

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Raymond Romeo	01	Hal Meeks	13	Phillip Marion	21
Virginia Elder	04	Dianne VanWinkle	14	Caleb Marion	22
Crystal Cox	04	Catherine Sears	14	Mason Cox	24
Cody Thompson	05	Chase Parks	15	Caitlin Blue	24
Wyatt Bullard	06	Clara Bailey	16	Ronnie Blue	25
Nelson Pusser	07	Jason Cole	17	Dot Garrison	25
James McKenzie	08	John Blue	18	Derek Stewart	26
Tony Cox	09	Randy Cox	18	Breese Lilly	26
Edmund Valitutto	11	Tori Lea	19	Florence Clapp	27
Josh Halverstadt	12	Cole Lea	19	Matthew Clayton	29
Neil Melvin	12	Tyler Prince	20	Gretchen Carlyle	30

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**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN’S NEWS**

**Duties for January:** Nursery---Circle 1    Flowers---Circle 3

A big thank you to the Culdee men for the wonderful Christmas Dinner. We look forward to this meal each year; everyone enjoys it, and the fellowship that goes along with it.

Again thanks to Circle 1 for decorating the sanctuary so beautifully for Christmas.

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 up on the table outside the office.

Many thanks to everyone that brought gifts for Barium Springs. Lori Sees picked up several boxes on 12-12-12. She was so excited and thankful for the gifts. They have over 600 children there, and all gifts are appreciated.

Merry Christmas, and A Happy, Healthy New Year to all!

Jewell Vest, PW Moderator

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**CONGREGATIONAL CARE NEWS**

Another busy year is over, and a new one is beginning. A lot of happenings..... good, and not so good went on..... in my family, in our church, and their families, the community, our country, and other countries. And the question is..... how did, and do, we get through it all? I prayed, and you all prayed, both alone and together! God heard the spoken and unspoken and continues to hear our prayers. As we are here on this earth,we must continue to pray every day for the known and unknown. God is in control no matter what life brings to us and those around us. When He speaks, we have to be quiet and listen. Believe me; we cannot make it without Him, and prayer in our lives.

Janie and I want to thank everyone on the Congregational Care Committee for their devoted gifts, hard work, talents, and time donated throughout the functions we have in our church. We can’t do it without you all, and we appreciate you greatly. Please continue to support the chair and co-chair of this committee in the coming year. Thanks to all.

In Christ, Donna Parsons, Chair of CC.

**CULDEE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**WORSHIP PLANS JANUARY 2013**

**JANUARY 6, 2013**

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6  
Sermon: "For Your Light Has Come!"

**JANUARY 20, 2013**

Scripture Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
Sermon: "Empowered by One"

**JANUARY 13, 2013**

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 43:1-7  
Sermon: "Living Without Fear"

**JANUARY 27, 2013**

Scripture Lesson: Luke 4:14-21  
Sermon: "Anointed to Proclaim"

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**RECHARGE BIBLE STUDY!!!**

Beginning on January 9th, I want to invite you to join us for a new, short-term study—"What do Presbyterians Believe?" This class will be a short-term study to explore some of the basic beliefs and core principles that we as Presbyterians hold as important. Recharge Bible study meets Wednesday evenings at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall. This is a great time to engage in some fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ, to lift our voices in praise through a couple of songs, and to strengthen and deepen our faith in Jesus Christ through the exploration of scripture and theological doctrines. So, bring your Bible and your friends and neighbors and join us...we look forward to seeing you!

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**SOMETHING SPECIAL**

**Do you know someone in the hospital? Send them an e-card!-----**

Brighten a patient's day by sending an e-card. This free service allows you to send a personalized message, or greeting to a patient in a FirstHealth hospital.

Go to [www.firsthealth.org/eCard](http://www.firsthealth.org/eCard) and choose a card, then submit your message. We will print your eCard and hand deliver it to your loved one's bedside. It's that easy!

*“In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid;’”* Luke 2:8-10a

There is something special about the story of Christ’s birth. Despite hearing it repeatedly every December, and preaching on it most every Christmas Eve, there is a freshness that flows out of it as if it were a brand new story. Each year, when I read this story in the gospel of Luke, what strikes me is the various emotions and experiences that the shepherds go through on that fateful night. Several years ago someone did a survey in which they asked people who they most identified with in the Christmas story. Nearly 1/3 of those who responded identified with the shepherds because they are seen as ordinary people...folks very much like us. Perhaps that is why we continue to learn from them today.

The first thing that I see in this story is that when the angels appear the shepherds are terrified. We may not know what it is like to be terrified by angels appearing in the sky, but I suspect all of us know what it is like to be terrified and filled with anxiety. Life brings a whole host of circumstances—health, financial, relationships, etc...that cause us to feel less than secure and confident. Just like the shepherds there are moments when we suddenly realize our fears.

But quickly after appearing to the terrified shepherds, the angles say “Do not be afraid.” These messengers from God come not to terrify, but to comfort. They encourage the shepherds not to be afraid because God is with them...they come announcing the birth of the Christ Child that will forever change the world. No longer is God distant and separated; now God is in our midst experiencing life with us. In those moments when the circumstances of life threaten to overwhelm you, remember the words of the angels, “Do not be afraid!” And may these words not simply echo in our minds, but provide us with the comforting knowledge and assurance that God is indeed with us.

After their experience with the multitude of angels singing in the heavens the shepherds go to Bethlehem in order to see what the angles are talking about, and they find the little baby Jesus lying in a manger. When their visit is completed we are told that they “returned, glorifying and praising God...” My how times have changed for these poor shepherds. What began as a terrifying evening has turned into a time of worship and praising; what began with words of comfort for these shepherds ends up becoming a time of sharing the good news of the Savior’s birth with all we meet. As we experience the life changing presence of Christ in our lives, may we not be content to hold this good news inside ourselves, but may we go on our way glorifying and praising God!

I pray that each one of you would know God’s blessing as we enter into this New Year. And may the good news of Christ’s birth and presence fill you with comfort in times of trouble.

## YOUTH NEWS

Our first full year as official youth directors has flown past. Michelle and I have learned so much from our experiences with Culdees' finest- the Youth. We give thanks to God for the patience, endurance, and joy that He has placed upon us during this transition.

In 2013, we are going to try several new things. One of the first things that we are presenting is a sign up, and volunteer list for snacks and drinks during our weekly youth meetings. Several members, including parents, have mentioned different snack ideas that they would like to donate for the youth to try. A sign up/volunteer list will be posted in the upcoming weeks.

Our upcoming itinerary includes, the "Souper Bowl" dinner, possibly a Valentines' dinner, and also the youth are exploring the idea of providing a crock pot type meal to be served before recharge on Wednesday nights.

We are thankful for all of the support and donations that the Culdee youth have received. A special thank you goes to Don Williamson for selling the Christmas trees that were donated to the youth. We also give thanks to the many others that donate and wish to remain anonymous.

Please continually keep praying for our youth program.

In Christ, Mark & Michelle

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## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE

The children and youth presented a wonderful Christmas program on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Special thanks, and appreciation to all of you who had any part in this program, or the reception, and to everyone who brought lots of goodies and treats.

The Christian Education Ministry invites any of our Culdee members to join this committee for the year 2013. If you feel that the Lord would like for you to help in the education area of Culdee, then we would welcome you.

This committee will be evaluating our Sunday School to make improvements, and be planning for VBS, and assisting those who would like to attend Camp Monroe. Sunday School teachers and workers are always needed, as well as Children's Church teachers.

We thank Vickie Blue who has been preparing all the lessons for Children's Church. If you would like to serve in any of these areas, please contact the church office, Pastor Joe, or myself.

As 2012 closes out, and 2013 approaches, our committee gives our thanks to all those who have served so faithfully this year: Sunday School & Children's Church teachers & workers; pianists for SS, secretaries, and Open-assembly leaders. God Bless & Happy New Year!!

Larry Furr, Chairman

## **A NEW YEAR WITH THE LORD**

A new year is about to unfold with new opportunities to explore  
Doors will open for new experiences, new adventures with the Lord

Remember not the former things, the things of this past year  
The Lord will do new things in us, much more than we are aware.

For He will make a way for us, as we put our trust in Him  
And He will guide our every step, by his presence we have within.

What God has placed within our hearts, we find we'll be able to do  
If we look for the opportunities, we'll see the door to go through

We mustn't let anything hold us back, but rise up and take our place  
And be all that God wants us to be, with a fresh touch of His grace.

- M.S. Lowndes