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THANK YOU LORD FOR:

THE CULDEE CONNECTION

July/August 2025

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God made you. God loves you. God is always with you.

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Years ago, in my first pastoral call out of seminary, I shared preschool chapel duty with other pastors on the church staff. I was assigned to lead chapel each week for 2- and 3-year-old children. Nothing will hone your theology down to its core quicker than facing an audience of 2- and 3-year-olds on a regular basis! Their attention span is short, their thought process is literal, and the message sticks like glue. I was profoundly aware of the need to choose my words carefully in speaking to these children. Out of this experience came *three theological principles* that still guide my ministry today:

God made you. God loves you. God is always with you.

Truly, everything else that I believe or profess about God emanates from these three biblical principles. These affirmations allow us as Christians to enter challenging or difficult settings with hope, knowing that everyone in the room is made by God and loved by God, no matter how they may be behaving at the moment. And if God is always with us, then there is always the possibility of new understanding and redemption of difficult situations. I don't believe there is any problem that is too big or too difficult for God to deal with. It's hard for us to grasp that on some of our toughest days. But if you and I can remember that we are made and cherished by a loving God, saved by the Incarnate Son, and accompanied by a powerful Spirit, then we can face whatever life demands of us.

Connie Weaver, Pastor

NOTES FROM THE STATED SESSION MEETING OF JUNE 8, 2025

Elders in attendance in Room A/Session Room of the Fellowship Hall Building at 6:00 p.m. were Audrey Chacon, Wesley Cole, Johnie Marion, Shannon Bullard, Danny Aldridge, Rick Mathews, Karon McKenzie, Melissa Bailey, Tim Bailey, Robert Barber. Eve Williamson and Janie Taylor were absent. Pastor Connie served as Moderator. Johnie Marion was approved to serve as Clerk in June Stewart's absence.

The Stated Session minutes of May 12th were approved as presented.

The Session discussed Chapter 4 from the book, **LASTING IMPACT** by Carey Nieuwhof.

The Baptism of **Iain Blue**, son of Brandon and Ashley Blue, will be held on Sunday, June 22 during the morning worship service.

The Financial Report for May was reviewed and approved as corrected.

Culdee received an invitation from West End Presbyterian Church to take part in the September 20th **"Rise Against Hunger"** event that will be held at their church. Volunteers will be helping to package meals for the needy. The motion was approved. A second motion was made from the committee to schedule a special offering to support the group's mission work. If the offering does not reach \$500.00, the church will make up the difference. The motion was approved.

The Personnel Committee motioned that the revised "Pastor Job Description" document be approved as presented. The motion carried.

The Outreach Committee motioned to hold a month-long collection drive for Samaritans Purse Christmas Shoeboxes again. The "Christmas in July" project was approved.

The Doris Moore Scholarship recipient for 2025, Roston Barber, will receive \$500.00.



ONLINE CULDEE DIRECTORY

In addition to our paper directory, there is an online version of our directory available for your computer and/or cell phone. The advantage of having the online version is that it is always current. Nancy, our office manager, keeps it updated if there are new members to be added or current members may need to change an address or phone information! Don't forget the pictures in the directory can be changed, too!

To access the directory online, go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com and enter your email address as listed in the directory. Click on **"Send Secure Sign-In Link."** Then check your email and click on the **"Log in to Instant Church Directory"** button found in your email.

A free mobile app is also available in the **Apple® App Store** and the **Google Play™ Store**. Just search for **"Instant Church Directory"** to download.

Important: Your email address **must be listed in the directory before you can log in.**



ATTENTION ALL LADIES

Exciting things coming up for all women for 2025/26

To **kick off** the new year, “all women” are invited to share a meal of salads on Sunday, September 7th from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm in the church Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite salad to share and enjoy an evening of fellowship.

Homecoming will be coming up on Sunday, September 21st after worship. Bring your favorite dish and enjoy visiting and fellowship on this special day.

Christmas will be fast approaching, so mark your calendar and plan to attend a delicious **breakfast** at the Pinecrest Inn in Pinehurst on Saturday, December 6th at 9:00 AM. It will be a great way to kick off the Christmas Season with wonderful food and fellowship.

The **PW Fall Gathering** will be held on August 16th at Pocket Presbyterian Church in Sanford.

MEET YOUR SESSION MEMBERS



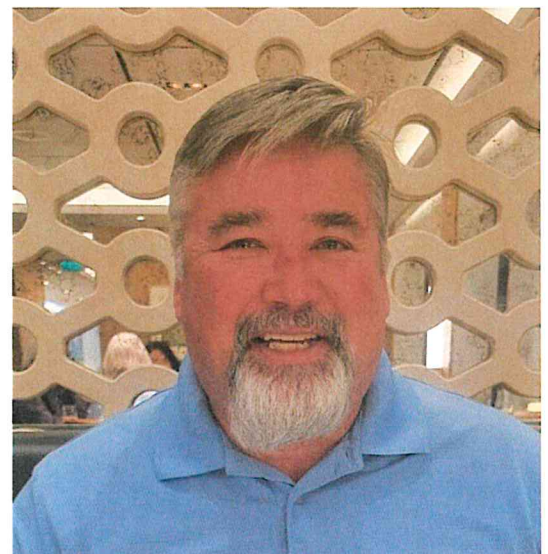
Karon McKenzie

I joined Culdee in 1975 after I married Darrell. Darrell and I shortly were the junior youth group leaders for about two to three years. Then we taught children's church for ten years. I have served as Elder for three terms. I enjoy serving along side of my brothers and sisters in Christ.

As for my life outside of church, I was called to be an early childhood teacher. This has been my role for 25 years. For fifteen years I served my community as an in-home center that carried a five-star rating. The last ten years were with First Health CDC as a pre-k 3 and 4 year-old lead teacher. I am retiring August 29th of this year. I foresee myself helping Darrell in his business of gardening and other things. I'm looking forward to see what our Lord and Savior has planned for me in the third stage of my life. Praise the Lord for all His blessings in my life.

Robert Barber

I have been married to Stephanie Bouldin since 1995, and we have four adult boys. We have all grown up in church and actively been involved with attending and working over the years. Faith and family are at the core of who we are and want to be. Church is the key to building our faith and having a large family with this core support, our lives are enriched and blessed beyond measure!



May 25th – Memorial Day Roll Call



**Many thanks to all the Veterans
who have served our country. We
appreciate you.**

Cooking Class by Christian Education

Sunday, May 25th – Robert Barber with Lauren Tierney and Ashley McKenzie



The idea behind the cooking class was to help our young people and young families learn to prepare food at home. With the cost of a “Meal Deal” being over \$10.00, there is a need for this class. While learning new recipes, methods of cooking and exploring new food horizons, something wonderful happens: fellowship, encouragement and joy started overflowing in the kitchen. Seniors sharing with the youth and vice versa. The response by all was to please continue the class. We are looking for open Sundays in the calendar to expand opportunities. Robert Barber

The first class baked pork loin chops, made homemade Gouda macaroni and cheese, parmesan squash and onions, jambalaya and broccoli. The cost per person was \$6.00 and the meal fed over 10 people.

No fire extinguishers were needed!



Sunday, June 1st – Philip Marion, Ashley and Lauren



The second cooking class was led by Wade Garner and Philip Marion. The young folks made Wade Garner's famous meatloaf, mashed potatoes and Philip Marion's sweet beans. Again, the food fed more than 10 people and was enjoyed by all.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

On June 15, 2025, during morning worship service, individuals were recognized for their completion of Academic Requirements and Graduation from High Schools, Colleges, a Military Academy and a Military Medical Center. In addition, the 2025 Doris Moore Memorial Scholarship Receptient was announced. All of these young adults represent families or friends of Culdee. Their hard work, patience and determination has not gone unnoticed. Continued support for each of them comes from many here through "Prayer" making Culdee their "Anchor".

There were two **high school graduates**:

Corey Curlee who graduated from Pinecrest High School. He is the son of Kelly Curlee and the grandson of Mitzi McKenzie and the late Art McKenzie.

Preston Ryan Whitaker graduated from Union Pines High School. He is the grandson of Russell and Mary Ruth Whitaker.

There were **nine college, graduate school, Military School or Doctorate graduates**:



(Picture: Mikaela K, Braxton B, Jacob P)

Braxton Barber graduated from Davidson College with a B.A. in Communications and a minor in Mathematics. He is the son of Robert and Stephanie Barber.

Morgan Jackson graduated from UNC Chapel Hill with a BS in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. She is the granddaughter of Sharon Moon.

Mikaela Kantorowski graduated from UNC Chapel Hill Law School with a JD (Law) degree. Family of Robert and Stephanie Barber.

Leigh Ellen McKenzie graduated from UNC Wilmington with a degree in Fine Arts and Creative Writing. She is the granddaughter of Lonnie and Judy McKenzie.

J. P. Moon graduated from Sandhills Community College with an Associates in Construction Management, Civil Engineering and Surveying. He is the grandson of Sharon Moon.

Jackson William Moricle graduated from Appalachian State University with a BS in Business Administration/Supply Chain Management. He is the son of Blaine & Lisa Moricle and grandson of Ann Savage.

Jacob Prevatt graduated from UNC Charlotte with a BS in Geography with a concentration in GIS (Surveying). Family of Robert and Stephanie Barber.

2Lt. Jaiden Tyler Washington graduated from The United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD with a degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering. He is the son of Ryan and Celeste Marino and grandson of Danny and Diane Aldridge.

Congregational Care Continued

Lt. Henry Norman Weaver completed his Internal Medicine Residency at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, MD. He is the son of Joe and Connie Weaver.

The Doris Moore Scholarship recipient was **Roston Barber**. He is the son of Robert and Stephanie Barber. (Roston is pictured with Wes Cole)

Culdee is so fortunate to have had a part in the early lives of some of these young people and will continue to follow them in prayer and best wishes. Congratulations to each of them. We share in your happiness.

Eve Williamson



and Wes Cole



Outreach

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunity: Rise Against Hunger

We're excited to announce an amazing opportunity to serve together as a church family along with West End Presbyterian! Join us for the **Rise Against Hunger** event on **September 20th**, where we'll be packaging nutritious meals to be distributed to those in need around the world. This hands-on mission experience is a powerful way to make a global impact. All ages are welcome. More information will follow along with a special collection during the month of August to support this cause.



Don't Forget Your Church T-Shirt!

Be sure to purchase your **Culdee Church T-shirt**—perfect to wear at events like Rise Against Hunger and other church outings. The first order has been placed and another will be placed soon! Please see the board in the Sun Room or contact the church office. Payment can be made to Culdee when your shirt arrives. Remember, no cost for our youth!

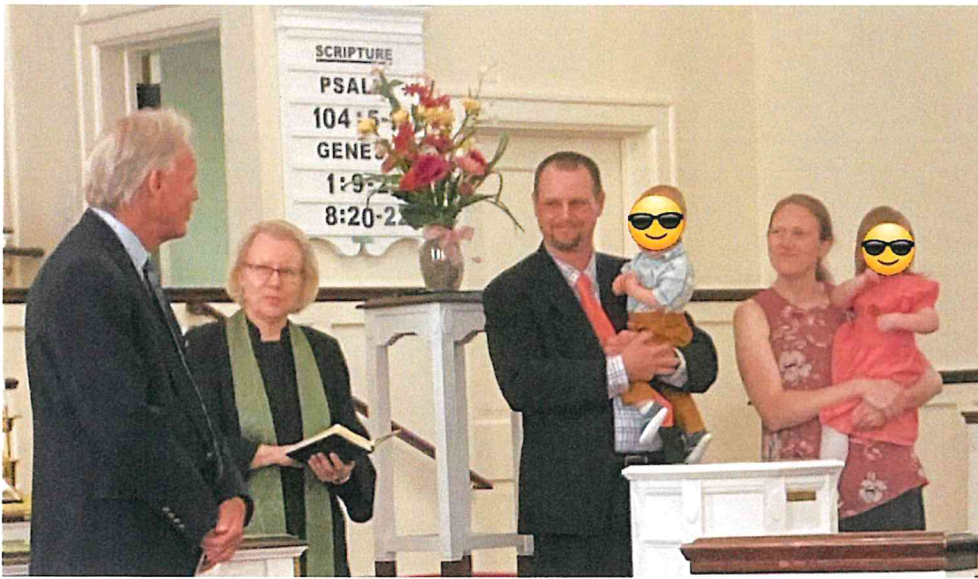


Melissa Bailey and



Karon McKenzie

Many thanks for Lauren Tierney and her Children's Church helpers for putting together the Hygiene kits. The kits will be sent to Church World Services to be used in times of disaster. Thank you to all who donated items as well.



On June 22nd, Iain Blue was baptized by Pastor Weaver.



rate

Once again we will be collecting **Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoeboxes** for the whole month of July!! Last year was very successful!! We think everyone was pretty pleased about getting one of their favorite Christmas mission projects done ahead of time!! The holidays are often so hectic!! The shoeboxes will be placed at various places around the church for folks to pick up and fill. Inside your box, you will find a list of suggested items for boys and girls; be sure to pay close attention to the items they list **NOT TO PUT IN THE BOX**. Also provided, is a label for the outside of the box. When you fill your box, please make sure not to overfill it; the lid should close securely. Consider adding a rubber band just for extra protection! **THANK YOU** for being willing to share with a "world" of kids!!!



Saturday, August 16th – Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering

Sunday, September 7th - Presbyterian Women Salad Supper Kick Off

Saturday, September 20th – Rise Against Hunger

Sunday, September 21st – Homecoming

Thursday, September 25th – Presbyterian Men will meet for supper and fellowship

Saturday, October 18th – Harvest Festival

Sunday, October 26th – Reformation Sunday

Mark your calendar, invite some friends and plan to join in!



Benjamin Whitesell	02	Pierson Tolbert	17
Rhonda Ritter	03	Rhonda Whitesell	18
Cooper Cox	03	Jonathan McKenzie	19
Karon McKenzie	04	Mason Parsons	19
Anna Rae Kemp	04	Riley Story	19
Elise Palmerton	05	Avery Martin	20
Sharon Moon	08	Ashley Blue	21
Larry Black	08	Owen Whitesell	22
Ethan Rivas	09	Tom Gribben	22
Beverly Dunlop	11	Blair Moricle	24
Leanne Waschsen	13	Wesley Cole	24
Connie Weaver	13	Stuart Fields	24
Jewell Vest	14	Judy McKenzie	27
Anne F. Garner	14	Connie Marion	31
Doug Sullivan	17	Dannie Jackson	31

Sadie Cuff	01	Lisa Campbell	20
Jackie Thamm	04	Myers Buckley	21
Sarah Cuff	05	Grace Bowen	22
Tracy Vest	09	Deelie Whitesell	23
Vickie Mehta	11	Jackson Aldridge	23
Tammy Parsons	11	Nancy Howle	25
Wayne Vest	11	Kristy Taylor	25
Zach Marks	11	Norman Harris	25
Nelson Blue	12	Dana Vest	26
Ray Barber	13	Skylar Lilly	26
Tony Rouse	15	Sharon Cuff	30
Peyton Martin	15	Lisa Huffines	30
Eve Williamson	18	Wyatt Cole	31
Andrew Craven	19		

Finance Ministry

A note of thanks to Faye Riggsbee, also known as the Carolina Stitcher, who has served two and a half years on the Finance Committee. Faye, as most of you know, is such a talented individual and will be devoting her time now to her unbelievable craft. We will miss her at the meetings, but it is not a goodbye, it is simply a see you around at church.

During our meeting on June 8, 2025, new business included the notification that an e-mail has been sent to Derrick James at Sandhills Accounting Service to get the process started for our annual financial audit.

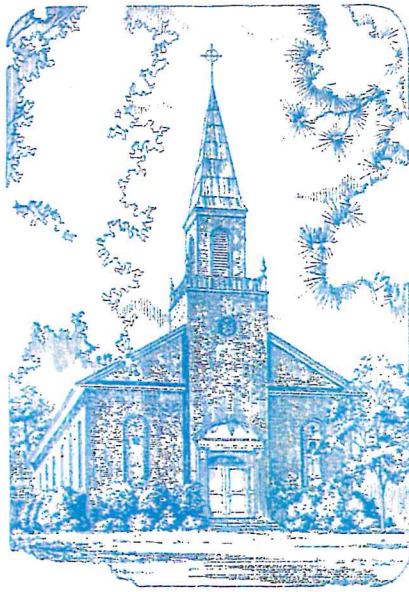
As mentioned in the last newsletter, the April 30, 2025, monthly finance report showed a total year to date realized and unrealized loss of \$1248.21 with Culdee's Stifel Nicolaus Investments. The May 31, 2025, year to date realized and unrealized gain is \$7475.35.

On June 3rd, Carolina Air replaced the capacitor on the HVAC unit at the manse.

As quick as this year is passing, the annual Harvest Festival will be here before we know it, October 18th to be exact. Your Finance Committee is working on ways that you can help with gathering auction items. Stay tuned to see what we have planned. Also remember that we are collecting yard sale items. If you need help with getting items to the church, please reach out to anyone within the Finance Ministry or Nancy in the office and we can facilitate getting those items from you.

Your Finance Chair, Shannon Bullard





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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