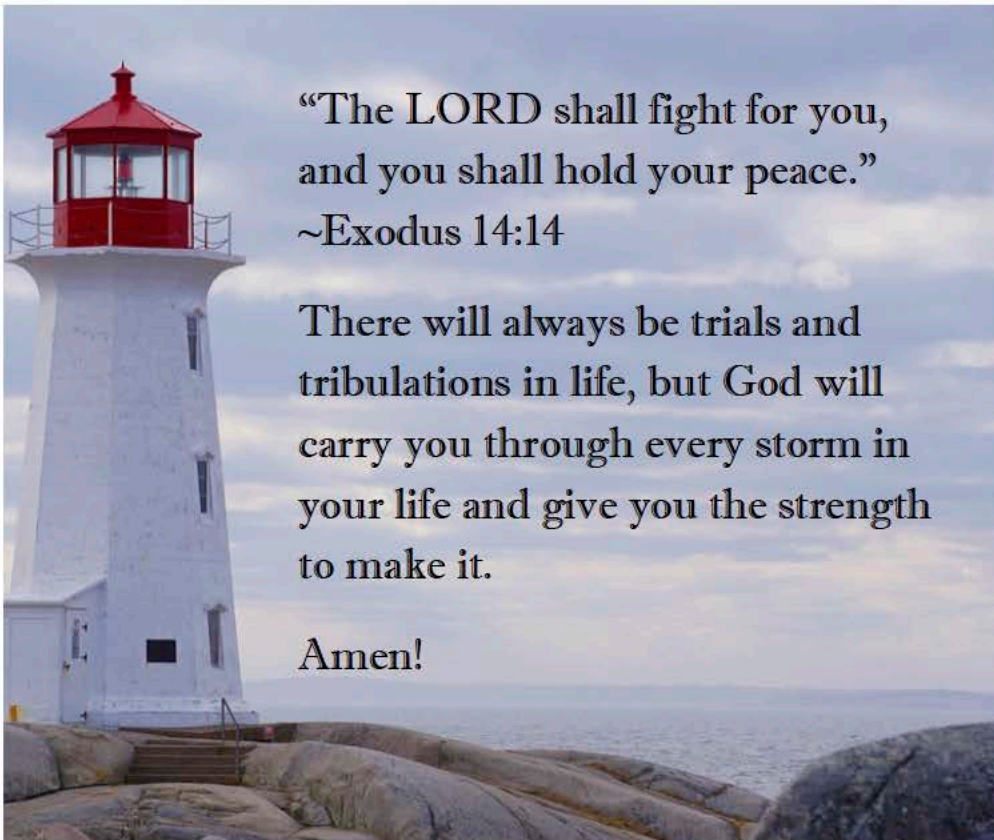
*No heartache that
God can't help you let go.*

*He is so much bigger
than anything you will
ever face.*

*Leave everything in His
hands.*

*Embrace each day
confidently,
knowing that He will
take care of you.*

Amen.



**"The LORD shall fight for you,
and you shall hold your peace."**

~Exodus 14:14

**There will always be trials and
tribulations in life, but God will
carry you through every storm in
your life and give you the strength
to make it.**

Amen!