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THANK YOU LORD FOR:

THE CULDEE CONNECTION

September 2025

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Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?

Matthew 6: 27, NRSV

Scientists tell us that our bodies are wired to fight or flee in the face of a threat. But so much of what worries us in life is not solved either by fighting or by fleeing. Instead, many of us suffer from chronic stress, as we live with uncertainties and with questions that seem to have no sure answers. Our unresolved problems are akin to fear in the effects they have on our minds, our bodies and our spirits.

Several years ago, my mother gave me a little book called Red Sea Rules, by pastor and writer Robert J. Morgan. He tells the story of a Canadian missionary named Isobel Kuhn, who had to flee from China after the Communist Revolution of the 1940's. She traveled on foot with her young son, arriving in Upper Burma with no money and no ability to speak the language, and she was still a long way from home.

Morgan says that in the midst of these difficult circumstances, Kuhn made two decisions. She decided to do her best *to cast out fear*, and to simply *seek light for the next step*. "She had no idea how to get out of Asia," Morgan says, "but with God's help she could figure out what to do" on any given day; to find food, money, a safe place to stay, and ways of communicating with the outside world. Eventually, Isobel Kuhn and her son arrived safely in North America.

"When you don't know what to do next," Morgan says, "trust God for guidance, and if you can't see what lies dimly in the distance, do what lies clearly at hand." This is good advice for all of us!

Connie Weaver, Pastor

NOTES FROM THE SESSION MEETING OF AUGUST 10, 2025

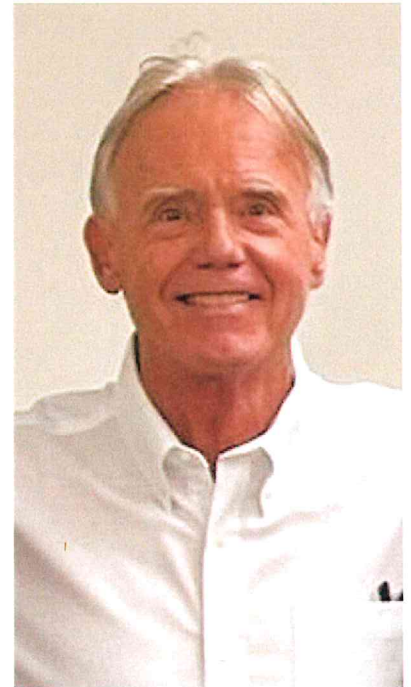
June Stewart, Clerk of Session

The Session met in RoomA/Session Room in the Fellowship Hall building at 6:00p.m. with a quorum of Elders in attendance and Pastor Connie serving as Moderator.

- The minutes from the **Stated Session meeting of July 13, 2025** were approved as amended.
- Session approved Michael Money's request for his membership to be transferred to West End Presbyterian Church.
- Session held discussion on Chapter 6 of the book **LASTING IMPACT** by Carey Nieuwhof.
- Session approved two documents...**Duties of the Elder of the Month** and **Duties of the Greeters/Ushers**. Both will be placed in Culdee's Manual of Administrative Operations and copies will be placed in the vestibule.
- Session approved the following motion: All funds raised by the **Hot Dog Lunch** at this year's Harvest Festival will be donated to the **Pinecrest Clothes Closet**.
- Session approved the motion to hold a **food drive** for **Sandhills Coalition** during this year's Revival Services.
- Session approved the scheduling of a collection to provide needed items requested by **Family Promise**.
- This year's **Musical Revival Services** will be held on Monday and Tuesday evenings, **September 22 and 23**. **Homecoming** will be held on **Sunday, September 21**.
- Session approved an informational presentation by a representative of **First Health Hospice/Palliative Care for September 28 at 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**
- The **July Financial Report** was reviewed by Elders and approved as presented.

Elder of the Month of September: Johnie Marion

A life-long member of Culdee Presbyterian Church, Johnie was born and raised just outside of Carthage in the Summer Hill section of Moore County. Johnie and his wife Connie live near his childhood home and it is here they raised three children and now entertain two precious grandchildren who visit their mema and papa often. A graduate of NC State University, Johnie worked thirty-five years for the NC Department of Transportation's Roadside Environmental Unit before retiring in 2016. When he's not antiquing, kayaking, or playing music with the SouthRidge Bluegrass Band; Johnie works for his wife as a full-time groundskeeper and waste management engineer at their home on Jody Road. When asked about the pay, Johnie said, "The pay isn't all that great but a man has to eat sometime." Although he is most thankful for the opportunities and blessings he's experienced and received over the years. Johnie would be first to tell you that he is most thankful for all the individuals, including those 'Christ-like' and those not so 'Christ-like', that had a part in leading him to know his Savior Jesus Christ. "If it were not for the love and care those 'Christ-like' individuals so graciously bestowed upon me, I would not know how to love nor would I know what it means to live a life as a servant to others."



'I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.' (John 13:34-35)



Presbyterian Women Salad Supper will be held on Sunday, September 7th from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited. Bring your favorite salad. Enjoy an evening of fellowship and kick off the new year.

The Chancel Choir
in their new robes.



OUTREACH

Rise Against Hunger Event

Thank you to those who signed up to volunteer on Saturday, September 20, from 9:00–11:00 a.m. at West End Presbyterian Church to come together for the Rise Against Hunger meal-packing event. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve others and make a global impact as a church family.

We encourage everyone to wear their Culdee T-shirt to show our unity while we serve. Let's come together, roll up our sleeves, and make a difference!

Melissa Bailey

Karon Mckenzie

Little Lambs of God

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The PreK (ages 3-5) Sunday School class would like to update you on what we have been studying. First, we learned about who God really is and how God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are three in one. We sing about them every Sunday; along with songs like, "Jesus Loves the Little Children". We have learned about the creation of the universe and all living things. We also learned about how and why God created man and breathed life into him. Next, we learned how mankind disobeyed God, and sin entered the world. Thirdly, we learned about the shedding of animal's blood to cover our sins...the first sacrifice. Also, we are talking about the first death when Cain killed Abel, and the first rain on the earth after God gave Noah the wisdom to build the first boat.

In the next month or so, we will be learning about the rainbow promise and the Tower of Babel. Also, we will talk about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Please be in prayer for these little ones that God will shower His blessings on them all. Also, a gentle reminder, Sunday School classes start at 9:00 a.m.

Your Sisters in Christ,
Sharon Sweat and Karon McKenzie



“Revive Us Lord – A Celebration of Salvation through Music”.

“My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you – I whom you have delivered.”.
(Psalms 7:23)

Oh my, how time flies! Can you believe it? It’s time for revival once again? Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on September 22nd and September 23rd for our annual revival services.

Throughout the Bible, we see that music is frequently associated with worship, celebration, spiritual healing and revival. With this in mind, our focus for revival this year is ‘music’ and how songs of praise and adoration provide us with joy, hope and thanksgiving.

Each night we will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. for a period of light snacks and fellowship. Our service on Monday will begin shortly thereafter with musical selections planned by the Culdee Choir. This will be followed by music from the SouthRidge Bluegrass Band. On Tuesday evening we will welcome soloist, Elijah McCormick, a finalist on season 21 of American Idol and named “Best of the Pines Local Singer” for his outstanding talent. His performance will be followed by the Never Better Band, our Tuesday Morning Practice Group sharing their talent. Our own Pastor Connie will provide a brief inspirational message and the service each evening will conclude by 8:00 pm.



Please bring your family, your friends and your neighbors as we celebrate God’s redeeming grace through His son Jesus Christ. We hope to see you there!



Our Culdee Family has been blessed with a wonderful opportunity. A presentation will be given by **First Health Hospice and Palliative Care** on Sunday, September 28th at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. This informative program will define and educate all that attend on the difference between Hospice and Palliative Care. It will clarify the services of Hospice and blessings that go along with this service. The program will last approximately 20 – 30 minutes and will include a question-and-answer period.

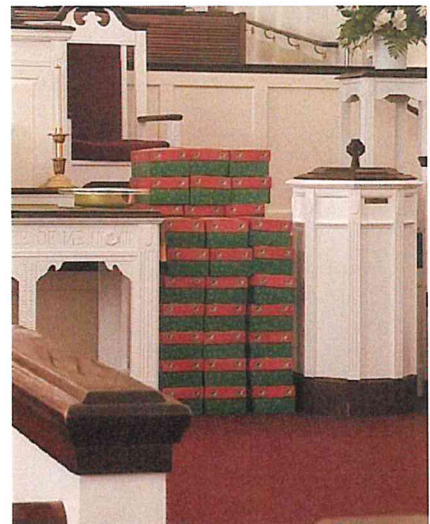
Guests are encouraged to bring siblings, children or anyone documented as a legal guardian, are named in advance directives, or have a Health Care Power of Attorney as Health Care Agent. Please take notes. If you plan to attend, please inform your Shepherd, any session member or the church office with the number in your party for planning purposes.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you there.

Wesley Cole, Elder
Congregational Care



Culdee created 38 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child in July. Prayer by Pastor Weaver was offered for the recipients of each box. The boxes will be taken to the processing center in Charlotte. Thank you for your kindness.



Congregational Care -5th Sunday Musical Event



On June 29th the "SouthRidge Bluegrass Band" presented an afternoon of traditional, gospel and original bluegrass music in our Fellowship Hall. Their musical talents and beautiful vocals were enjoyed by the Culdee family, as well as several visitors totaling over 100 people!!



During the intermission delicious ice cream was served courtesy of Highlander's Farm. An afternoon of music and fellowship was enjoyed by everyone!



Special thanks to Johnie Marion and the SouthRidge Bluegrass Band and Highlander's Farm. Last but not least our much appreciated volunteers: Shannon and Scott Bullard, Pam Brown, Mary Ruth Whitaker, Connie Marion, Danny Aldridge, Wesley Cole and all the men who helped with moving the tables and setting up the chairs!



Christian Education

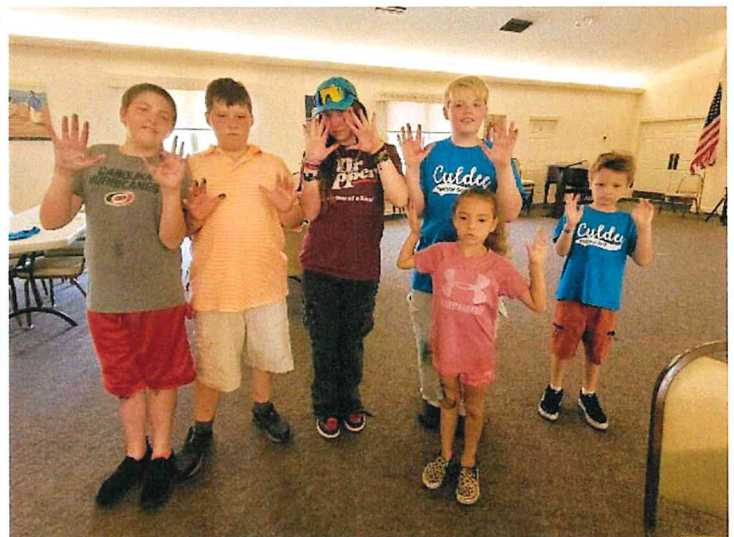
If it's summer, it must be time for **Vacation Bible School**! Monday, June 23 was the day it all began at Culdee.



Twelve very excited campers began the morning with a rather warm game of GaGa ball on the front lawn of the Fellowship Hall. That was followed by musical activities, games, arts and crafts, a scavenger hunt, and Bible study.



Other days found the campers involved in activities ranging from homemade slime to tie-dyeing t-shirts and hands.



Vacation Bible School continued

On Thursday, many of the campers headed to Camp Monroe to continue their Bible School experience. The youngest campers had an exciting day and returned home Thursday afternoon. The older campers remained overnight and returned to Culdee on Friday.

Many thanks to Catherine, Nate, and Dakota from Camp Monroe for bringing this exciting opportunity to our young people here at Culdee. And thanks also go out to our Culdee family for making this possible with sponsorships, donations of food and cookies, and using your time and talents to help prepare and serve lunches and snacks each day.



Our prayer is that this experience in Vacation Bible school will enrich the spiritual lives of these young folks and that it will lead them in their walk with Jesus.

Outreach – Harvest Festival Needs You!



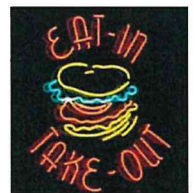
Our Harvest Festival is on Saturday, October 18th and will be another great day of fellowship and interaction with the community. To make the day a successful day takes many hands, meaning we need you to come and help. “How can I help” you many ask? Let me share some areas in need.



Before the process of making chicken and dumplings begins, the kitchen needs to be cleaned and paper laid down on the floor. Then hands are needed to pull chicken off the bones, make dumpling dough, roll dough, cut dough and on the day, drop the dumplings in the pot. All of this takes place with a group of willing people. Desserts are needed and those brought in need to be cut up and packaged. Servers for the folks dining in are needed as well as greeters and runners for the takeout area.



If the kitchen is not your area, perhaps you can help sort items in the session room into Auction items or yard sale items. Helpers will be needed to man the Country Store and the Yard Sale area. You might get to meet some new people. There will be a children's area that needs people to supervise or help in as well.



You will not have to stay in one area the entire time. And you will have time to eat a delicious lunch and dinner. The more help is available, the lighter the load will be. Would you like some more information? A Harvest

Festival meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 7th at 6:00 pm in the session room. Come and find out what area you might be interested in. Sign-up sheets will be available in the sunroom by September 21st. If you would like more information, please talk to Karon McKenzie or Melissa Bailey.



We look forward to seeing you there.



Finance

The Harvest Festival is quickly approaching, and we are asking for your help. Do you have any items that you would like to donate towards the yard sale or auction? If you are unable to get the items to the church, please reach out to Nancy in the office at 910-295-6685 or Shannon Bullard at 910-690-2021 and they will help coordinate how to get your donated items to the church. Located in the sunroom is a wooden stand that holds envelopes and on these envelopes are businesses that may be willing to donate a gift card or item. In each envelope is the highlighted name, address, and phone number of the business along with the donation forms. If you visit the businesses and secure a



donation, we would like for the items to be placed in the Session room before October 1st. We're also calling on all crafters, wood workers, and bakers. We are so blessed with so many talented individuals and your contribution is greatly appreciated. If you're interested in helping with the auction or yard sale, please reach out to Shannon Bullard, Danny Aldridge, Stephanie Barber or Ann Savage and we will make sure that you have great time. Please encourage family and friends to attend as there will be so many different great things to do and a great chicken and dumpling supper to end the day.

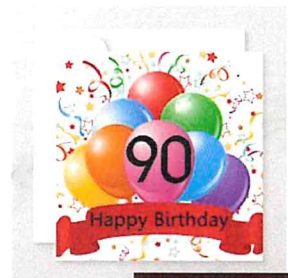
The Finance Ministry is currently working on the 2026 budget and will be providing more information very soon. The June and July financial statements are included with this newsletter for your review. The investments with Stifel continue to do very well and show positive gains.



Tickets for the five quilts created by the Culdee Quilters for Harvest Festival are available in the office. Each ticket is \$1.00. A book of tickets is \$10.00. Come and get them!

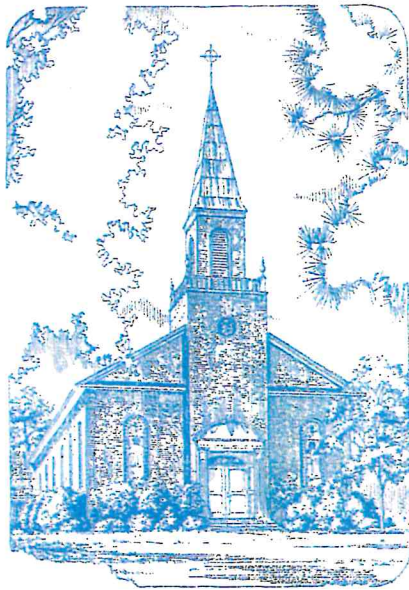


Patti Burke	03	Emily Marion	15
Wilma Blue	04	Elaina Aponte	15
James (Jr) McKenzie	04	Haven McRae	16
Crystal Carrico	05	Lauren Tierney	19
Roy Anderson	07	Lonnie McKenzie	20
Joshua Carrico	07	Lauren Bobo	23
Wally Burke	07	Mark Seawell	25
Adam Kemp	07	Jimmy Lea	26
Floyd Black	08	Lindsey Williamson Black	26
Pearl Frye	09	Smith Young	26
Laine Lea	10	Harold Tolbert	27
Macey Craven	12	Robin McKenzie	28
Melissa Bailey	13	Camden Vest	28
Lauren Palmerton	14	Sara Cole	29
Eli Carrico	14	Teresa Cole	30
Ryan Marino	14		



*A very special
birthday to
Wilma Blue!
Happy 90th!!*





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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