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March
2017

Culdee Newsletter

This month we are entering the season of Lent.

“Jesus said ‘Pray that you will
not fall into temptation.’”

Luke 22:40

Culdee Presbyterian Church

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West End, NC 27376

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2017 SESSION

Moderator

Rev. Dr. Joseph Washburn

Class of 2017

Danny Aldridge...Finance

Dannie Jackson...Building and Grounds

Nelson Pusser...Worship

June Stewart...Congregational Care

Class of 2018

Elaina Aponte...Christian Education

Robin McKenzie...Congregational Care

Mark Seawell...Out Reach

Don Williamson...Out Reach

Class of 2019

Ryan Bailey...Building and Grounds

Bob Beddingfield...Finance

Amber Clayton...Christian Education

Janie Taylor...Worship



From the Pastor's Desk...

Lent is the liturgical season leading up to Easter. Officially, it is the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday...now, to arrive at 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter we do not count Sundays, as Sundays are seen as a little Easter or a celebration of the resurrection. The focus of Lent is to focus our minds on our need to repent of our sins and seek a change in our heart. In order to receive salvation and forgiveness of sins, we must turn our lives over to God and trust in His Son Jesus Christ. 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.

“The Stations of the Cross” is a worship service that some churches do during Lent, particularly during in Holy week. The stations mirror the stations, or reflection points, along the streets in Jerusalem that is believed to be the path Jesus walked from his condemnation by Pilate to where he was crucified at Golgotha. This is a familiar path that pilgrims visiting Jerusalem have walked through the centuries and continue to walk today. The route is known as “The Via Dolorosa” which is Latin for, “The Sorrowful Way.” As travelers stop at each of the 14 stations along the Via Dolorosa they reflect on Jesus’ journey, his suffering, and ultimately his death...this journey moves our focus away from ourselves and to Jesus’ pain, suffering, and grief.

For Lent this year I want to invite you on a journey down the Via Dolorosa. While I wish we could all make the journey through the actual streets in Jerusalem, we will be making our journey on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. I’ll be trying something different this year...I’ll be doing a Lenten preaching and teaching series that utilizes Sunday worship and Wednesday Bible Studies, as well as Mandy Thursday and Good Friday. I will encourage you to make plans to join us on both Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings if you can...if you do you will get the full experience. But if you can’t make it on Wednesday’s I hope you will make an effort to be with us on Sunday mornings as we follow Jesus along the sorrowful way...a journey he made for all of us!

March 5th Worship: Luke 22:39-46 → “The Via Dolorosa: Jesus Prays”

March 8th Recharge Bible Study: Luke 22:47-48 → Jesus, betrayed by Judas, is arrested

March 12th Worship: Luke 22:66-71 → “The Via Dolorosa: Jesus Before the Council”

March 15th Recharge Bible Study: Luke 23:13-25 → Jesus is Judged by Pilate

March 19th Worship: Luke 22:54-62 → The Via Dolorosa: Peter Denies Jesus”

March 22nd Recharge Bible Study: Luke 22:63-65 & John 19:2-3 → Jesus is scourged & crowned with thorns

March 26th Worship: Mark 15:16-20 → The Via Dolorosa: Jesus Takes Up the Cross”

March 29th Recharge Bible Study: Luke 26:26 → Simon Cyrene helps Jesus to carry his cross

Stated Session Meeting Notes

February 12, 2017

The meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. with eleven elders in attendance. Pastor Joe, Moderator, called the meeting to order. Mark Seawell, Elder of the Month, lit the CHRIST Candle before giving the devotion and opening prayer.

Consent Agenda:

The minutes of the Stated Session Meeting of January 8, 2017 and the Called Session Meeting of Sunday, January 29, 2017 were approved as read.

Clerk's Report:

Active Membership Role-288

Two requests to use the church facilities were approved.

Elders approved the removal of Hal and Gail Meeks from the active membership roll due to their joining First Presbyterian of Carthage.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Joe is currently working on an Administrative Commission working with a church in the Laurinburg area, and he is serving as Moderator of the Presbytery Response Coordination Team.

New Business:

Forrest Cox was examined, approved and added to the Active Membership Roll of Culdee by reaffirmation of faith.

Ryan Bailey was approved as the Elder Representative to the March 25th meeting of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina in Morehead City, NC.

The Active Membership Roll will be reviewed by Session.

Ministry Reports:

Worship: Communion will be held on February 26 & Ash Wednesday Service will be March 1.

Finance: Reviewed Monthly Finance Report for the period ending January 31, 2017 -

- One Sunday was missed in January due to inclement weather. Budget is based on 53 weeks in 2017.
- Over all the financial picture is ok. Our actual monthly operating income was \$3,126.00 under budget, but our actual monthly expenses were also \$7,054.47 under budget.
- We have a little less than five months operating funds in reserve.

Building and Grounds:

- All work done in the Fellowship Hall (Minus the kitchen and fellowship hall room) has been completed and paid for.
- Repaving work is still in progress as weather permits.

Christian Education:

- A Director(s) for this year's Vacation Bible School is needed.

Congregational Care:

- The 5th Sunday event to be held on July 30 will be a gospel sing and ice cream.

A new pictorial directory is planned for January of 2018.

Finance Ministry News

The Finance Ministry met February 12, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The January expense report reflects Culdee is in a relatively financially stable position to date. We are pleased with our ongoing and generous blessings. True to its mission, the Finance Ministry remains watchful. Culdee has just under 5 months' total reserve monies for emergency situations. This number is a little shy of the 6 months' reserve recommended by the Session. In addition, we were \$3,126 short of where we need to be to meet our budget as of February 12, 2017. We began the year with a \$4,800 deficit, and are hopeful to continue to close this gap.

While Culdee is \$7,000 under expenditures at this time, these monies will be needed by March of this year, and we could find ourselves in a potentially higher shortage of funds situation.

We, as Christians, walk in the light and in faith. I for one, could not face each day without this faith. Culdee is financially stable, and not in a troubled situation. However, the Finance Ministry wishes to remain proactive so that we do not fall into a shortage from which we cannot easily recover. Recall if you may, we missed a Sunday of tithes and offerings in January due to snow. Culdee's budget has felt the impact of this missed Sunday. Please keep the missed church snow day in mind, as you continue to consider your generous tithes and offerings to our church. I am reminded:

*"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love."
1 Corinthians 16:13-14.*

Each ministry performed a sound job controlling its budget in January. The Christian Education Ministry purchased a new Sunday School Curriculum, as well as other needed items, hence putting this ministry slightly over budget. We fully expect the Christian Education Ministry's budget to re-balance itself in the coming months, and are grateful for the new materials.

The legally restricted funds had a balance of \$84,196.60 with \$13.35 yielded in interest as of January 31, 2017; The Vanguard investments had a balance of \$233,563.95 as of January 31, 2017. The Vanguard investments have generated a total gain of \$1,056.04 for the life of its investment.

Our church painting project is in full swing. The classrooms and Session room have been completed, and one can just look and see Brewer's painting did a beautiful job. All of the wallpaper in the classrooms and Session room was stripped, without a trace, and we are fortunate to have such a stunning result. The next phase will be to paint the Fellowship Hall and kitchen.

The Church Road Paving project is also coming along nicely, with cutting and patching in place. The original paving company, Horner Paving, is completing this project at no additional cost to Culdee. Horner Paving is working our project into their schedule in a timely manner.

The new Offering Procedure for collection and counting contributions, is running relatively smoothly. Elders continue to develop and "tweak" the process as they become more familiar with the procedures.

Finally, our Finance Ministry started its new leadership under Chairman Danny Aldridge. Danny continues the commitment to the smooth oversight of the ministry's projects and mission.

If you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please feel free to direct them to a Finance Ministry member. Finance Ministry members are as follows: Danny Aldridge Chairman, Bobby Beddingfield, Vice-Chairman, Tim Lea, Jene Bowen, Art McKenzie, Mark Thompson, Jim Dalton, Ann Savage, Jim Stewart, Pastor Joe Washburn, and Cate Short Frederick.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the Finance Ministry.

The next Finance Ministry meeting will be held on Sunday, March 12, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted in Christ,

Cate Short Frederick

Congressional Care Ministry

The warmer weather has us looking ahead to spring and beyond! The committee met on February 12 at 4:00 p.m with seven in attendance. Robin and I would love to encourage anyone who would like to join us at our monthly meeting held on the second Sunday of the month at 4:00 p.m.

We are looking ahead to doing a new pictorial directory in January of 2018. If you are interested in heading up this project or volunteering for this committee, please contact Robin or June or the church office.

Look for the **Doris Moore Scholarship applications** which will be available outside the church office starting on March 1, 2017. Read the guideline and application carefully. If you have any questions, please contact June, Robin, or the church office.

Thanks to all who attended the 5th Sunday Bingo Event on January 29!!! We had a wonderful, enthusiastic crowd! Our next 5th Sunday event will be Sunday, July 30; it will be a gospel sing and ice cream for our refreshments....Yum!!! Mark your calendars!!!!

It is not too early to think HARVEST FESTIVAL. This year we will **NOT** have a **YARD SALE** area....so please be very thoughtful as you make donations for the Live Auction and the Gift Shop. We encourage you to begin thinking about businesses, golf courses, or stores in our area that might give a donation or be your choice to buy an item to donate. We are challenging each of our church families to donate at least 2 new or gently used items that you believe will be good sellers!!! Also, we would love to continue to expand our **COUNTRY STORE** so get busy thinking about craft items, baked goods (Great sellers!!!), garden ideas, etc. We can make this year's festival the best yet.....in fellowship, fun, and good eating as we all work together.

Blessings,

Robin and June....Congregation Care

Music Notes

Handbell Choir

The handbell choir is hard at work on Tuesday nights with rehearsals at 6:30. The choir led worship on Feb. 12 filling the choir loft with beautiful music. I am especially proud of the group that rings with us now. Several of our members have no musical experience and are doing such a wonderful job of this “team sport”. It is a fun group to be a part of. If you think the handbell choir would be a wonderful place for you to serve I encourage you to contact Beverly, or one of the members of the choir to see what we are all about. We are hard at work at this point working on our Easter music and would be honored to have you be a part of it as well. Contact Beverly at culdeemusic@gmail.com.



Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir had our “Christmas Party” on Feb 8th at Beefeaters in Southern Pines. It was a wonderful time for all the hard work that the Handbell and Chancel choir had put in over Christmas. We had 37 people enjoying an awesome meal on a beautiful Wednesday night. We were missing some key people due to illness and that did make us sad to miss them. We had prayer for Mr. Harold Clayton and Amber, Kenneth and Deeli Whitesell, and Lionel and Linda Bryson were all missing in our group.

The choir room has been in “demolition” mode for a few weeks now since the beginning of the new year. I am happy to report that it is GORGEOUS! It was a real journey but one that was worth taking with the wonderful team that worked so diligently with us. The choir was so happy on Wed. night as we had our first rehearsal in our beautifully painted room. We also would like to thank Donna and Dwight Parsons for securing our new marker boards and bulletin boards for the choir. That was a huge help! Thank you so much!

Please be in prayer for our choirs. These people put a lot of time in their music. They are an important part of our worship services. They are an amazing group of people and are hard at work on Wed. nights at 6:30 working on our Lent/Easter music. We have room for some more musical/singing/instrumental people. If this interests you at all, please let Beverly help you find your spot. culdeemusic@gmail.com.

Crop Walk

April 2, 2017



Get your walking shoes ready.....we need you to raise money to help the hungry in our county, our nation, and the world. See June or the office about signing up to walk. We have been blessed in past years to have a great turn out from Culdee. So thankful for you all!!!

5 x 5 Reading Plan

2/27 Acts 25	3/6 Hebrews 2	3/13 Hebrews 7	3/20 Hebrews 12	3/27 Galatians 4
2/28 Acts 26	3/7 Hebrews 3	3/14 Hebrews 8	3/21 Hebrews 13	3/28 Galatians 5
3/1 Acts 27	3/8 Hebrews 4	3/15 Hebrews 9	3/22 Galatians 1	3/29 Galatians 6
3/2 Acts 28	3/9 Hebrews 5	3/16 Hebrews 10	3/23 Galatians 2	3/30 James 1
3/3 Hebrews 1	3/10 Hebrews 6	3/17 Hebrews 11	3/24 Galatians 3	3/31 James 2

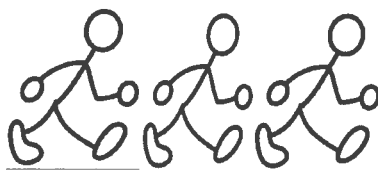
Presbyterian Women's News

Local Missions Baked Spaghetti Luncheon will be held Sunday March 12th following the 11:00 worship service. Those who can bring a baked spaghetti and/or dessert, the sign-up sheet is in the kitchen along with the spaghetti recipe. Circle 2 is in charge of preparation and the Day Circle is in charge of cleanup.

Please join us and support local missions while enjoying good food and fellowship!

Circle 2 has nursery duties in March and Circle 1 is responsible for flowers.

Kim Cole, Moderator



COME WALK WITH US!

WALKING 101 BEGINS MONDAY MARCH 13

6:00 – 8:00 here at the church.

Join us for fellowship, fun, fitness.

March Birthdays

Carson Dennis	01	Evelyn Caddell	19
Lydia Craven	02	Addie Bailey	20
Carolyn Smith	03	Natalie Cox	21
Parker McKenzie	03	Noreen Oakman	21
McKenzie Cox	03	Chad Smith	22
Haley Dick (Cuff)	04	Bailey Blue	22
Vickie Blue	05	Greg Bohlander	23
Amber Clayton	06	Timothy Patterson	23
Steve Cox	07	Erica Tolbert	24
Cathy McKenzie	10	Debbie Halverstadt	24
Carolyn McKenzie	12	Scott Bullard	28
Leigh McKenzie	12	Beverly Furr	28
Debby Fields	12	Gerri Abrahamsen	28 (90 th)
Molly Sims	12	Ralph Spatz	28
Morgan Jackson	13	Georgia Blue	29
Mitchell Whitesell	14	Kimberly White	29
LeAnn Bailey	15	Payton Savage	30
Mary Ruth Whitaker	16	Scotty Pate	30
Sylvia Balboni	17	Jonathan Craven	31
Sue Black	17	Riley Seawell	31
Carter Cuff	18		



March 2017

March 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	29	30	31	

April 2017

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 26	27	28	Mar 1	2	3	4
8:20am Reach Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth meet	9:00am Knitting 10:30am Prayer Group 1, Ladies Parlor	6:30pm Handbells 7:00pm Circle 3, Beverly Furr	10:00am Day Circle 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	9:00am Quilting 12:00pm Men Of God 7:00pm Circle 1, Church 7:00pm Circle 2, Connie Marlon	Youth Ski Trip	Youth Ski Trip
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Youth Ski Trip 8:20am Reach Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth meet	9:00am Knitting 10:30am Prayer Group 1, Ladies Parlor	6:30pm Handbells 7:00pm Circle 3, Beverly Furr	6:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Practice	9:00am Quilting 12:00pm Men Of God		
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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26	27	28	29	30	31	Apr 1
8:20am Reach Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Bring Food, 6:00pm Youth meet	9:00am Knitting	6:30pm Handbells	6:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Practice	9:00am Quilting 12:00pm Men Of God		