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THANK YOU LORD FOR:

THE CULDEE CONNECTION

November 2024

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*"What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people."
John 1:3b-4, NRSV*

Most of us are thinking about pumpkins and Thanksgiving right now, but we are just a month away from the beginning of Advent! It won't be long before we'll be seeing Christmas greenery on our neighbors' doors, holiday commercials and movies on television, and Christmas cards in our mailboxes. One of the challenges we face is keeping our focus in the right place during the Advent season. The word "advent" connotes the coming of something important. In the case of our Christian Advent season, we are anticipating the arrival of God incarnated – God, made flesh – in the person of a tiny baby whose name was Jesus. Rather than a time of pre-celebration of Christmas, Advent is meant to be a time of waiting and preparing for the coming of our Lord.

During the month of November, we'll be looking at three gospel stories about people who wanted to see, touch or know Jesus. The first is from Luke's gospel; the story of Zacchaeus, a tax collector despised by his peers but loved and called into repentance by Jesus. The second is Mark's telling of the woman who sought merely to touch the garment of Jesus to receive healing, but who was called out and recognized and blessed by Jesus. The third story is from John's gospel, about a Pharisee who comes under cover of darkness to have a conversation with Jesus.

It's my hope that as we consider these stories of real people who sought and encountered the Jesus who walked among them as God-made-flesh, our hearts will be made more ready for the season of waiting called Advent.

Connie Weaver, Pastor

SESSION NOTES FROM THE STATED SESSION OF OCTOBER 13, 2024

June Stewart, Clerk

The meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. in Room A/Session Room in the Fellowship Hall building with a quorum of Elders in attendance and Pastor Connie as Moderator.

- The minutes from the **Stated Session meeting of September 8** were approved as amended; the minutes from the **Called Session meeting of September 17** were approved as amended; The minutes from the **Executive meeting of September 17** were approved as presented; the minutes of the **Called Session meeting of September 29** were approved as presented; the minutes of the **Congregational meeting of September 29** were approved as presented; the minutes of the **Called Session meeting of October 6** were approved as presented.
- Pastor Connie gave a brief report on the **October 5th Presbytery meeting** held in Raeford at Freedom East Church.
- The Stated Session meeting in December will be held on **Monday, December 9th**.
- The Financial Report for September was received as presented and approved.
- The proposed **Budget for 2025** was recommended by the Finance Ministry and approved as presented by the Session.
- Work on the manse deck is completed, and the paving of the parking lot is completed.

At the Called Session meeting held on October 20, 2024, the session approved the scheduling of a **Congregational meeting on Sunday, November 3rd** to hear the report from the Elder Nominating Committee.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

Christian Ed Ministry completed the year with planning for the Trunk or Treat Event which was held October 26th. You can see pictures elsewhere in this newsletter.

Gail Meeks is preparing our children to perform at the Children's Christmas Party to be held on December 8th. They are practicing each Sunday at 5:00. Please invite your children and grandchildren to join them.

Kaitland McKenzie is busily planning her Sunday School classes and loves her location downstairs in the first room on the left. You may have noticed the children with crowns and articles they are making during their Sunday School time. June Stewart's adult Sunday School class is also meeting in the session room. Both classes begin at 9:15. Children's church has been studying Miracles of Jesus. Gail Meeks also provides a time of music during our Children's church time.



As we grow, we need more teachers and Sunday School classes. If you are interested in starting a class, please see Patti Burke or Marshall Sweat.

As always, we appreciate your continued support. Patti Burke

THIS MONTH IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Hello, Culdee Family!!!! Happy November! This month in Sunday School, we will be talking about THANKFULNESS... What is thankfulness? What should we be thankful for? How can we thank God? These are all things we will talk and learn about this month. Prepare for crafts, fun, and time with Jesus! Join us Sunday mornings at 9:15 in the downstairs classroom! Kaitland McKenzie

CULDEE'S 2024 HARVEST FESTIVAL

God blessed Culdee with a beautiful day and perfect weather for the annual Harvest Festival. Beginning with cooking the chickens at 7:00 a.m. on Friday all the way through the chicken picking ending early Friday afternoon, it was a time of laughter, camaraderie and Christian fellowship. Over thirty-five people showed up for the boiling and picking of the chickens and packaging of the slaw and desserts. Because many hands were doing God's work, tasks were finished in a short amount of time!

While enjoying the mouth-watering fragrance of the chicken activities on Friday, the fourteen-member auction and yard sale crews were gathering more items, organizing the donations and preparing for Saturday's 10:00 a.m. yard sale and 1:00 p.m. live auction. A wide variety of generous donations were gratefully received, making the anticipation of the event quite exciting.



Saturday morning, the tents were set early for the Country Store, the Quilters manned the table for quilt ticket sales, the Men's Club sold tickets for their 50/50 raffle and the yard sale was in full swing.



The scent of grilled hotdogs and corndogs filled the air as many community people came and strolled through the shopping areas, enjoying lunch and fellowship.

Preparations for the chicken and dumpling dinner began early with the outdoor boiling crew arriving at 7:00 a.m. to begin heating the broth.



The dumpling-making gang arrived at 8:00 a.m. and got to rolling. As more people joined in throughout the day, each one trained the other as dough was mixed and sheeted using the new commercial equipment and given a final roll and then cut into dumplings.





The dumpling droppers soon had their broth pots boiling with taste testing for quality control of each batch. After heating the broth, the outdoor gang began the cooking of the green beans and finally the meal was ready to serve.

There's a saying about too

many cooks in the kitchen but the more than fifty helpers in Culdee's kitchen was just right!



While the dinner preparation was happening, auctioneers Johnny Owens and Waylon Collins got the crowd stirred up, bidding on a wide variety of items from Christmas nutcrackers to gift certificates to hand crafted tables and chairs. The auction crew was hopping, keeping items quick at hand, ready to read descriptions of the goods while showing them off to the crowd. The addition of themed baskets was a big hit this year, too. Good-natured ribbing and competitive bidding made this year's auction lots of fun and quite successful.



After the live auction, the dinner drive-through opened and was quite busy all evening. The many volunteers hustled and plates were moving fast! The Fellowship Hall had a steady line of diners come to enjoy Culdee's famous chicken and dumplings right up until closing time.



Some folks lingered to enjoy the live bluegrass music that created a party atmosphere. The dinner was exceptionally delicious; made even better with the laughter and foot stomping fun!



God not only blessed Culdee with a perfect day, He blessed Culdee with plenty of volunteers from the church and the community wanting to do His work. Each volunteer left Culdee with the knowledge he/she had done good work for a good purpose. Culdee extends heartfelt thanks to the numerous volunteers without whom the day would have been a challenge. A special thanks goes to Marie

Hamilton and Pete Kakouras for sharing their culinary skills, training and working with the kitchen crew and to Ed Davis for making the chicken cooking happen. Thanks also goes to the following people who headed up different aspects of the Harvest Festival: Patti Burke, Shannon Bullard, Stuart & Debby Fields, Diann Fortune, Wade Garner, Tim & Laine Lea, Gail Meeks, McKenzie Family, Faye Riggsbee, Catherine Sears, June Stewart, Ann Savage, and Mary Ruth Whitaker. Appreciation is extended to Will Cuff and Diane Van Winkle who continued their families' long tradition with the Harvest Festival. Culdee opened its willing hearts and working hands to the community and now extends appreciation to and asks blessings for each person that visited and supported Culdee's 2024 Harvest Festival!

Diann Fortune

PW Quilt winners were

Anna Rae Kemp
Anna Lee
Claudia Cole
Will Cuff
Larry McMahan.



The PM 50/50 Raffle

was won by Martha Mathews.

We celebrated Reformation Sunday on October 27th. Ben Turner, from Fayetteville, was welcomed as our guest bagpiper.



FINANCE MINISTRY



The parking lot paving project is complete. The bumpers that were used to divide the parking lot sections previously were no longer viable and had to be replaced. The individual parking spaces have been lined to help navigate the new spaces. The table that was damaged near the basketball court will be fixed and ready to accept all of those who enjoy playing on the court very soon.

The 2025 budget has been presented by Finance and approved by the Session at the October 13th, 2024, meeting. This approved budget was a combination of great work between the ministries and the Session.



Hurricane Helene Relief funding thus far has included:

\$2000.00 – Helicopter fuel for rescue, supply delivery and recovery.

\$2000.00 – To a diner that provides meals for the victims, and workers such as EMS, Police, Fire and the River Rafting Girls.

\$1900.00 – For plugs, cables, and an electrician to connect homes with generators that will provide needed power for multiple uses.

\$2700.00- to purchase 30 butane camp stoves, fuel canisters and lighters for cooking that will be distributed by a church to the community.

\$1745.00 – To purchase dehumidifiers, damp rid buckets and Carbon Monoxide Detectors for Hospice & Palliative Care of Blue Ridge.

\$10,000 – To Samaritan's Purse

\$5,000 – To Baptist Men on Mission in NC

The funding for this effort comes from a called session meeting on October 6th, 2024, where \$10K was approved from the Barnabus Fund and \$25K was approved from liquid assets. Furthermore, 35% of the proceeds from the Harvest Festival will also be allocated towards the relief fund while the remaining 65% will go to Building and Grounds.

The 2024 Harvest Festival was a wonderful success. While the exact numbers aren't ready yet, the outpouring of love, support, fellowship and fun was extraordinary. We can't begin to thank our Church Family and all of those who volunteered to help make this year's Harvest Festival possible.

Sampson Marion	01
Rod Ward	01
Mary Fisher	02
Janie Taylor	05
Caelyn Stewart	06
Stephanie Barber	08
Braxton Barber	08
Melanie Huffines	11
Justin Ritter	15
Adin Patterson	16
Cole Bullard	17



Robby Campbell	18
Colton Svalina	19
Harold Clayton	20
Kenneth White	23
Joshua Craven	25
Kristin Lilly	25
Luke Howle	27
Daniel Ritter	28
Chris Willcox	30
Chris Lilly	30

Trunk or Treat Saturday, October 26th





November 24th – Community Thanksgiving Service

December 1st – Sunday Funday

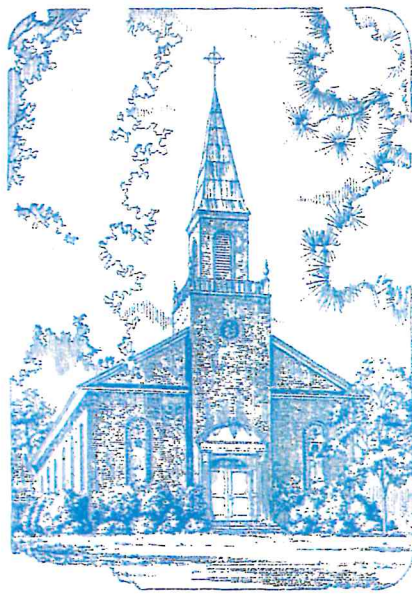
December 8th – Children's Christmas Program

December 15th – Cantata by Chancel Choir

December 24th – Christmas Eve Service

January 1st - New Years Day Meal





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.

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