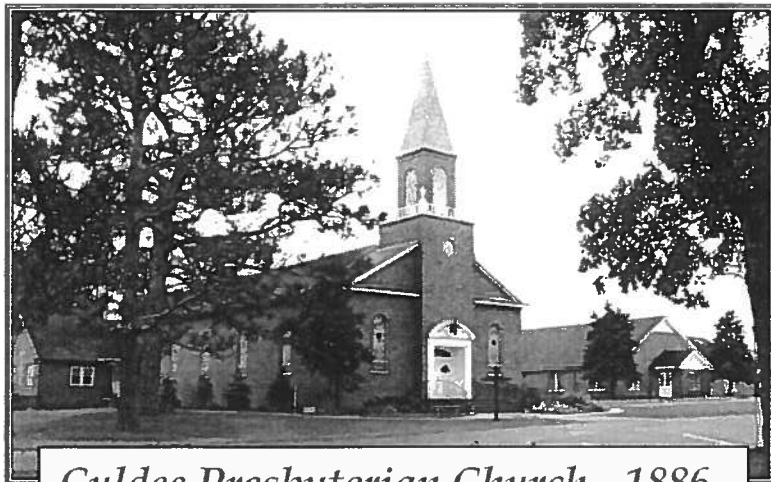


The Culdee Connection Newsletter

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Culdee Presbyterian Church - 1886

DECEMBER 2014



**MERRY CHRISTMAS &
A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

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916 Hwy 73, West End, NC 27376
Phone: (910) 295-6685

email: culdee@embarqmail.com -

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DECEMBER

December 7

Covered dish luncheon following the 11:00 worship to celebrate the ministry of Gail Meeks at Culdee Presbyterian Church.

December 14

Annual Meeting of the Congregation following 11:00 service of worship. (We will have one, combined, service of worship due to the congregational meeting.)
Children's Christmas Pageant & Party! Join us at 6:00 in the sanctuary for the annual Christmas Pageant. Following the production we will move to the Fellowship Hall for snacks and fellowship.

December 21

Lessons and Carols: During the 8:20 a.m. REACH Service we will continue our Advent journey with a Lessons and Carols style service. Come join us for some of your favorite Christmas carols and scripture passages.
Choral Cantata: Our 11:00 service will be a special day as our choir will lead our worship with the presentation of this year's Christmas Cantata.

December 24

Christmas Eve Service: Join us on Wednesday, December 24th at 7:00 for our annual Christmas Eve Candle Light & Communion Service.

From the Pastor's Desk...

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and lived among us..."
(John 1:1 & 14)

These verses from John perhaps capture the essence of Christmas. Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, was born into the world in human flesh. We refer to this as the incarnation, the perfect union of human and divine natures in Jesus Christ. May we continue to celebrate the presence of Christ in our lives even as we work to make him known in the lives of people around us. And in so doing, may we keep alive the joy of Christmas as we embody the words of the angels to the shepherds in the field, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

Congregational Meeting: On Sunday, December 14, we will hold our annual meeting of the Congregation. The meeting will convene following the 11:00 service of worship. In an effort to make it easier for people to attend, and to encourage more folks to come, we will have one combined service of worship that day... at 11:00 in the sanctuary. Two things we will do at this annual meeting is to receive the budget which was approved at the November session meeting (the approved budget is included in this newsletter for your review); plus we will act on a proposed change in the pastor's terms of call.

Sunday School: Where are you at 9:45 on Sunday mornings? Well, we invite you to join one of our adult Sunday School classes. This is a great opportunity to nurture your faith and build a sense of community with those around you. We currently have a variety of options available to you in an effort to meet your needs. I encourage you to give it a try for 2 weeks and see where God is leading you. We look forward to seeing you there!

Newsletter Format: We realize that many people prefer to do their reading electronically... via their computer or smart phone. If you are one of those people and would prefer to receive your newsletter electronically please contact the church office (910-295-6685) and we will be happy to send you your newsletter as a PDF attachment in an e-mail rather than through the postal service.

Pastor Joe

WORSHIP INFORMATION DECEMBER 2014

DECEMBER 7, 2014

Isaiah 11:1-10

"From the Stump of Jesse"

DECEMBER 14, 2014

Matthew 11:2-11

"Go and Tell"

DECEMBER 21, 2014

Matthew 1:18-25

"The Otherness of Jesus" (meditation)

DECEMBER 24, 2014 (Christmas Eve)

1 John 4:7-12 (Luke 2:1-20)

"Love Came Down"

December 28, 2014

Luke 2:22-40

"A Gift of Glory"

A Letter of Thanks

Dear Gail,

Words cannot express our deep appreciation for your twelve wonderful years as our choir director. We'll always remember the laughter and tears, but mostly laughter over the years. Under your leadership we performed memorable cantatas, patriotic programs and children's programs. Your dedication and positive attitude encouraged us to do our best. Not only do we appreciate your musical talent, but also your spiritual guidance. We love your sense of humor and your passion for your Tar Heels. We will definitely miss your laughter and your smile.

Take a much deserved break and good luck with any future endeavors. You will be greatly missed.

With Our Deepest Love,

Culdee Adult and Children's Choir

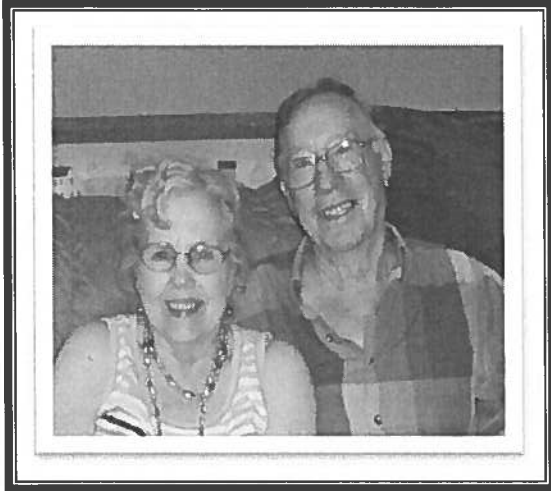
SYMBOLS OF ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

Christmas/Chrismon Tree: In all of society, perhaps the most common decoration for Christmas is the Christmas tree. Our use of Christmas trees is so widespread that we may have forgotten its beginning. According to tradition, the first Christmas tree was brought into his home by Saint Boniface who taught his followers to use the custom as a reminder of the everlasting love of God. Martin Luther, the great leader of the Protestant Reformation, added candles to the branches of his tree as symbols of Christ as the light of the world. When Chrismons, symbols of God's work in and through Jesus Christ, are placed on the tree, it may enable us to view every such tree as a reminder of God's great love in Jesus Christ. Chrismons are made using the colors of gold and white, the color of purity, light, and God's forgiveness, while gold represents God's glory.

Advent Wreath: One of the most recognizable symbols of Advent within the church may be the Advent wreath. The circle of the wreath, like God Himself, has no beginning and no end, and therefore symbolizes life without end; and the candles remind us that Jesus Christ is the light of the world. Within the wreath we place four candles, with one white candle in the center. Though traditions as to the meaning of the candles vary, typically the first candle represents hope, the second peace, and the third joy, and the fourth candle is love. In the middle is the white candle, the Christ candle, reminding us that Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Poinsettias: One of the most popular flowers of the Advent and Christmas season is the bright red poinsettia. The star-shaped formation of red leaves calls to mind the star found shining on that first Christmas night. The color of the flower is blood red, which reminds us of the male infants killed by Roman soldiers as King Herrod as well as the fact that this baby, born in a stable in Bethlehem, would be the Savior of the world and shed his blood on the cross of Calvary.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR CHURCH FAMILY FEATURING



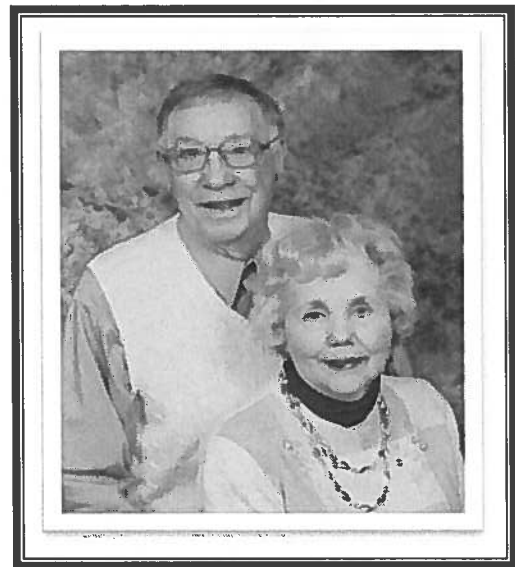
Jimmy & Carolyn Lea

Jimmy and Carolyn were married at Union Presbyterian Church on June 26, 1960. Their wedding took place immediately following the morning worship service. All that attended worship service that day attended their wedding. That was the start of a great union!! They have 2 daughters, Kim & Kristy and 1 son, Gregory. They have 4 grandsons Rocky, James, Travis & Garrett and 5 great-grandchildren, Abby, Aubrey, Kaylin, Liliana & Levi. Needless to say when there are family gatherings it is a packed house. Just think it all started with a young couple in love and now there are 19!! That's counting the son-in-laws, grand-daughter-in-laws and girlfriends. It's always a great time when the family gets together!!

Jimmy enjoys tending to his cows and has a few chickens, guineas, dogs and some gold fish in a small pond. The great-grandkids enjoy feeding the goldfish with "Daddy Jim's" help. He worked for Martin Marietta in Lemon Springs for 38 years, retiring in 2004. He worked many 60 hour weeks during that time. Since retiring he enjoys spending time with Carolyn. They now have time in the mornings for a daily Bible devotional reading and prayer. They also enjoy thrift store shopping, eating out and just having time to spend together. (TIME) being a key word. That was something they didn't have a lot of before

Jimmy retired. Carolyn is a housewife and has been for most of their married years. She was a stay at home Mom and later kept grandkids, nieces, nephews and/or friend's kids when needed. She still occasionally babysits when she's needed. They have the biggest hearts and so much compassion, setting a great example for family and others. This comes from their love for the Lord. One of Carolyn's favorite sayings is "Be sure that you have Jesus in your heart and that your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life". One of Jimmy's is "your word is your bond"..."if you tell someone you are going to do something you need to do it. If for some reason you can't you need to let them know." This probably came from the saying "If you tell your kids they're going to get a spanking for doing something wrong you need to carry through with that promise.", one of his grandmother, Mama Lea's sayings.

Jimmy and Carolyn have been members of Culdee Presbyterian Church for many years. Carolyn is a member of the choir (she so enjoys sharing her love for the Lord through singing and in giving her testimony). The Lea family has deep roots within the church with many a family member having sat on the pews at one time or another.



Cost of Living 1960

Yearly Inflation Rate USA 1.46%
Average Cost of new house \$12,700.00
Average Monthly Rent \$98.00
Cost of a gallon of Gas 25 cents
Average Cost of a new car \$2,600.00
Can of Beef Ravioli 30 cents
Loaf of Bread 20 cents
Average House Price 2,530

(Article by Kim, Kristy & Gregory)

CULDEE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2015 BUDGET PROPOSAL

	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
SALARIES & WAGES	2012	2013	2014	2015
Minister	45,266	48,785	48,785	48,785
Choir Director	19,265	19,765	19,765	19,765
Secretary	24,270	24,770	24,770	24,770
Youth Worker	6,000	6,500	6,500	6,500
Sub-Total	94,801	99,820	99,820	99,820
EMPLOYEE EXPENSES	2012	2013	2014	2015
Pension/Medical/Dental/Life Insurance	18,868	20,178	22,100	23,797
Professional Expenses	7,200	7,347	7,347	7,347
Manse Equity Fund	600	600	600	600
Worker's Compensation Ins.	800	800	800	800
Payroll Taxes & Medicare	3,789	3,900	3,900	3,900
Sub-Total	31,257	32,825	34,747	36,444
OFFICE OPERATING EXPENSES	2012	2013	2014	2015
Contract Printing	1,500	1,500	1,300	1,500
Newsletter Postage Permit	775	775	775	775
Office Stamps & Postage	450	450	400	400
Administrative Expenses	150	150	150	225
Office Supplies	4,750	5,000	5,000	5,000
Session Expense	0	200	100	200
Advertising	0	1,325	1,325	500
Fire & Liability Ins.	6,800	6,950	7,500	8,300
Church Van Insurance	0	0	450	600
OneCall Phone	0	0	800	800
Sub-Total	14,425	16,350	17,800	18,300
WORSHIP MINISTRY	2012	2013	2014	2015
Choir	300	300	0	0
Music	2,000	2,500	2,000	2,000
Guest Minister/Organist	600	1,000	1,200	1,200
Music Retreats	950	700	0	0
Instrument Maintenance	350	350	350	550
Revival Minister	600	1,000	1,500	1,500
Tape Ministry	300	250	250	250
Supplies for Worship	300	250	250	400

Sound Equipment	350	300	0	0
Nursery	0	1,250	800	1,000
Sub-Total	5,750	7,900	6,350	6,900
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY	2012	2013	2014	2015
Vacation Bible School	650	650	650	500
Sunday School Curriculum	2,950	2,950	2,950	2,500
Upper room	540	540	540	600
Christmas Party	275	275	275	275
Youth Fellowship Activities	1,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Youth Study Materials	290	290	290	200
Youth Camp & Conferences	600	500	500	500
Miscellaneous Expenses	200	200	0	0
Supplies & Materials Children's Church	200	200	200	200
Sunday School Social & Rally Day	0	300	200	250
Confirmation Class Materials	200	200	150	150
Sub-Total	6,905	9,105	8,755	8,175
BUILDING & GROUNDS MINISTRY	2012	2013	2014	2015
Utilities - Manse	4,200	5,500	6,000	6,000
Utilities - Electric	12,900	10,800	11,000	13,000
Utilities - Telephone	2,400	2,400	2,000	2,000
Utilities - Propane Sanctuary	5,400	5,500	5,000	3,000
Utilities - Propane Kitchen	600	500	400	400
Church & Manse Maintenance	4,800	8,000	4,500	3,000
Grounds Supplies & Equipment Maintenance	300	500	400	300
Yard Maintenance Contract	6,600	6,600	6,600	6,600
Cleaning Service	6,600	6,600	6,600	6,600
Cleaning Supplies	450	600	450	450
Termite Service	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,800
Fire Extinguisher Service	320	400	400	400
Water Bill	600	600	350	400
Door Wreaths	800	800	0	0
Church Van Expense	0	800	500	500
Sub-Total	47,670	51,300	45,900	44,450
CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY	2012	2013	2014	2015
Kitchen Supplies	850	1,200	1,000	1,500
Beverage Service	0	0	0	700
Funeral Expenses	175	200	200	200
Cards & Mailing	175	300	200	200

Miscellaneous Expenses	300	300	0	0
Flowers	450	500	500	440
Graduates Gifts & Recognition	100	250	100	250
Senior Luncheon	350	400	350	350
Lifeline	0	2,046	1,800	2,060
Sub-Total	2,400	5,196	4,150	5,700
OUTREACH MINISTRY	2012	2013	2014	2015
Presbyterian Benevolence	18,915	18,915	14,306	12,039
Per Capita	2,239	2,200	2,508	2,508
Local Benevolence	4,950	5,950	4,950	4,950
Missionary Support	4,600	4,600	2,600	2,600
Extended Missions	2,000	2,000	1,000	1,000
Family Promise Supplies	300	300	300	300
Sub-Total	33,004	33,965	25,664	23,397
Total	236,212	256,461	243,186	243,186
Per Week	4,543	4,932	4,677	4,677

CULDEE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PASTOR'S TERMS OF CALL
PROPOSED 2015

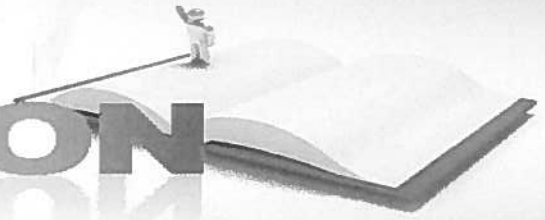
	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Proposed 2015</u>
Salary Bonus/Gifts/SECA/ Manse Equity	\$46,428	\$50,508	\$49,417	\$49,427
Manse Value*	\$13,055	\$14,201	\$13,929	\$13,957
Pension & Insurance** Pension/Disability/ Major Medical/ Dental Insurance/ Supplemental Life Insurance	\$19,660	\$21,843	\$22,756	\$23,797
Professional Expense Auto/Books/Dues/ Continued Education	\$7,200	\$7,704	\$7,347	\$7,347
Manse Utilities*** Electric/Phone/ Direct TV/Garbage/ Yard Maintenance	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$6,000	\$6,000
Four (4) weeks Paid Vacation Two (2) weeks Paid Administrative Leave				
TOTAL TERMS OF CALL	\$91,843	\$99,756	\$99,449	\$100,528

* Not paid to pastor, used in determining pension, insurance and taxes.

** Percentage set by the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

*** Not paid to pastor

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



The new Sunday school curriculum at Culdee is going well. Teachers are planning and prepared each Sunday with great lessons! We still have room in our classes. Please make one of your New Year's resolutions be Sunday School attendance, as well as committing to other worship and fellowship opportunities at Culdee.

We are never too old or too young to explore God's word. We hope to see you in the various classes in 2015!

REMEMBER...SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS AT 9:45 A.M.



Classes for All Ages

Look forward to seeing you there!
The Education Committee

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S NEWS

Wow! What a turn out for the Community Thanksgiving Service! A big thanks to all the women who helped with the planning and preparation of the Harvest table in the Sanctuary and the dinner and "cleanup" after the service. Thanks also, to the men that helped out.

A big thank you to Culdee Men, and a couple of ladies, for the wonderful Thanksgiving breakfast and to June Stewart for presenting the Thank Offering Program. \$ was collected to help those in need.

The Angel Christmas Tree! What can I say? It was a huge success! Thanks to all who participated. A total of 99 gifts were provided for those children who, otherwise, may have gone without if not for your loving kindness. Lori Fees, of Barium Springs, was elated and very appreciative of Culdee's generosity.

Ladies, the Culdee Men will be providing Christmas dinner for us and our family on Friday, December 5th. Good food and fellowship guaranteed! Hope to see you there!

A big thank you to Circle 3 for decorating the Sanctuary for the Christmas Season. It is beautiful!

Thanks to God for loving us so much that he sent us his Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Love to all,
Robin McKenzie, PW Moderator

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dee Anderson	01
Matt Halverstadt	03
Tim Howle	03
Johnny Harris	05
Jodi Caddell	06
Russell Whitaker	07
Darrell Parsons	07
Jim Dalton	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
Betty Jo Lea	20
Gwyn Cox	21
Michael Salargo	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

CULDEE CEMETERY

Our committee would like to update the OLD Cemetery records. Please let Wade Garner know at 910-295-6990 if you know of any family members, or anyone else who are buried elsewhere and no longer need their reserved plots in the old Section.

CULDEE PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S NEWS

The Presbyterian Men invite everyone to join them for a Church wide Christmas Dinner on Friday December 5th at 6:00 pm. Mark your calendars and plan to come out for good food and fellowship.

The Presbyterian Men will not meet on their regular night in December.

Sermons & Bible Studies

Visit www.timewithpj.blogspot.com for recordings of sermons, and Bible Studies, that you can listen to on-line or download to our computer to listen to later.

THE STORY

By Celeste Marino

Ever since I can remember, my Grandma Hartsell's Christmas Cookies have been in a plate on the counter at Christmas time. My Great-Grandma Hartsell passed way when I was 6 years old, but every year around the holidays we are reminded of her sweet spirit when my Mama and Uncle Wade start baking fruitcakes, and use the leftover candied cherries to make Grandma Hartsell's Christmas Cookies. I hope you enjoy them as much as we do!

Ingredients:

¼ cup butter	½ cup chopped pecans
1 cup light brown sugar	1 tablespoon carnation canned milk
1 large egg	2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon vanilla	½ teaspoon baking powder
½ cup red and green candied cherries	½ teaspoon salt

Directions:

Mix all ingredients. Form cookie dough into 2 rolls and cover in wax paper. Refrigerate overnight. Slice and bake at 350 for 8-10 minutes. Watch carefully, as you do not want them to overcook!



Getting to know our Church Family Featuring -



Harold Clayton

Harold was born on November 20, 1934 in Jackson Springs, NC. He was the youngest of 11 children born to Robert and Mildred Clayton. The family lived in Jackson Springs until Harold was 13 and then moved to Pinehurst. Harold attended West End school up to the 8th grade and went on to graduate from Pinehurst High School in 1953. After high school Harold worked in plumbing and electrical shops in Pinehurst and then entered the US Air Force in 1956. He was stationed at Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina until he was discharged in 1960. After returning to Moore County, Harold began working for the telephone company in Southern Pines (which would later become Sprint). He retired from Sprint in December 1996 after 35 years of service.

Harold met his future wife Sarah Cox from Sanford in 1964. They were married at Culdee in November 1965. They eventually built a house in Pinehurst and welcomed a daughter, Amber and a son, Matthew. Sarah began her 30 year teaching career at Union Pines High School and retired from Sandhills Farmlife in 1995.

Harold is an avid salt water fisherman and loves to fish for flounder and trout along the Outer Banks. He is also a die-hard St Louis Cardinals baseball fan. He had a cousin, Enos Slaughter, who played for the Cardinals in the 1940s. Harold attended his first major league

baseball game in Sept 2010 when he and Amber drove to Atlanta to watch the Cardinals play the Atlanta Braves.



You can also find Harold outside in his yard tending to the many trees, flowers and azaleas he has planted over the years. And no bird will ever go hungry or without a house to live in as long as he is yardmaster. But probably his most favorite thing to do is being grandpa to 5 year old grandson Griffin and 2 year old granddaughter Sydney. They are his treasure.

Harold joined Culdee Church in 1948. He always looks forward to the Harvest Festival and chicken stew dinner (in fact he is a fan of ALL chicken stew dinners), revival and fellowshipping with his Christian friends. He thanks you all for the support and prayers during Sarah's passing in April 2010 and also during his knee replacement surgery last August. He feels truly blessed to be part of this church and knows that God is surely at work here.

1934 World Series
St. Louis Cardinals d. Detroit (4-3)
Stanley Cup
Chicago d. Detroit (3-1)

LIFE IS BETTER WHEN YOU SHARE IT!

Share some time with shut-ins!
Share some time with those in need!
Share some time with concerns of others!
Share some time in prayer!
Share some time with God in Worship & Sunday School!
Share some time with your Church Family!
God gave us this time, please share it with others!

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this Everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love Another." John 13: 34-35

December 2014

December 2014

January 2015

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 30	Dec 1 9:00am Knitting	2	3 10:00am Day Circle 6:00pm Choir Practice	4 9:00am Quilting 6:30pm Circle 1 Lib Burgess 6:30pm Circle 2 Laine Lea	5 6:00pm Church-Wide Christmas Dinner prepared by the PM	6
7 Luncheon for Gail 8:20am Reach Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	8 9:00am Knitting	9 6:30pm Circle 3 Teresa Cole	10 6:00pm Choir Practice	11 9:00am Quilting	12	13
14	15	16	17 HOST FAMILY PROMISE 6:00pm Choir Practice	18	19	20
21 8:20am Reach Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Adult Cantata 11:00am Worship	22 9:00am Knitting	23	24 7:00pm Candlelight Communion Svc.	25 Christmas Day	26	27
28 8:20am Reach Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	29 9:00am Knitting	30	31	Jan 1, 15	2	3