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THANK YOU LORD FOR:

THE CULDEE CONNECTION

SEPTEMBER 2021

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BEGINNINGS

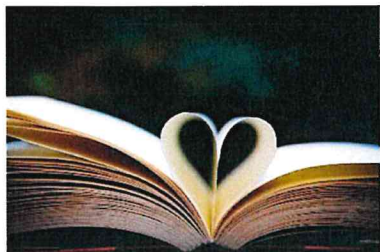
September heralds the beginning of a new season. Will the beginning of school, with masks and other safety procedures in place, be successful? Will Culdee's plans to restart Sunday School and the REACH Service go forward? When will **GOD** reveal who will be our next pastor?

The following thoughts, from a devotion from INSPIRATION MINISTRIES, are very encouraging as we continue to move forward in our church life and our personal family life!!

The Bible has a great deal to say about beginnings. John simply declares that "in the beginning was the **Word**." The Bible also makes clear that this **Word** was **Jesus**. He was the *logos*, God's revealed **Word**. Through these truths, the Bible reveals a pattern that can apply to **any** situation: The key is to start with Jesus. To start with the **Word**. With this focus, we can *know* that our hearts and minds are in tune with **God**. That we are building a strong foundation. That He will lead and guide us and correct us if necessary. Make a commitment to read and study the Bible every day. As you have difficult decisions to make, fill your mind with the **Word**. Let it provide your standards. The **Word** will give you wisdom, and will help shape your mind and heart, and give you discernment and a victorious lifestyle. And, it will prepare you to receive more of God's blessings, today, and every day.

NOTES FROM STATED SESSION MEETING of August 12, 2021

June Stewart, Clerk

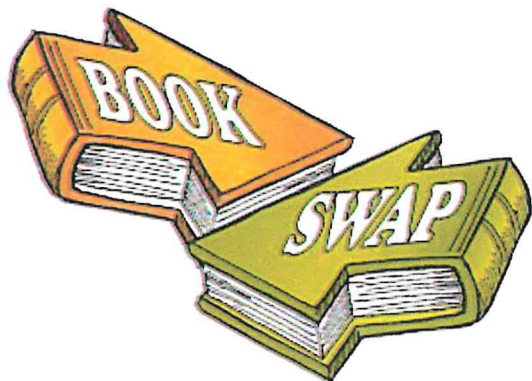


The Session met in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m. with a quorum of Elders in attendance. Rev. Rick Martindale, pastor of First Presbyterian of Carthage, was Moderator for the meeting.

Following are the actions approved by Session:

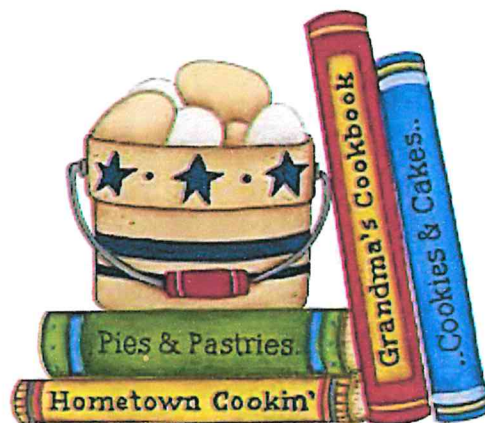
- The front two pews on the Eastwood side of the sanctuary will be temporarily removed to make more room for the choir while modifications are being made in the choir loft to accommodate choir members who have some mobility concerns.
- Surge protectors will be ordered for the computer in the pastor's office, the church office, the choir room, and for all the TVs in the church.
- The congregation will be given the opportunity to purchase an American flag and pole (Field of Honor) which will be displayed along Hwy.73 for special holidays honoring veterans (living or dead) and currently serving military personnel. The cost will be \$25.00 per flag and pole. Folks will have the opportunity to honor/memorialize friends and/or loved ones with each purchase.

The next Stated Session meeting be on September 12 at 6:30.



The cookbook swap is off to a good start. The stack of culinary goodness has been relocated to the sunroom. Please feel free to drop by and

leave what you no longer need or browse and find a new fun book to cook for those you love. Have fun!



Culdee Presbyterian Church

FIELD OF HONOR



The living display of heroism flies as a patriotic tribute to The strength and unity of Americans, and honors all who are currently serving, those who have served, and the men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice for our nation's security and freedom.

Culdee Presbyterian Church invites you to sponsor a 3' x 5' American Flag in honor of our servicemen and women. They will be flown along the fence near the highway and along the cemetery (Depends on the quantity purchased). **The flags will be flown on Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Veterans Day. (Other dates may be added).**

Flags are \$25.00 each and can be purchased by completing the form below. Please return to the church by October 4, 2021.

I want to purchase _____ Flag(s) at \$25.00 each (use additional forms if necessary)
My total is \$_____.

Make checks payable to Culdee Presbyterian Church – memo section of check: MARK FLAG(S).
PLEASE PRINT all Information

Name of sponsor purchasing the flag(s) _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

Honorees

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch of Service</u>	<u>Honor</u>	<u>Memorial</u>
<u>1</u>				
<u>2</u>				
<u>3</u>				
<u>4</u>				
<u>5</u>				



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 and Session meetings, usually held the second Sunday, beginning at 4:30.

Financial Status:

Thank you for your continued support of Culdee. Please keep in mind that finances are greatly affected by Culdee not currently paying a pastor's salary. The attached Sandhills Accounting Services (SAS) July 2021 Financial Report remains positive, based on curtailed operations and no pastor's salary. Currently there are 11.01 months of reserve funds, 6 months of which are for emergencies. Please understand that reserve funds continue to grow because Culdee is not currently paying a pastor. The SAS July 2021 Year-to-Date Income report indicates that if Culdee had a pastor and was fully operational, Culdee would be operating with a deficit of \$3,012.71.

Culdee's funds invested with Stifel Wealth Management Group continue with overall positive growth. The included financial analysis shows that BB&T & Live Oak's \$186,678.70 earned a total of \$784.89 in interest while Stifel's \$320,574.13 grew by \$16,115.80 for the same time period. The market fluctuates as will investments and earnings. The professional investors at Stifel make sure Culdee's funds are invested for moderately conservative growth, which is recommended for churches and non-profits.

Personal Check Handling Process

At the July Session meeting, an Elder brought a question raised by a congregation member as to why copies were made of personal checks. After discussion with Culdee Treasurer Ann Savage, Danny Aldridge reports that checks are copied at the direction of Sandhills Accounting Services to verify the annual audit of Culdee's finances. Copied checks are stored securely in a fire-proof box and are only ever seen once by the people who count contributions on Sundays and Treasurer Ann Savage, Secretary Edith Martin and accountants at Sandhills Accounting Services for the end of the year annual audit.

The Finance Ministry operates at the direction of the Session and seeks advice from financial professionals and legal counsel as necessary. Members of the congregation are encouraged to attend meetings and read the financial information included in the monthly church newsletter. Session members and Finance Ministry members will gladly answer questions. Once again, thank you for supporting God's work through Culdee.

Building & Grounds

Work on the manse continues with the master bath and basement bath still needing attention. Designated Building & Grounds accounts have been depleted so upcoming repairs will come from the Liquid Asset savings. Contributions may be designated for particular purposes. Undesignated funds go to Liquid Assets.

Daniel always worshiped God. Then something happened

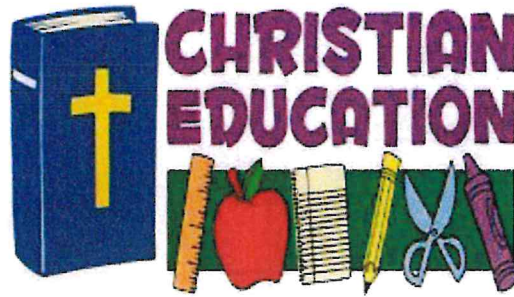
Code				
= plan	= serve	= law	= lions	= sad
= pray	= Daniel	= angel	= night	
= worship	= king	= alive	= rescue	
= see	= den	= Darius	= morning	

_____ was a good man in the kingdom of Baby
_____. Some other administrators grew jealous
_____ and presented him a _____ that for 30 d
_____ any god or man, only the _____.
_____ would be thrown into the _____. So
_____ continued to _____. The
_____ that _____ had broken the _____.
_____ knew he'd been tricked. But he couldn't
_____, and he was very _____. As _____
to the _____, _____, the _____ said,
"your God, whom you _____ continually,
_____ you!" _____ staye
_____ worrying. When _____ came,
the _____ to _____ what had h
_____ found
_____ and well. The _____
not hurt him. The Lord had sent an _____ to pro



Name _____

Old Testament Lesson #148



Christian Education members are anxious to move forward with our plans for the Culdee Comeback but due to daily rising Covid cases, we are paused. Our plan was to begin September 26th, but this date may be pushed further into the year. It is our desire to invite our community families to this event. The session meets September 12th, and a decision will follow.

Even though our dates are not set, hopefully, everyone will be in prayer for our endeavor and begin thinking of ways to enhance our program. Our current plans consist of:

Fellas in Fellowship

This group will have fellowship, build a gaga pit for our kids, visit a shut in, have a Cornhole Tournament, and finish with a Chili-Cook off.

Christ, Creation, and Conversation

This group provides a unique opportunity to worship and create together. More Information on the project and the materials needed will follow.

Bible Study

A four-week study of Daniel will be offered with a different person Teaching each week.

Youth

Youth will have an opportunity for recreation to form relationships followed by their Bible study

Youth Group

Our Culdee Youth Group will be meeting at the same time and follow normal programming.

The Culdee Comeback offers an opportunity for our entire church to fellowship together and invite others of any age to participate!

“Wait for the Lord, be strong, and let your heart take courage:

Yes, wait for the Lord.” Psalms 27:14

So, the Christian Education Ministry waits.

Patti Burke and Wade Garner



OUTREACH MINISTRY
Robert Barber, Chairperson

This issue highlights two local ministries that receive support from Culdee. Both provide valuable services to our community and beyond.

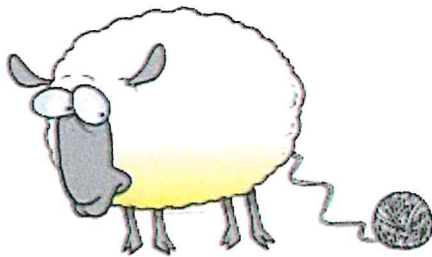
Friend to Friend www.moorefriends.org/

Friend to Friend is a non-profit organization, which offers help to all persons affected by interpersonal violence, such as: Domestic Violence; Sexual Assault; Elder Abuse; Human Trafficking; Child Abuse; Unhealthy Relationships

Friend to Friend hopes to ease the immediate pain of such violence and to facilitate emotional healing. They offer free guidance, 24-hour crisis line, referral services, shelter, support groups, programs for children, court advocacy, court and hospital accompaniment and community education.

Food Bank http://www.foodbankcenc.org/site/PageServer?pagename=branch_sandhills

The Sandhills Branch of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina serves 4 counties in south central North Carolina. They are Lee, Moore, Richmond, and Scotland counties. Last year over 4 million pounds of food was distributed to 98 agencies in those counties. The Food Bank of the Sandhills operates two trucks that traveled over 37,000 miles last year. Volunteers donated over 3,100 hours of their time last year: equivalent to approximately two full-time employees. In the counties served by the Sandhills branch, over 36,000 individuals are at risk of hunger: 4,000 are children and over 11% are 65 years and over.



LOOK! LOOK!

Mark your calendars! Monday, September 13th is the day! Come one, come all. Let's get together again. We can talk, we can laugh, and maybe even knit (or crochet) a stitch or two.

It's been a long time, so dig out those unfinished projects, new project ideas, old yarn, new yarn, and renewed inspiration for knitting/crocheting and meet us in the Children's Church Room. That's Monday, September 13, 9-11. Hope to see you there!



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ian McRae	01	Lauren Palmerton	14	Mark Seawell	25
Ethan Pate	02	Eli Carrico	14	Jimmy Lea	26
Patti Burke	03	Melanie Thompson	14	Lindsey Williamson	26
Crystal Carrico	05	Ryan Marino	14	Smith Young	26
Joshua Carrico	07	Emily Marion	15	Harold Tolbert	27
Wally Burke	07	Elaina Aponte	15	Camden Vest	28
Adam Kemp	07	Haven McRae	16	Becky Bowen	28
Floyd Black	08	Lauren Tierney	19	Larry Furr	28
Pearl Frye	09	Lonnie McKenzie	20	Robin McKenzie	28
Laine Lea	10	Lauren Bobo	23	Sarah Cole	29
Bruce Hamilton	13	Ashley McKenzie	23	Cheryl Smith	30
		John Sherard	23	Teresa Cole	30



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.*

The Congregational Care Committee met on August 8th with nine members present. Homecoming and Harvest Festival were discussed. Due to Covid concerns, it was decided that if we were able to have Homecoming, the meal would be catered. We plan to meet again on August 29th at 11:00 a.m. , please plan to join us!

Culdee Church provides a medical alert device free of charge for our members. Lifeline is a Medical Alert System that lets you summon any type of help whenever you need it, any time of day or night- even if you can't speak. All you need to do is press your help button, worn as a wrist band or a pendant and a Trained Care Specialist will make sure you get the help you need.

Should you have an interest in supporting this ministry please designate any contributions to "Lifeline". If you would like more information about a medical alert device or if you are interested in obtaining one, please contact the Church Office.

Eve Williamson, Chairman

Pastor Search Committee Update



Culdee's PNC held its first meeting on March 10, 2020. That meeting was presided over by Presbytery of Coastal Carolina's Commission on Ministry Liaison to the PNC, Reverend Rick Martindale, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Carthage. The pandemic soon struck and the PNC made the decision to continue in-person weekly meetings. Thankfully God was with the PNC through that time.

The first task of Culdee's PNC was learning the Presbyterian process of calling a pastor. One thing learned was that before a PNC could receive its first pastor resumes, called Pastor Information Forms (PIFs), it must write a resume describing the church. This church resume document calls for a detailed assessment of the church including its mission and the characteristics desired in its next pastor. This document is used to match churches with pastors, as each seeks a new path, following the will of God.

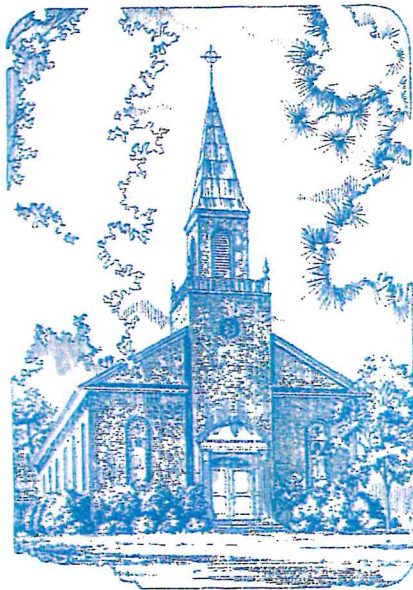
Culdee's PNC had to follow that process. The "church resume" for Culdee had to be written and agreed upon first by the PNC and Reverend Rick Martindale, Liaison between the PNC and the Presbytery. Next, Culdee's Session followed by the Presbytery itself, had to approve the information. Finally, once Culdee's resume was approved by all those groups, it had to be accepted and posted online by the Presbyterian Church (USA). Once posted online, pastor resumes could be received by Culdee's PNC.

The congregation's thoughts and desires needed to be reflected in the church resume so the church family had the opportunity to complete a survey mailed from the PNC.

After creating a survey, surveying the church family, assessing the survey data, and completing several rewrites of the church resume, on August 3, 2020, the Session approved the document, officially called Culdee's Mission Information Form (MIF). Approval and acceptance by the Presbytery and Presbyterian Church (USA) quickly followed. Culdee's PNC finally reviewed its first Pastor Information Forms on August 17 of 2020.

Since August 17, 2020, the PNC has reviewed over 100 Pastor Information Forms, reached out to 16 pastors, and invited two pastors to visit the church and area. The PNC knows without a doubt that God will place the pastor He has called for Culdee into the PNC's view at the right time -- and that pastor, will be led by God to accept the call to Culdee. The pastoral search will continue diligently until that union occurs.

PNC members continue to be encouraged and have faith that God is guiding this search. It is an honor and huge responsibility to serve God through the PNC. Thank you to all PNC members, past and present, and their families for the time and effort and adaptability the search process requires. Faith with patience reminds that all things happen in God's time and at His will. Please continue to pray for the PNC, the search and for the pastor God will call to Culdee. The PNC thanks you for your ongoing support and encouragement.



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 September will be:

September 5 Chaplain Rich Culp
September 12
September 19 Homecoming Sunday – Sandy Stewart
September 26 Rev. Tom Currie
Reach Service 8:30 am, Traditional 10:00 am

Weekly Worship Services

Sundays:

In the Sanctuary/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