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**THANK YOU LORD FOR:**

**THE CULDEE CONNECTION**

**March 2025**

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Volume 46, Issues: 2  
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Aren't we all ready for Spring? I am! There's something exciting about the coming of Spring after a cold winter. It truly is a reminder of new life - both the new life of nature as God has created it - and the resurrected life that we will celebrate just a few weeks from now on Easter Sunday.

Like so much of what is important in life, the celebration of Easter is a journey, not just a day on our calendars. The journey begins now, as we are entering the season of Lent. I did not grow up observing Lent. But I have come to appreciate it as an important time of preparation for celebrating the resurrection of Jesus. Historically in the Church, Lent has been a time of self-examination and of reflection on the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Each of us can determine how we will observe the days of the Lenten season. Some people find meaning in giving something up; others find meaning in taking on extra practices of study, prayer and charitable giving. However you choose to observe Lent, the important thing is that you do, because it will help to focus your mind and heart on your Savior and his promises of redemption and new life now and for all eternity!

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5<sup>th</sup>. It extends to Easter, but doesn't include Sundays, because Sundays are always to be a day of celebration of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. You're invited to an Ash Wednesday service at Culdee Church at 6 o'clock on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Connie Weaver, Pastor

## NOTES FROM THE STATED SESSION MEETING OF FEBRUARY 19, 2025

June Stewart, Clerk

The Session met at 6:00 p.m. in Room A/Session Room of the Fellowship Hall with all Elders in attendance. Pastor Connie served as Moderator.

- The minutes of the Stated Session meeting of January 19, 2025, were approved as read.
- Shepherd Lists for 2025 were distributed to the Elders.
- The Session ratified the 2024 PCUSA Statistical Report.
- The Active Membership Roll as of January 1, 2025, is 155.
- Session approved the following 2025 Calendars: Special Services, Communion, and Special Offerings
- Karon McKenzie was approved as Elder Representative to the Presbytery Meeting to be held on Saturday, March 1 at MacPherson Presbyterian in Fayetteville. Melissa Bailey was approved as alternate.
- The Financial Report for January was reviewed and received as presented.
- Ring cameras will be purchased and installed at the church manse

### OUTREACH

GET  
INVOLVED!

We are excited to invite you to join the Culdee Outreach Committee. This group will focus on expanding our church and community involvement through volunteer activities. Join us right after church in the Fellowship Hall the first Sunday of each month beginning March 2. See you there! Co-chairpersons Karon Mckenzie and Melissa Bailey

### FAMILY PROMISE

**March 10 – 13** is the next opportunity for Culdee and West End Presbyterian to share in providing the evening meals for the families at the Family Promise house on Saunders Ave. If you are interested in helping provide an item for a meal, or you have a question about the program itself ...please call or text June.

**Peggy Hendrix** who is the director for Family Promise has sent out an email requesting donations to help the families when they are ready to move into their own housing.... gently used or new towels, washcloths, sheets (greatest need are twin sheets) and pillowcases, **small** couches, loveseats, tables, and chairs. The housing they move into usually has **small rooms**. If you want to donate anything or have a question, please call **Peggy at 910-850-4298**; she would love to hear from you. If you leave her a message, she will be quick to respond.

### CROPWALK 2025



It is time to get ready for this year's CROPWALK on **Sunday, April 6!!** Spring is coming and getting outside is sounding wonderful after the bone-chilling winter weather we've experienced. Plans are to do the actual walking at Culdee as we did the last two or three years. Though we walk at Culdee, we are considered participating partners of **the Sandhills CROP HUNGER WALK**; I will be attending a **Team Captain's Rally on Monday, March 3** at Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church at 6:00 p.m. to get more literature and information for us. June Stewart

## CHURCH WORLD SERVICES HYGIENE KITS

The content of the **CWS Hygiene Kits** has been updated to ensure the kits better meet the immediate needs of many recipients who are on the move or are in temporary shelters. Please read and keep handy the list of supplies needed for a kit. The baskets in the sun room are provided for your complete kits or items from the list to help us make up a kit. Be a blessing to someone today!!

- I gallon resealable **plastic bag** (to hold the items)
- Washcloth**
- Fingernail or toenail clipper** (out of the package)
- Toothbrush** (in original package)
- Bath-sized bar of soap** (in original package)
- Travel-size deodorant** (3.4 oz. or less, non-aerosol)
- Travel-size lotion** (3.4 oz. or less, fragrance-free, NEW only)
- Travel-size shampoo** (3.4 oz. or less, NEW only)
- Travel-size toothpaste** (3.4 oz. or less, Expiration date of 1 year)
- Sturdy wide-tooth comb** (6" minimum of teeth, out of package)

The **Blanket Fund** covered in February raised \$3,478.00. So many people will receive a blanket in their time of need thanks to the generous givers at Culdee. Praise the Lord!



## Christian Education



It is going to be a great year for Christian Education opportunities at Culdee. We are in the planning stages to be able to offer new Sunday School classes soon with some short-term studies, then have curriculums in place to begin a new year in September. Please be in prayer that our efforts will be pleasing to God and that we can spread His message through these classes.

Our first large group activity will be our annual **Easter Egg Hunt** on April 12. We hope to continue some of the favorite activities from past years such as the Easter Bunny, bouncy house, hot dogs, and music.



We are on the schedule with **Camp Monroe** for VBS the week of June 23rd-27th. That is a time that means so much to our young people and presents them with opportunities they will treasure in their memories.

Other activities coming up throughout the year will be additional Sunday Fundays, mini-Sunday Fundays for our younger folks, Halloween Trunk or Treat, and everyone's favorite, the Christmas party with a 'Special Guest'.

There will be numerous opportunities for participation in the activities, so be ready to jump into the fun!

Robert and Janie



Quilt presented to Kristy Lea Taylor,  
daughter of Jimmy and Carolyn Lea.

(We are so thankful for the quilters who work hard to  
produce such beautiful pieces which bless those in  
crisis.)

### **Finance Ministry**

*2 Peter 3:9 – The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

Parking Lot Update – Diann Fortune, Catherine Sears, and Faye Ritter have met with another landscaper and received an additional quote. It is their hope to have the final plans completed very shortly and to start as early as Spring.

Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall Gutters – Some of the gutters and fascia boards have been replaced/repared. Please take a moment to look at how beautiful the gutters are. We are so blessed to have such a beautiful church and keeping its original charm is vital to its preservation.

It's never too early to start thinking about Fall! Our Annual Harvest Festival and Auction will be here before we know it. If you have any yard sale items that you would like to donate, we have a place to store them. Start thinking about what you would like to see in the Auction and if you would be willing to help gather items for the Auction. This truly takes a team effort, and we have the absolute best with your help.

The January 31, 2025, Financial Report is included in the Newsletter for you to review. Total Months in Reserve: 12.85 months (we're required to have 6 months). Investments - YTD Dividends, Interest, & Realized Gains \$313.24. YTD Unrealized Gain \$5,688.53 = Total YTD Realized & Unrealized Gain \$6,001.77 (Great way to start off the New Year).

Shannon Bullard, Finance Ministry Chair

## MARCH

Lydia Craven	02
McKenzie Cox	03
Carolyn Smith	03
Vickie Blue	05
Amber Clayton	06
Ashley McKenzie	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

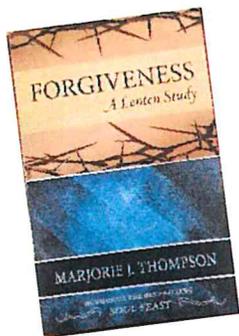


Richard Dunlop	19
Addie Bailey	20
Natalie Cox	21
Noreen Oakman	21
Chad Smith	22
Bailey Blue	22
Greg Bohlander	23
Timothy Patterson	23
Clayton Svalina	24
Erica Tolbert	24
Debbie Halverstadt	24
Audrey Chacon	25
Philip Fisher	26
Scott Bullard	28
Beverly Furr	28
Kim White	29
Payton Savage	30
Jonathan Craven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

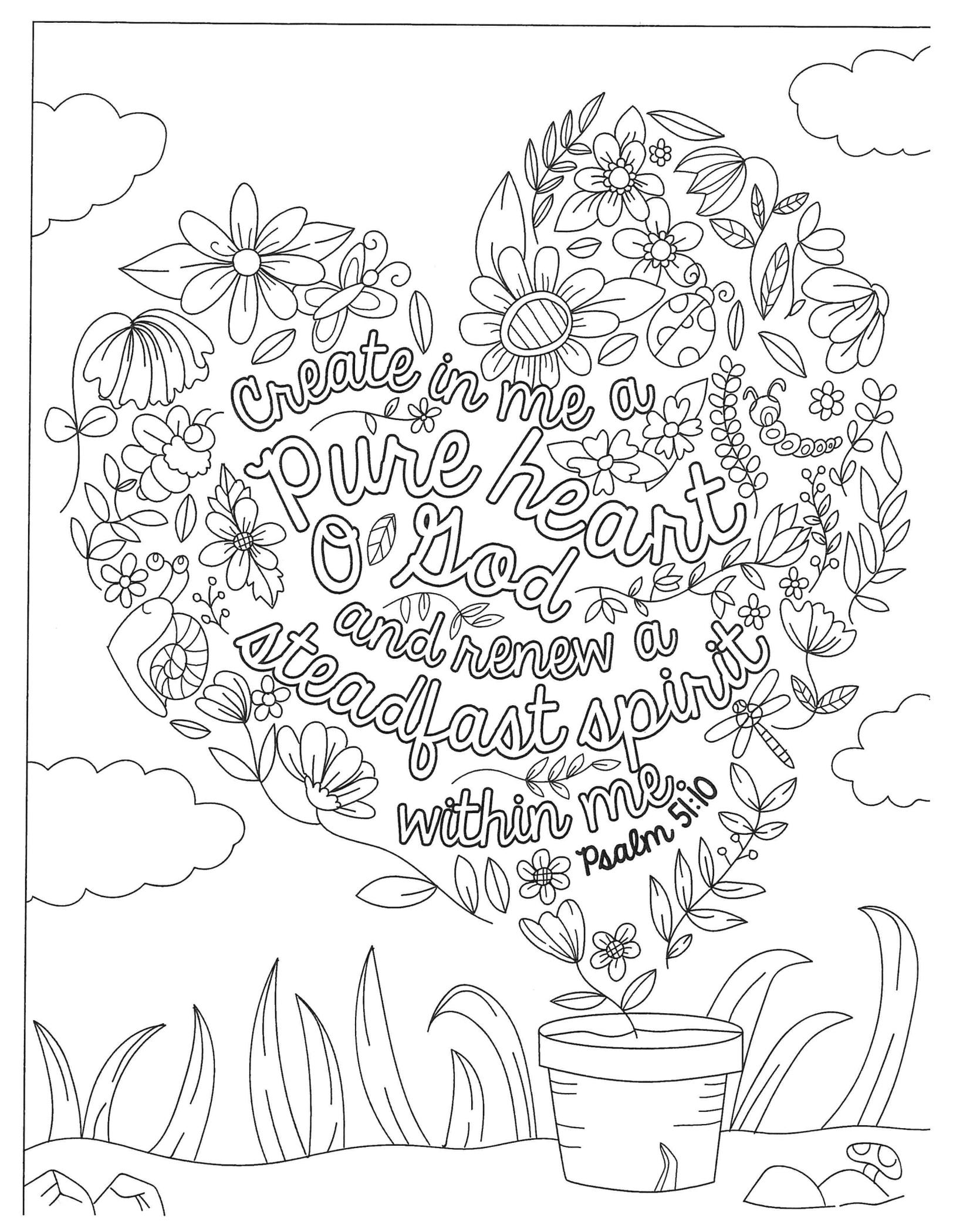


You are invited to our Ash Wednesday service at 6:00 p.m. on March 5<sup>th</sup>. This is a service that calls us to self-examination and renewed commitment to Christ, as we are entering the Lenten season leading up to Easter. Imposition of ashes will be available for all who wish to receive them.

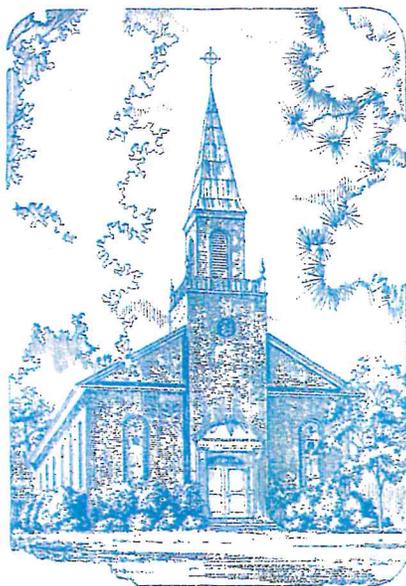
SUNDAY, March 9<sup>th</sup>, is the beginning of Daylight Saving Time. Many of us use phones that make the time switch for us, but please do "Spring Forward" an hour on your other clocks so you can be on time for worship next Sunday!



Forgiveness: A Lenten Study by Marjorie Thompson, will be offered on Tuesday evenings, March 11<sup>th</sup>-April 15<sup>th</sup>, led by our pastor. The practice of both offering and receiving forgiveness is central to our Christian faith. If you are interested in attending the study or have questions, please email Pastor Connie **by Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**, so we'll have time to order additional books if needed: [culdeepastor@gmail.com](mailto:culdeepastor@gmail.com). A companion children's study and/or child care can also be provided.



create in me a  
pure heart  
O God  
steadfast spirit  
and renew a  
within me  
psalm 51:10



*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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