

March 2026 Board Highlights

Throughout March, the Board met twice to pray, plan, and steward the mission of New Bluffton Worship. Below is a summary of the major updates, decisions, and ongoing work happening behind the scenes.

Ministry & Staff Updates

- Mary joins full-time on April 1.
The Board celebrated Mary's transition to full-time ministry with us with new emphasis in administration and expressed gratitude for her grace throughout the process. She and Youth Leader BJ are already collaborating on plans for our future spaces.
- Pastoral care remains active.
Several families are walking through difficult seasons, and the Care Team continues to provide strong support.
- Holy Week & Easter
This year's Holy Week includes one combined Good Friday service with communion, and three Easter services (Sunrise + two morning services). Outreach efforts and marketing are underway.

Oyster Roast & Community Engagement

Planning for the March Oyster Roast moved quickly, but effectively, thanks to the Serve Team and new Serve Team Lead Kevin O'Brien.

Highlights include:

- Strong early ticket sales
- Community participation beyond the congregation
- Multiple chefs contributing (including award-winning chili and homemade cornbread!)
- Oyster recycling service confirmed

The event supports the Blessing Ministry and MC Riley Elementary needs.

Growth, Facilities & Operations

- The Growth Team is thriving under new leadership of Larry M. and launched Easter marketing campaigns, including Google ads.
- Facilities updates included flooring and pew repairs, lighting fixes, and ongoing improvements to the sanctuary lighting system.
- The Board continues to discuss how teams communicate major dates and resource needs so the congregation can plan ahead more easily.

Sanctuary Renovation & Building Plans

The Board spent significant time in March reviewing early plans for the upcoming renovation.

Key updates:

- An architect delivered some preliminary floor plans and ideas.
- The Design Team (Jennifer, Jay, Rob, Monica, Daniel) toured the spaces and set priorities.
- Bright Minds, the after-school program in Unit 104, will need to relocate as part of the renovation timeline.
- Offices will move to Unit 104 to free up sanctuary space.
- Staff is dreaming big for Unit 101 as a future children/youth ministry hub.
- A design-build approach is preferred, and early renderings are underway.
- Renovation costs will include construction, AV overhaul, and security upgrades.
- The Board hopes for a late summer or early fall renovation completion window, depending on permitting and logistics.

Renderings will be shown to the congregation in an open-house format once finalized.

Security Team Progress

The Security Ad Hoc Team met with local law enforcement and is researching:

- Cameras and monitoring
- Policies and procedures
- Sunday morning presence

Recommendations will be brought to the Board in the coming months.

Financial Overview

Treasurer Mike Schultheis reported:

- Giving is slightly ahead of last year.
- Expenses are currently under budget for the first two months.
- The year-to-date deficit (~\$27,000) is consistent with historical patterns.
- The church maintains a strong cash position with designated funds available for renovation needs.
- The Board is exploring a quarterly budgeting model for clearer financial tracking.

Children's Ministry Leader Search

The search remains open to replace Mary in this role. Daniel, Monica, and Kay will meet soon to define the role and hiring process, with a long-term goal of creating a standardized hiring model for all future staff.

Systems, Processes & Governance

- The Board is beginning a Roles & Responsibilities Workshop series at the April 12 in-person meeting to clarify decision-making boundaries and team structures.
- Phyllis provided an overview of Breeze, our church management system, and the Board will continue shaping policies around access and data use.
- The annual Bylaws review will be broken into segments for future meetings.
- The Board calendar is being updated so planning windows (6–8 weeks before major events) are clearly marked.

In Closing

Both March meetings ended with gratitude, prayer, and a shared commitment to stewarding the mission of New Bluffton Worship with wisdom, unity, and joy.