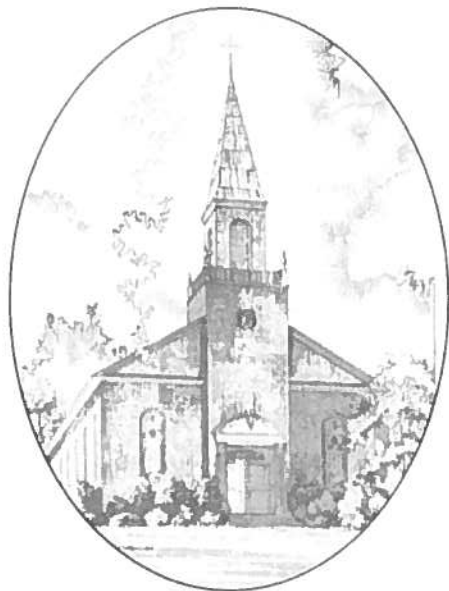


Culdee Presbyterian Church
916 NC Hwy 73 West End, NC 27376
Interim Pastor: Reverend Jane Love

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The Culdee Connection

Thank you, Lord, for:

May 2020 Proofreaders: Eve Williamson & Janie Taylor	Volume: 40	Issue: 5 Compiled by Diann Fortune
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CULDEE’S WORSHIP SERVICE VIDEOS

June Stewart

If you are on **Facebook**, you can go to the **Culdee Facebook** page and click on the link to **Culdee’s worship service**. If you are not on **Facebook**, you can go to our church website, www.culdeechurch.net . You will see tabs/buttons across the top of the page (Welcome, Staff, Newsletter, etc.). Click on **MEDIA** and Culdee’s worship service video will come up.

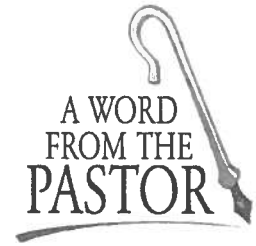
IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION

June Stewart

Right now, we are not meeting together in the sanctuary/fellowship hall on Sundays for worship services nor at other usual church activities/functions. It is so important for us to communicate regularly in other ways to make sure no one feels left out, or a need in the church family is not met. You can always call or email **Edith** in the church office or contact **Pastor Jane** (1-919-818-7708; pastorlove@embarqmail.com). Remember also, that your **Elder Shepherd** is a great resource to call when you have a question or concern! In addition, information and encouraging messages may be made available through.....**ONE CALL** messages; our **WEBSITE** (www.culdeechurch.net); our **FACEBOOK** page; **EMAIL**; our **NEWSLETTER**, and through **REGULAR MAIL**. Thank you all for checking on and praying for each other in our congregation and reaching out to the community to help where you can. **“GOD is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” Psalm 46**

If you have issues with the communication formats or suggestions for improvement, please contact the church office or June Stewart.

Reflections from the Pastor



This “article” is more like two reflections on our on-going shared experience of the Pandemic. I want to share two bits of those things that I have found meaningful. The first is a prayer from *A Diary of Private Prayer* by John Baillie:

updated and revised by Susanna Wright. I have used this devotional for several years and truly enjoy the prayers that are offered. The one I currently find meaningful is found on Day 27 Morning: O, Most gracious God grant that in everything that happens today I may carry with me the remembrance of the sufferings and death of Jesus Christ my Lord.

For your fatherly love shown in Jesus Christ your beloved Son;

For his readiness to suffer for us;

For the redemptive passion that filled his heart;

I praise and bless your holy name.

For the power of his cross in the history of the world since he came;

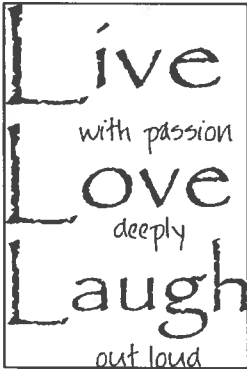
For all who have taken up their own crosses and followed him;

For the noble company of martyrs and for all who are willing to die that others may live;

For all those who freely choose to suffer for the sake of others, for pain bravely endured, for sorrows of this life that have been used for the building up eternal joys;

I praise and bless your holy name.

O Lord, my God, you dwell in pure and blessed serenity beyond the reach of human pain, and yet you look down in unspeakable love and tenderness upon the sorrows of Earth. Give me grace, I pray, to understand the meaning of pain and disappointments that I am called to endure. Save me from worrying. Give me a strong heart to bear my own burdens. Give me a willing heart to bear the burdens of others. Give me a believing heart to cast all my burdens on you. Glory be to you, O Father, and to you, O Christ, and to you, O Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.



The second reflection is that laughter, humor, and delight are definite ways of coping. Psalm 126:2-3 “Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, ‘The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy.’”

Don't know where this originated but:

“As for me and my house, we will stay where we at.”

--1st Isolations 24:7

Try jeannerobertson.com for some funny videos. Try Holy Humor Jokes on the web. Send me your favorite clean joke to share or a website recommendation. Share shots of the beauty around you with others. Bring some beauty inside; a leaf, flower, bird's feather or delicate broken shell. Open your eyes to see all the things God has given us to occupy our minds and time. Church bulletin bloopers: For those who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery in the fellowship hall. During the absence of our pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J. F. Franks supplied our pulpit. Ushers will eat latecomers.

New tithing slogan revealed by Associate Minister: “I upped my pledge—Up Yours.”

Session Minutes and/or Actions



Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

CULDEE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Stated Session Minutes

March 15, 2020

The meeting was held in Room A of the Fellowship Hall building at 6:00 p.m. with a quorum of Elders in attendance.

Moderator: Rev. Jane Love, Interim Pastor

Elders Present: Wade Garner, Johnie Marion, Rick Mathews, Karon McKenzie, Tim Bailey, Brandon Blue, Mark Seawell, Eve Williamson, Danny Aldridge, Robert Barber, Patti Burke, Diann Fortune

Guests: Beverly Dunlop, Amber Clayton, Mike Salargo

Christ Candle: Mark Seawell, Elder of the Month

Call to Order: Pastor Jane Love

Devotion and Prayer: Mark Seawell, Elder of the Month.

Guest Recognition: Pastor Jane took a moment to recognize tonight's guests and then invited Beverly Dunlop, Culdee's Director of Music to speak. Beverly took a brief moment to personally thank the Session for all the help and support it has given the choir in regard to their upcoming Carnegie Hall trip and to Culdee's music program as a whole.

Consent Agenda: Approved as presented.

- Stated Session of February 9, 2020; Congregational Meeting of March 1, 2020

Clerk's Report: Johnie Marion, Assistant Clerk of Session

Active Membership: 144

Poll votes conducted since the February 9 Stated Session meeting:

1. February 11 -- a request for Elder action on the Statistical report for 2019 for the PCUSA. Approved by simple majority.
2. February 12 - a request for Elder action on scheduling a Congregational Meeting on March 1 to hear the Nominating Committee report in reference to a slate of members for the Pastor Nomination Committee (PNC). Approved by simple majority.
3. February 17 a request for Elder action on amended 2020 Budget. Approved with one abstention.
4. March 10 - a request for Elder action to have only one service on March 22, the date of the Mission Luncheon. Approved by simple majority.

A request was received from James and Kaitland McKenzie to have their names removed from the active roll as they have joined another church. Since James and Kaitland have already joined another church, approval was made by common consent. (**The Active Membership now stands at: 142**).

Requests to use the Fellowship Hall and Session actions resulting in additions to the church calendar:

1. March 28 – Gail Farmer to hold surprise birthday party for her son Mikey. Approved by common consent.
2. May 17 – Martha Mathews to hold baby shower for her daughter Jamie. Approved by common consent.

Communications received:

1. Located on the bulletin board - information on an Educational Meeting sponsored by Aging Outreach Services: "The Best Gift: A Family Conversation to Communicate Your Wishes."
2. An email was received from Habitat for Humanity seeking assistance with accommodations and meals for volunteers who will be visiting the area to help with building projects. After a brief discussion, it was decided that this matter be tabled until such time Pastor Jane can scan and email a copy of the request to each Elder providing any additional information as to how current restrictions for social gatherings due to the Coronavirus may affect Habitat for Humanity's building plans and use of volunteer help.

Finance Ministry Teaching Moment: Danny Aldridge

In an attempt to ensure that members of the Session have a good understanding of how to read the Monthly Finance Report cover sheet, Danny Aldridge gave a brief tutorial on how to read the line items dealing with Monthly Budget Income/Expense vs. Actual Monthly Income/Expense; and the Year-to-Date Budget Income/Expense vs. Actual Year-to Date Income/Expense.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 2020 Budget (Pastor's Call) - Pastor Jane took a brief moment to explain the actions taken by herself, the Finance Ministry and the Presbytery as it relates to the Pastor's Call which resulted in the February 17 request of the Elders to approve the amended 2020 Budget.
- Choir Trip - Pastor Jane informed members of the Session that the choir's trip to Carnegie Hall has not yet been canceled; however, knowing the uncertainty of future cancellations because of

the Coronavirus, Beverly will stay in contact with the event's organizers to learn of future cancellations. Pastor Jane went further to say that the choir's trip expenses have been paid except for their hotel rooms and round-trip transportation to New York, but there are additional fund raisers planned to help with the remaining expenses.

- Submission of Suggested Edits to the Elder, Ushers and Ministry Responsibilities Documents - Pastor Jane asked Elders and/or Ministries to submit any edits/rewrites for said documents they have at this time and urged those who have not turned in anything to please do so soon.
- Communicants Class - Patti Burke informed members of the Session that eight (8) children have been enrolled for the Communicants class, and there is a possibility of two additional children. Patti and Pastor Jane indicated that they had hoped to start the class soon. Not knowing how long the Coronavirus will have an effect on social gatherings, the Communicants class will not be scheduled until restrictions on social gatherings have been lifted, and it is safe to meet with the children. Patti indicated that she would call the parents and inform them of this decision. Pastor Jane did say that when the class is held, it is her plan to ask each child to select an Elder as a mentor.
- Presbytery Meeting Report - Robert Barber gave an informative report on the highlights of the Presbytery meeting he attended as Culdee's Elder Representative on March 7.

NEW BUSINESS:

In-house Inactive Membership List - Pastor Jane informed members of the Session that an in-house inactive membership list does exist and is something that needs to be visited periodically to ensure church membership remains accurate. She suggested at some point this will most likely mean that the Session will have to discuss and make a decision as to what actually constitutes active membership.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

Suggested Actions from the Presbytery as a Result of the Coronavirus Pandemic - Pastor Jane took a moment to reflect on the documents received from the Presbytery concerning the Coronavirus as she handed out the additional information. She then gave a brief overview of her discussion with other pastors and Presbytery during a recent conference call. Following a brief moment of discussion, Pastor Jane asked if Elders were prepared to act on the Presbytery's suggested actions and entertained a motion. Mark Seawell motioned that we as a church adhere to the Presbytery's guidelines and cancel church (worship services and Sunday School) until April 5th (the next two Sundays) at which time the Session will reevaluate the situation based on new data pertaining to the virus. Tim Bailey seconded the motion. Pastor Jane opened the floor for discussion. Following a brief discussion on the pros and cons of cancelling church, Pastor Jane called for the vote. The motion was approved with eleven (11) Elders voting "yes" and one (1) Elder voting "no."

Pastor encouraged members of the Session to:

1. Contact everyone on their Shepherd's list to inform them of decisions made on this night and address what concerns/needs they might have.
2. Answer honestly if asked a question. If you don't know the answer, say so, and offer to get an answer for them.
3. Ask those members of your flock who live alone to provide a phone number of a relative, neighbor, or close friend that could be contacted should you, their Elder, not be able to make contact with their sheep, after several attempts.
4. Encourage everyone on their Shepherd's list to be prayer warriors.

Pastor Jane asked Elders to think positively about decisions that were made on this night. Cancelling

church may very well demand that the church explores and use new avenues of communication, new ways of providing worship services/Sunday School, and alternative ways of giving/tithing which could be a good thing. Several ideas were exchanged on this night, and Pastor Jane encouraged everyone to contact her with any new ideas they may have. In the interim, it was decided that we will try to use multimedia (i.e. Facebook, YouTube) to provide Sunday church services on line and ask parishioners to either mail or drop their offering by the church office.

Church Cookout and Activity Time at the Pinehurst Ball Field - Wade Garner informed members of the Session that the church cookout and outdoor activity time at the Pinehurst Ball Field are scheduled for the afternoon of May 24. Since the choir will be returning from Carnegie Hall and will not be able to attend the event, Wade suggested we might wish to consider rescheduling the event. Not knowing what the future holds and what additional cancellations/socials might be enacted, it was decided that this topic be tabled and revisited at the Stated Session meeting in April.

MINISTRY REPORTS:

Finance Ministry: Danny Aldridge/Diann Fortune

Danny reported there was over \$20,000.00 in the Live Oak Liquid Asset Account. On behalf of the Finance Ministry, Danny motioned that we take \$20,000.00 out of the liquid asset account and invest in two CDs in the amount \$10,000.00 each. The motion was approved.

Diann indicated that she will consult with Amber Clayton and others to gain information as to how parishioners may use direct deposit to give/tithe to the church. In the interim, parishioners will be encouraged to simply drop off or mail their giving/tithes to the church.

MINISTRY REPORTS CONTINUED:

Outreach Ministry: Mark Seawell/Robert Barber

Culdee budgets monies each year to support mission work. Parts of those funds are for the purpose of supporting Pastor Sidor's ministry and the churches/school he has founded in Haiti. Mark informed members of the Session that he will soon be sending a check from the Mission account in the amount of \$1,200.00 to Pastor Sidor.

Christian Education Ministry: Wade Garner/Patti Burke

Taking into consideration all the cancellations/social gathering restrictions in place at this time and not knowing how the Coronavirus will affect future gatherings, Patti informed members of the Session that the Christian Education Ministry has decided to cancel the Easter Eggstravaganza scheduled for April 4 in the best interest of everyone's health and well-being.

Buildings and Grounds Ministry: Ricky Mathews/Tim Bailey

Rick reported that Buildings and Grounds continues to replace florescent lighting with LED lighting throughout the Fellowship Hall and church facilities.

Congregational Care Ministry: Karon McKenzie/Eve Williamson

Karon shared with members of the Session a nice thank you card that was received from the Ellen Black Family. Karon indicated that at the next meeting of the Congregational Care Ministry they will be focusing on their card ministry and making sure that each member is aware of who they are responsible for sending cards to.

Worship Ministry: Johnie Marion/Brandon Blue-No report offered.

Because the next Stated Session meeting is scheduled for April 12, Easter Sunday, a motion was made, seconded and approved to move the **next Stated Session meeting to Sunday, April 19.**

There being no further business to come before the Session, the called meeting was adjourned and closed in prayer by Pastor Jane.

Respectfully submitted,
Johnie Marion, Assistant Clerk of Session

Notes and Actions from Stated Session of Sunday, April 19, 2020

June Stewart, Clerk of Session

- The meeting was conducted by teleconference at 6:00 p.m. with all Elders in attendance and two guests.
- The **Stated Session** meeting minutes of **March 15** were approved.
- **Motion** was approved to regretfully remove from the church roll by request: **Dan, Jennifer, and Harrison Jordan** and **Johnny Harris** (joined Bethlehem Baptist). **Dan Johnson** moved out of state over three years ago.
- **Motion** was approved to keep our Culdee Facebook page private since there were no essential reasons given to change it to public.
- Approval was given to schedule another **Drive Through Breakfast** on Sunday, **May 3.**
- The **Senior Luncheon** scheduled for May 3 has been cancelled.
- A **motion** to donate \$500.00 from the Mission Fund to **Pilgrim's Progress Ministry** was approved. The money will help them with increased transportation costs facing the ministry during this pandemic.
- Approval, although not unanimous, was given to a **motion** to increase Ben Dunlop's salary for filming, editing, and uploading the weekly worship service to the internet. Ben uses his own equipment and is now spending more hours a week fine tuning and making improvements with each video. He will receive \$175.00 a week, up \$50.00 from his initial salary of \$125.00 per week. His work started the first of March and is scheduled to run through the end of May. At that time, a review will be held to see if there is still a need for the videos.
- **Motion** was approved to schedule the next **Stated Session meeting** on Sunday, **May 17, 2020**
- The following **motion** from Committee was presented by Danny Aldridge, Chair of Finance and Diann Fortune, Vice – Chair... "Finance Ministry recommends to Session, since stock market is currently favorable, that 25% of identified restricted monies be invested in blue chip stocks, as the CDs funds mature, including the Parking Lot Fund, Sarah Ann Fortune Fund, & Doris Moore Scholarship Fund and that the Session authorize the Investments Committee to take investment action." The motion was approved.

Culdee's PNC News



Members:

Amber Clayton

Lonnie McKenzie

Nancy Howle

Stephanie Barber, Secretary

Diann Fortune, Chair

Mike Salargo

Ryan Bailey

Culdee's Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) first met on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 with Reverend Rick Martindale of First Presbyterian Church in Carthage who will serve as the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry's (COM) liaison to Culdee. Reverend Martindale's task is to guide Culdee's PNC through the Call Process as outlined by Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. Reverend Martindale has advised the PNC that the search process takes, on average, 18 months and often up to two years before a pastor is called. He states it is better for all involved if a thorough effort occurs rather than a rushed effort. The Culdee PNC will do its best to serve God and Culdee's members.

At the March 10, 2020 meeting, Diann Fortune was elected as chairman and Stephanie Barber is secretary. Stephanie Barber volunteered to serve as the liaison between the PNC and Culdee's congregation. The congregation can expect monthly reports in the newsletter until the work becomes confidential and then the reports may become less regular. Additional reports will be shared as necessary.

Currently the PNC is working on the Ministry Information Form (MIF) which is a narrative of the mission and ministry of Culdee. Prospective pastors read Culdee's MIF to determine whether or not they are interested in pursuing this call. The congregation is encouraged to share desired characteristics of the next pastor and the vision & mission of Culdee discerned from what God has placed on hearts through individual prayers. Please remember to pray for Culdee's PNC and for the pastor God is calling.



Congregational Care Information

1 Thessalonians 5:11 *Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.*

Please call the church office between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. if you need assistance during the coronavirus outbreak and quarantine. Culdee Care Team members can deliver prepaid groceries, medicines and other needs. Be sure to give Edith your official name and birthdate to pick up prepaid medications. If you are able to run errands for members in need, please call the church office to volunteer for the Culdee Care Team.

SHUT-INS

Mr. Pete Bullard
812 NC Hwy 73
West End, NC 27376

Ms. Evelyn Caddell
206 Hawthorne Trail
West End, NC 27376

Mr. Kenneth Whitesell, Rm. #517
Genesis Health Care Siler City Center
900 W. Dolphin St.
Siler City, NC 27344

Sick & Shut-in

Please keep these special members in your thoughts, prayers and communication list, not only during this crisis but also beyond.



Pray for Culdee members serving in the Armed Forces: Tony Cox & Jared Rivas

Prayers for all people keeping life moving & safe during the COVID 19 pandemic, especially those working in medical environments, no matter their task.



Additional Coronavirus Information Regarding Public Assistance:

Due to closings, layoffs and cut hours, many folks across the area are going to need financial assistance from government programs. Advice from one Unemployment Agency worker was for people to apply for assistance as soon as their job situation changed. The other essential is that when applying, you must tell the agency that you are there because of changes due to coronavirus. **YOU must tell them coronavirus has changed your employment status.** They are not allowed to prompt you for this information. It will make a difference to your benefits.



Congregational Care: Chair Karon McKenzie & Vice Chair Eve Williamson

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Submitted by Karon McKenzie

We had our first 2020-year meeting on March 1st. Session asked that we (and all ministries) review our duties assigned to the ministry. The duties of Congregational Care are as follows:

DUTIES OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY

A. KITCHEN: Check regularly on supplies; order paper goods for all events as needed.

B: FUNERALS: Provide food as requested by family; host the reception to receive friends; arrange and serve refreshments. NOTE: Congregational Care has relied heavily on the Women's Circles to provide and serve the bereaved family.

C. GRADUATES - High School and College Graduates: Recognize the graduates along with the recipients of the Doris Moore Scholarship. NOTE: Please let Mrs. Edith Martin in the church office know about the upcoming graduates. They will be recognized at the May 31st service.

D: SENIOR LUNCHEON: To be held in Spring. THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED for 2020.

F: CARD MINISTRY: Send out cards to the shut-ins and sick on birthdays and holidays and to bereaved families. NOTE: Please be in prayer to see if our Lord can use you in sending cards or visiting our shut-ins and the sick. I know you will be blessed by their insight and wisdom. If you are willing, please call the church office or me and let us know you would like to take on one or two of our shut-ins. That would great.

G: I WILL RETURN TO LATER.

H: NEWSLETTER: Each month the newsletters are to be assembled and prepared for mailing. NOTE: There is a great group of ladies that have been doing that each month but volunteers are always welcome. Thank you so much for your service.

I: FUTURE IDEAS: Contact any visitors that add their names and addresses on the pew pads. Send a card, make a short visit or even a phone call just to say hello and glad to have you and your family visit with us. Invite them back and let them know about the upcoming events of the church. NOTE: This ministry really needs hands and feet to help it get off the ground and running. If you are a people person, this just might be God's gift to you. If so, please let Congregational Care know.

J: MONTH'S FIFTH SUNDAY EVENTS: Plan an activity for the whole church family. It might be a movie, games or even singing.

K: TRUNK OR TREAT COMMUNITY EVENT: 4th Saturday of October; Plan activities possibly including: having hot dogs, a bouncy house, face painting and games. Encourage as many folks as possible to decorate trunks, bring treats and participate in the fun!

G: HARVEST FESTIVAL: 3rd Saturday of October; Responsible for securing volunteer directors for each area including the auction, kitchen, and pre-auction activities. Each director is responsible for recruiting their helpers and overseeing all the aspects of their area.

For 2020, so far Mrs. Martha Mathews said she will head up the dumpling making and Mrs. Michelle Seawell will look after the take-out stations. Please, please be in prayer as to where you can help out with the preparations the whole week before the Harvest Festival and on the Harvest Festival Saturday.

The Congregational Care Ministry is looking into purchasing banners for advertising the Harvest Festival. The six banners will have a clear pocket in which the dates can be changed annually. We are hoping to have a draft for our next meeting on May 17th.

So, as you can see this ministry has so many different areas in which you can serve our Lord and our church family. I also would like to take this time and thank each of our Brothers and Sisters that work so hard each and every day for this family of God. Know that you are a blessing to all.

Your Sisters in Christ.



If you've got the opportunity to be at home with your family during the virus, maybe relieve some cabin fever by crafting items for the Church's Harvest Festival.



Worship: Chair Johnie Marion & Vice Chair Brandon Blue

Romans 8:28 *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

Submitted by Johnie Marion

The following is Part I of the article on *Reformed Worship* that originally appeared in the June 2001 issue of *Presbyterians Today*. It was written by Rev. Dr. Paul E. Detterman and is offered as 'food for thought.' Dr. Detterman is an author, composer, and conference speaker who is pastor of First Presbyterian Church of River Forest, Illinois, and a blogger at reformedworship.org. He is a former associate for worship on the national staff of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Reformed worship — it's *all* about God (Part I)

As worshipers gather at First, Second, Third or Fourth Presbyterian Church of Anywhere, it would be very interesting to ask, “Why are you here?” “What are you expecting to do in this hour?” or “What is this all about?”

The answers individual Presbyterians gave would be wide-ranging. Some would say, “I come here to be part of a caring community.” Others might muse, “I’ve been coming to church ever since I was a child. I miss it when I’m not here.” Those who are newer to the church might say, “I come because of the sermon/music/prayer/ liturgy. While all of these answers may be honest, none of them express a Reformed understanding of why we bother to worship God at all. Each of these answers is centered on the needs, habits or expectations of individual worshipers. As Reformed Christians we believe Christian worship is all about God.

Reading the directions

The middle section of our *Book of Order* contains a Directory for Worship for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This part of our constitution is not at all *prescriptive* — it does not mandate exact prayer texts or outline unbending orders of worship. It is, however, wonderfully *descriptive*. It offers a clear exposition of the theology reflected in our worship and outlines possible forms and orders of service that are appropriate for Presbyterians to use.

When it comes to understanding the specific God focus of our worship, the first paragraph is a wonderful place to start (*italics added for emphasis*):

“Christian worship joyfully ascribes *all* praise and honor, glory and power *to the triune God*. In worship, the people of God *acknowledge God present* in the world and in their lives. As they *respond to God’s claim and redemptive action in Jesus Christ*, believers are transformed and renewed. In worship, the faithful *offer themselves to God* and are equipped for *God’s service* in the world.”

The essence of worship in the Reformed tradition can be seen in this brief paragraph. (How did the worship you participated in this past Lord’s Day compare with this?)

Joyful worship

The first phrase of the quote from the Directory is already a stumbling block for many Presbyterians whose worship may be well intentioned, well designed, well focused, but *not*, well, joyful.

The first question in the Westminster Catechism asks, “What is the chief end of man [humans]?” The answer: “To glorify God and *enjoy* him forever.” How joyful *was* your worship last Sunday? This does not in any way imply that we should be giddy, goofy or glib, but was there much true *joy* evident on the part of worshipers or worship leaders?

When we come to worship, we are gathering with other believing Christians and entering into the

presence of the Creator of all that is, offering a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Astonishing as it may be, God not only tolerates our offering, but invites us into intimate communion. If there was ever a cause for joy, no matter what the condition or circumstances of the rest of our life may be at the moment, such a God-given invitation should be it! No matter what size a congregation may be; no matter how eloquent or simple the proclamation or praise may be; no matter how old, how young, how blessed, or how oppressed a particular church may be; when Christians gather for worship, and that worship is truly focused on God, there will be joy.



Christian Education Ministry: Chairman Wade Garner & Vice Chair Patti Burke

Roman 8:14 *For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.*

A reminder on how to access the *RightNow Media* Bible Study online.

- *RightNow Media* is the largest library of on-demand Bible Study videos available. This library has been purchased by Culdee on a monthly basis for our entire congregation and offers a variety of studies & entertainment for all ages. Please take advantage of this opportunity.
 - **Suggested for adults during this time is: Traveling Light by Max Lucado**
Max Lucado discusses the baggage we each carry on earth instead of surrendering these to God. (Baggage such as worry, guilt, fear, etc.) This study is based on the 23rd Psalm.
- ***RightNow Media* offers many Bible based cartoons, and entertaining Biblical teachings to children of different ages.** The studies are divided into age appropriate topics. Many have enjoyed Bibleman in Children's Church. Also offered are religious children's movies.
- You can log onto *RightNow Media* on your pads, computer or phones.
 - **Instructions to log onto *RightNow Media*:**
 - Search for RightNow Media or enter <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/>
 - Click on Login
 - Enter: CuldeePresChurch@gmail.com
 - Password: 1886/21st

-Once you have logged in and are on the site, you will see the Search symbol beside Kids near upper left of the screen. There you may enter Max Lucado "Traveling Light" and you will find that study.

-Search the Kid's library if you have young children for interests/needs. It is endless!

***If you have trouble logging on, please contact Patti Burke at pburke001@embarqmail.com**

It is our prayer each of you are well. Hopefully this difficult time will allow us to grow in faith, spend more time in God's word and emerge both stronger as individuals and a stronger Culdee Presbyterian Church!



Finance Ministry: Chairman Danny Aldridge & Vice Chair Diann Fortune

Proverbs 21:20 *In the house of the wise are stores of choice food & oil,
but a foolish man devours all he has.*

Submitted by Diann Fortune

edited, Interim Pastor Jane Love

Financial Status: Review of the attached financial statement from Sandhills Accounting Services (last approved) shows income for March was \$16,847 while March monthly expenses were \$18,924.23. Culdee's Year-to-Date income is \$57,302 while the Year-to-Date expenses are \$57,102.05. For the month of March, Culdee's income did not cover all expenses but Culdee did have enough income from January through March to cover all expenses within that time frame.

Coronavirus Expenses: Interim Pastor Jane Love explained at the March 15, 2020 Finance Ministry Meeting that she had researched videographer costs and had spoken to Ben Dunlop about the possibility of being hired to create the videos for Sunday Worship during the coronavirus stay-at-home order. Tim Lea suggested he knew a person that might provide the service pro bono. On April 3rd, Interim Pastor Jane Love polled the Session, recommending contracting with Ben Dunlop to create worship videos at a cost of \$125 per week, \$25 dollars a week for 5 hours per week retroactive from March 1 continuing through May 31 with reevaluation of the necessity June 1. Session approved this contract with 2 dissenting votes. On April 19, Interim Pastor Jane Love told the Finance Ministry that she would be bringing a recommendation to the Session that the weekly pay be increased to \$175 per week since 7-8 hours per week was needed to film and then splice and edited the videos. Finance Ministry restated the original concerns over the uncertainty of future contributions and pointed out there were non-members currently donating time weekly.

Coronavirus & Giving Opportunities: The effects of job closings & shortened hours are affecting households differently financially. As folks are willing and able, there are two simple methods for making contributions will keep folks safely at home: 1. Drop a check in the mail. 2. Contribute through your personal online banking. All contributions are sincerely appreciated! If your family needs assistance during this crisis, please remember the church may be able to help.

Carnegie Hall Choir Trip: The choir's New York trip has been postponed until May 2021 due to the national pandemic. Funds will be held by Mid-America, the company organizing the trip, and applied to the 2021 trip. Fundraisers will resume after the pandemic as there are still travel expenses and additional lodging costs to be covered as well as likely cost increases in the new year.

Culdee's Organizations & Groups



Presbyterian Women: Mary Ruth Whitaker & Darlene Valitutto

Submitted by Mary Ruth Whitaker

The following announcement was sent by Helen McDonald, our PW South West Regional Moderator.

“Ladies,

I hope this finds you and your loved ones well. So much has changed in such a short time. I wanted to touch base and confirm that the Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering has been cancelled as well as the PW Synod Summer Gathering in June. We will pray that things will improve soon. I will miss seeing and worshipping with you.”

Let us pray that the next time we're standing in church listening to the voices of praise and worship that we take a moment to thank God for the gift of congregation.

Presbyterian Men: Wade Garner

Currently the Presbyterian Men's group will not meet in May due to the coronavirus. If the situation changes, we'll let you know.

Thank you to the folks that helped out with the Easter Sunday Breakfast. There was a good turn-out for drive-through service and several plates were delivered. Another breakfast is planned for **May 3rd from 8:30 - 9:15 a.m.**

Please call the church office to reserve your plates.

**Thank
You!**

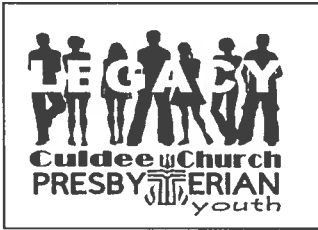
On Easter Sunday morning, April 12th, Darrell McKenzie and crew made a delicious breakfast for the whole church. Everyone filed by in their cars and picked up their plates to take home to eat or to eat in the church parking lot. We all are so grateful for him heading this up and we appreciate it so much.

What others did not know is **that day was Darrell's birthday** and he deserves a "special pat on the back" for doing this for all of us on such a special day.

When you see him let him know what a nice thing he did, or you may leave him a message at his home. The folks at Culdee love you and thank you!

Lonnie & Judy McKenzie





Church family,

I miss you all so much! What a strange time this is but also a time of reflection and renewal. I want to say thank you to all of our church leaders for continuing to spend many hours making decisions for our church. We love and appreciate all of you.

Please let me know if there are any needs of church members or those in our community. As a social worker, I have many resources that may be able to assist families at this time. You may call or text me anytime at 910-638-9190.

LEGACY is meeting on Sundays at 4pm via Zoom! It is so good for us to be able to see each other and we are thankful for the technology to be able to do so!

Congratulations to our seniors who have been accepted to and chosen their universities! Kalindi Vaswani is graduating from The O'Neal School and she will be attending Appalachian State University!



Austin Aponte is graduating from Pinecrest High School and he will be attending East Carolina University! I am so proud of you both!

Praying for healing and protection,

Celeste Marino



News from Presbytery of Coastal Carolina as of April 21, 2020

At this time **Camp Monroe is still planning to offer summer camp**, however, their schedule may be modified. Keep an eye on www.MonroeCamp.org for updates.

If there is additional information you would like to see included in our newsletter, please email culdee.news@gmail.com to make suggestions or requests. All ideas will be given consideration. 😊

Birthdays for May:

Kenneth Whitesell	01	Larry Koster	13	Evan Rivas	21
Dwight Parsons	03	Ella Vest	14	Aidan Palmerton	22
Shirley Shields	06	JoAnn Cameron	14	Rick Mathews	22
Johnie Marion	06	Emily Adams	15	Mike Marion	23
Josh Aldridge	08	Will Cuff	15	Layton Barber	24
Diane Aldridge	09	Emily Craven	16	H.W. Frye	26
Reece Parsons	09	Gail Farmer	18	Jane Love	26
Samuel Blue	10	Griffin Clayton	18	Stan Shields	26
Rebecca Willcox	11	Adrian Parsons	19	Matt Gribben	26
Alston Willcox	11	Darrell Cole	19	Dennis Fortune	31
Alex Prince	13	Brian Gribben	19		



MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS: (In hope & faith we're healthy & operating normally soon.)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRI.	SAT.
8:20 am REACH Service	9:00 am Culdee Knitters	6:00 pm Dulcimers	6:00 pm Bible Study	9:00 am Culdee Quilters		
9:40 am Children's JAM	2:30 pm Joyful Noise	7:00 pm Handbells	7:00 pm Choir Practice			
9:45 Sunday School						
11:00 am Worship						
6:00 pm Youth Group						

Schedule of May Events:

May 3-Drive-Through Breakfast- 8:30 - 9:15 a.m.-

Please call the church office to reserve your plates.

REMINDER- For everyone's safety, please remain in your cars.

May 3- Special Offering-Mother's/Father's Day

May 17- Session Teleconference-Please request access from June Stewart if you would like to join.

May 24- Memorial Day Service

May 31-Pentecost with Communion-Drive-In Service is planned if regular service hasn't resumed

Two Cents a Meal Offering



From Presbytery:

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina, of which Culdee is a member, has recommended that **all face-to-face gatherings be cancelled at least through May 17**. A decision for the remainder of May will be made at the Presbytery's May 8, 2020 meeting. Culdee has followed the recommendations of the Presbytery so far. Updates to Culdee's members & friends will be provided as they become available.

CULDEE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT
 31-Mar-2020

Week **4,922.94**
 Sundays **5**

OPERATING FUND REFLECTS INCOME FROM TITHES/OFFERINGS AND GENERAL MONTHLY EXPENSES

OVER & (UNDER)

MO OP BUDGET INCOME	\$ 24,614.71	ACTUAL MO OP INCOME	\$ 16,847.00	(7,767.71)
MO OP BUDGET EXPENSE	\$ 24,614.71	ACT MO OP EXPENSE	\$ 18,924.23	(5,690.48)
TOTAL YTD OP BUDGET INCOME	\$ 63,998.25	ACTUAL YTD OP INCOME	\$ 57,302.00	(6,696.25)
TOTAL YTD OP BUDGET EXPENSE	\$ 63,998.25	ACTUAL YTD OP EXPENSE	\$ 57,102.05	(6,896.20)
ACTUAL MO OP & DESG INCOME	\$ 26,444.39	ACTUAL YTD OP & DESG INCOME	\$ 89,152.53	
ACTUAL MO OP & DESG EXPENSE	\$ 33,223.23	ACTUAL YTD OP & DESG EXPENSE	\$ 79,593.76	

LIQUID ASSETS:

BB&T CHECKING	\$ 24,250.88
LIVE OAK LIQUID ASSET SAVINGS	\$ 4,818.14
LIVE OAK LIQUID ASSET CDs	\$ 166,611.86
SALES TAX RECEIVABLE	\$ 585.88
DUE FROM GEN TO LEGALLY DESIGNATED	\$ -
TOTAL AVAILABLE LIQUID ASSETS	\$ 196,266.76

LEGALLY RESTRICTED FUNDS: *

BB&T Cemetery Fund Checking/Savings*	\$ 6,686.14
BB&T Cemetery Fund CDs*	\$ 69,211.58
BB&T Flower Garden CD #3126*	\$ 10,000.00
BB&T Flower Garden Checking #6017*	\$ 1,774.96
BB&T Men's Group Checking #5469*	\$ 722.94
Live Oak Barnabus Savings*	\$ 3,856.64
Live Oak Building/Renovations Savings*	\$ 18,193.50
Live Oak Choir Savings*	\$ 303.66
Live Oak Doris Moore Savings*	\$ 2,465.51
Live Oak Hand Bell Savings*	\$ 1,401.68
Live Oak Missions Savings*	\$ 8,291.89
Live Oak Parking Lot Savings*	\$ 7.50
Live Oak Sarah Ann Fortune Savings*	\$ 932.66
Live Oak Youth Basketball Project Savings*	\$ 3,862.35
Live Oak Youth Savings*	\$ 10,384.42
Live Oak Parking Lot CDs*	\$ 37,741.13
Live Oak Cemetery Fund CD #7743*	\$ 20,133.70
Live Oak Doris Moore CDs*	\$ 49,432.24
Live Oak Missions CDs*	\$ 5,112.07
Live Oak Sarah Ann Fortune CDs*	\$ 30,999.10
TOTAL LEGALLY RESTRICTED FUNDS*	\$ 281,513.67

DESIGNATED, RESTRICTED & LEGALLY RESTRICTED LIQUID ASSETS:

DESIGNATED FUNDS *	\$ 10,695.46
LEGALLY RESTRICTED FUNDS *	\$ 281,513.67
TOTAL DESIGNATED, RESTRICTED & LEGALLY RESTRICTED LIQUID ASSETS	\$ 292,209.13

TOTAL ASSETS **\$ 488,475.89**

DESIGNATED FUNDS: *

Barnabus Fund *	\$ 216.65
Building/Renovations*	
Building & Renovations*	\$ 244.51
Parking Lot Paving Fund*	\$ -
Choir Fund *	\$ 5,382.34
Doris Moore *	\$ -
Hand Bell Fund *	\$ 250.54
Harvest Festival*	\$ 450.00
Missions*	\$ 3,073.50
Other Designated*	\$ 35.80
Sarah Ann Fortune Memorial Fund *	\$ 147.92
Youth Basketball Project*	\$ 1,660.20
Youth Fund *	\$ (766.00)

BB&T CHECKING DESIGNATED FUNDS * **\$ 10,695.46**

TOTAL YTD INTEREST INCLUDED IN BALANCES **\$ 1,412.59**
TOTAL BALANCE @ BEGINNING OF YEAR **\$ 277,029.26**

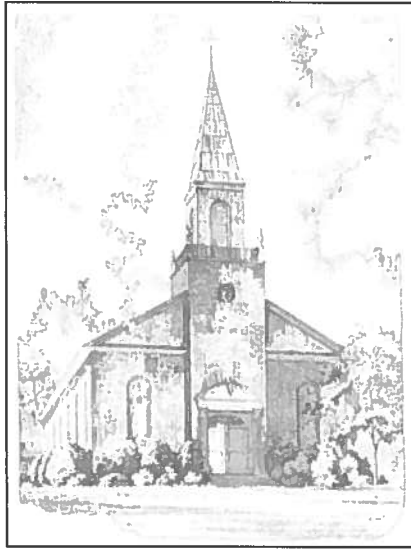
ACT = ACTUAL
 MO = MONTHLY
 BUD = BUDGET
 OP = OPERATING
 INC = INCOME
 EXP = EXPENSES
 DESG = DESIGNATED
 * = LEGALLY RESTRICTED FUNDS

AVAILABLE LIQUID ASSETS	\$ 196,266.76
BB&T CHECKING (MINIMUM BALANCE)	\$ (20,000.00)
6 MONTH RESERVE (EQUAL TO ANNUAL BUDGET INCOME DIVIDED BY 2)	\$ (127,996.50)
MONIES AVAILABLE IN EXCESS OF 6 MONTHS RESERVE	\$ 48,270.26

Total Annual Budget **\$ 255,993.00**
Average monthly budget **\$ 21,332.75**

Months in Reserve	8.26
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*Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.
1 Chronicles 16:8*

Culdee Presbyterian Mission

Culdee Presbyterian Church will build caring relationships with our local and global community while proclaiming the Word of God and building up our faith community.

Weekly Worship Services
(When not in midst of national pandemic.)
Interim Pastor: Reverend Jane Love

Sundays:

8:20- REACH Service

A contemporary-type worship service followed by refreshments & fellowship.

9:30- Fellowship & Refreshments

A time to share prayer praises and needs and enjoy Christian fellowship.

9:45- Sunday School

Learn God's Word & how it applies to daily life.

11:00- Worship Service

A relaxed traditional-type service where all are welcome.

Wednesdays:

6:00- Bible Study

Join fellow Christians in an uplifting study of the Bible.



Contact Us: PH: (910) 295-6685 www.culdeechurch.net culdee@embarqmail.com

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