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THANK YOU LORD FOR:

THE CULDEE CONNECTION

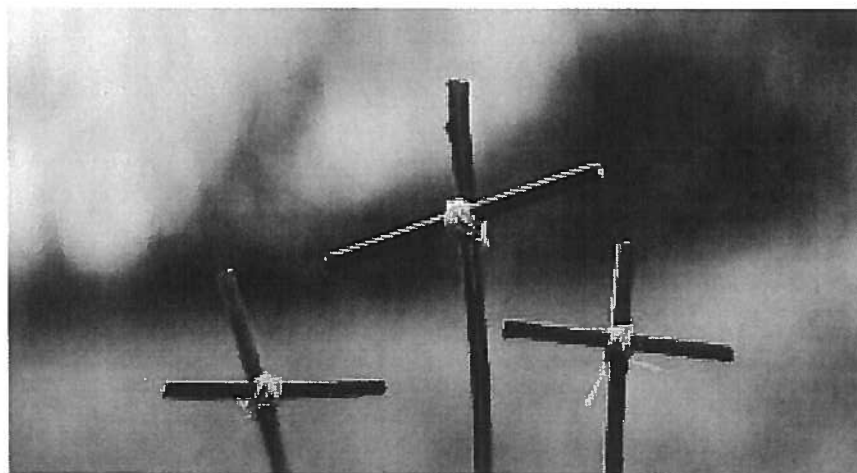
APRIL 2021

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"The Times We Live In"

Many feel we are living in the "the worst of times." Bemoaning our times can be an easy habit to fall into. We think.... if only the world were at peace... if only we had perfect Church leaders, then I could really live my Christian faith. Perhaps a better way would be to accept our times as the context in which we were called to live out our faith, and to respond to the critical issues of our times with attentiveness, courage, love, persistence, and great faith in Jesus. We are called to love others as God loves us: compassionately, consistently, inclusively, and forgivingly, and our great task is to obey the command to tell the whole world about Christ crucified, buried, yet risen again! Have a blessed Holy Week and a joyful and glorious Easter and after!



NOTES FROM STATED SESSION, MARCH 14, 2021

June Stewart, Clerk of Session



All Elders were present with **Rev. Rick Martindale** as Moderator of Session.

Elders approved a motion from Outreach to **donate \$500.00** from the Mission Fund to **Camp Monroe**.

Elders approved a motion from Outreach to allow **Haiti, Help and Hope** to conduct a fundraiser to help raise \$2,000.00 to fund four months of daily breakfast for the students at **Pastor Sidor's school in Haiti**.

The present office copier contract is coming due in April. Elder approved Finance's motion to award the new five-year contract to **Copiers Plus**.

Elders approved a motion from Worship to schedule **in person worship services in the sanctuary** beginning on **April 11** with the understanding that date could be changed if a guest minister cannot be scheduled. The service will be heard in the parking lot on 91.3, and it will be videoed to upload to the internet.

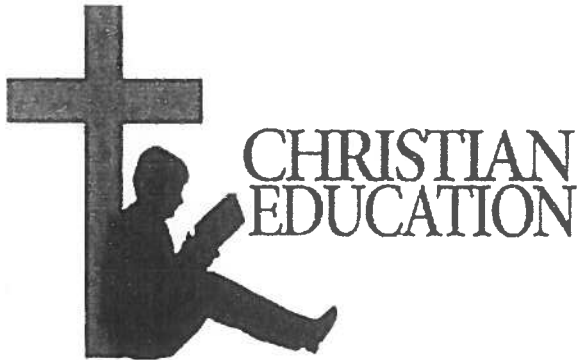
Elders approved the scheduling of an **Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m.** followed by a **"take home" biscuit breakfast** and an opportunity to make a donation to the **Mission Fund**.

CROPWALK 2021

Sandhills Crop Hunger Walk has been scheduled for **APRIL 18, 2021** as a VIRTUAL EVENT again this year. I hope everyone in the congregation who has walked in the event in the past, or has donated to those who have walked will consider making a donation to the cause. You may donate by sending a check made out to **CWS Crop Walk** to the walk's treasurer: Chris Hunt, 460 S. Ashe Street, Southern Pines, N.C. 28387 or go on your computer to www.sandhillscrophungerwalk and follow the directions there to donate. Let's hope and pray this event will be "LIVE" next year so we can gather and walk as we have done so many times in the past. Thank you to all who send a donation; the need for help in areas affected by natural disasters, conflicts, high poverty, and COVID-19 is greater than ever.



Christian Education Ministry



The Christian Education Ministry will provide Easter bags for children and bookmarks for adults on Easter Sunday.

Our committee members will begin meeting soon. All members have received their vaccine or plan to receive it soon so we will meet at the church. Churches across North Carolina are examining Sunday School and seeking ways to be more impactful. Please talk with family and friends about the ways their churches are working or ideas they may have. Our committee will share these when we gather.

A brochure from Camp Monroe has been placed on the bulletin board outside the church office. You may also search online. They provide traditional camps, serve as a wedding venue, offer grandparent/grandchild weekends and more.

We welcome your input and would love for you to join us!

Wade Garner and Patti Burke

PNC NEWS – Stephanie Barber

I Want a Pastor and Now!

In all honesty, if you don't feel this way at the current moment, chances are you have felt this way at some point. Admittedly, the PNC is feeling "the crunch" and battle with bouts of impatience, fatigue, and discouragement. I mean, we've been at this a year now; what's the hold-up?

We are reminded that the call process averages 18 months (when not in the middle of a pandemic). While the pandemic does provide additional challenges, we trust in God's perfect timing and recognize that He is mightier than any force. At this very moment, God is preparing Culdee and Culdee's next pastor.



Like every newsletter, we thank you for your prayers, patience, and support. We do not take this for granted. Please continue to pray for the continued preparation of Culdee and our next pastor.

Congregational Care Ministry: Chairman Eve Williamson



Philippians 4: 6 Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Spring and Summer are very near. With it comes college and high school graduations. Please notify the office by May 1st if you or someone in your immediate family is graduating from high school or college so they can be recognized. We would also like the name of the school or college they are graduating from.

Reminder: May 1st is the deadline for Doris Moore Scholarship applications. You may pick up the forms from the table beside the Church Office. The Doris Moore Scholarship Committee will be meeting on May 9th @ 4:00 p.m.

If you have a homebound/senior family member who would benefit from our Card Ministry, please notify the Church office.

We would like to invite all men and women to join the Congregational Care Ministry. We are looking at different ways to serve our Church family. We need your creativity!

HAITI, HELP and HOPE MINISTRY

Lahai Roi School in Haiti has grown from 60 students to 400. Due to widespread poverty, most go without food at home. Pastor Sidor provides breakfast of a roll and peanut butter for \$500 a month. Lunch consist of rice and beans at a cost of \$1000 a month. God so graciously provides each day so these children can be fed!

The Haiti Help and Hope ministry sends money each month for salaries and breakfast.

Crosspoint Church in Georgia sends money for lunch each month. We learned from Pastor Sidor in December that he had only been able to feed the children breakfast 2 or 3 times a week. There were many empty tummies! A generous donor gave \$2000 to pay for 4 months of breakfasts. Since January the children have been served breakfast every day. That time is running out and we would like to start a campaign to raise \$2000 for 4 more months.



We all have loose change, a piggy bank, a jar, or bucket of coins. Please prayerfully consider donating to this campaign. If you have coins, they can be dropped off at the church office. Cash and checks are great too! The last time we filled our large coin tower, we raised \$1700! We can meet or beat that goal with your generosity!

For more info contact Nancy Howle @ 947-2306, or to schedule a "coin pick up"! Thank you so much!

Nancy Howle
nancy_howle48@hotmail.com

The Chancel Choir is back to rehearsals on Wednesday nights at 6:30. We are currently rehearsing in the sanctuary. We will not be singing In-person in the sanctuary yet but we are getting ready in anticipation for that day. If you would like to join in on the fun we would love to have you come for rehearsals. Everyone is to wear mask/face shields while rehearsing and present in the building



The String Ensemble is now on a regular rehearsal schedule of Tuesday nights at 6:00 in the fellowship hall. We have a couple of dulcimers that are in need of a musician if you think you might be interested in playing with this group. You do NOT need to know how to read music. If you have been a member in the past and had to take a hiatus we would welcome you to join us on any given Tuesday night. It is a lot of fun for everyone! Everyone is to wear a mask/face shield while rehearsing and present in the building.

If you see a loud "musical" crowd in the parking lot on Sat. April 3rd it will be the joint rehearsal efforts of Culdee and Community Presbyterians choirs for the outdoor Easter service. We will be having a dress rehearsal on Saturday at 11:00.



I would like to thank all of the musicians that have helped with the videoing this past year. I would not attempt to mention one name because you are too numerous. It has been a tremendous endeavor, but thanks to all who helped make it possible, we were able to continue worship through the pandemic. It has been such a blessing to hear how our music has evolved through creativity and necessity. It has also been exhausting! But God has definitely been in control and I sure pray He will continue to be so.

Musical Blessings!

Beverly



Hey there church family! This month many of our youth are in full swing with football, lacrosse, soccer, basketball, baseball, softball, dance, scouts, and other activities. In addition to extracurricular activities, most of us will be returning to school five days a week on March 29th. Please pray for both the students and staff of Moore County Schools as we return. We put together Easter baskets and cards to send to our shut-ins this month and hope our small gifts will bring a smile to their faces!

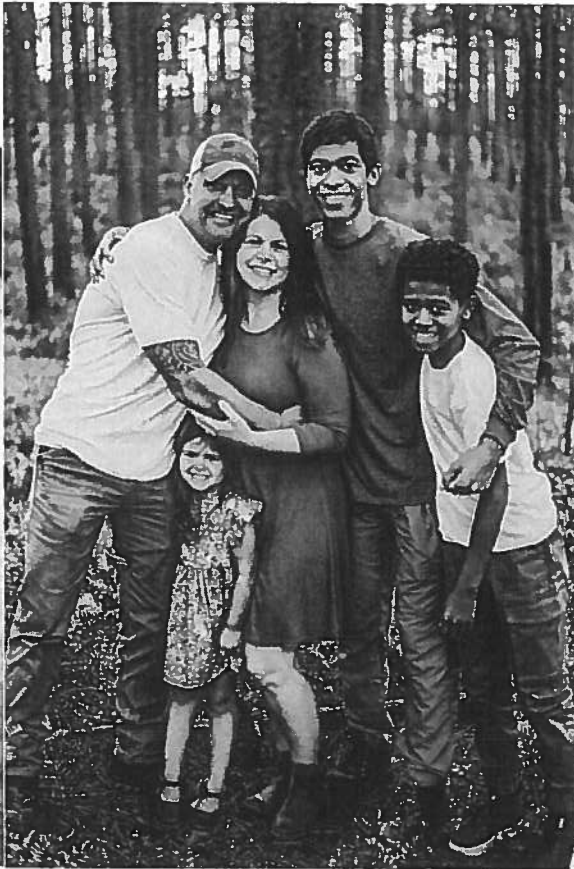
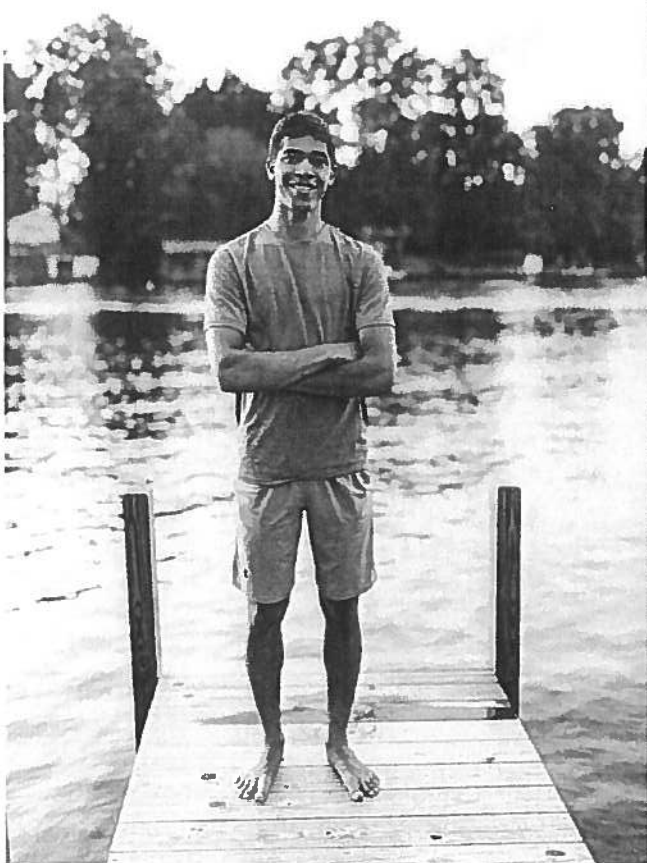
Please pray for our three seniors, Jaiden, Braxton, and Adin (and their families), as they prepare to graduate and begin their future! Although very exciting, this is also a challenging time for seniors. They are all taking AP classes, participating in sports, and working while juggling scholarship applications and preparing to leave home and be independent. Speaking of seniors, our Senior Highlight for this month is Jaiden Washington!

Jaiden is the son of Ryan and Celeste Marino, the best big brother to Gavin and Brynley. He is a senior at Pinecrest High School. Jaiden is in three AP classes and maintains a 4.4 GPA. He plays outside linebacker on the Varsity Football Team and is also on the Track and Field Team. He is in National Honor Society, is a Boy Scout with Troop 98 in West End and Occoneechee Lodge Order of the Arrow member. Jaiden completed his Eagle Scout Project this year, organizing an event where church and community members made over 80 blankets to donate to the Moore County Children's Advocacy Center in Carthage. Jaiden also made a child-size picnic table for the Center. He plays the cello and guitar and loves to read, swim, wakeboard, and spend time with his family, friends and pets! Jaiden is resilient, helpful, and disciplined. He is always willing to help others and never complains about anything. We will miss his humble, gentle leadership in youth group for sure!

Jaiden has received Congressional Nominations and Appointments to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD and the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY. He has also been accepted at The Citadel and Appalachian State University. Jaiden has chosen to accept his appointment to the United States Naval Academy! This is an incredible accomplishment, as only 8% of applicants receive an appointment! He will have a very short summer and report to USNA around July 1, 2021. He will experience "Plebe Summer" for seven weeks and will not be able to see or call his family during that time so prayers for strength and endurance will be greatly appreciated! Upon graduation after four years at USNA, Jaiden will be required to serve in the United States Navy for five years. We are so proud of you Jaiden and can't wait to see what God has planned for your life! Go Navy!

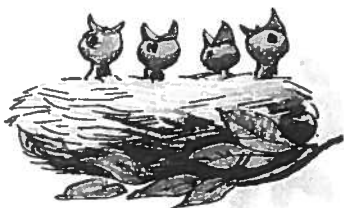
Thank you all for supporting LEGACY!

Celeste Marino and our amazing youth



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Kelly Curlee	01	Susan Jackson	11	Joshua McKenzie	23
Blake Lea	02	Darrell McKenzie	12	Margaret Holman	23
Faye Ritter	05	Aemon Barber	12	Matt Howle	23
Rhett Cole	05	Alston Willcox	14	Matt Williamson	25
Hunter Cox	07	Steve Carrico	16	Rick Halverstadt	28
Roger Craven	08	Mark Cole	18	Jamie Martin	28
Michelle Seawell	09	Tim Lea	18	Ian Stewart	28
Larry Sears	09	Ronald Bowen	20	John David Cuff	30
Asher Shields	09	Robert Barber	20		



FOR INFO: If you miss seeing the wreaths on the doors of the sanctuary, they are being left off for a while to discourage the birds from building nest and raising their young on the church doors. We are trying to protect the freshly painted doors. After spring, we will put them back up. Thanks!



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:

The Finance Ministry is still meeting in the Session Room following its regular schedule of the second Sunday of the month. The Session meeting follows at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Church members are welcome to attend.

Financial Status:

The Sandhills Accounting Services February 2021 Financial Report shows that the monthly income was about \$25.00 short for paying February bills but overall, the church is holding steady financially. The Liquid Asset accounts indicate 9.42 months of operating funds, 6 months of which are reserve funds for emergencies. The Presbytery recommends 1 year of reserves but a previous Culdee session set a goal of 6 months of reserves. Reserves are growing currently because the salary for a full-time pastor is not being paid.

The transactions for the investments approved by the Session at the February meeting have been completed. The 6-months reserve funds will remain secure in CDs.

Savings, CDs and Investments:

Currently Culdee has all three types of accounts. They each serve the church's needs differently. The Finance Ministry's job is to communicate together and with the Culdee Investments Committee who consult financial experts as needed. The Culdee Investments Committee then makes a recommendation to the Finance Ministry explaining the type of account that will provide the most growth on gifts and contributions given to God balanced with an appropriate level of risk. After discussion, the Finance Ministry makes a recommendation to the Session and the Session decides whether or not to approve the recommendation.

For instance, the Sarah Ann Fortune Fund is an account established to continue into perpetuity (forever). Due to its purpose, is not an account that will be drained of funds rapidly; therefore, it was decided to invest those funds with a professional investment company for them to oversee. The risk is moderate and its earnings will go up and down as the market does. But since the fund is for perpetuity, the year's end historically shows greater earnings than a savings account or CD.

Culdee also has monies called Liquid Asset Funds. The 6-month reserve is part of this money. The Finance Ministry recommended that money over the 6-month reserve be invested for maximum growth and the 6-month reserves continue in CDs for the time being.

Lightning Strike & Insurance Update:

The lightning-damaged television in the Fellowship Hall has been replaced and is reconnected to the church's WIFI network. Additionally, the sound board for the sound system in the Sanctuary has been replaced with the most current technology. The company completing the insurance work has included training as part of the installation contract. Beverly Dunlop will be looking for interested folks to volunteer for the training session.

The amplifier for the chimes has not arrived. Once that is replaced and it is determined there is no further damage, this portion of the claim will be complete.

Currently the insurance team is waiting on the evaluation from the electrician concerning potential electrical issues affecting the sanctuary lights and the irrigation pump for the sprinkler system. These items will be treated as another portion of the original claim should lightning be the culprit. Once these two issues are resolved, the insurance claim should be complete and the church reimbursed for the remainder of costs by the insurance company.

Copier Contract:

The contract for the church's copier has undergone the bid process and is almost complete. A new contract is expected to be signed before the existing contract expires in May. It will cost less monthly and provide more and faster copies.

Repairs:

Culdee has been blessed through the years to have folks that felt pride in and took responsibility for, not only providing quality buildings, but maintaining them in a manner that honors God. Before the interim pastor left, a team of ladies drew up a list of repairs needed around the manse, much of which has been completed. There are additional areas in the basement from previous water damage that need to be addressed - replacing sheetrock, trim, molding and painting. Buildings always need attending and maintaining.

Appreciation:

Culdee continues to provide worship opportunities and is able to maintain the facilities built for the glory of God to do His work due to you. The continued support of the Culdee Family is appreciated! **Thank you!**

NEWSLETTER POLICIES

- The Pastor of Culdee shall serve as the Editor over all content.
- The articles from each committee shall report only actions taken and events and actions which will occur in the future.
- Due to stewardship of resources, all reports shall be a single page or less with double spacing using a Times New Roman font, and for editing purposes, in Word format.
- Exception for the Finance Committee Report – one page or less for the committee's report; however, all numeric pages needed for the monthly report are to be used.
- Exception shall be granted for the Pastor's article; though, every attempt should be used to keep to the one-page limit.
- There shall be a proofreader to insure grammatical content.
- Committees should make their reports by the 20th of the month in order to offer sufficient time for formatting and proofreading.
- The Pastor and Administrative Assistant shall have the right to cancel the newsletter production or adjust the date of publication due to work load or paucity of reports.





Pretzel Sticks

1 Whole & 1 Half
Cross - Colossians 2:14



Raisins

Jesus' Blood
Ephesians 1:17



Empty Egg

Plastic Easter Egg
Empty Tomb - Luke 24

Keep the Egg Empty, don't use the egg to fill up with the snacks.



Gold Fish

Be Fishers of Men!
Matthew 4:19



Round Cracker or Vanilla Wafer

The Stone Rolled Away from the Tomb
Luke 24:2



Life Savers

Jesus saved us!
1 Corinthians 5:13



White Jelly Beans or Marshmallow

Our Sins are washed away! 1 John 1:9



Sweet Treats

Taste and see that the
Lord is good - Psalm 34:8

The Sweet Treat can be any kind of candy.

Easter Story Snack Mix

CourageousChristianFather.com

CourageousChristianFather.com/easter-story-snack-mix-printable/



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 rest of April will be:

April 11, Rev. Jim Morgan

April 18, Mr. Willie Suggs

April 25, Ms. Cathy Haynes

Weekly Worship Services

Sundays:

Online Service-At your convenience

Drive-In Service – 10:00 a.m.



Wednesday Evening:

Brief weekly devotion and prayer

Contact Us: Phone (910) 295-6685 www.culdeechurch.net culdeepresbyterian@gmail.com