

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS**

Coming up December 9, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. – The Culdee Children/Youth will be presenting a Christmas musical “A Rockin’ Royal Christmas”, A Higher Calling to a Higher King. This musical has a story line taking us on a journey back in time with King Herod and his hired investigator Sherlock Watson. Gail Meeks, Minister of Music; her assistant, Gail Farmer, and all the children and youth have been practicing and putting many hours into this musical so we’re in store for a big blessing.

Following the musical, a reception/party will be held in the Fellowship Hall for everyone. Refreshments will be served, and gifts will be handed out to the children by a special guest! We would welcome any homemade (or store-bought) cookies or goodies. Thanks!

May you all have a Blessed Christmas,  
Larry Furr, Chairman

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**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN’S NEWS**

**Duties For the month of December:**      Nursery: Circle 2      Flowers: Circle 1

A big thank you to the Culdee men for a wonderful Thanksgiving morning breakfast and to June Stewart for the Thank program. We all have so much to be thankful for.

Just look at the beautifully decorated sanctuary. Thanks to Circle 1 for doing an outstanding job.

Don’t forget the Women’s Presbyterian Scholarship applications are due by Feb. 14, 2013. No applications will be accepted after this date. Applications can be picked from the table outside the church office.

Thanks to everyone that brought gifts for Barium Springs. I know the children and the staff there really appreciated all the gifts. We are so blessed, and it’s a good feeling when we can share with others that are in need.

Don’t forget the Christmas Dinner, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is invited.

Jewell Vest, PW Moderator

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**THE ADVENT WREATH**

The Advent wreath’s a circle, a tribute without end,  
Celebrating the coming of our Savior, Lord, and Friend.  
Each candle lit bears witness to faith and love of Him,  
Who came to die upon a cross to save our souls from sin.

We welcome Christ into our lives, as we watch candles glow  
at the advent of His coming, bringing peace to earth below.  
The Christ candle is the brightest; may it shine throughout the earth,  
Signifying souls are blessed because of Jesus’ birth  
- Annette Sharpe

**WORSHIP NEWS**

November has been a good month. We have many people on our sick list, please remember these folks in your prayers. We hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving. While Pastor Joe is traveling to Israel(11/26 – 12/05), please keep him in your prayers.

Sunday, December 2nd is the first Sunday of Advent; Rev. Archie Stevens will be filling the pulpit while Pastor Joe is away. Remember Rev. Stevens in your prayers, and thank him for bringing the Lords message.

Our Choir is second to none, and they have been working hard on the Christmas Cantata which you do not want to miss. This will be on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. On December 24th we will have our Christmas Eve Service, the lighting of the Christ Candle, and Communion as we celebrate the birthday of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

We will also collect Doris Moore Scholarship money on December 2nd.

Thanks for all who have volunteered for the many various jobs this year, and we wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

John McKenzie, Chair

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**WORSHIP CD's**

Did you know that we record our services of worship? CD's of each week's service are available if you happen to miss a week, or wish to share it with someone you know. If you are interested in getting a copy of the service, please see the table outside the office following the worship service. You can also contact the office, and we will see that one is prepared for you.

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**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Dee Anderson	01	Luke Black	14	Abby Whitaker	22
Matt Halverstadt	03	Betty Lois Frye	14	Peggy Gibbs	23
Tim Howle	03	Dakota Carlyle	14	Lillie Cagle	25
Joan Altman	04	Donald Parks	15	Brent Thomas	25
Johnny Harris	05	Chris Bobo	16	Denise Grandolfo	26
Jodi Caddell	06	Douglas Meeks	16	Susan Gribben	27
Russell Whitaker	07	Art McKenzie	18	Everette Parsons	27
Darrell Parsons	07	Jean Wright	19	Camrey Vest	28
Jim Dalton	08	Jill Black	20	Jennifer Jordan	29
Lily Cox	09	Kelsey Thompson	20	Ann Savage	30
Nicholas Fortune	10	Betty Jo Lea	20	Mark Thompson	30
Patrick Fields	12	Gwyn Cox	21	Cullen Craven	30
Ed Taylor	12	Michael Salargo	22		

**CULDEE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**WORSHIP PLANS DECEMBER 2012**

**DECEMBER 2, 2012**  
**(Advent 1—Guest Preacher)**  
Scripture Lesson:  
Sermon:

**DECEMBER 23, 2012 (Advent 4)**  
Scripture Lesson: Luke 1:39-55  
Sermon: “Lessons from Mary”

**DECEMBER 9, 2012 (Advent 2)**  
Scripture Lesson: Luke 3:1-6  
Sermon: “A Faithful Witness”

**DECEMBER 24, 2012**  
**(Christmas Eve)**  
Scripture Lesson: Luke 2:1-20  
Sermon: “Good News of Great Joy”

**DECEMBER 16, 2012**  
**(Advent 3—Cantata Sunday)**  
Scripture Lesson: N/A  
Sermon: N/A

**DECEMBER 30, 2012**  
**(Guest Preacher)**  
Scripture Lesson:  
Sermon: “

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**Saturday Evening Prayer Time...change is in the air!**

Beginning in June, we started gathering on Saturday evenings for a Saturday Evening Prayer Time. The idea has never been about numbers...it is about fostering a season and spirit of prayer for this church and the mission God has entrusted to us. It is an opportunity to focus prayers on the work and ministry of Culdee Presbyterian Church as we prepare to begin a new week through study and worship. This is an informal gathering that typically lasts about a half hour.

Beginning in January, we are making two changes to the Saturday Evening Prayer Time. **First**, we are moving to 5:00 p.m. It seems that 6:00 falls right in the middle of dinner and makes it difficult for some to attend. **Second**, we will move from the sanctuary into the Church Parlor, behind the sanctuary. This should give us a more comfortable and intimate setting where we can join together in the presence of God. If you are unable to join us, perhaps you can make time in your schedule to specifically pray for the ministry of our church.

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**HEALTH KITS**

Thanks to all who recently donated health kits; a box of 16 kits was recently mailed to Church World Services. Keep the kits coming! Put a hand towel, a washcloth, a bar of soap, a toothbrush, six bandaids, a WIDE-TOOTHED comb, and a pair of nail clippers in a large ziplock bag. DON'T add toothpaste; it will be added at the shipping center. Leave them in the sunroom!

*"Behold, the Virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us." Matthew 1:23*

Growing up, there were three signs that Christmas was coming: first was the Norelco commercials, where Santa was sledding through the forest on top of a Norelco electric razor; second, was the arrival of the Sear's Christmas Wish Book; and third, stores were decorated for the holidays, which usually occurred around Thanksgiving. Once these three items were checked off, we knew it was time to begin preparing for Christmas. Sometimes it is difficult today to tell when it is Christmas and when it is only Halloween—Christmas decorations in the stores have almost become a year-around spectacle.

With the stores pushing Christmas earlier and earlier, it is becoming easier and easier to lose sight of what Christmas is all about. While exchanging Christmas presents and visiting with family and friends is important, they do not speak to the true meaning of the season, which is to celebrate the birth of God's Son, our Savior. The above text from the Gospel of Matthew contain the words spoken to Joseph as he was contemplating quietly dismissing Mary after learning she was expecting a child. In this brief exchange, the angel announces to Joseph that the child Mary is carrying is no ordinary child, but is in fact, God present in the world with us. This seemingly simply statement reminds us that God's love for us is not content to love us from a distance, but He longs to be with us in order to teach us and share in our lives.

It is more important than ever that we keep this meaning of Christmas, not only in our hearts, but also share it with others. For the past several years, we have heard stories of how businesses prohibit their employees from wishing anyone a "Merry Christmas" but must use the generic "Happy Holidays". Many of us have seen articles and pictures where the American Humanist Association is undertaking an ad campaign in Washington, D.C. They will have ads on the sides of city buses which will read, "Why believe in a god? Just be good for goodness' sake." While the idea of being good during the holidays may work well in the lyrics of a song, that is not what Christmas is about.

Christmas is a celebration of the birth of God's Son. It is the celebration of God reaching out to all of humanity with good news of love and grace. As we celebrate Christmas, let us not only keep its true meaning in our hearts and minds, but may we proclaim it to everyone we meet. Why believe in a god? Because.....He loves us enough to send His Son into the world to be "the way, the truth and the life."

- Pastor Joe

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**RECHARGE BIBLE STUDY!!!**

In a couple of weeks, we will be winding down our study of the book of Esther. At that time, we will take a few weeks break for the Christmas holidays. In January, I want to invite you to join us for a new, short-term study—“What do Presbyterians Believe?”

“What do Presbyterians Believe” will be a short-term study to explore some of the basic beliefs and core principles that we hold. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This is a great time to engage in some fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ, lift our voices in praise through a couple of songs, and strengthen and deepen our faith in Jesus Christ through the exploration of scripture and theological doctrines. So, bring your Bible, your friends and neighbors, and join us...we look forward to seeing you!

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**THANK YOU!**

Angela and I, along with Jacob and Louise, wish to say thank you for the generous welcome and appreciation you have extended to us since we moved last January. We feel very blessed each day to be able to serve and be a part of this congregation. On November 11, you again demonstrated the love that defines Culdee Presbyterian Church as you offered an Appreciation Luncheon for my family and I. “Thank you” seems inadequate and yet, in its simplicity, it is just what we want to say. Also, thank you for the generous gift card...it was very handy in helping me prepare for my recent trip to Israel. We continue to give thanks to God for the opportunity to be here and look forward to whatever He has in store for us over the coming years.

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**CHRISTMAS DINNER**

The Presbyterian Men encourage ALL members of the congregation to attend the CHRISTMAS DINNER at 6:00 p.m. on December 7. Join them in the fellowship hall for a wonderful meal and a time of joyful fellowship.