

The Culdee Connection Newsletter



Culdee Presbyterian Church

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JANUARY 2017

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www.culdeechurch.net

JANUARY WORSHIP INFORMATION

JANUARY 1, 2017

Matthew 2:13-23

“The Party’s Over”

JANUARY 8, 2017

Acts 10:34-43

“Good News of Great Joy”

JANUARY 15, 2017

Luke 5:1-11

“Are You All In?”

JANUARY 22, 2017

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

“Living Against the Grain”

JANUARY 29, 2017

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

“Claiming Weakness and Fear”

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...

In a couple of weeks Angela and I will celebrate our 26th wedding anniversary! First of all, I am very thankful to God for bringing us together, without a doubt we would not be together if it weren't for Him. But second, as most anyone who has ever been married knows, as good as our marriage has been it has not always been easy. Being married, by its very nature, requires commitment and work...and these are very intentional things which we must pursue on a daily basis.

Over the years I have learned, experienced, and witnessed that our faith lives and spiritual growth is a lot like being married. Now, what I mean is that our very faith is itself a gift from God...and for that we ought to be thankful. But, just like marriage, if we are to grow in our faith, and relationship with, Jesus Christ...it requires commitment and work. Growing in Christ will not happen automatically...no matter how much we wish it would. But the good news is there are some pretty straight forward and simple steps you can take in order to be more committed to your faith and to grow closer and deeper in your relationship with Jesus Christ.

First, make the commitment this year to make regular attendance in worship a priority in your life. Now, it is true that going to church does not make you a Christian, but a church (congregation) is a community of faith and being a Christian, by its very nature, means to be a part of a community of faith. Regular attendance is an important part of our walk with Christ. It used to be that the average member attended worship 3 out of 4 Sundays a month. Recent studies show that this has declined to 2 out of 4 weeks, and with more and more options of entertainment being offered seven days a week, I suspect this number will continue to drop. But I challenge you to make growing in your worshiping life a priority during 2017!

Second, I encourage you to make attending Sunday School and Bible Study a part of your faith journey. In worship we praise God and give Him glory....in Christian Education we grow in our knowledge of the Bible and what it means to walk in the ways of faith. We offer several options in Sunday School and Bible Study so I suspect we have a class that will meet your needs!

Third, your growth in faith should not be limited to activities at the church. A few hours a week is not sufficient to adequately grow and nurture our faith. I want to challenge you to join with me in reading through the New Testament during 2017. I will include in each month's Newsletter, and in the bulletin each week, the daily readings. The plan I have selected is a great way to begin...it simply asks for about 5 minutes a day for 5 days a week! So jump in and lets read through this together...you never know when someone might ask you a question about your readings!!!

Fourth, as believers we are called to be witnesses to Jesus Christ. This means that each and everyone of us has a responsibility to share our faith with others. This could mean telling the basics of the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection and how we have forgiveness and eternal life through Him; or it could be as simple as inviting people to join you for worship. Make it a habit of extending an invitation with your friends and people you meet!

I hope you will join me in making these four commitments for 2017...together we can grow in our faith AND grow Gods kingdom!

In Christ,

Pastor Joe

Visit us online at www.culdeechurch.net



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Virginia Elder	04
Crystal Cox	04
Cody Thompson	05
Wyatt Bullard	06
Nelson Pusser	07
James McKenzie	08
Tony Cox	09
Edmund Valitutto	11
Josh Halverstadt	12
Lisa Patterson	13
Dianne VanWinkle	14
Catherine Sears	14
Clara Bailey	16
Jason Cole	17
John Blue	18
Randy Cox	18
Tyler Prince	20
Phillip Marion	21
Caleb Marion	22
Mason Cox	24
Domonic Campbell	25
Derek Stewart	26
Breese Lilly	26
Matthew Clayton	29
Gretchen Carlye	30

PRESBYTERIAN MEN

The Presbyterian Men will meet on Thursday, January 26th for a meal, business, and fellowship. We encourage all men and young men to come join us.

Wade Garner, PM President

CROPWALK 2017

It is not too early to mark your calendars for **SANDHILLS CROP HUNGER WALK** which will be held **Sunday, April 2**. Looking ahead to this worthy event will motivate us to stay active during these winter months!!

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 your computer to listen to later.

5x5 BIBLE READING PLAN

1/2: Mark 1	1/9: Mark 6	1/16: Mark 11	1/23: Mark 16	1/30: Acts 5
1/3: Mark 2	1/10: Mark 7	1/17: Mark 12	1/24: Acts 1	1/31: Acts 6
1/4: Mark 3	1/11: Mark 8	1/18: Mark 13	1/25: Acts 2	2/1: Acts 7
1/5: Mark 4	1/12: Mark 9	1/19: Mark 14	1/26: Acts 3	2/2: Acts 8
1/6: Mark 5	1/13: Mark 10	1/20: Mark 15	1/27: Acts 4	2/3: Acts 9

5 minutes a day! 5 days a week!

THANK YOU FROM PASTOR SIDOR

Please accept our thanks for all that you have done for us. We so much appreciate you and your support. Words are inadequate to express our joy and gratitude to you for your love and generosity. You deserve more than just a thank you. Know that you and your loved ones are in our hearts and prayers now and forever.

Saying thank you hardly seems enough after all you have done for us. May God bless you more abundantly.

LILIAN AND SIDOR

FINANCE MINISTRY NEWS

“Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand.” Jerimiah 18:6

Happy New Year Culdee Family. I am eager to see how God will continue to mold each one of us and our church family, in 2017.

The Finance Ministry met Sunday December 11, at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The November expense report reflects that Culdee is currently in a financially stable position to date. There continues to be 5 months reserves available for any unexpected occurrences and needs.

The balance of the legally restricted funds is approximately \$84,872.41 and the Vanguard investments have a balance of approximately \$232,319.19. As expected, stock share prices continue to go up and down due to the fluctuating market. The Finance Ministry is committed to long term investment of monies placed in the financial market, in order to take advantage of steady growth of funds over time.

The overall membership and attendance for worship services has somewhat decreased from 2015 year's attendance. In addition, tithes and offerings for the daily operations of Culdee Church have also slightly decreased. The Finance Ministry is confident that as in our long church history, our attendance and giving will overall maintain its level of high standards and commitment from members.

The Congregation membership came together for worship and annual meeting on December 11, 2016 to review the Session approved 2017 budget of \$251,678. The budget reflects a 10% or \$22,890 increase more than 2016, with a \$4,160 deficiency to begin the 2017 budget year.

The Pastor Terms of Call was presented to the congregation on December 11, 2016 with no changes as recommended by the Session. Current total compensation for 2016 is \$99,956. Data reflecting the salaries of other Presbyterian Pastors in the area was also presented. This data indicated that the Culdee congregation is presently compensating our Pastor at a rate equal to \$351 dollars per member verses \$307 dollars per member or \$44 dollars per member more than other churches presented for consideration. A motion was made from the floor to increase the Pastor Terms of Call salary by 5% or \$3,600 and pay all additional expenses resulting from this. After much discussion, the motion was defeated by a secret ballot vote of 32 to 31.

Culdee has been very blessed with Pastor Joe, and the gratitude and appreciation for his service was clear during the voting process. We will hold steadfast this 2017 calendar year, and continue on the journey God has laid out for molding each of us and his church.

A discussion took place concerning Culdee's overall declining membership, attendance and operational contributions. Some points included:

- Congregation needs to be kept informed and allowed to give input into proposed changes prior to implementation of said changes by the Session.

- The church membership needs to be encouraged to support the decisions made by the Session and the Ministries.

- Church leadership needs to be sure that we all do our part to make everyone feel welcomed, accepted and comfortable in God's house.

- Spiritual compassion needs to be shown for everyone.

- Culdee members not attending need to be encouraged to attend.

- New potential members need to be encouraged to attend.

- Shut-ins and others could be visited more often.

- Concern was expressed about the low number of youth we have attending.

- The idea of forming a committee made up of a cross section of members to address the issue of membership, attendance and operational contributions was discussed.

It was moved that Danny Aldridge present these concerns and ideas to the Session at the January meeting.

FINANCE MINISTRY NEWS (continued)

If you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please feel free to direct them to a Finance Ministry member. We truly 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, January 8, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted in Christ,

Cate Short Frederick

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY

Happy New Year to everyone from Robin and I. We are so thankful for all those who worked with our committee during 2016, and we invite all who are interested in joining this year to attend our next meeting on **Sunday, January 8 at 4:00 p.m.**

On January 15 we will celebrate **PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY** with a covered dish lunch in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service. We hope everyone will make plans to attend! Pastor Joe and Angela will be marking the beginning of their 6th year of ministry here at Culdee.

On January 29, we will play **BINGO in the Fellowship Hall!** Everyone is asked to bring a "White Elephant" item for the prize table. Just look around your home and see what "treasure(s)" you would like to donate. Good family fun for everyone!

The **Doris Moore Scholarship Applications** forms will be available from **MARCH 1 - APRIL 30th.**

Blessings,

June Stewart and Robin McKenzie

"A Night With the Stars"

Haiti Help and Hope Fundraiser for Pastor Sidor & Lahi-Roi School in Montrouis, Haiti

- Main Attraction ELVIS (aka AJ Outlaw) also music by Adele & Reba
- Serving heavy hors d'oeuvres, coffee and tea
- Friday February 3, 2017
- Doors open at 6:30 pm and Show starts at 7:30pm
- Westside Park Community Center - Seven Lakes West
- Corporate Table for 8 - \$200 (Company name recognized)
- Group Table for 8 - \$150
- Individual Ticket - \$20

Music for everyone! Rock in Roll! Pop! Country! Plan a FUN night out with friends and enjoy great music and support a worthy cause. 100% of all monies raised will go directly to the school. Donations are tax deductible. Tables are filling up fast. Limited seating so get your ticket soon!

Contact Sylvia Pusser at [910-639-7733](tel:910-639-7733) or Nancy Howle at [910-947-2306](tel:910-947-2306) to purchase ticket or for further information.

January 2017

February 2017

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

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
Jan 1, 17 8:20am Reach Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth meet	2 9:00am Knitting	3 7:00pm Circle 1 7:00pm Prayer Group 2 meets at John Blue's	4 10:00am Day Circle	5 9:00am Quilting 7:00pm Circle 2 Judy McK.	6 9:00am Quilting 12:00pm Men Of God	7
8:20am Reach Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 4:00pm Cong. Care Min. 4:30pm Finance Ministry 6:00pm Session Meets 6:00pm Youth Meet	9 9:00am Knitting	10 6:30pm Circle 3 Nancy Howle 6:30pm Handbells 7:00pm Prayer Group 2 meets at John Blue's	11 6:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Practice	12 9:00am Quilting 12:00pm Men Of God	13	14
15 Pastor Appreciation 8:20am Reach Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth meet	16 9:00am Knitting	17 6:30pm Handbells 7:00pm Prayer Group 2 meets at John Blue's	18 6:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Practice	19 9:00am Quilting 12:00pm Men Of God	20	21
22 8:20am Reach Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth meet	23 9:00am Knitting	24 6:30pm Handbells 7:00pm Prayer Group 2 meets at John Blue's	25 6:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Practice	26 9:00am Quilting 12:00pm Men Of God 7:00pm Presbyterian Men	27	28
29 Bring Food Items 8:20am Reach Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth meet	30 9:00am Knitting	31 6:30pm Handbells 7:00pm Prayer Group 2 meets at John Blue's	Feb 1	2	3	4