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**THANK YOU LORD FOR:**

## THE CULDEE CONNECTION

JUNE 2024

Published By: Culdee Presbyterian Church  
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Volume 45, Issues: 5  
Newsletter Committee: Jewell Vest, Mary R. Whitaker  
Eve Williamson & Janie Taylor  
www.culdeechurch.net

By now, I hope you have received the letter from me informing you of staff changes at Culdee Church. Our choir director, Beverly Dunlop, has resigned to take a position at a neighboring church; and Celeste Marino has resigned from her position as part-time youth director. We honor both of these women for their work of shepherding important ministries at Culdee Church. If you have not done so already, I hope you will express your appreciation to them for the work they have done for the Lord's kingdom through our congregation.

During the early weeks of summer, I will be preaching a series called, "The Power of One." I'll be using stories from our scriptures to illustrate how one person responding faithfully to God's will can make a significant difference not only in the lives of others, but also in the course of history.

With prayers for our shared journey,

Connie Weaver

## NOTES FROM THE SESSION MEETING OF MAY 13, 2024

June Stewart, Clerk

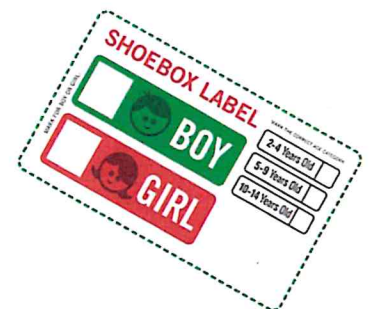
The meeting was held in Room A/Session Room in the Fellowship Hall building at 6:00 p.m. with a quorum of Elders in attendance. Pastor Connie served as Moderator.

- The Active Membership Roll stands at 162.
- Our Session Book minutes for 2023 were checked and approved at a Presbytery sponsored meeting held at First Presbyterian of Carthage on April 28.
- Approved a project to collect Samaritan's Purse Christmas shoeboxes during July.
- The next Presbytery Meeting will be on June 15. It will be done by ZOOM only; Pastor Connie will be attending via her computer.
- A group from Presbytery will be using our Fellowship Hall Building for a meeting on September 21. Pastor Connie requested that the suggested donation to use the Fellowship Hall be waived for this event. The Session approved this request.
- Two church members will be celebrating their 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays this year: Linda Upole in June and Harold Clayton in November. Congregational Care will organize a special celebration for each of these special people.
- The Financial Report for the month of April, 2024 was reviewed and approved as presented.
- After gathering bids and carefully examining said bids, session approved Farm Bureau to continue being our insurance carrier for the next three years.
- Given as information: Horner Paving will do the paving of the parking lot.
- Motion was approved to transfer up to \$60,000 from liquid assets to the renovation fund for the kitchen to cover construction costs, any purchased equipment, etc., and a new HVAC system. The goal is to have the kitchen ready before this year's Harvest Festival. Funds from the Harvest Festival will replace funds used from liquid assets.

### CHRISTMAS IN JULY



As we all know, when November and December get here, things get busy in a most wonderful way! We are given so many opportunities to help make the holidays easier for needy folks locally and around the world! This year, we would like to celebrate a favorite project here at Culdee, **Christmas Shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse, in JULY !!** We will be asking folks in the congregation to fill a box or donate items to go in a box and willing volunteers will prepare the boxes using your donated items. Hopefully, this will help ease everyone's schedule a bit in the fall, AND we may be able to collect more boxes than we ever have before!! Pray about it !! More information will follow!!



Blessings, June Stewart

## 2025 New Year's Mission Fund Raiser

Dear Brothers and sisters,

Praise be to God our Lord for your health and love for our Lord Jesus Christ. We have been praising Him for your help in times of need, thanking Christ our Lord for multiplying the blessings He showered down on us last year. He allowed our efforts to reach not just two missions but four, praise be to God!



We are asking for your prayers about this upcoming mission, the praise offering to our Lord and King with our hands-on service to Him.

The team will be meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Children's Church, following the Sunday Worship service. All are welcome to be a part of this planning meeting. Please be in prayer concerning how you can be a part of the team. Let us go before our Lord and ask Him to prepare our hearts and minds to receive His wisdom and guidance in this service to Him.

To God be the glory, now and always, in Christ Jesus name. Amen

From the New Year's Team

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Amen

**The Doris Moore Scholarship Fund recipients will be presented to the congregation during the morning worship on June 30<sup>th</sup>.**



*We are grateful for the ministries of our choir director, Beverly Dunlop, and our youth director, Celeste Marino. We wish them well in all their future endeavors!*



## **90<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY**

**Linda Upole** celebrates her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Culdee will be hosting a birthday celebration June 9<sup>th</sup> for Linda following the worship service with everyone invited to attend.

### **Linda Whitesell Upole**

Her daughter, Audrey Chacon, shared the following autobiography on her Mom.

My family moved to Moore County in 1939 from Burlington, NC. Delis and Irene Jeffreys Whitesell were my parents. They had eleven children, 8 boys and 3 girls. I am #9 of the eleven and I was born June 3, 1934.

Dad purchased approximately 100 acres of land joining the Culdee Presbyterian Church property. He was a carpenter/decorator by trade and was working at the Carolina Hotel in Pinehurst during the depression to help feed the family. The land was beautiful with lots of long leaf pines, big enough for timber. Dad purchased a sawmill and with the help of his sons, built our house partially before World War II started. Five of the sons enlisted in the US Navy and served four years. As each brother came home, Dad had a room finished for each one. Later as the Korean War started, Max, my 6<sup>th</sup> brother, joined the US Navy and served for four years.

We started attending Culdee Church when I was five years old. I joined the church on June 20, 1943. On September 17, 1995, Culdee presented me with a plaque for being a member for 52 consecutive years.

My sister Mary and I started singing duets around the age of 6 – 8 years old and joined the choir when we were 14 – 16 years old. Mom had been in the choir for several years. All of the family loved singing, dancing and playing musical instruments.

My dad died in January 1953 at the age of 59. Mom was devastated being alone at home. Mary and I were working at the furniture factory at West End, so I quit work and stayed with Mom until she recovered from Dad's death. Larry and I got married in 1954 when he got out of the US Army. We lived with Mom for eight years and built our home with the help of my brothers.

We had a wonderful life and were blessed with one son in 1955, Larry "Sonny" Upole, Jr. He became a professional engineer and worked with NC DOT for more than 30 years. Seventeen years after Sonny was born, we were blessed with a daughter, Audrey, in 1972. She became a registered nurse and she and her husband live with me, so I won't be home alone. Sonny passed away unexpectedly in 2022.

Larry was being treated for cancer and when Covid hit him, it was too much for him to overcome. He died in February 2021.

I have four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren with twins girls expected in September. I have had a wonderful life with my husband and big family and I thank the Lord for all His blessings. Keep on singing!

## Congregational Care

Congregational Care Ministry would like to give “Special Thanks” to Martha & Rick Mathews for our delicious Senior Luncheon which was held May 5<sup>th</sup>. We also give many thanks for all their helpers: Jamie & Peyton Martin, Michelle & Mark Seawell, Mark & Kim Cole, Stephanie Barber, Diane & Danny Aldridge, and Beverly Furr. All their hard work for us seniors is very much appreciated.



### HYGIENE KITS LIST

- One 1-gallon Ziploc bag
  - One hand towel (No fingertip, bath, dish, or micro-fiber towels.)
  - One washcloth
  - One wide-tooth comb removed from the package. It must be sturdy with at least 6” of teeth.  
No pocket combs or picks
  - One fingernail or toenail clipper (Either one is acceptable. Remove from packaging.)
  - One bath-size bar of soap in the original package
  - One toothbrush in the original package
  - Ten standard size Band-Aids
- \*\*\*\*\*A tube of extended expiration date toothpaste will be added to each hygiene kit just prior to its journey.



**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY  
JUNE 2024**

Christian Ed sponsored the first K4C (Kids for Christ) VBS on May 18, 2024. A group of young mothers and volunteers planned the day. Our group consisted of Katelynne Svalina planning our parade, Jamie Martin and Martha Mathews ran our Olympic competitions, Connie Marion created crafts and torches for our competitors, Kaitland McKenzie presented the lesson, Ashley McKenzie and Gail Farmer prepared an area for our 0-2 year old competitors, Beverly Dunlop engaged the group in music and song, Karon and Darrell McKenzie carried the Olympians in Darrell's barrels while the rest of us followed in the parade, assisted with serving food, washing hands and leading the group to the next activity. It was a beautiful day and the smiles on the faces of the children made the day perfect. We would like to thank everyone for their part in planning and assisting. The children decided our next event would have a pool, water games and water ballons. So stay tuned!!!









## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY Continued

The next Sunday Funday for youth ages 6 – college will be held on **June 2<sup>nd</sup>**. This is our **End of School Water Blast**. We will once again have the giant water slide with water balloons and water guns. Of course, those not wishing to engage in water fun can play volleyball or basketball! This will be our last Sunday Funday gathering until fall. Invite other youth to join us!

June 2<sup>nd</sup> 4:00 – 6:00 we will have water fun, worship, pizza, music, and FELLOWSHIP!!



I ♥  
VBS

Our **Camp Monroe/VBS** will be held on **June 24 – June 28** for youth ages 6 – 14. We will be at Culdee Presbyterian Church on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 9 -1. Camp Monroe counselors will lead our group in games, Bible study, competitions, and song. On Thursday, we will leave Culdee at 8:00 am to caravan to Camp Monroe where they will have access to the lake, pool, giant gaga pit, disc golf, zip lines, rock climbing wall and more than they can do in one overnight stay. On Thursday night, they will have a feast with all campers and have a night of competitions before returning to their cabins. The group will be returned to Culdee on Friday at 2:00 pm. At present, we have only a few slots available. If you have a child, neighbor, or grandchild interested in joining us, please let Patti Burke know (336-803-3278).

If anyone would like to **sponsor a child** at Camp Monroe this year, your assistance would be appreciated. The cost for our week's experience per camper is **\$75**. We are also planning to serve tacos for one lunch and need 10 pounds of hamburger. **Donations** for hamburger, cookies or brownies would be appreciated!

As always, we appreciate the Culdee family and your support in our efforts to welcome children and youth to our church. Please continue to invite young people to join!

Marshall Sweat and Patti Burke

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

John David Privott	01
Alexander Privott	01
Jaiden Washington	01
Jackson Moricle	01
Jared Rivas	03
Linda Upole	03
Rusty Oakman	04
Connie Barber	05
Gregg Vest	05
Richard Blue	06
Fairley Cameron	07
Joe Weaver	07
Danielle Pate	08



Wade Garner	10
Leslie Stubbs	10
Cathy Salargo	12
Marshall Sweat	13
Lib Burgess	18
Wayne Burgess	18
Norman Shields	19
Taylor Seawell	20
Mills Hodge	25
Wayne Black	25
Corey Curlee	26
Dustin Thamm	28

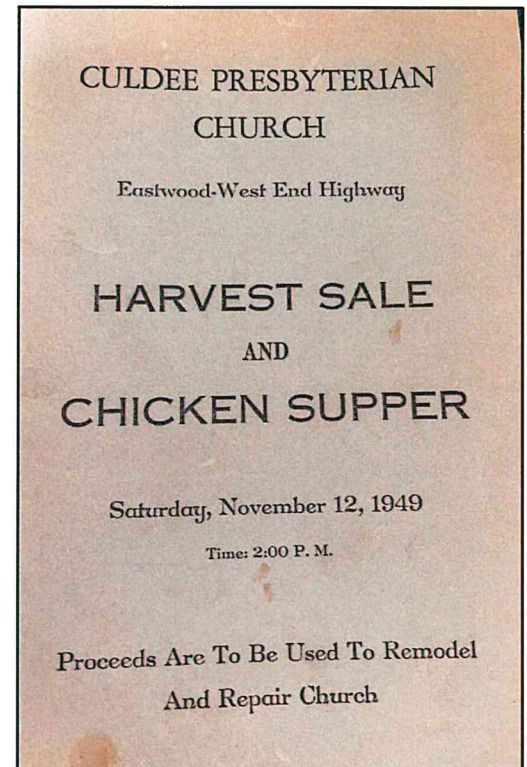
## Culdee Presbyterian Kitchen Renovation and Missions

Submitted by: Catherine Sears, Patti Burke, Tim Lea, Marshall Sweat, Diann Fortune, Shannon Bullard

**The Session and Finance Ministry want to reassure the Culdee Family that the church will fully fund missions in 2024 as has been done in the past years.** This was achieved during COVID by use of liquid asset funds and will be funded this year in the same manner if necessary.

Culdee Presbyterian Church has a history of supporting those in need and that generosity continues. One of the biggest fundraisers Culdee hosts in support of missions is the Fall Harvest Festival and Auction. When originally begun in the 1940s (making this at least the 75<sup>th</sup> year since the Harvest Festival began), 100% of the Harvest Festival proceeds were to fund Building & Grounds. (A reference found in a cookbook for a Fall Ingathering in 1940-1941 lists chicken stew sold to raise money for Sunday School rooms.) Then in the 1980s, the proceeds were divided, with a portion going to missions and the remainder continuing to fund Building & Grounds.

Maintaining the church and its grounds so they are comfortable and inviting, welcomes people to God's house and encourages them to become involved in God's work. The church and its grounds, because it serves God through the community, is a mission in and of itself.



Original on file in Culdee's Ladies' Parlor.

Culdee's Fellowship Hall kitchen is finally showing its age and needs some TLC. There have been no real renovations since its construction in 1984. Many of the women, and some men, have also commented that the kitchen needs updating. To meet those needs, the Session approved 90% of this year's Harvest Festival and Auction proceeds to go towards the renovation of the kitchen, including moving to all commercial equipment and replacing the HVAC system that's original to the building. The renovation will allow those meals to be prepared with greater ease so Culdee is able to continue spreading God's love and doing His work, one meal at a time.

A Kitchen Renovation Committee is working with a company out of Raleigh assessing needs and generating a design for approval. Fortunately, some of the current equipment is already commercial and in excellent condition for continued use. Once a list of needs has been developed, the equipment needed has

been researched to ensure the specific brands approved for purchase are highly rated, the church will gratefully accept contributions to apply towards the purchases. If a family or group would like to purchase a particular item on the list, the Kitchen Renovation Committee will happily work with the family/group. The Kitchen Renovation Committee consists of: Building & Grounds Chair and Vice Chair, Darrell Cole & Clayton Svalina, Pastor Connie Weaver, ex officio, with Patti Burke, Laine Lea, Rick Matthews, Catherine Sears, Marshall Sweat, and Eve Williamson. Others are welcome to join or share ideas and thoughts with the committee.

At the May Finance Ministry meeting, Catherine Sears of the Congregational Care Ministry asked if funds from liquid asset funds could be used to go ahead and get the kitchen renovation underway with the **goal being completion before the Harvest Festival dinner**. Funds from the Harvest Festival would replace those



used from liquid asset funds. After discussion, the Finance Ministry unanimously agreed to make that recommendation to the Session. The recommendation to the Session, that passed unanimously, was up to \$60,000.00 be made available for the kitchen renovation, including but not limited to purchasing commercial equipment and replacing the HVAC system, so work can begin as soon as needs are finalized with a design that is approved. This renovation should make efforts for all meal preparation smoother for those working in the kitchen.

Last year, Culdee returned to the highly acclaimed chicken and dumplings for the Harvest Festival dinner; homemade with love by Culdee's family and friends. It's awe-inspiring to realize this began 75 years ago and then thinking of the folks that have been involved throughout the years when the event was held. And now, practically the entire county is aware of the reputation of Culdee's amazing chicken and dumplings, drawing folks from all over. Culdee's kitchen has turned out wonderful meals for many years. Numerous missions have been supported through the meals from Culdee's Fellowship Hall kitchen.

The church family has always pulled together to make the Harvest Festival and Auction a success. Those involved show the love they have for God as they do all they can to help Culdee continue God's work. This year, Culdee is one of the missions in need. The renovation of the kitchen will enable the church to continue

to minister to others through the Harvest Festival dinner, and every meal served from the kitchen, in a safer and more efficient manner for those serving.

Culdee Presbyterian Church supports and ministers to others locally and to the greater community a couple of ways: 1) through a set list of Session approved missions/charities; 2) through fundraisers, activities and spontaneous gifts channeled through the church as opportunities are presented. The set list of Session approved missions/charities are supported annually with quarterly payments being made to those missions/charities.



**The church will make those quarterly payments to the Session approved list regardless of what the proceeds of the Harvest Festival and Auction are, as was done during COVID when there was not a Harvest Festival.** This year, missions will receive 10% of the Harvest Festival and Auction proceeds. This will not impact Culdee’s missions giving, especially since the Culdee kitchen is a mission in need this year. The following information lists the annual amounts given to the missions Culdee currently supports quarterly and details the additional mission and outreach contributions that have been made through and by the church from January 2024 through May 14, 2024.

**May Culdee’s generous and Godly spirit continue-  
and  
May God bless this year’s Harvest Festival, at least 75 years in the making!**

## Culdee's 2024 Supported Mission Recipients

Culdee is obligated to fund these recipients whether Harvest Festival proceeds are sufficient or not.

LOCAL MISSIONS:	Annually	Quarterly Payment
• Family Promise.....	\$1,000.00	(\$250.00/QTR)
• Food Bank.....	\$1000.00	(\$250.00/QTR)
• Friend to Friend.....	\$700.00	(\$175.00/QTR)
• Meals on Wheels.....	\$1000.00	(\$250.00/QTR)
• Sandhills Children's Center.....	\$450.00	(\$112.50/QTR)
• Sandhills Coalition.....	\$800.00	(\$200.00/QTR)
Subtotal.....	\$4,950.00	(\$1,237.50/QTR)
 EXTENDED MISSIONS:		
• Gideons.....	\$.450.00	(\$112.50/QTR)
• Wycliffe Bible Translators.....	\$650.00	(\$162.50/QTR)
• Camp Monroe.....	\$2,000.00	(\$500.00/QTR)
Subtotal.....	\$3,100.00	(\$775.00/QTR)
 PRESBYTERY: In support of their mission.		
• Presbyterian Benevolence.....	\$18,000.00	(\$4,500.00/QTR)
• Per Capita.....	\$ 1,950.00	(\$ 487.50/QTR)
Subtotal.....	\$19,950.00	(\$4,987.50/QTR)

TOTAL of Culdee's 2024 Annual Supported Missions = \$28,000.00

### Additional Gifts to Missions/Outreach

**Funds below have been raised by way of activities & contributions January through May 14, 2024.**

(This list will grow as there are more opportunities throughout the year.)

- New Year's Day Meal
    - Carthage Food Pantry..... \$3,683.82
    - Presbyterian Disaster Relief.....\$3,683.83
  - Church World Service Blanket Fund..... \$2,750.00
  - CROP Walk..... \$2,076.00
  - Barnabas..... \$ 932.00
  - Haiti: Help & Hope..... \$ 350.00
- Total..... \$13,475.65

**Complete Total: \$41,475.65**

**Annual Budget: \$222,352.35**

**Percent for Missions/Outreach: 18.65% (so far)**



## Finance Ministry: Chairman Tim Lea & Vice Chair Shannon Bullard

**Proverbs 27:23** *Be diligent to know the state of your flocks,  
and attend to your herds.*

Several topics of import were discussed at the May Finance Ministry meeting resulting in recommendations being put forth in the May Session meeting. Of greatest impact to the entire church family was a request from Catherine Sears of the Congregational Care Ministry with Patti Burke in attendance supporting the request. The request was to access liquid asset funds to begin the **renovation of the Fellowship Hall Kitchen** as soon as the design and needs are determined. The point made was that the longer the church waits to begin this project, the more expensive the project will be, not to mention there are some nonfunctioning components in the kitchen that are challenging. The 90% of Harvest Festival fund proceeds approved by the Session for the kitchen renovations will be applied to reduce the funds utilized from liquid asset funds, unless they are needed to cover final costs. The goal is to have the renovation completed before the Harvest Festival so this year's meal preparation is more efficient and easier on the volunteers. After discussion, with Catherine Sears and Patti Burke agreeing to join the Kitchen Renovation Committee, the Finance Ministry voted unanimously to recommend to the Session that up to \$60,000.00 from liquid asset funds be made available to proceed with the renovation as soon as possible. Having the support of Pastor Connie, the recommendation was approved unanimously at the May Session meeting. The kitchen renovation project, including new commercial equipment, HVAC system replacement along with any other identified needs, can progress without delay and hopefully the goal of completion prior to Harvest Festival may be met.

The Kitchen Renovation Committee consists of: Building & Grounds Chair and Vice Chair, Darrell Cole & Clayton Svalina, Pastor Connie Weaver, ex officio, with Patti Burke, Laine Lea, Rick Matthews, Catherine Sears, Marshall Sweat, and Eve Williamson. Others are welcome to join or share ideas and thoughts with the committee.

Another exciting venture is the notification of **moving forward with paving the parking lot**, which was met with unanimous support. After negotiations with Horner Paving, the following terms have been agreed upon:

1. Concrete bumpers will be removed for paving and later replaced.
2. The parking lot will be graded.
3. A six-inch base of rock will be laid down to support the paving. Normal depth is 2 inches.
4. Drainage will be added by Darrell Cole if deemed necessary.
5. After paving there will be striping added before the bumpers are repositioned.
6. Cracks in the paving around the church, excluding the cemetery, will be repaired and sealed.

Gilbert Horner, owner of Horner Paving, will receive a tax letter from the church for the portion of the costs that he will be donating. His generosity is making this project possible. The paving will utilize the Parking Lot

Designated Fund with some additional funds coming from the Sarah Ann Fortune Fund as redesignated by the contributing family. Pastor Connie has requested that some additional parking be added to the front of the church since there are times that area is full. That was not part of the negotiations but will be discussed to see what the additional cost might be.

The time frame for paving will be late summer, after July 4, 2024. Once the paving is complete, the work on the median plantings will take place. There will be opportunities for anyone who wishes, to contribute to a fund for additional shrubbery to go around the donated trees. Marshall Sweat will be working on the sprinkler system for the medians.

Finance Ministry Chair Tim Lea brought up at the April Finance Ministry meeting that **CDs were currently earning more interest (5%) than savings accounts (4%)** and had an annual locked in rate. In going over the church's accounts, he noted that the Grand Piano savings account currently has \$12,589.80 that could be earning greater interest if invested in a CD. When consulted for her thoughts on moving part or all of the Grand Piano savings into a CD, Choir Director Beverly Dunlop wanted input from the choir members before making a recommendation. The following text was sent to the Finance Ministry Chair from the Choir Director after input from the choir was sought: "The CD will be the preferred option, however we want to place a contingency that if we were to need these funds for the piano before the 12 month term ends, that the general fund would cover any expense until the CD matures, at which time the piano fund would reimburse the general fund. The preference is to leave the existing choir fund as it is since we have no budget".

Because the choir's preferred option placed a contingency on the potential CD, Finance Ministry Chair Tim Lea asked Pastor Connie to add this item to the agenda for the May Session meeting. Should the Session take the action to approve the CD with the contingency, the consideration that a potential precedent would be set going forward costing the church interest and/or earnings as well as tying up liquid asset funds needed to be studied. This action, if taken, could be a liability to the church's finances at some point.

The discussion of the choir's preference for a CD with the contingency was discussed at the May Finance Ministry meeting. There was a unanimous vote from the Finance Ministry, that would come from committee to the Session, to recommend the Session not approve the choir's preferred request for the CD with the contingency that liquid asset funds cover any expenses until the CD matured. Pastor Connie agreed to add the item to the Session's May meeting agenda. After presenting the recommendation from the Finance Ministry, a choir member in attendance added clarification that in the choir discussion, they meant that if the Session didn't agree with the contingency for the CD, the funds should stay in the savings account instead of taking the action of putting the funds in a CD.

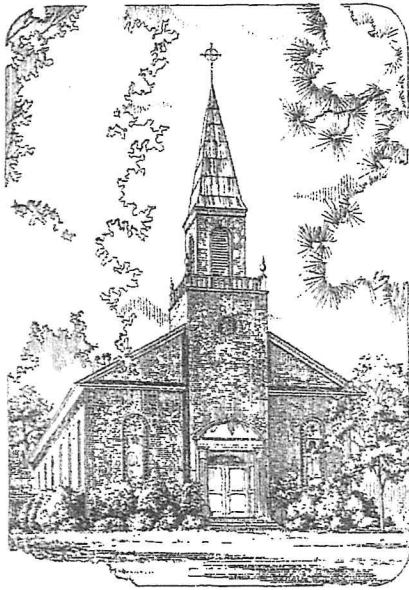
Pastor Connie summarized that the recommendation from the Finance Ministry was to not move forward with the CD and contingency for the piano fund, thus maintaining those funds in savings. Further summarizing that with the attending choir member agreeing that the funds should stay in savings, a Session vote was moot at this point. Pastor Connie further clarified that the minutes from the Finance Ministry would be the record of the

choir's request and since no action was taken by the Session, it did not need to be recorded in the Session minutes.

The April Finance Report from Sandhills Accounting Services shows that Culdee is stable. Contributions are over the budget which is helpful since the expenses are also over budget for the year. The new HVAC system was a major contributor to the overage. (Culdee has 11 HVAC units to maintain.) Interest and earnings from savings accounts, CDs and investments remain strong. Months in reserve dropped a bit but Culdee remains solid thanks to the support of Culdee's family and friends.

Always feel free to speak with anyone on the Finance Ministry if you have questions. Serving on the Finance Ministry are: Chair and Vice Chair Tim Lea and Shannon Bullard, Danny Aldridge, Darrell Cole, Mark Cole, Faye Riggsbee and Ann Savage.





*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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