



The New Bluffton Worship

Congregational Update Summary

Meeting Date: September 13, 2026 after the 10:30AM service

The New Bluffton Worship family gathered for a mid-year congregational update focused on vision, finances, ministry growth, and upcoming plans for our facilities and staff appreciation. The focus was deeply centered on our mission: **to worship, learn, and serve Jesus Christ.**

Board Introduction & Mission Focus

Board member president **Jeff Jones** opened the meeting by introducing the five current board members:

- **Jeff Jones** - President
- **Jay Beerling** – Vice President
- **Phyllis Brodie** – Secretary
- **K. Holman** – concluding her final year
- **Mike** – Treasurer and longest-serving board member

Jeff reminded the congregation that the board's purpose is to help the church stay focused on pointing people to Jesus. He encouraged members to engage board leaders with ideas, questions, and ways they feel called to support the mission.

A prayer followed, thanking God for the church's unity, diversity, and the "miracles" happening within the community. *"Lord... you are the leader, and we ask for you to give us the wisdom and the direction... to make a difference in this world."*

Financial Update

Treasurer **Mike** presented a detailed overview of the church's financial health:

Giving Trends

- Giving in the **first three quarters** is historically steady and similar year-to-year.
- The church is heavily dependent upon 4th Quarter giving due to significant year-end generosity.
- Through August, giving is **47% of annual totals**, ahead of the historical 41% benchmark.
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Current Financial Position

- The church is operating with an -\$87,000 variance at this point in the year due to predictable expenses outpacing early-year giving.
- Giving is **up 17%** compared to 2025.
- The church holds **\$1.3 million** across accounts, with **\$800,000 designated**, including **\$650,000 reserved for building projects**.
- Approximately **\$500,000** remains available for operating liquidity.

Mike emphasized gratitude for the finance team—Tina, Deb, and Noreen—who ensure smooth operations behind the scenes.

Pastor's Report & Ministry Life

Lead Pastor **Daniel** shared an encouraging update on the spiritual and relational health of the church:

Spiritual Growth & Community Life

- New people continue to join worship and take steps into discipleship.
- Teams and the board are experiencing meaningful spiritual development.
- Children and youth are thriving—not as “future church,” but as the church right now.
- Recovery groups, support ministries, and community partnerships are expanding.

A Mission-Driven Approach to Buildings

Daniel emphasized that **“the church is not the building—the church is the people.”** Facility plans are being shaped by ministry needs, not the other way around.

Facilities Update: Worship • Learn • Serve

1. Learn Space (Unit 101)

- Recently renovated and now fully in use by children and youth.
- Designed intentionally for growth, relationships, and learning.

“It gives our children a place where they can... discover what it means to follow Jesus.”

2. Serve Space (Unit 104)

- Former children/youth building is next for renovation which includes moving some walls and adding a storage space.
- Will support:
 - Recovery & support groups

- Backpack Buddies storage
 - Small groups & mission projects
 - Office space
 - Much-needed storage for seasonal and ministry materials
- A project manager/contractor is being brought on to handle the work which is anticipated to take about a month to complete

3. Worship Space

- Still in **design and discernment**—no construction is beginning yet.
- Goals include:
 - Improving worship quality
 - Increasing seating capacity
 - Enhancing welcome and flow
- An architect and design team are actively developing possibilities, but **no final plans or costs have been set**.

Daniel asked the congregation to pray for wisdom, clarity, and unity as these plans continue to unfold.

Staff Appreciation Announcement

Board member **K. Holman** shared plans for a combined **Pastor & Staff Appreciation** celebration:

Key Details

- **Appreciation Sunday: November 22, 2026**
- **Giving Window:** Now through **November 15**
- Gifts can be given online under “**Staff Appreciation**” or placed in baskets at both doors.

How We’ll Bless Our Staff

- Checks for all staff
- Additional gifts for Daniel & Monica (e.g., gift cards, spa days, golf rounds)
- Optional donations of short-term rentals for staff rest weekends in early 2027

Kay spoke movingly about the staff’s dedication while a slide show of recent activities played.

Closing

The meeting concluded with gratitude for the congregation’s support, excitement for the next chapter, and a renewed commitment to worship, learn, and serve Jesus Christ with boldness and joy.