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**THANK YOU LORD FOR:**

## THE CULDEE CONNECTION

July 2023

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I am so grateful for those who bring our Children's Messages each week in worship. One of Amber Clayton's recent messages reminded me of a verse from one of Paul's letters. The apostle Paul had a special relationship with the Christian community at Corinth in ancient Greece, and it's likely he exchanged more letters with them than we have in our New Testament. Second Corinthians in particular appears to have been written after a difficult episode between Paul and that congregation. While Paul recognizes his own human frailty as he seeks to teach and lead in the early years of the Church, he also insists that God works through those who are willing to be used for God's purposes, regardless of their imperfections. Of himself and his missionary colleagues, he says, *we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 2:15)*. Paul recognizes that none of us through our own strength can adequately bear the fragrant love and grace of Jesus Christ, but as we continually place ourselves in God's presence through prayer and the Word, we can indeed "smell good" for the sake of Christ.

Have you ever been in the presence of someone or something that bore a pleasant and lasting fragrance that lingered with you even after that person or that thing was gone from you? That's how a person should feel after being in the presence of someone whose heart is close to Christ. We don't literally "smell like Jesus," but we bear a spiritual "fragrance" that lingers with others when we are living close to our Lord. We bear a fragrance of joy and kindness and peace and strength, that will be remembered long after we have left the room. It will bring God glory and will help to draw others to Christ. This is the fragrance I hope we all will want to bear. While we won't always succeed, with God's help, we can be more of *the aroma of Christ* to those we encounter each day.

*"Thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads in every place the fragrance that comes from knowing him."*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 2:14, NRSV*

Connie Weaver  
Pastor

#### **Worship passages for July:**

July 2 - James 2:1-17  
July 9 - James 3: 13-18  
July 16 - James 4: 1-10  
July 23 - James 5: 7-16  
July 30 - All Music Service at Culdee



#### **Looking ahead:**

Sept. 17 - Homecoming Sunday  
Oct. 21 - Harvest Festival

*Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan to participate!*

#### **Cents-Ability (formerly known as 2 Cents A Meal)**

Our next communion date is in August. Just a gentle reminder that the ushers will have baskets to accept offering for **Cents-Ability (formerly called....2 Cents A Meal)**. The opportunity to donate to the program each communion Sunday is one way that our church family supports local hunger ministries, as well as national and international projects through the Presbyterian Hunger Program.





We thank the hard workers who keep Culdee Presbyterian Church looking beautiful. This time it is Richard Blue (brave soul in the bucket loader) and Ronald Bowen on the tractor.

### **Buildings and Grounds**

The Security Committee submitted four options at June's session meeting, for securing the Pastor's and Secretary's offices. One option was selected and details are being worked out. More details will follow as the work progresses.



### **Christian Education Ministry**

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, twenty-eight youth came to our End of Year Water Splash. It was a cold, drizzly day. This did not dampen the spirits of the group! They slid down the "sky high slide" and avoided the water balloons as they ran the obstacle course. After we dried off, we moved inside.





We celebrated Roston Barber's graduation and expressed appreciation for his leadership in our Sunday Funday program. As we ate our dinner, we discussed "trusting Jesus in every part of our lives" and ended the evening with song. We will take a summer break and begin on September 4<sup>th</sup> with our next Sunday Funday.



On **July 16<sup>th</sup>**, we will try our first "mini-Sunday Funday". This will be an attempt to develop a fellowship for young children and families. The target age of the children will be **0 – 6 years old**. Our plans include a splash pad, small pool, and water toys. After our water play, we will enjoy ice cream and cookies as well as a Bible lesson and songs. Please invite your neighbors and those you know with young children. We hope to grow this ministry if the demand exists.

**MINI FUNDAY SUNDAY**  
**July 16<sup>th</sup> from 3-4:30 pm**

We need a **small sand table** to borrow for this event. If you have one, please notify the office, Patti Burke or one of the Christian Ed team.



**The Christian Ed Ministry appreciates the generosity of the Culdee family.** With your help, **we are fully funded** for our Vacation Bible School with Camp Monroe and have a **full slate of youth** registered. We are simply **asking for prayers** as we begin the week. We will have a full report in the next newsletter.

Once again, we **THANK YOU!**

**NOTES FROM THE SESSION MEETING ON JUNE 11, 2023**

June Stewart, Clerk

The meeting was held in Room A of the fellowship hall building at 6:30 with a quorum of Elders in attendance. Pastor Connie Weaver was the Moderator.

- **Clayton and Katelynne Svalina** were received as members of Culdee. Baptism for Clayton and their two children will be scheduled in the near future.
- When a location is determined, a pad will be poured for the **refrigeration unit** donated to the church.
- Approval was given to moving forward with **Option 1 in the Carpentry Proposal** for improving security in the office area.
- **The Financial Report for the month of May** was reviewed and entered into the record.
- The minutes from the **Stated Session Meeting of May 7, 2023** were approved as amended.

The **Financial Review for 2022**, completed by Sandhills Accounting, was presented and accepted into the record.



The meaning of the Presbyterian Women (PW) symbol: The chain is made of individual links of different shapes and sizes, to symbolize how each woman is different. It forms a circle of unity, but because a chain can also mean imprisonment, this chain is broken, expressing women freed by faith. The three figures, with no distinctive features, represent women of all ages and racial/ethnic backgrounds, a community of women in Christ. As “the forgiven” these women rising from the Bible illustrate serving, studying and praising God. The design suggests a triangle within a circle—Trinity and Unity.

### Our Purpose

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves

- to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- to support the mission of the church worldwide,
- to work for justice and peace, and
- to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God’s kingdom.

Do you belong to a PW circle? Are you interested in finding one to belong to? If you are interested in joining one, please find a lady in the church and ask about what goes on and what we do. There is ALWAYS room for you. The women do a lot in the church and provide a lot of things. We are working on our PW directory for 2023-2024 with important dates and meeting times and the phone list. We would like to add your name and number.

One thing we do, is provide **Hygiene Kits for Church World Services**. The need in the USA and around the world is great due to natural disasters and political conflicts. Please consider donating the individual items to help make up these kits. The picture shows the needed items. Three of the items need to be in their original wrappers...the bar of soap, the band aids, and the toothbrush. The other items can be separated. The Comb should have 4-6inch teeth. The lighter weight of the hand towels and washcloths that you can buy at Dollar General or Dollar Tree (\$1.25 now) make good choices for the kits. These items will be placed in a gallon sized zip-lock bag. So, if you will, please place your donated items in the Sunroom anytime. See picture and list of items.

Thank you.

Gail Farmer—PW Moderator

### Hygiene Kits for Church World Services

- 1 Hand towel
- 1 Wash cloth
- 1 WIDE-TOOTH comb
- 1 Pair of nail clippers
- 1 Bath-size wrapped soap
- 1 Tooth-brush in its original package
- 10 Standard – sized band aids

***DO NOT INCLUDE TOOTHPASTE: ones with an extended expiration date will be added into the kits at the processing plant.***





## Congregational Care

Congratulations to all of our graduates in 2023, ranging from high school to Master's Degrees. Culdee is very proud of you!

### **Roston Barber**

Pinecrest High School

Plans to attend UNC-P

Son of Robert & Stephanie Barber



### **Taylor Aldridge**

Associate in Arts from Sandhills Community College

Plans to attend East Carolina U

Granddaughter of Danny & Diane Aldridge

### **Morgan Jackson**

Associates in Science from Sandhills Community College

Plans to attend UNC

Parents: Dannie & Susan Jackson

Grandparents: Junior & Sharon Moon

### **Sarah Cox**

Bachelors in Sociology/Minor in Criminology, Coastal Carolina U.

Daughter of Randy & Gwyn Cox

### **Denise Garner Grandolfo**

Business Administration from Pembroke

Niece of Danny & Diane Aldridge

### **Kaitlyn Spencer McKenzie**

Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Psychology from UNC Wilmington

Parents: Bob & Marty McKenzie

Grandparents: Lonnie & Judy McKenzie

### **Madison Adams-Roberts**

MSc in Agriculture & Extension Education, NC State

Daughter of Scott & Shannon Bullard

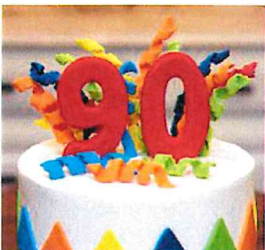
### **Stephanie Barber**

MBA in Healthcare Management, Western Governors University

Wife of Robert Barber, mother of Braxton & Roston

**Congratulations to our Doris Moore Scholarship recipients, also:** Braxton Barber & Roston Barber

It is a real blessing to have this many members of our church family realize the importance of education to their futures. We will continue to be your church family and keep you close in our prayers.



*Please join us immediately following the worship service on **Sunday, July, 16** for a special celebration! Two of our members - **Mills Hodge and Bill Bailey**- will be observing their **90<sup>th</sup> birthdays** this summer and we would like to honor them on that day. There will be a basket for cards if you would like to bring one.*



**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.*

### Culdee Financial Status:

The annual financial review has been completed by Sandhills Accounting Service. This review covered the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Based on the findings, the information set forth in the records complies with generally accepted accounting principles and standards. While it is noted that there are a few procedures that should be changed or expanded, please note that the overall checks and balances within the internal system have been implemented and are working well. The review of recommendations for Culdee Presbyterian Church set forth by Sandhills Accounting has been thoroughly reviewed and the recommendations are being implemented.



October 21, 2023 is right around the corner! Our Annual Harvest Festival and Auction is quickly approaching, and your donated items and treasures are still needed for the auction. What is also needed is dumpling rollers. Audrey Chacon has been gracious enough to head up this task and if you are interested in learning for the first time how to make dumplings or maybe you're a seasoned professional, you are needed. This is truly a great time of fellowship and creates memories that will never be forgotten. Please get in contact with Audrey if you are interested in being a dumpling roller.

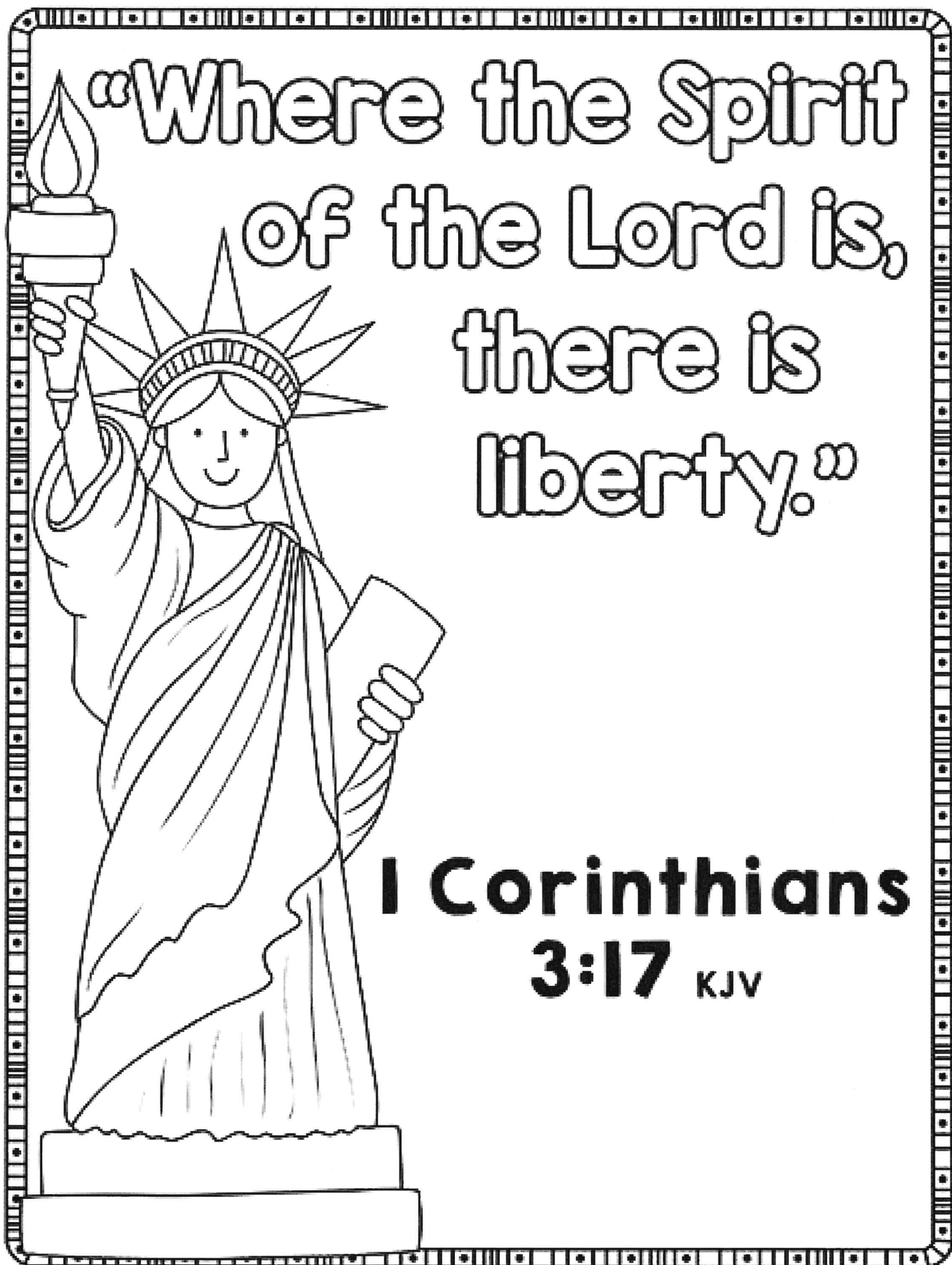
### JULY

Benjamin Whitesell	02
Rhonda Ritter	03
Cooper Cox	03
Karon McKenzie	04
Anna Rae Kemp	04
Elise Palmerton	05
Sharon Moon	08
Larry Black	08
Ethan Rivas	09
Beverly Dunlop	11
Leanne Waschsen	13
Connie Weaver	13
Jewell Vest	14
Anne F. Garner	14
Doug Sullivan	17
Pierson Tolbert	17
Rhonda Whitesell	18
Mason Parsons	19
Riley Story	19
Avery Martin	20
Ashley Blue	21
Owen Whitesell	22
Tom Gribben	22
Blair Moricle	24
Wesley Cole	24
Stuart Fields	24
Judy McKenzie	27
Bill Bailey	30
Connie Marion	31
Dannie Jackson	31



### AUGUST

Sadie Cuff	01
Jackie Thamm	04
Sarah Cuff	05
Tracy Vest	09
Tammy Parsons	11
Wayne Vest	11
Zach Marks	11
Nelson Blue	12
Ray Barber	13
Tony Rouse	15
Peyton Martin	15
Eve Williamson	18
Andrew Craven	19
Lisa Campbell	20
Myers Buckley	21
Grace Bowen	22
Deelie Whitesell	23
Jackson Aldridge	23
Nancy Howle	25
Kristy Taylor	25
Norman Harris	25
Dana Vest	26
Skylar Lilly	26
Sharon Cuff	30
Lisa Huffines	30
Wyatt Cole	31



"Where the Spirit  
of the Lord is,  
there is  
liberty."

**1 Corinthians**  
**3:17** KJV





*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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