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THANK YOU LORD FOR:

THE CULDEE CONNECTION

April 2024

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*"The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures."
John Newton, "Amazing Grace"*

Like many of you, I grew up hearing and singing a version of John Newton's famous hymn, "Amazing Grace." I say "version," because this hymn has been adapted over the years since it was first published in 1779. The hymn as I heard it in my home church came first from the Broadman Hymnal, and later, from the Baptist Hymnal. This hymn became tattooed on my brain, as we sang it often, and enthusiastically.

So, imagine my surprise upon becoming Presbyterian and hearing a verse of "Amazing Grace" that I'd never heard, before (see, above)! This verse is part of Newton's original hymn, and it speaks powerfully to me. It echoes words from the Book of Lamentations, "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." (3:24) Lamentations is a collection of laments over the state of Jerusalem and its inhabitants following the overthrow of the city by the Babylonians in the 6th century, BCE. The third chapter reflects the desolation of the people, and their attempts to make sense of what has happened to them. The speaker sees the hand of God in what has occurred, as punishment for sin, and yet proclaims the Lord's steadfast love and faithfulness. Whatever state they find themselves in, and however they got there, God has not forgotten them. God's mercies for them are "new every morning," as they are also new each day, for us.

Can you claim the words from John Newton's hymn for whatever circumstances you find yourself in, today? I hope so. I testify to the truth of God's steadfast love for us, and for the delightful newness of God's mercies each day.

Connie Weaver

NOTES FROM THE STATED SESSION MEETING on MARCH 18

The meeting was held in Room A/Session Room of the Fellowship Hall with a quorum of Elders in attendance and Pastor Connie serving as Moderator.

- Approved the 2024 Sandhills Crop Hunger Walk as a fundraiser for Church World Services.
- Approved as amended: Stated Session minutes of February 12 and Called Session minutes of February 18.
- Approved the Legacy Youth's request for a fundraiser to support the "Clothes Closet" at Pinecrest.
- Approved October 19, 2024 for the Harvest Festival.
- An offering for the Barnabas Fund was approved for Easter Sunday.
- The Financial Report for February was approved as presented.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICES HYGIENE KITS

Recently, **nine kits** were mailed to the CWS's distribution center. Thanks to all who donate complete kits or individual items to complete a kit. This mission project is one we do year-round because there is such a need here in the USA and around the world. Disasters....floods, tornados, wars, fires, earthquakes are displacing people every day! Your donations are invaluable!!

SANDHILLS CROP HUNGER WALK



The **2024 SANDHILLS CROP HUNGER WALK** is scheduled for **April 14**. **Culdee's walk will be held at the church starting at 2:00 p.m.** Please consider joining the Culdee Crusader Team by walking and / or making a monetary donation. Twenty-five percent of the money raised will stay locally with the Sandhills Coalition. This walk does not only provide food, but it also provides literacy courses, training in skills and trades, plus animals. All these services and more enable families to be helped now and in the future. Please contact June Stewart to sign up and to ask questions!! Blessings

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Our **Senior Luncheon** (ages 60 & above) will be held **Sunday, May 5th**, following our morning worship service. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend to enjoy deliciously good food and fellowship with each other.

Congregational Care ministers to the congregation in many ways. Catherine and Wes are looking for helpers, both men and women. If you would like to help with this ministry, please contact: Catherine Sears (Home: 910-695-0727, cell: 910-695-6199) or Wes Cole (cell: 757-254-1740).



Christian Education Ministry

On Saturday, March 16th, Culdee hosted around 125 people at our Community Fun Day. It was a day filled with children's laughter as they enjoyed the bouncy house, admired firetrucks, and police cars, jumped in sack races and finished the day with the Granny's Easter Egg Hunt. The Culdee family volunteered in so many areas to make the day run smoothly and tasks easy for us all. The hot dogs were donated by Vickie Mehta, cooked by the Fire Department, drinks prepared by Jewell Vest and Rick Mathews and lastly the efficient Granny's showed up in so many places! Our special thanks to Johnie Marion for serving as our announcer and to the members of Senior Jam. We thank each of you who donated cookies and candy as well. It was a beautiful day at Culdee!







We will host our first **Sunday Funday** of 2024 on **April 7th** from **4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**. Since this is the year of the Olympics, our plan is to celebrate this with our own version of Olympic competitions in basketball, gaga ball, volleyball, and curling. Please assist us by inviting young people to join us. We hope to field teams in differing age groups for their enjoyment. Our evening will be completed with worship, pizza, and song.

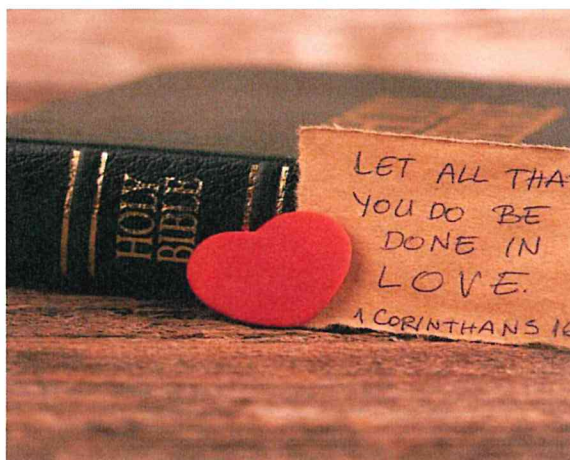
Our **Mini Sunday** committee met to plan our Olympic VBS for our youngest children ages 0 – 6 years old. The VBS will be held on **May 18th** from **10:00 am – 12:30 pm**. Our plan is to have an opening ceremony with a parade, Bible time, crafts, and pizza. Our young mothers are planning this, and we welcome others to join us. The next meeting is April 14th immediately after church in the session room.

REMINDER: The **Culdee/Camp Monroe VBS** will be held **June 24th – June 28th**.

As always, we would like to express our appreciation for the prayers and support of each of you. **THANK YOU!!**

Marshall Sweat and Patti Burke

All Women Are Invited to Attend.
Join Us and Bring a Friend!
for the
Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina
2024 Annual Spring Gathering/Business Meeting



April 20, 2024

Speaker: Maggie Yow Buchanan

at

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
5422 St. Andrews Church Road, Sanford, NC

Registration/Information/Coffee and Snacks Begins at 9:00 am
Livestream Available at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Facebook Page
beginning at 10:00 am

Accepting canned food donations for the Salvation Army
Monetary Offering will be collected for the Children's Hope Alliance

Questions: Contact Karen Thomas (919)478-6892 lgthomas@windstream.net or
Helen McDonald (910)690-2463 hmcd2946@gmail.com

The following is information concerning the PWC Spring Gathering Speaker:



Maggie Buchanan

Maggie Buchanan is a relatable, upbeat, and wise-beyond-her-years Bible Teacher, Speaker, and Writer. After earning a bachelor's degree in Interpersonal and Organizational Communications from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Maggie obtained a Masters of Divinity from Liberty University. While earning this degree, she founded Gospel Girl, an in-person and online ministry that invites high school and college age girls into a relationship with Jesus through the Bible and community. Maggie's strength is creatively communicating God's Word in a way that transcends the boundaries of life experience, spiritual maturity, and social backgrounds. This has landed her opportunities to speak at various churches, women's conferences, youth gatherings, Eastern FCA camps, Revive NC events, and appear as a guest on multiple

podcasts, as well as write for Delight Ministries and Day Spring Devotions. Maggie currently works for Fellowship for Performing Arts, a not-for-profit New York City-based production company producing theatre and film from a Christian worldview. Maggie contagiously pairs passion and enthusiasm with Biblical literacy and radical obedience to the Lord through her personal relationship with Jesus and calling to full-time ministry.

I am hoping many of the ladies at Culdee will bring their friends and family along to the Spring Gathering for a time of fellowship and refreshment. If you would like to go, please let me know.

Gail Farmer

Finance Ministry News

- The Bradford Pear trees have been removed from the parking lot area. New trees and shrubs are being considered that will be conducive to the parking lot being paved to make sure they can take the heat that radiates from the pavement. In addition to the trees that are being dedicated to the glory of God and in loving memory of the *Alton Blue Family*, if anyone would like to support the addition of the shrubs, the Building and Grounds Ministry would appreciate monetary donations.
- The final totals for the New Year's Day meal are in and the total raised was \$7,367.65. This was divided and given to the Carthage Food Bank in the amount of \$3683.82 and Presbyterian Disaster Relief in the amount of \$3,683.83.
- The Fellowship Hall kitchen renovation project is steadily moving forward with a visit from Chad Helms on March 21st, 2024. Chad will be looking at the Kitchen to consult on how the kitchen could be better laid out for our future needs.
- Every three years, the insurance for Culdee Presbyterian Church is reviewed to make sure that we are appropriately covered and that we are making a sound financial decision for what's best for Culdee considering the cost. Currently, several insurance companies are providing quotes. We will carefully review all of them and decide if we need to switch or if we stay with who we currently are covered with.
- HVAC unit 5 was replaced. Thankfully the lines and air handler were all in great shape and did not need replacing.
- Derrick James with Sandhills Accounting Service will be handling our annual financial review. We'll let you know as soon as it's finalized.



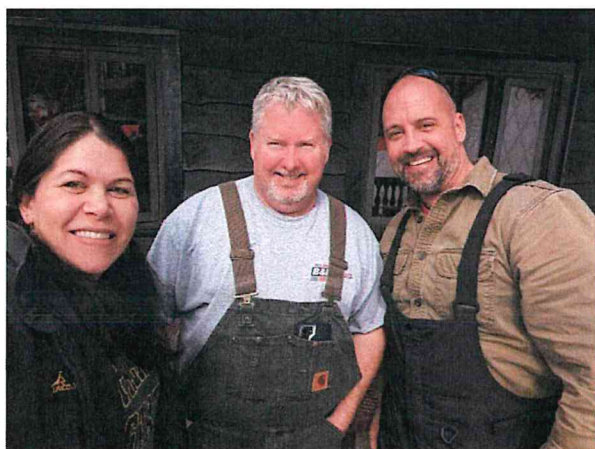
APRIL

Kelly Curlee	01	Tim Lea	18
Blake Lea	02	Ronald Bowen	20
Faye Ritter	05	Robert Barber	20
Rhett Cole	05	Joshua McKenzie	23
Hunter Cox	07	Matt Howle	23
Michelle Seawell	09	Jerry Palumbo	25
Larry Sears	09	Matt Williamson	25
Asher Shields	09	Jared Bailey	26
Susan Jackson	11	Lisa McMillian	27
Darrell McKenzie	12	Rick Halverstadt	28
Aemon Barber	12	Jamie Martin	28
Alston Willcox	14	Ian Stewart	28
Steve Carrico	16	Heath Caddell	30
Mark Cole	18	John David Cuff	30



Culdee youth has been busy so far this year! We have gone snow skiing in the NC Mountains, played a round at the new mini golf course, and spent time together working on a service project. Special thanks to Jennifer Cuff, Ryan Bailey, and Ryan Marino for chaperoning our ski trip!

We had so much fun and it was a really special weekend!



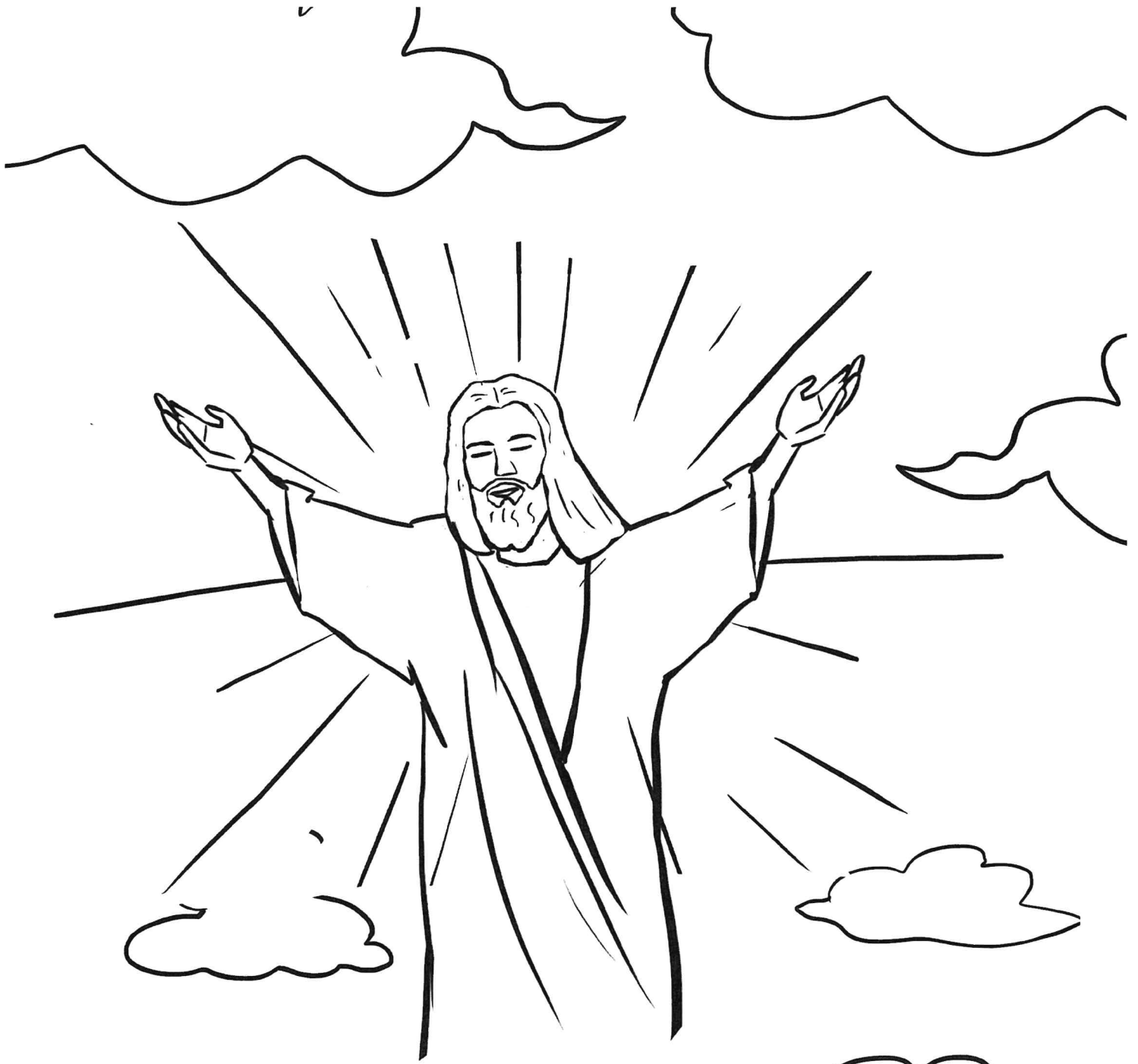


The service project that we have decided to do this year is to stock the emergency clothing closet at Pinecrest High School. This closet allows students to get a quick change of clothes if needed at school. Before this closet existed, students would have to call home to have their parent or guardian bring extra clothes. If a parent couldn't get off work or does not have transportation, the student would have to sit in the nurse's office or counselor's office until the end of the school day or a staff member would have to take them home. Students were often embarrassed and missed hours of instruction. The closet project that our youth have started provides students in need a pair of pants, underwear, socks, belt, shirt, jacket or hoodie, bookbag, and snacks. At least one student on average per day needs at least one of these items at Pinecrest. This high school is the largest school in our county with 2300 students enrolled. We will be hosting a fundraiser soon to help sustain this closet and keep it stocked for students! Monetary donations to support this project are welcome. Our youth who attend Pinecrest will be taking inventory monthly and ordering items as needed. I am so proud of all the work that the youth have already done on this project. The impact they are making is tremendous! More to come about our fundraiser soon!

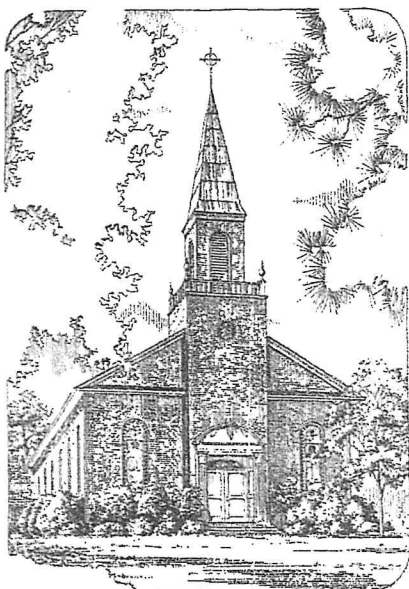
Our youth are juggling many responsibilities including academics, service to community, extracurricular activities, and athletics. I could not be prouder of each and every one of them. They are one of the best parts of my life and I'm honored to be here for them as their youth leader. Together, we do our best to stand up for what is right and let God's light shine through us at school, home, and community.

With love and light,
Celeste and Culdee Youth





Jesus answered,
I am the way and the truth
and the life. No one
comes to the Father except
through me. John 14:6



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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