

The Culdee Connection Newsletter



Culdee Presbyterian Church

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FEBRUARY 2016

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FEBRUARY WORSHIP INFORMATION

FEBRUARY 7, 2016

Mathew 3:13-17

“The Baptism of Jesus”

FEBRUARY 14, 2016

Mark 1:16-20

“Jesus Is Calling You”

FEBRUARY 21, 2016

Matthew 5:1-12

“Jesus Is Teaching You”

FEBRUARY 28, 2016

Luke 5:12-16

“Jesus Is Healing You”

CD's of the worship service are available on the table outside the office, or by contacting the church office.

From the Pastor's Desk...

Beyond a “Field of Dreams”: In 1989 Kevin Costner starred in a movie, “Field of Dreams.” Costner played a corn farmer in Iowa who was convinced by the voices he heard to build a baseball field in the middle of some of his corn fields. The voices repeatedly said, “Build it and they will come.” While everyone around thought he was absolutely crazy, he dutifully built the baseball field and sure enough, people came to relive their childhood while watching some of the great baseball players of the past play once again. There was once a time when the same mantra, “Build it and they will come” was true of churches. There was a time, in the not so distant past, where if a church held services or any other program members and visitors would turn out.

Today? Well, by all accounts the “Field of Dreams” reality that churches once enjoyed is now gone. There are no shortages of reasons and explanations available for why this is so...and many of them are quite valid. But part of the reason is that there are a lot of other competing opportunities in the world today than “back in the day.” Certainly we...the church and members of the church...don’t have to like or agree with this new reality, but it is a part of the reality of the world in which we live.

But let us remember a couple of things that Jesus said to his disciples before his ascension. First he gave them the Great Commission, “*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...*” We, the followers of Jesus Christ, are instructed to be witnesses in the world...sharing our faith and inviting others to come and experience the ways God is moving in our lives. Along with this challenge given to disciples and believers is a promise...“*And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*” We do not undertake this challenge alone. God is guiding us and leading us.

So here are some things I encourage you to do in an effort to help grow the Kingdom of God.

- ♦ Think of people that you know that do not have a church home;
- ♦ Take a few days to pray for them and ask God for guidance;
- ♦ Share with them the ministry of Culdee Presbyterian Church and invite them to join you one Sunday morning for one of our services of worship!

Ash Wednesday & Lent: Lent is the liturgical season leading up to Easter and it focuses our minds on our need to repent of our sins. On Wednesday, February 10, we will observe the beginning of Lent with a traditional Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. With prayers, hymns, scripture readings, and the imposition of ashes, this service reminds us of our fragile human nature and as well as our reliance on God. We are reminded that we cannot save ourselves. While we may be looking forward to Easter, and the joy it brings, we must first pass through the ashes with a spirit of repentance.

Thank You! On behalf of my family, I would like to say thank you for the wonderful luncheon on Sunday, January 17. Despite some early morning snow, and a quickly approaching football game, we had a good turn out and some wonderful food. I thank you for the opportunity to minister with you for the past four years and look forward to how God is continuing to lead us into the future!

Pastor Joe



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Vicki Heileman	01
Kathy Harris	01
Pryor (Jr.) Moon	03
John Keister	05
Jonathan Aldridge	06
Nathan Pate	06
Patrick Howle	07
Danny Aldridge	08
Kristen Balboni	08
Pete Bullard	08
Pat Bullard	10
Carolyn Lea	12
Rhonda Shields	12
Cathy Marion	12
Gavin Washington	12
Philip Parsons	12
Betty Black	12
Chasity McKenzie	15
Joseph Washburn	16
Linda Bryson	17
Taylor Ferguson	17
Sylvia Pusser	17
Martha Mathews	19
Don Williamson	20
Brooke Kemp	20
Daniel Jackson	20
Emma Ferguson	21
Gerald Wright	24
Bryan Fields	24
Diann Fortune	25
Madison Adams	25
Forrest Cox	25
Austin Aponte	27
Sarah Cox	28
Ben Maples	28
Kathleen Black	29

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S NEWS

All men are invited to join the Presbyterian men on Thursday February 25th at 7:00 pm for a meal and fellowship.

CEMETERY NEWS

Please remove any Christmas items from graves by March 1st. Any questions about graves call Wade Garner at 910-295-6990.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The church family enjoyed wonderful food and fellowship at our Pastor Appreciation Luncheon on January 17. On January 21, refreshments were provided for family and friends after the funeral service for Beth Ferrell, beloved daughter of Harold and Ellen Black.

Members of the congregation were invited to the "Harvest Festival Crafts Brainstorming" meeting on Saturday, January 30 at 9:00 am in the Session room. We ended the month with our Fifth Sunday activity on January 31. The movie, WAR ROOM was shown at 4:00 in the fellowship hall; a child friendly movie was shown at the same time in the Children's Church room. Popcorn and drinks were provided. Thanks to all who helped with one or more of the January events.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Spring Gathering for Coastal Carolina Presbyterian Women will be held Saturday, April 9, 2016 at First Presbyterian Church, Sanford, NC.

BLANKETS+ OFFERING! February will once again be the month we emphasize the Blankets+ Program of the Church World Services. This special offering will be taken up on Sunday, February 28.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

Pearl Frye and Darlene Valitutto were among 48 Presbyterian Women attending "Sabbath Rest—A State of Mind," the first in a three program series offered by Presbyterian Women of Coastal Carolina on Saturday, January 9, 2016 at Buffalo Presbyterian Church in Sanford, NC. Rev. Rebecca Kahnt, Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Laurinburg, NC was the speaker.

The presentation was based on Matthew 11:28-30. Rev. Kahnt spoke on Sabbath Rest, recognizing the need for a day of rest in our lives. This day might not be on Sunday, but a specific day for rest, refreshment, receptability, release and refocusing. The Sabbath should be a time for rest and worship, allowing the Holy Spirit to talk to us when we can give our undivided attention to listening and a time to nurture relationships. Rev. Kahnt was very passionate about attaining a time of Sabbath Rest.

The ladies of Buffalo PC provided a delicious lunch and time for fellowship that was enjoyed by all. Door prizes of the Buffalo Choir's recent Christmas CD's were given away in a drawing.

FINANCE MINISTRY NEWS

With the year 2015 behind us, the Finance Ministry wishes to share with you a summary of the church's financial position. It is our hope that the members of Culdee will be encouraged to continue their generosity throughout 2016, to meet, and/or exceed, Culdee's financial needs.

The December 31, 2015 Expense Report reflects General Income, Tithes and Offerings, with the Year to Date total of \$32,268.41 over the 2015 Budget.

This total number, includes the generous gifting of several members of our congregation during the month of December, 2015. Most recently, we received one tithe for \$5,000.00, two tithes of \$10,000.00 each, and one tithe for \$15,000.00, yielding a total of \$40,000.00.

The member giving the \$15,000.00 tithe has indicated a possible desire for the money to go into a designated fund. One gift of \$10,000.00 was made "in order to help the church stabilize" its financial position. These tithes were truly a Godsend and are greatly appreciated, as are all tithes. The Finance Ministry will continue to provide the congregation with information, both good and not so good, in an effort to be totally transparent with the financial needs of the church.

Currently, there are approximately 5 months, or \$90,000.00, in operating expense monies available in the liquid asset account. It has been, and, continues to be, the consensus of the Finance Ministry that the church maintain a minimum of 6 months operating expense monies in available liquid assets.

Culdee's newly established Endowment Fund is very liquid and conservatively invested. These monies, \$94,000.00, which are invested with Vanguard, can be withdrawn within 48 hours. The Endowment Fund investments can be viewed on line, by any member of the Church.

Furthermore, Culdee's Legally Restricted and Unrestricted Liquid Assets total \$342,999.19. Total Church Assets are \$3,992,249.23 which incorporates all Cash Assets and includes Buildings and Land.

As we move into 2016, and as requested by the Session, the financial information in the weekly church bulletin is now more readily comprehensible. The data clearly reflects a consolidation of monies and attendance, and indicates we are, indeed, a United church.

The new Intuit Quick Books Pro Financial Accounting Software has been installed for the 2016 budget year. Pat Shenkle, of Sandhills Accounting Service, LLC, is providing this service at no expense to Culdee. She will be available to help in any way needed during the transition. The new system should prove to be much less labor intensive.

We are very blessed to have the following congregational members volunteering their time on the Finance Ministry Team: Tim Lea, Chairman, Danny Aldridge, Vice Chair, Bob Beddingfield, Jene Bowen, Lionel Bryson, Jim Dalton, Art McKenzie, Mark Thompson, Ann Savage, Jim Stewart and Pastor Joe Washburn. These individuals meet monthly and review the trends of the church's expenses and income and to recommend ways to meet, or exceed, the financial needs of the church.

On behalf of Culdee, this ministry extends heartfelt thanks to each and every member of the congregation for your support and generosity in meeting the financial needs of Culdee Presbyterian Church.

Serving God, The Culdee Finance Ministry Team

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE NEWS

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing". John 15:5

We at Culdee, as the Holy Spirit works through us as One body, have been blessed to experience a level of soaring, to begin this 2016 year. Surely we could not, and would not, have accomplished such height, working in our own strength.

Our church family gave generously at the close of the 2015 calendar year.

The Endowment Fund Committee met on January 03, and January 17, 2016, and were humbled by the outpouring of offering and support from our Church family.

Some of the generous end of the year 2015 offering, as voted on by the Session, will be invested through the Endowment Fund Committee. We, the Committee members, are honored to be entrusted with such an investment. We remain committed to the highest level of integrity in order to invest to the best of our knowledge while seeking His guidance.

For those who show an interest in the ever changing stock market, you may be aware the market has declined since the opening of this calendar year, 2016. While the decline has been significant for some investors, as of January 17, the Culdee Endowment Fund Vanguard Investments of \$94,000.00, collectively yielded an approximate decline of \$68.00.

The Session voted at their January 10, 2016 meeting for \$36,000.00 in additional monies to be invested through the Endowment Fund bringing the Total Culdee Endowment Vanguard Investments to \$130,000.00.

Committee members examined a variety of investment options, as well as expert articles, and discussed the market trend with persons knowledgeable in the area of investment. Each Endowment Committee member agreed to continue with the Culdee Endowment investments in their current accounts, and to maintain a long term investment portfolio at this time.

The Vanguard Endowment accounts are available to the Endowment Committee, and to all church members for viewing purposes, to monitor the day to day impact of the fluctuation of the market on the Culdee Endowment accounts.

Other church funds, including the Cemetery Fund and Sarah Ann Fortune Fund remain with their current investment entities at this time.

In other Endowment Committee News, Mark Thompson has been appointed as the Endowment Committee representative of the Doris Moore Scholarship Fund, hence, providing continued continuity for the Committee (Mark has been a regular Endowment Fund Committee Member since the Committee's onset). Danny Aldridge, joined the Endowment Fund Committee as one of the Elder representative beginning with the January 17 meeting.

We, the Endowment Fund Committee members are grateful for the stability and sound financial position Culdee Presbyterian Church has been afforded for the beginning of 2016. We continue to seek to honor our commitment to each of you, and to God, as we humbly do our best to serve and achieve His will.

The next Endowment Fund Committee meeting will be held April 3, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

Questions, comments, or information on opportunities for investment may be addressed by contacting any of the Endowment Fund Committee Members: Tim Lea, Chairman, Danny Aldridge, Teresa Cole, Jim Dalton, Cate Short Frederick, Dannie Jackson, Ann Savage, Mark Thompson, and Pastor Joseph Washburn.

The Endowment Fund Committee members thank each of you for your continued interest and support.

Respectfully submitted in Christ,

Cate Short Frederick

February 2016

February 2016

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					

March 2016

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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
Jan 31	Feb 1 9:00am Knitting 10:30am Prayer Group 1 meets in the Ladies Parlor	2 6:30pm Handbells 7:00pm Circle 1 --Meets at the church 7:00pm Prayer Group 2 meets at John Blue's	3 10:00am Day Circle 5:30pm JAM/Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Practice	4 9:00am Quilting 12:00pm Men Of God 7:00pm Circle 2 meets at the home of Judy McKenzie	5	6
7 Communion Sunday Souper Bowl Sunday 8:20am Reach Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Finance Ministry	8 9:00am Knitting 10:30am Prayer Group 1 meets in the Ladies Parlor	9 6:30pm Circle 3 home of Teresa Cole 6:30pm Handbells 7:00pm Prayer Group 2 meets at John Blue's	10 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	11 9:00am Quilting 12:00pm Men Of God	12	13
14 FAMILY PROMISE WEEK 8:20am Reach Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Session Meeting	15 9:00am Knitting 10:30am Prayer Group 1 meets in the Ladies Parlor	16 6:30pm Handbells 7:00pm Prayer Group 2 meets at John Blue's	17 5:30pm JAM/Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Practice	18 9:00am Quilting 12:00pm Men Of God	19	20
21 8:20am Reach Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	22 9:00am Knitting 10:30am Prayer Group 1 meets in the Ladies Parlor	23 6:30pm Handbells 7:00pm Prayer Group 2 meets at John Blue's	24 5:30pm JAM/Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Practice	25 9:00am Quilting 12:00pm Men Of God 7:00pm Presbyterian Men	26 Youth Ski Trip	27
28 BLANKET SUNDAY 8:20am Reach Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Bring Food, 6:00pm Christian Ed.	29 9:00am Knitting 10:30am Prayer Group 1 meets in the Ladies Parlor	Mar 1	2 Mar 1	3	4	5