

**Culdee Presbyterian Church**  
916 NC Hwy 73 West End, NC 27376

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## **The Culdee Connection**

Thank you, Lord, for:

**March 2021**

**Volume: 41**

**Issues: 3**

**Proofreaders: Eve Williamson & Janie Taylor**

**Compiled by Diann Fortune**



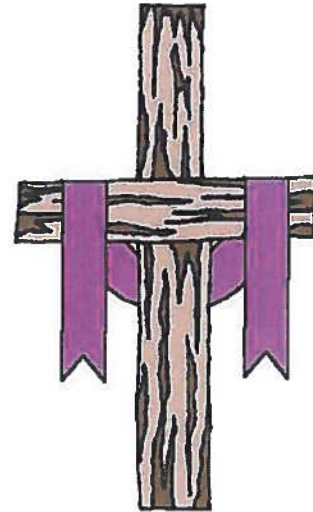
March is a month of change in the natural world. All around, as spring begins to arrive, are examples of renewal and rebirth, creating a feeling of anticipation and hope. This year, as the world continues to battle the COVID-19 pandemic, it may be more challenging for some people to feel that usual joyous anticipation and hope. Spreading joy by reaching out to others in Christian fellowship and love this March is a way to give of ourselves, a tenet of Lent. I Thessalonians 5:11 reminds believers, "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." Touching someone with thoughtfulness or a kindness may have a great impact on that person. A "thinking of you" card or a quick phone call to someone takes very little time and will spread much joy and cheer, not only to the receiver, but also the giver. Consider reaching out, not only to your church family, but maybe a neighbor or acquaintance with whom there isn't often contact.

March hosts the arrival of Spring and is part of the season of Lent, traditionally a time for repenting, fasting and preparing for Easter. During Lent, Christians are asked to do a self-examination and reflect on their relationship with God. Jesus was tested by Satan during the forty days before beginning His ministry. Today, some fast or give up a pleasure or habit for Lent, testing themselves. Others take these forty days to give of themselves in service to others. However Lent is chosen to be honored, hopefully it will bring a rebirth and renewal of faith and an outward pouring of Christian love.

From our Catholic friends come some ideas for fasting for Lent.

Pope Francis suggests:

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.



If all decided to fast on the suggestions of Pope Francis,  
wonder what a difference would be made within the Culdee family  
and in the greater community?

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the opportunity provided during the season of Lent to slow down and self-reflect on the ways we do and do not follow your teachings. Please guide us as we cleanse our hearts, heal our grievances, and prepare for the arrival of Easter and the rebirth it brings. Please continue to watch over us, guide us, and bless us. Help us to *forgive* what needs forgiving, put *past burdens* where they belong, and *allow each of us to move forward in our Christian life* independently and collectively. Thank you for the opportunities in each new day. Thank you for so loving us that you gave *your only son, Jesus Christ, to pay for our sins.*

In Christ's Name, Amen.

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### *Culdee's Easter Services*

Plans are tentative so please keep listening for updates.

Community Presbyterian Church of Pinehurst and Culdee Presbyterian Church of West End are excited to join together in worship and fellowship for Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday Worship. Plans are as follows:

**Maundy Thursday-** Community Presbyterian indoor service. **RSVP needed.**

**Easter Worship-** Culdee Presbyterian 11:00 outdoor service (weather permitting). **RSVP needed.**

- You are encouraged to provide your own chair to set up in available spaces in the grass.
- Rented chairs can be available and set up on hard surfaces. Please let the church office know if you will need the church to provide a chair for you.

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## STATED SESSION MEETING: NOTES AND ACTIONS-

*Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

Presented by June Stewart, Clerk of Session

**February 14, 2021**

**All Elders in attendance.... Rev. Rick Martindale, Moderator of Session**

**Guests: Ryan and Celeste Marino, Jaiden and Gavin Washington, Aiden Patterson, Melissa Bailey, Beverly Dunlop**

- Approved the minutes from the Stated Session of January 4, 2021 and the Called Session of January 28, 2021.
- Approved the **2020 PCUSA Statistical Report**.
- Elected June Stewart as **Clerk of Session** for 2021; Elected Patti Burke as **Vice Clerk** for 2021; Elected Ann Savage as **Church Treasurer** for 2021.
- The **Board of Trustees'** officers for 2021 are **President**, Brandon Blue, Active Elder; **Vice-President**, Diann Fortune, Active Elder; **Secretary**, June Stewart, Clerk of Session; **Treasurer**, Danny Aldridge, Chair of Finance Ministry.
- **Elder of the Month** and Ministry Assignments for 2021 were set.
- The decision was made to move forward with the previously approved **Youth Project: Basketball Court/Shelter** area behind the sanctuary building, with Robert Barber as project manager; he plans to provide a build set to Elders at the March Stated Session. It was also agreed to continue to examine the feasibility of building a church activity building on the church owned corner lot beside the manse.
- Approved the hiring of **Jerry Clapp** to paint identified areas inside/outside the manse for the sum of \$2950.00.
- Approved Rev. Stone's suggestion that Culdee and Community churches celebrate together on **Maundy Thursday** with an indoor service at Community, and have an outdoor service together at Culdee at 11:00 a.m. on **Easter Sunday**. Rev. Stone will take his suggestion to the session at Community for consideration.
- Approved the following: All maturing CDs and money market account be moved under Stifel's Investment Portfolio along with the following accounts: current Liquid Assets and Missions CD; realizing that there will be ups and downs with the market daily but performance at year's end is projected to be positive with opportunity for substantial growth thus allowing Culdee to do more with God's gifts. Funds can be removed from the stock market at any time.

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### Elders of the Month for 2021

January- Tim Bailey  
February- Robert Barber  
March- Diann Fortune  
April- Eve Williamson  
May- Diann Fortune  
June- Brandon Blue

July- Tim Bailey  
August- Patti Burke  
September- Wade Garner  
October- Danny Aldridge  
November- Danny Aldridge  
December- Brandon Blue



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## Culdee's PNC News



### **Members:**

Amber Clayton  
Lonnie McKenzie

Nancy Howle  
Stephanie Barber, Secretary

Diann Fortune, Chair  
Janie Taylor  
Ryan Bailey

The PNC continues its search for the pastor that God is calling to Culdee. The Presbyterian way of locating a pastor is done in God's time and is a lesson in patience for everyone. While Culdee has been without a pastor for almost 3 ½ years, the PNC has only been active for a little over 10 months (when the Christmas holiday is taken into consideration). Please continue to pray for the PNC and the search for Culdee's next installed pastor. Thank you.

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### **Culdee's Thriving**

Last month included an opportunity for the Culdee family to contribute ideas on ways to possibly serve and care for Culdee's community even more effectively. Sadly, no ideas were submitted. YET. Therefore, here's another opportunity this month to help contribute to the building of the Congregational Care Ministry. Please give this serious thought and email suggestions/ideas to [culdee.news@gmail.com](mailto:culdee.news@gmail.com) which currently goes to Diann Fortune.



It is the hope that everyone in the Culdee family will find a way to eventually be a part of a ministry or service group and help Culdee thrive and share God's love.

**\*\*And no, just because a person shares an idea doesn't mean that person will be in charge of its execution! This is brainstorming time. Think and share!**

**This month's featured ministry (again) is Congregational Care** since the current pandemic has made this area critical. Many thanks go to Eve Williamson and her team of people who have already been serving and checking on the church family, especially through these many pandemic months. Fresh ideas and additional hands would be appreciated. Please share any ideas, updates or clarifications to the existing duties with Eve and/or at [culdee.news@gmail.com](mailto:culdee.news@gmail.com).

The overall goal is to make each ministry even more effective in order to live God's way.

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## Congregational Care Duties & Responsibilities



Elders leading the ministry on Congregational Care have a two-fold assignment. They oversee a number of events which require eating so those provisions must be attended to. Also, the entire flock has varying needs to consider. The Culdee family is composed of folks from a few months old to past ninety. We get to plan and enjoy activities for all ages. We recognize more can be done to expand current offerings.

(A number of church members assist here.)

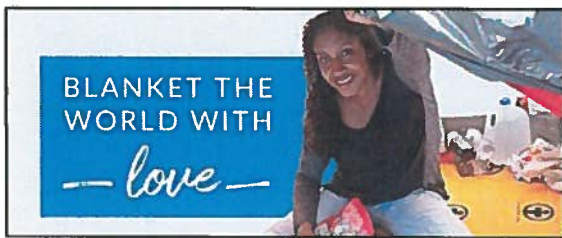
### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE**

- A. Kitchen
  - a. Check regularly on supplies
  - b. Order paper goods
- B. Funerals
  - a. Provide food as requested by the family
  - b. Hosts receptions to receive friends following burial
  - c. Arrange and serve the refreshments
- C. Graduates
  - a. Recognize high school and college graduates in May or June and present a gift from Culdee.
- D. Doris Moore Scholarship
  - a. Distribute scholarship applications, serve on the committee to review the applications and recognize the scholarship recipients.
- E. Ninetieth Birthday Parties
  - a. Plan with family
  - b. Usually after church
- F. Cards
  - a. Arrange for volunteers to receive packets of cards to send to the bereaved and to shut-ins and those home-bound on their birthdays, holidays, and during times of illness.
- G. Church Directory
  - a. Form a committee to oversee the creation of a new directory as needed
- H. Monthly Newsletter
  - a. Assemble and prepare the newsletter for mailing.

Removed from original responsibilities list for Congregational Care:

- A. Senior Adult Luncheon
  - a. Held in the spring.
  - b. Usually after church
- B. Harvest Festival
  - a. Responsible for securing a couple to handle auction
  - b. Responsible for the kitchen and chicken and dumpling supper
- C. Future Ideas
  - a. Contact any visitors (pew pads) with a card or short visit or phone call of welcome
  - b. An occasional "bingo morning" for seniors

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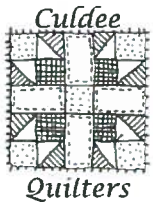


February was Blanket Fund Month here at Culdee. Church World Service Blankets (CWS Blankets) provide shelter, comfort, and protection to so many around the world. Thank you so much for donating and praying for all who will receive the blankets.

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### Culdee's Fellowship Groups and Ministry Reports

In addition to the Presbyterian Women, Presbyterian Men's Club and LEGACY Youth Group, Culdee also offers some special groups that serve God and the community through their talents. These groups welcome new members and are willing to teach the skills necessary. Please consider joining one of these groups for an opportunity for Christian fellowship with service at its heart. Keep the Culdee Quilters and the Culdee Knitters in mind as you are thinking of ways to serve others. Or, if you have an interest or suggestion for another group,



please share your ideas with several elders for Session consideration or email suggestions/ideas to [culdee.news@gmail.com](mailto:culdee.news@gmail.com) which currently goes to Diann Fortune.

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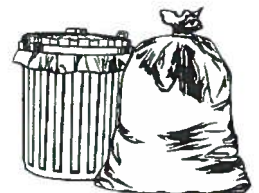
### Seasonal Cemetery Clean-Up



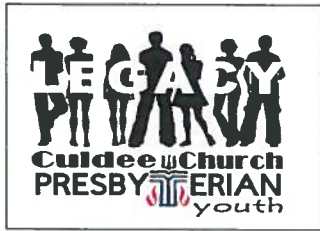
Spring is rapidly approaching and the Cemetery Committee is respectfully requesting that you remove any winter and/or Christmas flowers and containers you wish to keep immediately.

Beginning the week of March 15<sup>th</sup>, all remaining winter, Christmas flowers and severely faded or dead flowers will be removed from all graves by the Cemetery Committee.

**REMINDER:** Any flowers or other debris deposited in the church trash cans need to be responsibly secured in trash bags before depositing in the cans. Garbage service refuses to collect trash cans that contain loose debris as it blows out of their truck. Please be responsible and use a trash bag whenever you deposit trash in church cans.



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Hello from LEGACY! We hope you are all staying safe and healthy. On February 14<sup>th</sup>, we attended the Session Meeting and discussed moving forward with the basketball project that was previously approved. We proposed that Robert Barber be named the Project Manager with Wade Garner as the Assistant Project Manager.

LEGACY would like to thank the Session for their leadership and support of our project and look forward to seeing our dream come true!

This month, our youth highlight is one of our seniors, Braxton Barber! Braxton is a senior at Pinecrest High School and will be the starting quarterback on the football team this season! He is the third of four sons of Robert and Stephanie. Braxton has played basketball and been on the swim team at Pinecrest in addition to football. He maintains over a 4.0 GPA while excelling in athletics, being an active member at church, and working at Harris Teeter in Taylortown. Braxton enjoys hunting and fishing and is a member of the National Honor Society. He was recruited and offered football scholarships by Gardner-Webb, NC Central, Davidson, and Dayton. He has committed to attending Davidson and will play tight-end!!! We are so excited for you and proud of you, Braxton!!



LEGACY would like to offer sympathy and love to the family of Larry Upole and thank them from the bottom of our hearts for requesting that donations be made to Culdee Youth in his memory. Larry was one of the beautiful examples of a Christian man that many of us had growing up. We will never forget his jolly spirit and warm smile.

Four of our youth play football at Pinecrest and their season is just beginning! Their first game is February 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm vs. Hoke! This will be senior night for Braxton Barber and Jaiden Washington. Please check online for ways that you can watch the games and support Jaiden, Braxton, Roston Barber, and Noland Chappell!

This has been a challenging year for all. I am so proud of “my kids” for how strong and resilient they have been. I am truly blessed to have them in my life and thankful that their families share them with me and our church! They are my sunshine on a cloudy day and I know they are all going to change this world in ways we can only imagine. I love you!

With hope and love,

LEGACY & Celeste Marino

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Submitted by Beverly Dunlop, Music Director

### Carnegie Hall 2022

The Chancel Choir's trip to Carnegie Hall was not possible in 2020. It was so disappointing to watch New York City and the world shut down during that time. Our choir had worked so very hard for this event that was so devastating to watch take place. We realize that so many of you were behind this project and were also excited for us to have the opportunity of a lifetime. The directors of this trip, Beverly Dunlop at Culdee, John Tyson at Brownson, and Terri Sinclair at Community Presbyterian met and decided we would take the opportunity offered by the tour company and reschedule the Carnegie trip for Memorial Day Weekend 2022. We are praying that this pandemic will be under control by this time and we will be able to travel safely and more importantly be able to sing again. Please pray for this endeavor for the community Carnegie choir that we will make sound choices and be able to fulfill this opportunity that we have worked so very hard on. However, this temporary postponement does come with a bright side. If you would like to entertain joining the Chancel choir for this trip you can easily be added on to the list. We would love to have you!

### String Ensemble (Dulcimers and Psalteries)

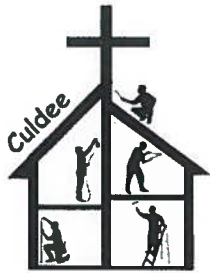
A Joyful Noise indeed is what is being heard in the fellowship hall every Tuesday night at 6:00. Our dulcimer group has expanded their musical expertise to include the bowed psaltery. A psaltery is a musical instrument recorded in the Bible (Psalm 150 v.3). It has a 12, 15, 24 or more strings. It is played by placing the wide end in the bend of your left arm with the pointed end resting in the palm of the left hand. The bow is held in the right hand. Our group has enjoyed tackling this new musical experience. We are experimenting with harmonics now trying to improve at every rehearsal.

We are learning to tune these instruments with electronic chromatic tuners which we have downloaded on our cell phones. The addition of these instruments to the dulcimer ensemble has required us to retune our dulcimers to CEC too. It has been a lot of fun to learn this beautiful ancient instrument. It is at least 2,000 years old. We have several musicians who also have Celtic harps, hammered dulcimers, and guitars who will be bringing this group into another musical experience. This group has received several instruments from generous people so if you would like to join in on this fun on Tuesday nights, we might have an instrument that you could use. The music is extremely easy to follow. It is written in tablature, musical notation or letters. Please review this instrument on our video service on 2/21/21. We had 3 psalteries perform on that video. It has been a wonderful complement to our dulcimer ensemble. We were blessed by the generous gifts in 2020 that allowed us to purchase these beautiful instruments for the church.

Worship Team shout out!!!

Great job to the Sunday morning heroes who are keeping the worship service going. In the fellowship hall early Sunday morning the team is rolling out wires, speakers, cables, stands, in every kind of weather. This project is all for the purpose of the Sunday morning parking lot service. Thank you, Brandon Blue, Mike Marion, Johnie Marion, Ashley Blue, Robert Barber, Braxton Barber, Braden Barber. We sure couldn't do it without you all and your selfless Sunday morning commitment. You guys are a huge blessing!

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Buildings & Grounds

### **Building and Grounds Ministry: Chairman Tim Bailey**

**Colossians 3:23-24** *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

The Building & Grounds Ministry, the Finance Ministry and the PNC pulled together and dedicated time and effort to God's glory by working on sprucing up around the church in an endeavor to maintain the grounds and buildings in a manner that honors God. Much appreciation goes to these people!

- Lonnie McKenzie & Richard Blue volunteered to oversee the project & completed innumerable tasks.
- Mike Salargo and Diann Fortune helped with pruning, moving and replanting old shrubs.
- Nelson Blue advised on salvaging old shrubs and with pruning.
- Darrell Cole and company removed trees and their root balls from around the manse.
- Darrell McKenzie provided additional grading in preparation for seeding.
- Robert Barber and company agreed to remove construction debris from the back of the manse.

The energy and skill of the following volunteers who showed up for a last-minute Spring Spruce-Up Day was most appreciated. They worked together to complete tasks from planting new shrubs and old bulbs to moving pine bark mulch and pine straw to delimbing trees along with a variety of other tasks.

### **Spring Spruce-Up Day Volunteers:**

In addition to Lonnie McKenzie and Richard Blue were:

- Ryan Bailey
- Robert Barber, his nephew and sons Braxton and Rostan
- Diann Fortune
- Tim and Nancy Howle
- Janie Taylor
- Floyd Black
- Tim Lea
- Chuck Spelman



Appreciation is also extended to the following folks for donations of food and supplies:



- Wilma Gray Blue
- Richard Blue
- Rebecca Bowen
- Diann Fortune
- Lonnie McKenzie
- Tim Lea
- Pete Kakouras of Pete's Family Restaurant

Additionally, Patti and Wally Burke along with Diann Fortune took a rainy afternoon to tidy, organize and remove trash from Sunday School rooms in the Sanctuary Building and Fellowship Hall. Appreciation is extended to them for their efforts in maintaining the interiors in a way that shows Culdee appreciates the gifts given to God's glory and work.

More opportunities to work around the church and grounds will occur as tasks are undertaken to maintain the facilities in a manner that honors God, (with hopefully more advanced notice of work days). Please consider serving on the Building and Grounds Ministry since many hands make light work. This Ministry has much responsibility and help would be appreciated, from both males and females. 😊

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**Christian Education Ministry: Co-Chairpersons Wade Garner and Patti Burke**

Submitted by Patti Burke

**Roman 8:14** *For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.*

The Christian Education Ministry updates the Culdee Connect Page located on the [culdeechurch.net](http://culdeechurch.net) periodically. Currently, updates include weekly prayer requests, monthly Upper Room devotionals, *RightNow Media*, Lenten Worship for Kids, and Lenten Worship for Families. *RightNow Media* frequently adds Christian videos for children. Included are Sing-Along worship videos and materials divided into age-appropriate groups beginning at 0-3 years old and extending to 11+ years. Easter programming is also available. Hopefully families will utilize this opportunity in lieu of Children's Church on Sunday morning as well as throughout the week. For adults, recommended is Max Lucado's study, "You'll Get Through This". It offers hope and calm in these turbulent times.

Wade Garner and Patti Burke continue to brainstorm ideas for the "Culdee Comeback". Please feel free to share any ideas you have with Wade and Patti or through [culdee.news@gmail.com](mailto:culdee.news@gmail.com) in preparation for reopening Culdee's in-person Sunday School and other worship opportunities.

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**Finance Ministry: Chairman Danny Aldridge & Vice Chair Diann Fortune**

**Proverbs 21:20** *In the house of the wise are stores of choice food & oil,  
but a foolish man devours all he has.*

**Meeting Schedule:**

The Finance Ministry is still meeting in the Session Room following its regular schedule of the second Sunday of the month. Church members are welcome to attend.

**Financial Status:**

The January report from Sandhills Accounting Services continues to show Culdee is holding steady financially. The reserve funds indicate 9.38 months of funds to cover expenses in light of a disaster of some sort. The Presbytery recommends 1 year of reserves but a previous Culdee session set a goal of 6 months of reserves. Reserves are growing currently because the salary for a full-time pastor is not being paid.

**Basketball Court and Christian Life Center:**

The February Finance Ministry meeting revealed some confusion with the recommendation to the Session to pause the plans and work on the current basketball court project in order to investigate the feasibility of building a multifunctional Christian Life Center **in phases beginning with a basketball court as Phase I**. The intent and vision of the proposal was to hopefully immediately begin building the LEGACY Youth a larger court, using their plans and funds designated for that purpose, in an area where they had room to expand their proposed shelter area and where the church could later build a Christian Life Center-*provided the manse was occupied by a pastor*. If the manse is not in use by a pastor, the Session has the option to repurpose the existing structure to serve as a Christian Life Center. The LEGACY Youth could potentially convert the basement of the manse into their own area of use. The building of a new Christian Life Center would not need to be pursued until use of the manse was determined.

Having faith, being open-minded, working together and thinking outside the box in conjunction with intelligence, hard work and sacrifice is what has provided the facilities Culdee currently has. For clarification, the suggestion of considering another location for the basketball court did not indicate a lack of faith in the youth, the ignoring of their voice or suggesting the youth are not important to Culdee; but instead, it offered the potential for something bigger and better, not only for the youth, but something that would eventually serve the entire Culdee family. The decision rests within the wisdom of the Session. Hopefully now there is greater understanding of the recommendation.

**Lightning Strike & Insurance Update:**

The insurance work on the sound system has begun with the installation of the initial 3 pieces of equipment, two of which must be in place before determining if more damage to the system and steeple chimes has occurred. At the time of this writing, the initial pieces have been ordered by Ward Productions, the company doing the repair work, and should be installed by the end of February if all goes according to plan.

Tim Bailey of Building and Grounds is planning on meeting with an electrician to determine if there are

electrical issues affecting the sanctuary lights and the pump for the sprinkler system, both of which appear to be having issues.

### Spring Spruce-Up:

The manse is looking great thanks to many volunteers who have donated time, talents and finances to maintain and improve the building and grounds to God's glory. Culdee has been blessed through the years to have folks that felt pride in and took responsibility for, not only providing quality buildings, but maintaining them in a manner that honors God.

### Appreciation:

The continued support of the Culdee Family is appreciated. Culdee is able to continue to provide worship opportunities and maintain the facilities built for the glory of God to do His work due to you. Thank you!

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*1 Corinthians 16:14 Let all that you do be done in love.*

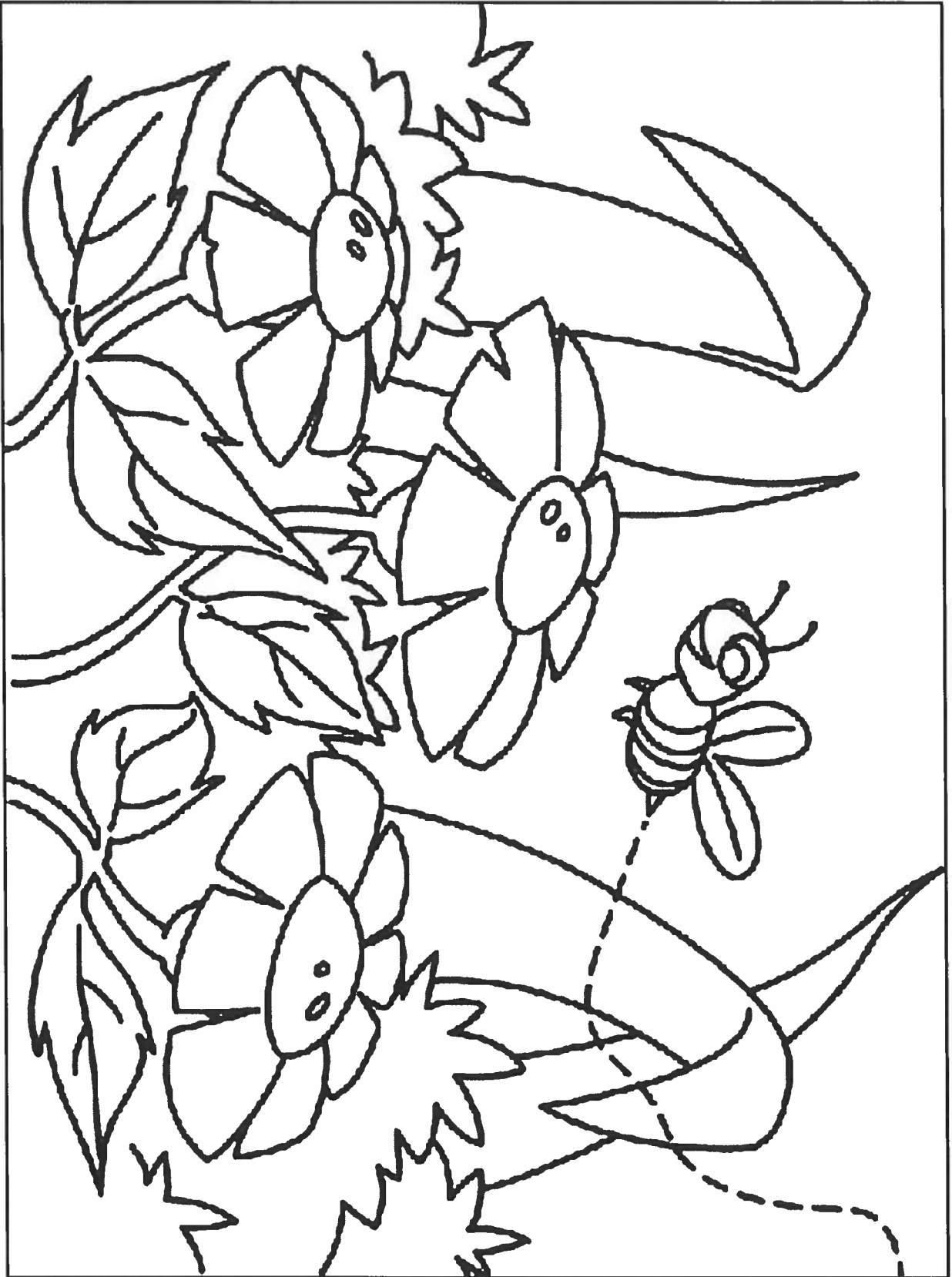
### March Birthdays

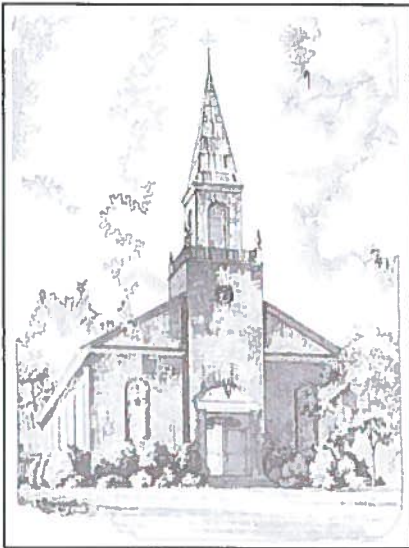
Carson Dennis	01	LeAnn Bailey	15	Greg Bohlander	23
Lydia Craven	02	Mary Ruth Whitaker	16	Timothy Patterson	23
Carolyn Smith	03	Sylvia Balboni	17	Erica Tolbert	24
McKenzie Cox	03	Sue Black	17	Debbie Halverstadt	24
Vickie Blue	05	Carter Cuff	18	Scott Bullard	28
Amber Clayton	06	Evelyn Caddell	19	Beverly Furr	28
Steve Cox	07	Richard Dunlop	19	Georgia Blue	29
Carolyn McKenzie	12	Addie Bailey	20	Kim White	29
Debby Fields	12	Natalie Cox	21	Payton Savage	30
Molly Sims	12	Noreen Oakman	21	Scotty Pate	30
Morgan Jackson	13	Chad Smith	22	Jonathan Craven	31
Mitchell Whitesell	14	Bailey Blue	22	Riley Seawell	31



*Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday,  
Carson Dennis!  
March 1, 2021*







***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.

### **Weekly Worship Services**

#### **Sunday Offerings:**

Online Service-At your convenience.

Drive-In Service- 10:00 a.m.

#### **Wednesday Evening:**

Brief weekly devotion and prayer



**Contact Us:** PH: (910) 295-6685 [www.culdeechurch.net](http://www.culdeechurch.net) [culdeepresbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:culdeepresbyterian@gmail.com)

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