

# The Culdee Connection Newsletter



*Culdee Presbyterian Church*

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## DECEMBER WORSHIP INFORMATION

Sermon Series: "Hope is on the Way..."

### **DECEMBER 4**

Matthew 3:1-12

"Waiting in Faith"

### **DECEMBER 11, 2016**

December 11:2-11

"Waiting in Hope"

### **DECEMBER 18, 2016**

Matthew 1:18-25

"Waiting and Adopted"

### **DECEMBER 24, 2016 (7:00 P.M.)**

Luke 2:1-14

"The Birth of Hope"

### **DECEMBER 25, 2016 (10:00 A.M.)**

Luke 2:15-20

"Hope Realized"

**CHRISTMAS EVE/DAY SCHEDULE:** Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m.  
Christmas Day, one service at 10:00...NO Sunday School!

# *From the Pastor's Desk...*

**CHRISTMAS GIFT:** Christmas is an absolutely beautiful time of year...but it is also a very busy and hectic time of year. Sadly, it seems that more and more people lead busy and hectic lives not only during the Christmas season but throughout the year. We are too busy to take care of ourselves...too busy to sit quietly and catch our breath...too busy to spend the afternoon with a friend not doing much of anything other than being together. One of the modern dangers is that many of the things we say we love to do or say are important for us just don't make it into our busy schedules.

I love how in Luke's version of the birth of Jesus the shepherds who are busy working, seem to leave their sheep unattended in order to see the newborn baby. Later, during Jesus' ministry, he often left the disciples with large groups of people or to travel to the next town, while he stole away into a secluded place for prayer and time with God. We desperately need to receive the gifts that these two stories share with us...the importance of making time to be with Jesus.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus...what gift can we give to him? As we answer his call in our lives to be his people...what will that look like? My prayer is that we will all answer his call by making our relationship with Jesus Christ an important priority in our lives. The obligations and commitments we have in our lives are important, but I would hope that we would all see our faith in the one through whom we find forgiveness of sins and the promise of new life would be the most important commitment we can make...because honestly, it is a commitment that can change all the other commitments in our lives. Make spending regular time with Jesus a priority...in Bible study/reading, worship, and in being a part of the community of faith! This Christmas, enjoy all the gifts you receive, but take the time to give of yourself to the Son of God who is, himself, the greatest gift we have ever received.

**FELLOWSHIP TIME...ALL ARE INVITED:** Don't forget that everyone is invited to a time of fellowship between the REACH Service and Sunday School. This is a great opportunity to visit with friends and develop new ones.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Do you have a Sunday School class? If so we look forward to seeing you again this Sunday. If you are not currently in a Sunday School class, I want to encourage you to come find one that meets your needs. We currently offer classes for children & youth plus two different adult classes.

**SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE!** Hope you will plan to join us on Sunday mornings! Whichever service of worship you attend we hope you will be sure to plan to be with us for the time of fellowship beginning around 9:30.

8:20—The REACH Worship Service (in the Fellowship Hall)

9:30—Coffee & fellowship

9:45—Sunday School

11:00—Worship (in the Sanctuary)

-Pastor Joe



## OUT REACH NEWS

### HAITI MISSIONS AT CULDEE

**APPARENT PROJECT**.....The cereal boxes we have been collecting were shipped to Rays of Hope in Grand Rapids, MI. on November 15, 2016. Rays of Hope for Haiti is a sea container ministry. Our 20x14x10 inch box will be loaded in a container and shipped to Apparent Project in Haiti. A BIG thank you to all the cereal eaters!

One cereal box can make 50 beads and create 11 jobs in Haiti.

- 1 person to sort boxes by color
- 1 person to cut boxes
- 1 person to roll the beads
- 1 person to coat with glue
- 1 person to varnish
- 1 person to take beads off stick and sort by color
- 1 manager for quality control
- 1 jewelry maker to string beads
- 1 manager to check sizes
- 1 packer to pack boxes
- 1 driver to deliver to shipping company

They use over 400 cereal boxes a day, so they always need more!

We have sold almost all of the jewelry we ordered from Apparent Project. There are still Christmas ornaments available. We were able to send \$1575 to Apparent Project and to date have made \$1250 for breakfast at the LaHai Roi School in Haiti. Breakfast consists of a roll with peanut butter and a cup of water at a cost of 15 cents per day per student.

Thank you again to everyone who participated in this worthwhile project, either by collecting boxes or by purchasing the beautiful jewelry and ornaments!

Blessings to you all, Nancy Howle

**YOUTUBE:** If you go to my YouTube channel you will find several video offerings to help you in your walk of faith and with staying connected to Culdee Presbyterian Church. On Mondays (typically) I post a video of the sermon from Sunday. On Tuesdays I post the latest installment of the iMPACTS video teaching series...rather short videos to offer you help and tips in your faith journey. And on Fridays I post the newest Culdee Video Update which shares with you the latest news about what is going on in worship as well as upcoming events in the life of the church.

You can find my YouTube channel by going to YouTube ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)) and doing a search for Rev. Joseph Washburn. And there you go...the videos should be there before you in three different playlists. Have fun!

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Communion & Candle Light Service  
at 7:00 p.m.

### CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

One service t 10:00 a.m. NO Sunday School!

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women began supporting the children/youth of Children's Alliance, formally Barium Springs, Christmas of 2013. This year, the Angel tree was decorated with 100 angels, *each with* an item requested for the youth at Children's Alliance. These gifts may be the only gifts these youth receive, your support is greatly appreciated. Lori Fees joined us December 4<sup>th</sup> and collected the gifts.

A special thank you to June Stewart. June presented the Thank Offering program during the delicious Thanksgiving breakfast. For those who prepared breakfast, thank you!

The women of Circle 3 will cover the nursery in December.

The women of Circle 2 were responsible for decorating the sanctuary this Christmas season. Join me in thanking them, the sanctuary is beautiful!

Kim Cole, PW Moderator

## PRESBYTERIAN MEN

The men will have their monthly meeting on Thursday, January 26, at 7:00 pm. All men and young men are encouraged to attend for a time of business, food, and fellowship.

Wade Garner, PM President

**Christmas Eve  
Service  
At 7:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Day  
Service  
At 10:00 a.m.**

## RECHARGE BIBLE STUDY

In January Angela Washburn will be wrapping up her study in the book of Hebrews. This New Testament book is one of the most clear links between the Old and New Testaments and is extremely relevant to what the church is facing today. Join us in prayer that the Holy Spirit will prepare our hearts and minds to hear and understand His word and then apply it to our lives as we seek to be God's faithful people in a world that is increasingly hostile to the gospel.

# FINANCE MINISTRY

Season's Greetings from the Finance Ministry.

The Finance Ministry met Sunday, November 13 at 4:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The Harvest Festival was a fun filled weekend, and after all expenses for the festival were paid, it yielded a total net profit of \$19,385.49. Thirty-five percent (\$6,785.00) of these monies will go to Culdee missions. The remaining balance of \$12,649.00, will reside in the Harvest Festival Fund, to be used as needed by Building and Grounds Ministry for maintenance, repair and equipment replacement activities.

The October expense report reflects that Culdee is currently in a financially stable position to date. There are 5 months of operational reserves available for unexpected occurrences. The Session's goal is to have at least 6 months in reserve monies as a recommended minimum by The Presbyterian Church USA, hence, the reserve funds will be closely monitored by the Finance Ministry, with an intent to increase the reserves to 6 months.

The balance of the legally restricted funds is approximately \$79,863.31 with approximately \$266.00 yielded in interest. The Vanguard investments have a balance of approximately \$237,640.83 and approximately \$5,132.92 generated in interest. The Insurance settlement of \$14,000.00, reflected in the Buildings and Renovation Fund, will be used to repair Culdee church kitchen wall. Building and Grounds Ministry has been able to keep the electric and gas bill for Culdee significantly down in monthly costs, due to the new systems being significantly more efficient. The propane gas tank however, will need to be filled periodically, and this will be a cost to be considered when looking at any excess monies in this budgeted fund. Overall, it is expected that the electric and gas bill will be more efficient than in previous years.

All other funds are within their expected range. Negotiations were made to decrease the Manse monthly payment of DirecTV from \$125.68 per month, to \$56.03 per month. A credit of \$215.04 will be applied to future bills along with a \$75.00 monthly discount that will also be applied over the next two years. In addition, a down payment of \$10,000 dollars has been transferred to the Lynchburg Stained glass for the stained-glass window project. The company has measured the windows, and expects to have the project complete before Christmas.

The Endowment Fund Committee earnings have slightly decreased from last month. Fluctuations are to be expected at various times, due market changes. The Endowment fund monies, remain significantly above their initial investment.

Our Finance Policy and Procedures document, approved by the Session, will be put into effect in January 2017. The document outlines practices similar to those in place now; the main difference being that 2 Elders (active or inactive) will be present during money counting procedures. The Presbytery strongly recommends having such a written document in place.

The Session has approved painting the Fellowship hall, classrooms, ceilings, hallway, bathrooms, nurse, choir and kitchen. We will be using Brewer's Painting, the same company that was used to paint the Sanctuary. The new painting project will be funded from the Harvest Festival Fund, and monies donated to the Building and Grounds Fund. The wallpaper will be removed, and neutral colors, that are easy to maintain, will be used.

The 2017 Budget, approved by the Session, includes all projected costs, with the intent that monies will not have to be pulled from Designated Funds, as in previous years. Salaries and the combined costs to maintain each position (i.e. worker's compensation, FICA, Medicare) were combined into a single line item. The Session determined no changes, to the Pastor Terms of Call, would be proposed to the congregational membership for the 2017 budget year. There is a 10% or \$22,890 dollar increase in the budget, with a \$4,160.00 budget deficiency to begin the 2017 calendar year based on current tithing.

If you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please feel free to direct them to a Finance Ministry member. We humbly and graciously appreciate your continued input and support.

Finance Ministry members are as follows: Tim Lea, Chairman, Danny Aldridge, Vice Chair, Jene Bowen, Art McKenzie, Mark Thompson, Jim Dalton, Ann Savage, Jim Stewart, Pastor Joe Washburn, and Cate Short Frederick.

The next Finance Ministry meeting will be held on Sunday, December 11, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

*After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. Matthew 2:9-10.*

Merry Christmas.

Respectfully submitted in Christ,

Cate Short Frederick

# December 2016

December 2016

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
4	5	6	7	8	2	3
11	12	13	14	15	9	10
18	19	20	21	22	16	17
25	26	27	28	29	23	24
					30	31

January 2017

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 27	28	29	30	Dec 1	2	3
8:20am Reach Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth Meet	10:30am Prayer Group 1	6:30pm Handbells	10:00am Day Circle 6:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm J.A.M Practice 7:00pm Choir Practice	9:00am Quilting 12:00pm Men Of God 7:00pm Circle 2 Laine Lea	Angel Tree Gifts due today 6:00pm Church-wide Christmas Dinner	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:20am Reach Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth Meet	10:30am Prayer Group 1	6:30pm Handbells	10:00am Day Circle 6:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm J.A.M Practice 7:00pm Choir Practice	9:00am Quilting	EWVFD CHRISTMAS DINNER	Presbytery Meeting, Sanford
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Congregational Mtg. Doris Moore Off. 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 4:00pm Christmas Concert & Party		6:30pm Circle 3 Teresa Cole's home		9:00am Quilting	Charlotte Cox Wedding Rehearsal	Charlotte Cox Wedding
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Session Dinner 8:20am Reach Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth Meet						7:00pm Christmas Eve Communion Candlelight Service.
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10:00am WORSHIP SERVICE				9:00am Quilting		