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THANK YOU LORD FOR:

THE CULDEE CONNECTION

February 2024

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I am often struck by how much good comes out of the words and work of people who could never have envisioned the end result of their faithfulness. Think about some of the people in your own life who have made a difference in how you think and how you live. Consider whether a few of those people may have no idea how they have influenced your life. Sometimes it even happens with a single comment spoken at just the right time, or bit of wisdom imparted to your young self that doesn't really land in your consciousness until later in life.

There is a saying that "the seed never sees the plant." So much of what you and I say and do every day can have profound effects on other people in ways that may not ever be known to us. I was surprised a couple of years ago to run into an old colleague at a funeral who thanked me for words of encouragement I had offered to him at a low time in his career. I had scant memory of this, but his recollection of it was clear and it had made a difference in his life.

That interaction made me think about what other good (or ill) I might have done in my life with words I no longer remember. I pray it's been more good than bad. Maybe a thing to do during this upcoming season of Lent is to think more about the words we say and what impact they may have on the people who hear them. We might also take the time to thank those whose words have encouraged us.

Connie Weaver

NOTES FROM THE STATED SESSION OF JANUARY 16, 2024

June Stewart, Clerk

- Active Membership Roll is 154.
- The minutes of the Stated Session Meeting of December 11, 2023 were approved as amended.
- Culdee's **Building Use Guidelines** designates various donation amounts to be asked of nonmembers who request the use of our facilities for an event. A motion was approved to direct such funds to Building and Grounds.
- Approved the following for 2024: Session Ministry Assignments; Elder of the Month List; Communion Calendar; Special Services Calendar.
- At the **Board of Trustees** meeting, called to order when the Stated Session meeting was temporarily recessed, the officers for 2024 were elected President, Patti Burke; Vice-President, Audrey Chacon.... the position of Secretary is filled by the current clerk, June Stewart and the position of Treasurer is filled by the current chairperson of finance, Tim Lea. The current session is the Board of Trustees.
- Our **2024 Vacation Bible School** will once again be held in conjunction with Camp Monroe, June 23 – 28.
- The **Monthly Financial Report for December** was reviewed by the Elders and received, as read, into the record.
- Motion Approved: Create a designated fund to receive contributions for the renovation of the Kitchen and Kitchen Storage.
- The insurance on the new sanctuary piano will be paid from undesignated funds.
- Elders were given a copy of the “**2024 Mission Giving**” document.
- Motion Approved: Culdee will not publicly publish the proceeds for any fundraiser or event.

Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ,

Praise be to God! Again, praise be to God for allowing us to serve Him! Thank you for your hard work, prayers and donations toward the New Year Fund Raiser. We served between 575 and 600 plates. We set out to support two missions and ended up serving four. Proceeds will be donated to The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and to the Carthage Food Pantry. And, the leftover food from the meal was donated to Cameron Hill Presbyterian Church for their Wednesday meal ministry and to the Samaritan Colony. God did say that He will multiply the harvest: some 10 fold, some 20 fold, and some 100 fold. We would like to say thank you again for all your hard work, prayers, and gifts for the New Year Fund Raiser.



We have received two thank you notes which have been placed on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Please be in prayer for our 2025 New Year Fund Raiser and how our Lord and King would like for us to serve.

In Christ Love,
New Year's Day Committee

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

Christian Education has enjoyed celebrating Christmas with both our younger and older youth. On December 3rd, thirty-four youth ages six and up gathered at Culdee for outdoor games, a Christmas dinner, worship, and the Highlanders Farm Light Show. Our worship included a discussion of expectations at Christmas. We talked about our expectations as well as the Jewish expectations of the arrival of their King. After worship, we loaded the van and cars to travel to Highlanders Farm. The beauty of the Christmas lights against a dark sky was magical. After the show, everyone enjoyed the homemade ice cream or hot chocolate as we sat outside under the Christmas lights.



Christian Education Continued

On December 10th, our younger children gathered along with Joyful Noise for our annual Christmas Children's program. Johnie Marion hosted our event and opened the night with prayer. Our Culdee youth rang the bells and sang. Miss Austyn McKenzie and Miss Brynley Marino both sang solos and performed beautifully. Pastor Connie led us all in the Christmas message. As we anxiously awaited the arrival of Santa Claus, Johnie and Joyful Noise led us in singing Christmas Carols. Once Santa arrived, the children were busy, and we enjoyed light refreshments and fellowship.

We hope 2024 will bring each of you good health as well as joy!

Marshall Sweat, Darrell Cole, Patti Burke





For February

Vickie Mehta	01	Linda Bryson	17
Pryor (Jr.) Moon	03	Taylor Ferguson	17
Alistair McKenzie	04	Sylvia Pusser	17
Jonathan Aldridge	06	Martha Mathews	19
Patrick Howle	07	Brynley Marino	19
Danny Aldridge	08	Don Williamson	20
Kristen B. Harrill	08	Brooke Kemp	20
Alex Patterson	11	Daniel Jackson	20
Sharon Sweat	11	Bryan Fields	24
Carolyn Lea	12	Diann Fortune	25
Rhonda Shields	12	Madison Adams	25
Cathy Marion	12	Forrest Cox	25
Gavin Washington	12	Austin Aponte	27
Betty Black	12	Sarah Cox	28
Chasity McKenzie	15	Kathleen Black	29



Culdee VBS will be held on June 24th to 28th. Mark your calendars! If anyone would like to help or attend the Camp Monroe experience, please see Patti Burke.

I ♥ VBS

From One of Our College Students

For Spring Break, I will be in London and Birmingham along with about 15 of my teammates from my Bible study group at Davidson College. We will be hosting football camps for young adults while discussing the ways in which our faith has played a role in our athletic careers as well as sharing spiritual anecdotes. Please pray for safe travels and for many opportunities to share our faith.

Braxton Barber





Finance Ministry: Chairman Tim Lea & Vice Chair Shannon Bullard

Proverbs 3:5-6 – *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

New joy comes with the New Year. The new joy for Culdee is the addition of the 2001 Yamaha Disklavier Grand Piano that is now in the Sanctuary. This piano means so much to so many and will hopefully provide years and years of beautiful music along with providing musical functions that have not been available before. With this being a used piano, cost was less than expected leaving roughly \$10,000.00 in the designated fund that can now be used for expenses related to the piano. Congratulations to all who helped this addition come to fruition.

At the request of the Women of the Church, the Finance Ministry approved recommending to the Session the establishment of a designated fund for the professional redesign and renovation of the Fellowship Hall kitchen. Culdee family and friends have all enjoyed a meal or two from this wonderful little kitchen. This project is an excellent way to make sure Culdee enjoys more meals for years to come in a more efficient kitchen.

At the urging of Pastor Connie, the policies regarding the usage of Culdee's facilities were reviewed for necessary updates by an ad hoc committee. Upon the initial review of the update by the Finance Ministry, the recommendation to the ad hoc committee was a statement regarding liability needed to be included. With this addition the Finance Ministry voted to recommend to the Session the approval of the updated facilities usage policies including any donations collected be contributed to the Building and Grounds Ministry's designated fund for continued maintenance.

The Session approved expenses resulting in Culdee ending 2023 over budget by roughly \$22,000.00. This overage included the additional eight hours per week for the office manager's position with the accompanying expenses; the replacement of the water heater bladder and the addition of a portable generator along with the necessary electrical wiring at the manse; a sign intended to be placed on NC Hwy 73, additional locks and doors to better secure access to the church, and upgrades to the audio visual system in the sanctuary.

Thank you for your continued support. New and exciting opportunities are on the horizon for Culdee in 2024.

If you have any questions, please reach out to anyone on the Finance Ministry. This includes Tim Lea, Shannon Bullard, Faye Riggsbee, Danny Aldridge, Darrell Cole, Ann Savage, and Mark Cole.



February is typically the month we think about love. Love can be demonstrated by wrapping someone in a warm blanket or providing a blanket for shelter. Church World Service is always ready to respond to any part of the world that experiences a disaster of some kind. They provide blankets for warmth and shelter, buckets filled with items for clean-up, and hygiene kits to those in need. Culdee's focus is on **"blankets"**. On February 25th, we will take a special offering to help supply blankets which cost only \$10. Think about keeping someone warm and dry that may have just lost their home in an earthquake or storm.



Culdee Circle Two met with long-time member, Pearl Frye, at her new residence at Brookdale Assisted Living in Pinehurst, NC. Pearl misses her Culdee friends and would welcome your calls and visits.



Several years ago, the Chancel Choir was given the honor of receiving funds from choir families who have had members pass away. The choir's wish was to purchase a grand piano that would accommodate the size of the congregation and sanctuary of Culdee. This vision was fulfilled as the Chancel Choir had a delivery of a Yamaha 6'1" Black Ebony Baby Grand Piano. We are so grateful for the families that entrusted this project to us. To dedicate and celebrate this event in the musical life of Culdee, we would like to have a musical service on February 25th at 5:00 pm. That Sunday afternoon will be filled with the music that these families love and cherish along with a lot of other music. It promises to be a blessing for all who attend. We are so thrilled to have this magnificent instrument in our sanctuary. We are giving God all the praise and Glory for this vision that He has given the choir. May God continue to bless the families that selflessly gave for this vision.

Praise, Honor and Blessings!

The Chancel Choir

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of

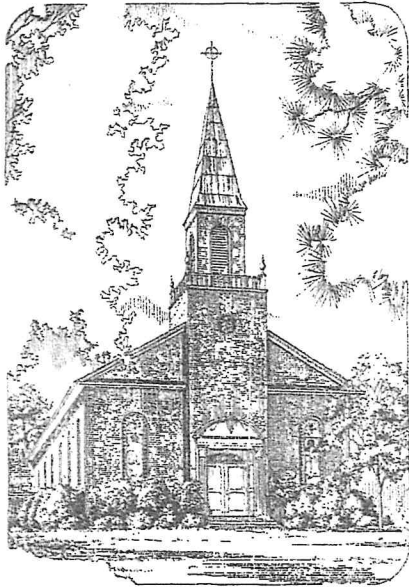
WISDOM;

all who follow his precepts have
good understanding.

To him belongs eternal praise.

Psalm 111:10





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.

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