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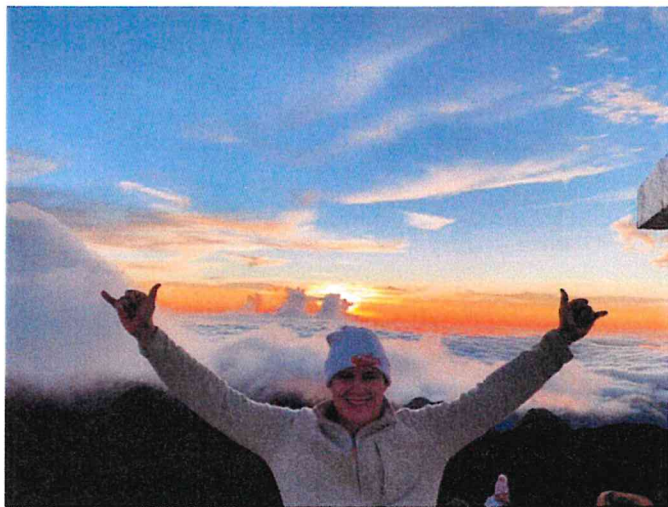
## THANK YOU LORD FOR:

## THE CULDEE CONNECTION

March 2024

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Several years ago, our son, Henry, had the opportunity to climb to the top of Volcano Baru in Panama to watch the sun rise. It's a recommended hike for visitors to the area, but it's long and arduous and it begins in the dark. Henry was in Panama for a medical project with Floating Doctors. Several members of the team started out in the middle of the night, so they could be there for one of the summit's famous sunrises.

Henry's photos showed that it was indeed a glorious sunrise, and well worth the hike. As stunning as it was, however, it was over quickly and there was nothing left to do except start the long hike back down the mountain and get back to work. The team was helping to provide medical care to remote river villages. It was challenging work, but they

did it that day after an eyeful of the astounding beauty and wonder of God's creation.

The celebration of Easter does something similar for us as Christians. It's a glimpse of God's glory and beauty in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ that interrupts our ordinary lives. If we've engaged it fully, then we've come through the arduous journey of remembering Christ's suffering and his excruciating death on the Cross. We make this dark and difficult journey with Jesus through the Scriptures, to come into the new light of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Then we "head back down the mountain" to continue God's work. But our work has been strengthened by the memory of Easter Sunday.

I pray that this coming Easter Sunday on March 31<sup>st</sup> will be a time when you will feel the closeness of Christ's presence and get a glimpse of God's glory that will empower you for your days ahead.

Connie Weaver

## NOTES FROM THE STATED SESSION MEETING OF FEBRUARY 12, 2024

The meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. with a quorum of Elders in attendance and Pastor Connie serving as Moderator.

- Motions were made and approved to receive the following individuals as members of Culdee.....**Lauren Tierney, Mikey Anderson, Sadie Cuff, Connor Cuff, and Darrell Simpkins**. Lauren, Mikey, Sadie, and Connor will be baptized.
- Approved the **PCUSA Statistical Report for 2023**.
- Approved the minutes from the **Stated Session meeting of January 16**.
- Approved Shannon Bullard as the **Elder Representative to the March 2 Presbytery Meeting**.
- Gave approval to the building and grounds ministry to remove the trees (due to age and condition) in the parking lot and agreed to accept the donation of appropriate replacement trees from Diann Fortune and Ronald Bowen.
- Approved up to \$25,000 for the purchase of a **HVAC unit** to replace the current Unit 5 HVAC that is not functioning. TEMP CONTROL from Seven Lakes will do the work; the cost of the unit will come from Liquid Assets.
- Approved amendment to extend the purpose of and rename the designated **Kitchen & Kitchen Storage Fund** to **Kitchen & Kitchen Storage & Fellowship Hall Renovation Fund**. Any donated funds remaining in the fund after renovation expenses for the kitchen and kitchen storage areas are paid will be used for future specified renovations to the fellowship hall.
- An Ad Hoc committee (comprised of someone from building and grounds ministry and the cemetery committee, plus, other individuals) was given approval to do research on the topic of **columbarium niches** and report back to session.
- **The Financial Report for January** was accepted in the record as presented.
- A job description for a **Children's Sunday Worship Worker** was presented by the Personnel Ministry and approved.

Culdee has collected the following items for many years. These kits are handed out by the Church World Services following a disaster or war to people who have lost everything. They are meant to help with the basic needs of people. You can collect individual items or total kits, and place them in the baskets in the Sunroom. June Stewart regularly puts kits together and sends them in a package to CWS.

### HYGIENE KITS LIST

One 1-gallon Ziploc bag  
One hand towel (No fingertip, bath, dish, or micro-fiber towels.)  
One washcloth  
One wide-tooth comb removed from the package. It must be sturdy with at least 6" of teeth. No pocket combs or picks  
One fingernail or toenail clipper (Either one is acceptable. Remove from packaging.)  
One bath-size bar of soap in the original package  
One toothbrush in the original package  
Ten standard size Band-Aids  
\*\*\*\*\*A tube of extended expiration date toothpaste will be added to each hygiene kit just prior to its journey.





## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian Ed has spent our winter month planning. We have established dates for our Sunday Fundays, met with Camp Monroe to plan our VBS and hope to meet with our younger parents to plan Mini Sundays Fundays soon.

Our next upcoming event will be our **Church Wide Community Fun Day**. This is our Easter Celebration and our spring welcome to our neighbors and community to be held **March 16<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm**. It will be a day filled with live music, a bouncy house, hot dog lunch (no charge), fire trucks, police cars, sack races and our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Mark your calendars and utilize this opportunity to welcome others to our church!



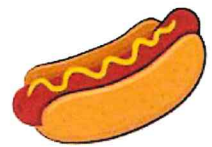
Once again, we will be needing the support of our Culdee Family in the following areas:



▪ Senior Jam will be providing our music (Thank You)

• Hot Dog Lunch

The Eastwood Fire Department has volunteered to cook our hot dogs (THANK YOU)



Rick Matthews and Jewell Vest will make our tea (THANK YOU)

We will need **DONATIONS OF PREPACKAGED COOKIES** for around 150 guests to be delivered to the kitchen by March 14<sup>th</sup> (Thank you in advance)

- **YOUNG MOMS' SACK RACE**

We are asking young Mothers to assist with gathering the young children for our Sack Race. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall (jumping in groups down the center aisle). The race will be held around 12:30. Small prizes will be given to the racers!



- **GRANNY EASTER EGG HUNT**

The Culdee Grannies will host the Easter Egg Hunt. If the weather permits, it will be held outside. Our Grannies need:

**PRE PACKAGED CANDY FOR THEIR GIFT BAGS and  
OTHER GRANNIES WILLING TO HELP!**

If you can help, please see Connie Marion or Mary Ruth Whitaker. They certainly will appreciate it!



### SUNDAY FUNDAY DATES. (4 PM- 6 PM)

April 7<sup>th</sup>

June 2<sup>nd</sup>

September 29<sup>th</sup>

December 1<sup>st</sup>

### VBS/CAMP MONROE JUNE 24-28

It takes a church working together to accomplish any goals.

We appreciate each of you and your continued support.

Marshall Sweat and Patti Burke





On **March 10th**, we will celebrate **Confirmation Sunday** at Culdee Church! We'll be recognizing our 2024 Confirmands and celebrating several baptisms. You are invited to bring a dish to share for a luncheon after worship, in honor of our confirmands.

### Holy Week

March 28th 7:00 p.m. **Maundy Thursday** service with the Lord's Supper

March 31st **Easter Sunday**:

7:00 a.m. Outdoor worship in the church cemetery

7:30 a.m. Covered dish breakfast in the fellowship hall

9:00 a.m. Indoor worship in the church sanctuary



We are pleased to make our Culdee Church **fellowship hall and kitchen** available for various functions of the congregation, our church family, and the community. We do have some requests for those who use the fellowship hall and kitchen, so that it will be left in good shape for the next activity or gathering.

### **Please make sure to do the following after your meeting or event:**

- Return all tables and chairs to the set-up that was in place when you arrived for your meeting or event. Return all table decorations as you found them.
- Check chairs for any food debris and wipe chairs as needed.
- Wipe down tables if you use them without a table cover. Clean any table covers you use that will not be disposed.
- If you use non-disposable dishes or flatware, please make sure these are clean and returned to their proper storage.
- Check floors for food or other debris and sweep or vacuum as needed. A vacuum cleaner is located in one of the fellowship hall closets.
- If there are spills on the carpet, please clean them before leaving. The Resolve cleaner is under the sink.
- Please do not place food or drinks on the piano in the fellowship hall.
- Wipe down kitchen counters and the stove, if you use it. Dishcloths are located in a drawer in the kitchen. Please launder and return dish towels you use.
- Remove all leftover food and drinks unless you've made arrangements with another group to use them in the near future. In that case, please store all leftover food and drinks properly, either in the refrigerator, or in closed containers on the kitchen counters.
- Please do not open or use any foods or beverages marked as being for other groups or upcoming functions.
- If you deplete any paper products (plates, napkins, cups, flatware) from the kitchen cabinets, please replenish them from the supplies located in one of the fellowship hall closets.
- Check nearby restrooms to ensure that toilets are flushed and trash is in waste cans, and that lights are turned off.
- Kitchen trash that is full or contains spoilable items should be tied up and removed to outside bin. Please do not place trash in the recycle bin in kitchen.
- Lock doors when you leave, including the outside door in the kitchen.

*This "To Do" list will also be posted in the kitchen.* We appreciate so much your making sure to leave our church kitchen and fellowship hall in good shape for its next use. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 910-295-6685.



## A Journey of Love, Faith, Hope and Joy!



The Journey that brings us here today is that of a choir family. A choir family loves one another, prays for one another, strives to heal our brokenness, blends beautiful melodies and harmonies to lift praises to God. The cost of loving someone like family is that when you lose someone who is truly family and you love them, it hurts deeply!

Our choir family lost a wonderful, talented tenor by the name of Kenneth Whitesell. He was a huge member of this family. When Kenneth left us to meet Jesus his family decided to make all contributions dedicated to the choir. What a blessing it was for our choir family! It was the choir's desire and decision to take those contributions and purchase a Grand Piano for worship.

Our Choir family then continues to do what family does. We worshiped and waited on God to show us His perfect way. Our funds continued to grow but there were still no signs of the piano God had in store for us.

Our choir family then loses another powerful tenor and musician. Sonny Upole. Again, when a family loses a member that they love it is a devastating loss that only God can heal. Our Choir family was again blessed by Sonny's family with contributions towards the Grand piano. It was such a blessing! But still there was no sign of the piano that God had in store for us.

Our Church family had gained a new member Michael Money who sings for us presently. Michael moved here to retire and take care of his mom Wilma. When she passed away last year Michael's family had the contributions sent towards the Grand piano fund. It was such a blessing!

The fund continues to grow but there were no signs of anything happening until a phone call from Richard at Ruggerio Pianos on a cold wet rainy Monday morning. Monday mornings can be tough on families, but not this one! "Hey Bev, I think I have the one you've been looking for. Just came in this weekend."! It's PERFECT!!!

Well, that was all I needed to hear. Richard and I headed to Raleigh to check it out. I promise I saw Heavenly Sunshine and angels sitting all over this beautiful instrument upon entering the Ruggerio Piano

door. There was no doubt about which one it was out of 40 pianos....It was PERFECT!!!!!!





Every aspect was PERFECT!!!! Thank You Jesus, thank you Kenneth, thank you Sonny, and thank you Wilma. Thank you for reminding us of who we are, who we serve, and protecting our choir family through so many heart aches.

To God Be the Glory for this Yamaha 6'1" Grand Piano with Disklavier technology that will enhance our worship here at Culdee for generations to come.

Musical Blessing!

Beverly

### **Welcome Home Virginia Elder and family!**



On Friday morning, February 23rd, the choir room was filled with old and new friends. We were excited and thrilled to meet with Virginia Elder, her daughter Nan and son-in-law Bob. They traveled on a wet and rainy morning to come and "visit" her piano that was donated for the choir room. Several months ago, a mover relocated her Kimball petite grand to its new home in our choir room.

On this morning we had a wonderful time with friends, old and new, as we talked and enjoyed each other's company, passed the hymnals, and had an old-fashioned sing-along. What a blessing it was for me to finally meet this beautiful lady (inside and out) that I have heard so much about. It was an honor! Thank you, Virginia, for your years of service to our music department at Culdee and for your selfless gift of your beautiful instrument.

We love you!

Beverly and the gang!





## Cemetery News

**ALL CHRISTMAS décor must be removed from the cemetery by Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. If not, it will be collected and thrown away.**

Carson Dennis	01
Lydia Craven	02
McKenzie Cox	03
Carolyn Smith	03
Vickie Blue	05
Amber Clayton	06
Steve Cox	07
Carolyn McKenzie	12
Debby Fields	12
Sharron Privott	12
Morgan Jackson	13
Nicholas Campbell	14
Mitchell Whitesell	14
LeAnn Bailey	15
Kim Lea Hardy	15
Mary Ruth Whitaker	16
Sylvia Black	17
Sue Black	17
Carter Cuff	18
Evelyn Caddell	19



Richard Dunlop	19
Addie Bailey	20
Natalie Cox	21
Noreen Oakman	21
Chad Smith	22
Bailey Blue	22
Greg Bohlander	23
Timothy Patterson	23
Clayton Svalina	24
Erica Tolbert	24
Debbie Halverstadt	24
Audrey Chacon	25
Philip Fisher	26
Scott Bullard	28
Beverly Furr	28
Kim White	29
Payton Savage	30
Jonathan Craven	31
Riley Seawell	31

## Joining in on the music journey of Culdee

Please feel free to come and join us in our musical journey during our regular rehearsal times at the church.



**Handbell** rehearsal Wednesday at 5:00 pm (Children's Church room)

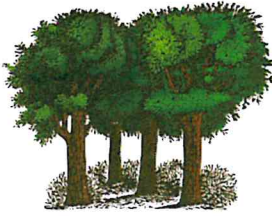
**Chancel Choir** rehearsal Wednesday at 6:30 pm (in the Sanctuary)



**Kids J.A.M.** (Jesus and Me) will meet at the beginning of Children's Church every Sunday morning during worship in the choir room. Hope to see you there.

Special instrumentals and soloists on an individual schedule, please reach out if you would like to participate to Beverly or some of the music department family.

## **Culdee's Parking Lot Transformation**



The parking lot is undergoing a transformation throughout the spring and fall. The Bradford Pear trees that provided beauty and shade for many years had reached the limit of their serviceability. Dedicated to the glory of God to beautify Culdee's grounds, they were planted in the mid-1980s in loving memory of *Alton Blue*, a lifetime Elder, by his daughters Peggy Blue Gibbs and Rebecca Blue Bowen.

When approached about their removal, the family agreed the trees were past their prime. Along with approving the removal of the trees, the Session approved the family's request that the original dedication be extended for the new trees being provided by the family. The new trees will be dedicated to the glory of God and in loving memory of the *Alton Blue Family*, since both daughters have passed.

The grandchildren of Alton Blue, Ron Bowen and Diann Bowen Fortune, will work with the Building and Grounds Ministry in the parking lot's transformation. In addition to the trees replaced by Ron and Diann, the Building and Grounds Ministry has plans for additional shrubs. If anyone would like to support the addition of the shrubs, the Building and Grounds Ministry would appreciate monetary donations. Keep your eyes out for the exciting changes that will continue to enhance the beauty of Culdee for God's glory and honor.

## **Kitchen Remodel and Renovation**

The Women of the Church requested the Building and Grounds Ministry consider renovating, modernizing and making the Fellowship Hall kitchen a more efficient work area. The Session agreed with the need and approved the project.



At the recommendation from the Finance Ministry, the Session approved the establishment of a legally designated fund to help finance the professional design, construction and purchase of commercial appliances that will last many years. Redesign of storage areas to support the kitchen is also included. Once all work is complete, should there be funds remaining in this designated account, the Session approved those funds be held for future renovations specific to the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you for your support of this needed project. Look for more information coming from the Kitchen Renovation Committee as the project progresses.

## **Columbarium Committee**

The idea of adding a columbarium to Culdee's cemetery has floated around for quite a while. A columbarium is a structure where ashes of a loved one are entombed in niches within the structure. Most recently, the idea for a columbarium has been discussed through various informal conversations with women around church. Once the idea was presented, the Session approved the formation of a Columbarium Committee to investigate the idea.

The Columbarium Committee is co-chaired by Elders Diann Fortune and Clayton Svalina. Elder Patti Burke and inactive Elder and Clerk of Session June Stewart are serving along with Cemetery Committee representatives Elder Wade Garner and inactive Elder Art McKenzie.

If you are aware of a columbarium nearby, please let the committee members know its location so they might make a visit. The Columbarium Committee looks forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas.



## Bible Puzzle

# Fruit of the Spirit List in Code

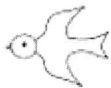
The fruit of the Spirit is listed in Galatians 5:22-23. The Holy Spirit produces these qualities in the life of each Christian. You can decode the list here.



O L E V



Q L B



K V Z X V



K Z G R V M X V



P R M W M V H H



T L L W M V H H



U Z R G S U F O M V H H



T V M G O V M V H H

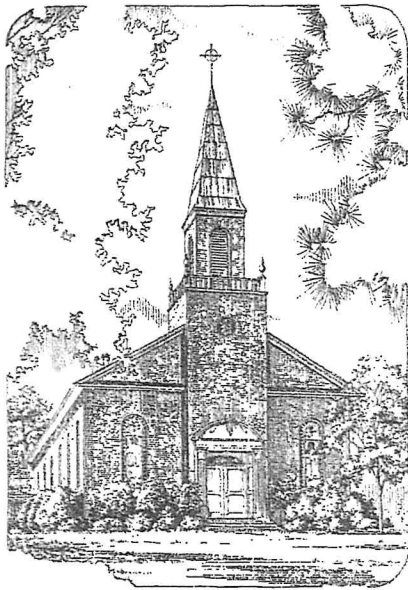


H V O U X L M G I L O

In this code, A stands for Z, Z stands for A, etc.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N

Do you let the Holy Spirit produce fruit in your life?



*Culdee Presbyterian Church*

916 HIGHWAY 73, WEST END  
NORTH CAROLINA

*Give thanks to the LORD, call on his  
name; make known among the nations  
what He has done. 1 Chronicles 16:8*

### **Culdee Presbyterian Mission**

Culdee Presbyterian Church will build caring relationships with our local and global community while proclaiming the Word of God and building up our faith community.

Contact Us: Phone (910) 295-6685

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