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THANK YOU LORD FOR:

THE CULDEE CONNECTION

OCTOBER 2021

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I recently read an interesting article on **YouVersion**, a Christian website, on the topic of talking to **GOD**. The author began by acknowledging that prayer isn't always easy or comfortable for many of us. But if, we want to know **GOD** more intimately, we need to talk to **HIM** humbly and honestly. Here are three helpful suggestions from the article

KEEP IT SIMPLE- **GOD** isn't concerned about how eloquent our words sound. Just share what's on your mind, giving him time to respond.

KEEP IT REAL- **GOD** isn't going to get mad at you for being honest. Talk to **HIM** about **concerns**....I'm struggling with...I need help with.... I'm frustrated because....I don't understand why.... **OR** give him **praise**....I'm hoping for...I'm thankful for...I'm excited because...

KEEP SHOWING UP...Praying might feel awkward, uncomfortable or even unproductive at times, but a sincere, habitual prayer life will reap blessings and draw us to the center of **GOD**'s will for our lives.



NOTES from the STATED SESSION MEETING of September 12, 2021

The meeting was held at 6:30 in the fellowship hall with all Elders in attendance. The **Moderator** was **Rev. Rick Martindale**, Pastor of First Presbyterian of Carthage.

Actions of Session:

Phil and Mary Fisher were received into the membership of Culdee.

The “**Culdee Comeback**” for Sunday School and the return of the **REACH** Service will not begin on September 26 as earlier approved. A beginning date for both will be discussed at the October Stated Session meeting.

A **Fall Festival** is planned for October 30 from 4 – 7 p.m. (cancelled due to Covid)

Patti Burke and Eve Williamson were elected from the Session to serve on the **Elder Nominating Committee**.

A **Congregational Meeting** was scheduled for October 3 for the purpose of electing two members of the congregation to the Elder Nominating Committee and to approve the committee as a whole.

Pastor Search Committee Update



The PNC continues to meet regularly, review Pastor Information Forms (PIFs), and reach out to potential pastors. Additionally, the work on the Welcome Book continues to progress. If you have not turned in your information form or had your picture made, it is not too late. Please see Nancy Howle with any outstanding items. Continue to pray for wisdom, discernment, and God's will.



Matthew 5:16 Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Our 135th Culdee Homecoming meal was definitely one for the record books! Culdee has a reputation for being blessed with many wonderful cooks, a congregation who loves good food and any reason to gather and share the bounty. Who would have even imagined we would have our Homecoming meal catered? Yes, our meal was different from those we have shared in the past, but so is the world we are living in. I was beyond grateful to be able to gather and share a meal with my Culdee Family and I didn't even have to cook!

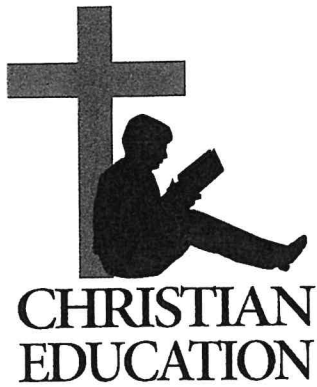
I pray this pandemic will soon be behind us; we have all missed gathering for our "normal" Culdee activities. On a positive note, things are much better now than where we were last year at this time. We have been so blessed at Culdee. Many churches have had to close, some have been unable to meet their financial obligations, and some are just now beginning to incorporate singing during their worship services. Culdee has not missed a single Sunday Service, our pulpit has been filled with a variety of speakers who have blessed us with their messages. We have been blessed financially, and we are blessed to have talented choir members who have shared their musical talents by video or in person. We have a talented and dedicated Music Director who always goes above and beyond to be sure our music program brings glory, praise and honor to our Lord. She inspires our choir members to do their best, to embrace the words to the music and sing them from their hearts.

Yes, our Homecoming meal was different and yet, we have so much to be thankful for! Please continue to pray for our Church, our Culdee Family, our Nation, our First Responders and those on our prayer list.

The Congregational Care Committee met on September 26. Due to the current rise in COVID 19 cases, it was determined to be in the Church's best interest, to postpone our Harvest /Fall Festival. Currently, we do plan to hold our "Halloween Trunk and Treat" on October 23rd from 5-7:00 p.m. We will have bags of candy for the children and "Darrell's Barrels" will be there.(The barrels will be sanitized between rides.) If you would like to decorate your vehicles and join in on the fun, we'd love to have you! Donations of candy would be appreciated.

We are planning a NEW fund raising event for Saturday, January 1st. We will be preparing a "New Year's Meal" of collards, black eyed peas, baked ham and cornbread. Please save the date on your calendars. We will share more information about this event, once Session approval has been received.

In Christ Love,
Eve Williamson, Chair



The Culdee Comeback was postponed due to the high positivity rate of Covid in Moore County during September. We will revisit the scheduling of dates for this event at the October session meeting and will begin notifying you as soon as we have the beginning date! We are excited about the opportunity to invite our growing community to join us in worship and fellowship at Culdee.

We continue preparations for our Culdee Comeback. Vickie Mehta has volunteered to lead our "Christ, Creation, and Conversation" class. We asked her to share ways participants could begin preparing for her class. Thank you, Vickie, for your willingness to share your gifts!

"There is a Time for everything, and a Season for every activity under Heaven" Ecclesiastes 3:1

Looking Forward to Christ, Creation, and Conversation (Vickie Mehta)

Waiting is hard! I remember what it felt like as I waited and anticipated the birth of my daughter. I trusted God with the precious soul he was gifting me, I created what I thought was the sweetest nursery in the world to welcome her, and I told everyone that would listen all the plans that I had to enjoy and cherish this greatest gift ever given to me. But ultimately, the timing was God's will. My waiting was made easier though in the excitement and preparation for her arrival.

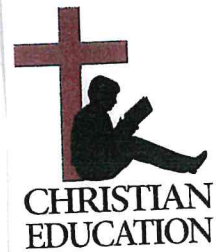
So, Ladies, as we await the arrival of the Culdee Comeback there are some things we can do to prepare. Let us begin by thinking about the Book of Ecclesiastes and the Wisdom of collecting thoughts, ideas, and experiences to share, especially those we have and continue to experience COVID.

How do we express our grief over the loss of loved ones, joy on hold with weddings postponed, and the fear after a cancer diagnosis, or the anxiousness of the expectant mother giving birth amid a pandemic?

"What Book Is Our Soul Writing?"

While we wait to gather as a group for the Culdee Comeback we can begin gathering the materials that we will need for the Wisdom Books we will be creating, also, gather extra for the friend who might want to join us and may not be prepared. GATHER:

1. Images for Collage (Pages from Books & Magazines, printed & decorated papers, ribbon, pieces of fabric and other embellishments.)
2. Thoughts and ideas that you will want to include in your Wisdom Book.
3. Quotes or Song Lyrics that speak to the soul. (i.e., "she knew that she was formed by God's hands, dreamed up in His heart & placed in this world for a purpose" "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder"
4. Visit Pinterest & YouTube for inspiration.
5. Finally, Gather Friends to join us for The Culdee Comeback



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY CONTINUED:

FOR FELLAS IN FELLOWSHIP: We need of three sheets of plywood to build our gaga pit for the youth on the first night. Please place any donated sheets of plywood in the crib room.

FOR OUR YOUTH: We plan to have a Camp Monroe reunion and gather our Campers as well as other youth in the area for worship and fun!

FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY: We have Bible studies planned and ask for your continued prayer for this event.

Patti Burke and Wade Garner



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|----------------|----|------------------|----|
| Jerry Aponte | 01 | June Stewart | 09 | Lance Caddell | 22 |
| Danielle Cox | 01 | Celeste Marino | 13 | Matthews Powers | 23 |
| Bethany Palmerton | 02 | Luke Black | 14 | Ryan Bailey | 24 |
| Anya Aponte | 03 | Suzie Adams | 14 | Palmer Samson | 25 |
| Mitchell Garner | 04 | Casey Blue | 16 | Lionel Bryson | 27 |
| Evan Vest | 06 | Johnathan Kemp | 16 | Brandon Blue | 27 |
| Shannon Bullard | 07 | Lisa Rouse | 18 | Stephanie Cole | 29 |
| Tim Bailey | 08 | James Craven | 19 | Michael Waschsen | 30 |
| Keith Black | 09 | Donna Parsons | 20 | | |



On September 5th, Pearl Frye celebrated her 90th birthday with a delicious brunch in the Fellowship Hall immediately after the morning worship service.



Thank you for all of your encouraging words you have given the music department in the past few months. It has been an honor to help lead indoor worship again. It has not come without its challenges and difficulties; however, we appreciate your kind encouragement as we trudge through the unknown of the future right now. We are weary and worn but God will bring us through with

a musical refreshing. He does that at every rehearsal, every worship service. The music is healing and restful. Just as God intended. Please be in prayer for all of our musical people as we work every week to bring our best to God. It is a labor of musical love and we are grateful for it. May God bless Culdee Church!



Our Men's Quartet have blessed us during our worship services with beautiful harmonies and exceptional musicianship. They are the greatest bunch of guys on and off the mics. We look forward to hearing more from them in the near future. These guys practice on Tuesday nights in the sanctuary starting at 6:45. We are so blessed to have Brandon Blue on the bass guitar and Ben Dunlop on drums to help spice things up with the quartet. These guys give of their time willingly and selflessly. They are a blessing! Please encourage and thank them for all their hard work. It is a labor of love for the entire group. You just need to watch our faces and you can tell this is what makes our joy! Making music with our friends! For the Glory of God!



The chancel choir has begun working on Christmas music. We are practicing during our regular Wednesday night rehearsal at 6:30. We have a lot of musical fun and we would enjoy having you come and participate with us. Our Christmas musical is going to be December 19th at the 10:00 worship service. Please mark your calendar, you don't want to miss this Christmas event with all of our talented Culdee musicians.



There is a string ensemble made up of mountain dulcimers and psaltery's. We are rehearsing on Tuesday mornings at 11:00 in the fellowship hall. We are beginning Thanksgiving and Christmas music with this group. We also have some instruments are not currently being used if you would like to come and try us on for size. I bet or group would make a good fit. Your ability to read music is not a requirement. The dulcimer music is very user friendly. If you would like to explore the possibilities of joining this group please come join us in the fellowship hall at our appointed rehearsal time or contact Beverly at culdeemusic@gmail.com. We would love to have you.



Encouraging and nurturing the next generation of church musicians is a cause I have been blessed to have been a part of since I began my journey with Presbyterian churches over 25 years ago. I would like to introduce you to Mikey Anderson. He is a piano student of mine. I am honored to work with him on his musical journey. He has his lessons on Wednesday afternoons before choir rehearsal. He is a gifted musician, and I am honored to work with him. I would ask that you encourage Mikey as you see him working along side the music department, filing music, handing our music, holding flashlights so we can see our music, rolling equipment and pushing speakers and cord, but most of all when you see or hear him playing and practicing. We all need to be encouraged, but our younger congregation needs it more than anyone. I thank the Lord for Mikey and what he means to our musical family. I am so honored and blessed to work with such a fine young man. Thank you for doing such a fabulous job, Mikey! We love you!

BOOKSWAP



The cookbook nook swap shop has been growing. The book shelf is located in the sunroom and is welcoming you to take what you see you might enjoy and bring some you might want to share. It's been fun looking at all of the wonderful books come and go.. Enjoy your cooking journey!



Wonder who won this race???

Having fun after decorating the Fellowship Hall for Homecoming!



Bible Worksheets for Kids

Finish the Verse 1



Add words from the box to finish each Bible verse. All verses are from the New International Version.

1) "In the _____, God created the heavens and the _____." (Genesis 1:1, NIV)

2) "Your Word is a _____ for my feet, a light on my _____." (Psalm 119:105)

3) "Commit to the Lord whatever you _____, and he will establish your _____." (Proverbs 16:3)

4) "For God so _____ the world that he gave his one and only _____, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal _____." (John 3:16)

5) "For the _____ God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us _____, love and self-discipline." (2 Timothy 1:7)

beginning
do
earth
lamp
life
loved
path
plans
power
Son
Spirit





Finance Ministry: Chairman Danny Aldridge & Vice Chair Diann Fortune

Luke 14:28 *For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?*

Meeting Schedule:

Church members are welcome to attend monthly Finance Ministry meetings (4:30 pm) and Session meetings (6:30 pm). October's meetings will address Culdee's 2022 Annual Budget.

Financial Status:

With the development of the 2022 budget on the horizon, a closer look must be taken of the current 2021 budget. The August 2021 Financial Report from Sandhills Accounting Services shows:

- Culdee's Jan.-Aug. 2021 Operating Income: \$151,326.74
- Jan.-Aug. 2021 Budget Projection Expenses Total: \$163,277.70
- Including a Pastor's Salary, 2021 Jan.-Aug. Budget Shortfall Total: \$ 11,950.96

This shortfall is not currently a problem because Culdee isn't paying a pastor's salary and some normal operations and events aren't occurring. It will become a concern when Culdee returns to normal operations and a pastor's salary is paid. The pastor's salary listed in the 2021 budget is a minimum salary and will likely increase.

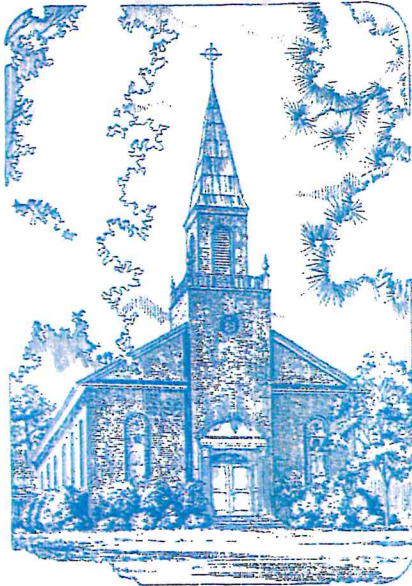
- Culdee's Actual Jan.-Aug. 2021 Operating Expenses Total: \$113,423.82
- Budgeted Jan.-Aug. 2021 (Minimum) Pastor's Salary Total: \$ 55,923.50
- Minimum Jan.-Aug. 2021 Expenses including Pastor's Salary: \$169,347.32
- Culdee's Actual Jan.-Aug. 2021 Operating Income: \$151,326.74
- Jan.-Aug. 2021 Budget Shortfall if Culdee Currently Paid a Pastor: \$ 18,020.58

Culdee is blessed to have the equivalent of 11.27 months of operational funds in reserve, 6-months of which are designated for emergency funds. In developing a church budget, just like at home, normal daily operating expenses should come from income and not savings. Only contributions made to the General Fund are used for daily operating expenses. Savings are one-time funds and not to be used for daily expenses as financial problems may arise when the savings run out.

In preparing the 2022 Budget, the Session will have to determine how to address the addition of a pastor's salary and the return to normal operations. The Finance Ministry can only make recommendations. The Session is responsible for determining the budget for 2022.

Your contributions are appreciated. The Finance Ministry will continue to use facts as it makes recommendations in caring for God's house, sharing His love and doing His will.

Contributions may be designated for particular purposes that are meaningful to you. Undesignated funds go to General Funds/Liquid Assets. Thank you.



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.

Filling the pulpit at 10:00 am for Indoor Service the Months of October will be:

October 3 Rev. Tom Currie
October 10 Mr. Joe Robinson
October 17 Dr. James Cowman
October 24 Mrs. Cathy Haynes
October 31 Mr. Sandy Stewart



Weekly Worship Services

Sundays:

In the Sanctuary and Drive-In Service – 10:00 a.m.

Online Service-At your convenience

Wednesday Evening:

Brief weekly devotion and prayer

Contact Us: Phone (910) 295-6685 www.culdeechurch.net culdeepresbyterian@gmail.com