

Culdee Presbyterian Church

916 HIGHWAY 73, WEST END
NORTH CAROLINA

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THANK YOU LORD FOR:

THE CULDEE CONNECTION

December 2023

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A Word About Gifts

I remember hearing my mother say that if you don't use the gifts that God has given, you'll lose them. My recollection is that this was a ploy to get me to practice my piano or sing in church, something she thought I should be doing. But the saying is often true; "You use it, or you lose it." There's a quote I keep in a note on my phone that says, "What idea has left you because you failed to act on it?" What idea may have left *you* because you failed to act on it?

We are entering the Christmas season, and soon will be considering our resolutions for the New Year. Even if you don't make formal resolutions, it's likely that you'll give some thought to how you want to live in this coming year. Is there a gift or ability that is gathering dust in your life? Maybe it's a talent or ability you have never used; one of those good ideas that may eventually leave you if you don't act on it. It can be tough to resurrect an old ability or to put a gift or talent to use for the first time. But even tougher is the regret you will feel if you never act on a prompting of the Spirit to make use of the potential that God has given to you.

The author of Ephesians wrote to the Church that "we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works..." These words are just as true of you and me as individuals as they are of the church community. What gift or ability or potential from the Lord are you being called to make use of, right now?

With prayers for your journey,
Connie Weaver

NOTES FROM THE STATED SESSION MEETING OF NOVEMBER 12, 2023

June Stewart, Clerk

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

- The Active Membership is 156.
- The minutes from the Stated Session of October 8 were approved as amended.
- Elders examined and voted to seat the new Class of 2026.
- Elders approved a Congregational meeting to be held on Sunday, November 26 for the purpose of hearing a report from the Nominating Committee.
- It was agreed that the Ordination/Installation of the new Session members will be held during the worship service on December 3, 2023.
- It was agreed that the next Stated Session meeting will be held on Monday, December 11 at 6:00 p.m.
- The Financial Report for October was reviewed and received into the record.
- Elders approved a motion to change the allocation of the Harvest Festival profits to 90% for Building and Renovations and 10% for Missions. This change is just for 2023.
- One request for help from the Barnabas Fund was reported.

Kids Christmas J.A.M. and Joyful Noise

The Christmas Kids J.A.M. will present their Christmas music on December 10th in the church fellowship hall at 5:00 pm. The Kids J.A.M. will be playing bells and singing along with Joyful Noise. Both groups have worked hard and are excited to share their gifts and talents with you. Please come and enjoy an evening of sacred and secular Christmas sing-along. It is sure to get you in the Christmas spirit!



Jim Morgan in concert



Jim Morgan will be in concert on Tuesday, December 19th at 7:00 pm in Laurinburg. The music department will be leaving the church at 5:30 pm to attend this special event. We are welcoming anyone that would like to join us. We ask that you put your name on the pad under the tree beside the choir room door if you would like to ride in the van or caravan with the music department. Jim has asked for a “busload” of our Culdee crew. It will be a wonderful concert!

Trinity Presbyterian Church
13000 Blues Farm Road
Laurinburg, NC 28352
910-276-7616

Blessings.
Beverly Dunlop



Presbyterian Women

Well, I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving. WOW!! Can you believe that Thanksgiving has passed and within a couple of weeks we will be celebrating the birth of Jesus? Then a new year will be upon us. Where does time go?

I want to thank all the ladies that helped with providing refreshments following the Community Thanksgiving Service. Everything was delicious and we had more than enough, but you never know just how much to prepare for. It's better to have more than not enough. Thank you for all that had a hand in helping in so many ways.

I want to say thank you to those that helped put up the Angel Tree in the sunroom and placed the "80" Angels on the tree. Thank you to all of you that helped to provide gifts to the kids this year for Children's Hope Alliance. There will be some happy young ones opening these gifts.

By the time you have received your newsletter, Lorie Fees, from Children's Hope Alliance will have come to pick these gifts up on December 3rd during the morning worship service.

Thank you Circle 3 for the beautiful decorations in the Sanctuary. The tree is beautiful! This is a wonderful time of year and I hope at some point you will reflect on the memories that you have of some of your favorite Christmas seasons. And as always remember the REAL REASON WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS.

Merry Christmas!!

Gail Farmer,
PW Moderator



Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. We'll have **our regular Sunday morning service at 10 o'clock** on December 24th, **then a Christmas Eve service** with Communion, special music and candle lighting at 5 o'clock. You're invited this year to bring a "white gift" to the Christmas Eve service, to be



donated to the Life Care Pregnancy Center in Carthage. This is a way to honor the Christ child on Christmas Eve, with your donation of diapers or new infant clothing, traditionally wrapped in white paper, but welcomed wrapped in any paper or not wrapped at all. The Life Care Pregnancy Center ministers to mothers with unplanned pregnancies. They are most in need of diapers in sizes 4, 5, and 6 (larger sizes) and infant clothing up to 12 months size.



Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoeboxes

Thank you to those who contributed filled shoeboxes and/or paid for the boxes' handling and shipment. Fifteen boxes were delivered to the drop off site at Pinehurst Baptist Church.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

On October 29th, we had our second Mini Funday Sunday. On our first gathering in June, we had six children. This time, we had fifteen children dressed in their Halloween costumes and filled with excitement. Due to our Child Protection Policy, we cannot show all fifteen until we have parental consent and it is often difficult to stop and fill out our forms! Our Halloween Carnival was filled with excited volunteers willing to assist them in playing games. They also had an outdoor maze which they ran through forward and backward! We would like to thank all the volunteers from planners, costume judges, maze creators and those manning each booth. It always takes a village and we appreciate each of you.



Christmas will be a very busy season at Culdee. Our Funday Sunday group (ages 6 and up) will gather on December 3rd from 4:30-7:00. This will be a special night. We plan to enjoy a few games of volleyball and basketball before it becomes dark and then move inside for our worship, more fellowship, and a nice Christmas dinner. Afterwards, we'll caravan to Highlanders Farm for the Christmas Light Show followed by homemade ice cream. We appreciate John and Vickie Blue allowing us this opportunity, and I am sure we'll return ready to begin the Christmas season!

On December 10th at 5:00, we will have our annual children's program. Our younger children have been practicing singing and ringing bells. Joyful Noise is planning to perform as well. Pastor Connie will be sharing the Christmas story with the children. Of course, our evening would not be complete without a visit from Santa. After the program, we will enjoy a time of light refreshments and fellowship. We hope you will make plans to join us.

As we complete another year at Culdee, we count our blessings. We are blessed to have our church family, your continued interest and support. We would like to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and may 2024 bring us all good health, and more appreciation for all God has given us.

Marshall Sweat, Darrell Cole and Patti Burke

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



We are finally approaching the end of the year. We all can feel the tiredness of running to and fro, being busy with our friends and family celebrating the Holidays. With that being said, we are looking to the New Year and what blessings that our Lord has in store for us. As we approach the New Year, we are looking to give God Our Heavenly Father our first fruits of the year. This year we will be giving half of the proceeds of our New Year's Day Meal to Carthage Food Pantry and the other half to Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund. The drive through fundraiser will be from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. We will be serving collards, black-eyed peas, roasted pork loin, cornbread muffins, and

dessert. We are asking for volunteers to help in this mission fundraiser to serve our Lord.

The signup sheets will be at the front of the church on December 10th. Please be in prayer for this mission and allow God's will to prevail in all that we do. Again, please sign up to love, laugh and serve our fellowmen and Lord.

Darrell & Karon McKenzie

Congregational Care

We are making progress on pictures for the new Culdee Directory. Many of you have come by the choir room following Sunday morning worship to smile for the camera. There are quite a few families who have not come by for pictures, so we encourage you to make plans accordingly.

Pam Brown will be set up for picture-taking on Dec. 3, 10, and 17. If you would like to have your picture taken in your home, that can be arranged, and there may be additional times during the week that can be offered. Call Janie Taylor - 910-603-5594 - with questions.



We are hoping to be finished with the pictures and be online by mid-to-late January, so come by the choir room and say "Cheese"! Janie Taylor & Don Williamson



Finance Ministry: Chairman Tim Lea & Vice Chair Shannon Bullard

Psalm 105:1-2 *Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!*

As 2023 comes to an end, we are pleased to announce the Session has approved the 2024 budget. A special thank you to everyone who was involved in making this happen.

The Annual Harvest Festival and Auction was a remarkable success. Proceeds raised from this event funds Building and Grounds and Missions for the upcoming year. Due to the cost of repairing and replacing HVAC units and needed maintenance, the division of the proceeds will be 90% to Building and Grounds and 10% to Missions. While this will be evaluated annually, the change was necessary to meet upcoming expenses. This does not mean that Missions are being cut by 25%. Missions will still be funded and the 25% will come from liquid assets and 10% will come from proceeds from the Harvest Festival and Auction still making the total 35% to Missions.

Culdee's Investments continue to do well as reflected in the October 31, 2023 Financial Report even though this month has not been as great as others. We must also remember that these are long term investments, and these numbers will fluctuate with the current market. The Finance Committee along with Stifel Nicolaus Investments is committed to making sure that Culdee's investments are where they need to be for the best return.



Dee Anderson	01
Matt Halverstadt	03
Tim Howle	03
Joan Altman	04
Alistair McKenzie	04
Russell Whitaker	07
Darrell Parsons	07
Jim Dalton	08
Roston Barber	08
Lily Cox	09
Nicholas Fortune	10
Patrick Fields	12
Ed Taylor	12
Carol Ward	12

DECEMBER

Betty Lois Frye	14
Pam Brown	15
Chris Bobo	16
Art McKenzie	18
Gwyn Cox	21
Michael Salargo	22
Abby Governale	22
Denise Grandolfo	26
Susan Gribben	27
Everette Parsons	27
Kim Cole	28
Camrey Morrison	28
Ann Savage	30

CULDEE HARVEST FESTIVAL**October 21, 2023**

Revised 11/17/2023

LIVE AUCTION

CASH	\$1,725.00
CHECKS	<u>\$5,285.00</u>
	\$7,010.00

TRAILER SALE

CHECK	\$ 900.00
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YARD SALE

CASH	\$ 518.00
CHECKS	<u>\$ -</u>
	\$ 518.00

AUCTION TOTAL: **\$8,428.00****QUILT RAFFLE**

Winner: Lisa Huffines

CASH	\$1,223.00
CHECKS	<u>\$510.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$1,733.00

COUNTRY STORE

CASH	\$ 1,614.00
CHECKS	<u>\$ 492.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 2,106.00

DINNER/ DINE IN

CASH	\$ 3,190.00
CHECKS	<u>\$ 620.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 3,810.00

DINNER/ TAKE OUT

CASH	\$ 4,283.00
CHECKS	<u>\$ 1,390.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 5,673.00

DINNER TOTAL: **\$ 9,483.00****MEN'S 50/50 RAFFLE**

Winner: Steve Cox

50% CASH-to Steve Cox	\$ 266.00
50% to Men's Club	<u>\$ 266.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 532.00

YOUTH LUNCH

CASH	\$ 620.00
CHECKS	<u>\$ -</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 620.00

GRAND TOTAL




























	CASH	\$13,705.00
	CHECKS	<u>\$9,197.00</u>
Total Deposit		\$22,902.00

Expenses/adjustments

Owed to quilters	\$ 300.00
Owed to Mens group	\$ 266.00
Owed to Youth less expenses (Expenses = \$0.00)	\$ 620.00
Expenses other	<u>\$ 3,347.86</u>
Total expenses and adjustments	\$ 4,533.86
Monies donated for expenses	<u>\$ 1,994.70</u>
TOTAL NET:	\$20,362.84

Missions (10% of net)	\$2,036.28
Building & Grounds (90% of net)	<u>\$18,326.56</u>
Total net	\$20,362.84

Christmas Advent Calendar

1  Luke 1:26	2  Luke 1:30	 3 Luke 1:31	Luke 1:32  4	5  Luke 1:38
Luke 2:1 6 	Luke 2:3   	Luke 2:4-5 8 	9  Luke 2:6	 10 Luke 2:7
11  Luke 2:8	Luke 2:9 12 	13  Luke 2:10	Luke 2:11  14	 15 Luke 2:12
Luke 2:13-14 16 	17 Luke 2:16   	Luke 2:17  18	19  Luke 2:20	Mathew 2:1  20
21  Mathew 2:10	Mathew 2:11 22 	23  Isaiah 9:6	John 3:16 24	Merry Christmas



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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