

# The Culdee Connection Newsletter



*Culdee Presbyterian Church*

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[www.culdeechurch.net](http://www.culdeechurch.net)

## OCTOBER WORSHIP INFORMATION

SERMON SERIES: "THE GREAT I AM..."

### **NOVEMBER 1, 2015**

Scripture:

Sermon: "...the Good Shepherd!"

### **NOVEMBER 8, 2015**

Scripture: John 14:6

Sermon: "...the Way, the Truth, the Life"

### **NOVEMBER 15, 2015**

Scripture: John 15:1

Sermon: "...The True Vine"

### **NOVEMBER 22, 2015**

Scripture: John 11:25

Sermon: "the Resurrection & the Life"

### **NOVEMBER 29, 2015** (Advent, week 1)

Advent Sermon Series begins.

CD's of the worship service are available on the table outside the office  
or by calling/e-mailing the church office.

## From the Pastor's Desk...

- **I love our Harvest Festival!** Yes, there are some fabulous auction items; certainly the hotdogs the youth sell are tasty; seeing so many folks here at the church and being able to visit with them is a lot of fun; and of course the Chicken and Dumplings are...well...simply mouth watering and delicious. But none of those things are what really capture my heart. No, the best part of the Harvest Festival is seeing everyone come together and commit themselves to a common goal.

There is so much that divides us. Some of us pull for the University of North Carolina, some pull for North Carolina State University, and others for Duke University...and still others may not care about any of these. Some of us prefer to spend vacations at the beach while some of us love the crisp mountain air. Some people like bluegrass music, some classical, some classic rock, and others Contemporary Christian. Some people prefer vegetables while for some a plate without meat and potatoes is simply incomplete. In life there are many things that separate and divide us. But when I step back and look at Harvest Festival I see an event that unites us!

When you walk around on Harvest Festival Saturday you see so many people pitching in and working together...so many people rolling up their sleeves and getting their hands dirty. It is a truly beautiful picture of the church to see children and youth working side by side with parents and grandparents in the kitchen turning out dumplings. You see people working together who have been lifelong friends...but you also see people working together who just met. There were people who have been members of Culdee since they were children working alongside people who call Culdee home but have not yet become members; there were people working together who attend different services of worship, Sunday School classes, and Circles.

Harvest Festival is an event...a day in the life of our church...where the things that may tend to divide us get pushed into the background as we focus on what unites us. Some might say that the thing that unites us is our love for Culdee Presbyterian Church. And while that may be true in some ways, it is a little misplaced in other ways. No, I believe what ultimately unites us is our love of Jesus Christ and a deep desire to serve God's Kingdom.

May we all keep our eyes on Jesus...and on the unity that he brings into our lives. We will continue to agree on some things and disagree on others, but may there be no mistake where our first love lies. While our first love may be found within the walls and life of Culdee, it is not the church...no, it is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May we seek to live each day as his disciples, his followers, and his people. May we seek to share his love and grace with our family and friends and even the stranger we just met at the grocery store. May we seek to reach beyond ourselves and our own little world in order to carry the message of God's amazing love into a world that is filled with so much pain and suffering.

- Pastor Joe

- **Sunday morning schedule!** Hope you will plan to join us on Sunday mornings! Whichever service of worship you attend we hope you will be sure to plan to be with us for the time of fellowship beginning around 9:30.
  - 8:20—The REACH Worship Service (in the Fellowship Hall)
  - 9:30—Coffee & fellowship
  - 9:45—Sunday School
  - 11:00—Worship (in the Sanctuary)



Visit us online at [www.culdeechurch.net](http://www.culdeechurch.net)

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Darlene Valitutto	01
Janie Taylor	05
Waylon Cox	05
Caelyn Stewart	06
Robert Dennis	07
Waylon Sloan Cox	09
Don Altman	11
Melanie Huffines	11
Shaw Oldham	14
Justin Ritter	15
Marion Cote'	16
Cole Bullard	17
Steven Moon	19
Blaine Ritter	19
Harold Clayton	20
Steve Carlyle	21
Joshua Craven	25
Kristin Lilly	25
Luke Howle	27
Daniel Jordan	27
Magdalene McKenzie	27 (100!)
Daniel Ritter	28
Bonnie Black	29
Chris Willcox	30
Chris Lilly	30

## CULDEE QUILTERS

Thank you! Once again all of you came through for us! Our quilt raffle was a big success...we knew you could do it! Congratulations to Beverly Furr on winning the quilt. We know you will enjoy it!! Thank you to everyone who sold and bought tickets.

The Culdee Quilters

## PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S NEWS

Thanks to all the Presbyterian Men for their hard work in getting ready for the Harvest Festival again this year. There will be no PM's meeting in November.

Darrell McKenzie and all the other men will be cooking Thanksgiving breakfast on November 26 which will be served at 7:00 am. Everyone is invited to come out for breakfast and for the Thank Offering Program which follows.

On December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm, the men will be cooking their annual church wide Christmas dinner. Everyone is encouraged to come out for this time of good food and fellowship.

Wade Garner, PM President

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

What can I say, Brothers and Sisters, except "Thank You...Thank You!!!!" Our guest came, and we all came together and worked hard all day. The Harvest Festival brought in around \$18515.90.

We had two new additions to this year's Harvest Festival: the top five bakers of 2014 raised \$96 this year in a desert raffle; and the Eastwood Fire Dept. help raised \$110 with their reflective address signs. Thank you Eastwood Fire Dept. for contributing to our Festival. So again I say "Thank You" for all your hard work.

Congregational Care has called a recap meeting on Nov 1<sup>st</sup> to go over this year's Harvest Festival to see how we can better prepare for next year. All are welcome to attend at 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

November has five Sundays; so that means we will be getting together for music or maybe a CHRISTMAS BINGO. We will let you know. The church activity will be November 29th at 4 pm in the fellowship hall.

Brother and Sisters we are truly blessed to have a loving church family that will step up and help each other in a time of need. Praise be to our God.

Your Sister in Christ,

Chair Karen McKenzie



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education Committee would like to invite you to a special family night on **Wednesday nights**. This is for all ages. Our new recharge program is called **J.A.M. (Jesus and Me)**. A meal and Bible study is offered each week.

- The **children are practicing for the Christmas program** with Beverly Dunlap during this time. They will also get a Bible lesson.
- The **youth have a Bible study** with Mark Seawell and a time of fellowship.
- Pastor Joe is doing a study on the book of **James for the adults**.

J.A.M. will be a great night of fellowship and spiritual growth for all. Supper will be served at 5:30 with family studies from 6:00 – 7:00.

**Mark your calendars to J.A.M. on Wednesday nights!!** Please join us in this new adventure and invite a friend. All are welcome! We plan to run JAM through Wednesday, November 18th, and then break for the holidays. Come participate and enjoy fellowship with Culdee family and friends!!!!

### *Children's Christmas Concert and Party*

Beverly Dunlop is practicing with our children for the Christmas concert on Wednesday night at our JAM. Please encourage your child to participate. The concert and Christmas party will be on Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 4:00.

***\*\*Let's all make church involvement a priority each week with Sunday morning worship, Sunday school participation and Wednesday JAM! Don't forget to fellowship with Culdee friends at 9:30 at the Fellowship Breakfast each Sunday. Hope to see all of our Culdee family in November.\*\****

## “MEN OF GOD”

When you look at your bulletin on Sunday mornings do you ever wonder what “**Men of God**” means? Well, it is really pretty simple, it is a gathering of men at Culdee Presbyterian Church that meets each Thursday at 12:00 in the Fellowship Hall. We gather to encourage one another in our journeys of faith and to pray for one another. Throughout the week we are all reading in Oswald Chambers, “My Utmost for His Highest.” On Thursdays we spend some time talking about that week’s readings...what we liked or didn’t like; what spoke to us and what we read that we did not understand. This group is open to all men! If you are looking to join with other men in order to encourage one another in our walk with Christ this may be the place. Don’t worry if you can’t make it each week...that’s fine...come when you can. If you come, feel free to bring your lunch if you would like to eat.

## SMALL GORUP PRAYER TEAMS

At the end of October our Small Group Prayer Teams began meeting. Currently we have two prayer groups meeting on a regular basis. Larry & Beverly Furr are hosting one group and John & Vickie Blue are hosting the other. These groups meet to pray for the life and ministry of Culdee Presbyterian Church along with its members and friends. Culdee is blessed with many prayer warriors who make it a regular part of their day and time with God to lift this church up in prayer...and I hope all of us would follow suit. But to have an intentional prayer ministry is an important addition for many faith communities.

If you are interested I encourage you to contact either Larry or Vickie. If the days, or times, that they meet do not fit your schedule please let the church office know and we will see how we can best get you involved.

# OUTREACH NEWS

## **Helping our Friends in South Carolina**

Recently, Culdee sent \$500.00 to Samaritan's Purse to assist with the catastrophic flooding in Columbia, SC. Samaritan's Purse and the Billy Graham Rapid Response Team Chaplains have set up two disaster relief units in the devastated areas. Through their staff and volunteers they are providing aid to victims of this historical flooding. Let's continue to be in prayer for the staff, volunteers, and especially our South Carolina neighbors in the affected areas. The rains have subsided but the rebuilding of shattered lives and homes will be a long time coming. Would you like to do more? These two groups are always looking for willing volunteers. You can contact Samaritans Purse or Billy Graham Rapid Response Team if you would like more information on how to become involved.

## **Step of Faith in Haiti Becomes a Reality**

Pastor Sidor announces the new school in Haiti is off to a wonderful start. Students, teachers, staff, and community are excited but mostly thankful for the blessing of a school. **All glory is given to God for making this a reality and for blessing this mountain community with its "first ever" school building.** If you would like to see pictures of the school and read updates please check out our bulletin board outside the fellowship hall or follow this ministry on Hands International Facebook page.

Pastor Sidor and wife Lilian are grateful to the Culdee church family for our prayers and support. They ask for us to please keep lifting them in prayer. The new construction has alleviated many obstacles but they still face numerous daily challenges as a Christian school in the impoverished county they live in.

## **Frequently asked questions about Haiti**

**If I want to send a donation where do I send it?** Hands International 1477 Bullard Rd. Powder Springs, Ga 30127 (send a note or specify on check this is for Pastor Sidor/Haiti Ministry and include designated area if you have one - ex. breakfast fund) Donations are tax deductible.

**How much of my donation is given to the school and ministry?** 100%

**Are there specific areas that I can designate my monies to be used in?** Yes. One area needing monies right now is the school year breakfast fund. Other areas are teacher salaries and student materials.

The outreach committee meets the second Sunday of each month at 5:00 pm. Interested in being apart of this ministry?? New members are always welcome.

Blessings,

The Culdee Outreach Committee, John McKenzie, Norman Harris, June Stewart, Sylvia Pusser, Bruce Sandness

**Then the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these My brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me.'  
Matthew 25:40.**



# THANKSGIVING ACTIVITIES

## Community Thanksgiving Worship

When: Sunday, Nov. 22

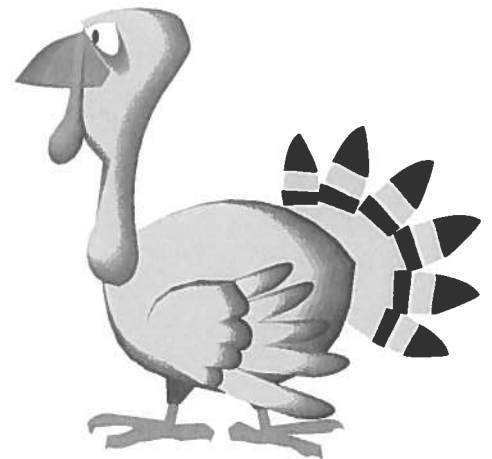
Time: 6:00 p.m.

We encourage everyone to bring  
canned goods to donate!



@ Fairview Baptist Church

**THANKSGIVING BREAKFAST  
& P.W. THANK PROGRAM**



7:00 a.m. Thanksgiving morning

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Such busy months beginning September through December.

September: I want to take some time to thank all the ladies for their time in helping with the set-up, food preparation and the clean-up for the Women's Joint Fall Meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup>. The Cameron Presbyterian Women also joined in for the meeting, dinner, fellowship and the lesson presentation. A special thanks to Sylvia Pusser for getting this year's lesson, "The Living Waters", jump-started. Her presentation was interesting and made us eager to begin on God's lesson for this year.

October: The Harvest Festival! So much going on. Thanks to all who participated!

November: The Community Thanksgiving Service will be at Fairview Baptist Church on Nov. 22 at 6:00 p.m. Hope all will be able to attend. Please remember to take canned goods to help those in need. Also, we will again be helping Barium Springs with the children this year. Then Angel Tree will be set up in the Sunroom as soon as we receive the "angels" from Barium Springs.

November Circle Duties: Circle 3 will be in charge of the nursery; the Day Circle will be in charge of the flowers and Circle 1 will be decorating the Church for Christmas (before Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>).

A big thanks to all that you do throughout the year.

Love to all and God Bless You,

Robin McKenzie  
Women's Moderator



**SHOPPING TRIP AND CHRISTMAS SHOW**.....A Christmas shopping trip, and Christmas show at the Palace Theatre in Myrtle Beach is scheduled for Saturday, December 5, 2015. We will leave the church around 8:00 am and will be returning around 11:30 pm. The cost for the ticket is \$27.00 and \$5.00 for gas. We will be taking the church van and only 12 seats are available. You will find the signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Once you sign, you will be responsible for the cost of the ticket, they are nonrefundable and will have to be purchased in advance to secure a good seat. Jewell

**EACH SUNDAY...FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST!**

**9:30 A.M. IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**COME JOIN US FOR A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP AND FOOD  
WITH OUR CULDEE FAMILY EACH SUNDAY MORNING!**

**EVERYONE IS INVITED!**

## FINANCE MINISTRY NEWS

This article summarizes most of the items discussed at our October 4, 2015 meeting. This information is being provided to you in order to increase the communication between the Finance Ministry Team and the Congregation.

The bulletin insert is being included monthly with weekly needs and weekly offerings listed each week. Ministry Members stated many Church Members like getting the financial information weekly so they can contribute accordingly. Therefore the Finance Ministry felt the financials should continue to be displayed weekly in the bulletin allowing for more transparency verses less.

Monthly Income through Tithes and Offerings for September 2015 was \$16,389.74 which leaves a Year to Date *deficit* versus the budget of (\$11,393.88).

Pat Shenkle owner of Sandhill's Accounting continue to work on converting our records to a new computer system. This is being offered at no charge to the Church and hopefully will be in place by January 1, 2016. For ease in calculations, the budget next year will reflect weekly numbers needed by dividing the budget by 52 weeks instead of 12 to get monthly numbers. This is being done to make it easier to understand some financial reports in the bulletins.

Lionel Bryson continues to work on the Fellowship Hall fire alarm system. The firewall will need to be patched between the Fellowship Hall and the Sunroom which currently has a hole in it. If not patched, the fire alarm system would have to include both buildings which obviously raises the cost. This is needed due to our participation in Family Promise which includes overnight guests, thereby requiring a fire alarm system. Approximate cost for the Fellowship Hall is \$20,000 to \$25,000.

The Endowment Fund Committee has finalized an investment structure plan which was presented to and approved by the session. The Session approved the transfer of our \$30,000 CD, which recently came due, to the Endowment Fund. In conjunction with this, an anonymous Benefactor has gifted \$10,000 which has also been placed in the Endowment Fund per the Benefactors wishes.

The budget for 2016 was discussed with a reduction of \$14,409 being proposed. This represents a total reduction of 5.93% from the 2015 Budget. This is based on the projected shortfall in Income/ Tithes and Offerings through the end of 2015. The recommended budget numbers have been presented to the Session which will have the final responsibility for the decision on the 2016 Budget.

The 2016 Pastor Terms of Call was the last item discussed. Over the past three years, the Pastor has received a 9.5% increase in total compensation during that time period. Many items in the Pastor Terms of Call are set by Presbytery but some are added by the Congregations. The Pastor Terms of Call is decided upon by the Congregation, not the Session but the Session presents the Call.

We would like to reiterate that members of the Congregation are always welcome at our monthly meetings.

Please feel free to contact any of the following Finance Ministry Team for clarification of any questions you may have: Tim Lea, Chairman, Danny Aldridge, Vice Chairman, Bob Beddingfield, Gene Bowen, Lionel Bryson, Jim Dalton, Art McKenzie, Jim Stewart, Ann Savage, Mark Thompson, and Pastor Joe Washburn.

- Danny Aldridge, Finance Ministry



## CULDEE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE NEWS

The Endowment Fund Committee met on October 4, 2015, as we moved into Fall, and a change of seasons. We are excited to share we believe there is a colorful new season of investment opportunities for Culdee Presbyterian Church on the horizon. After much hard work in faith, and a commitment to the best interests of Culdee Church, we, the Endowment Committee, learned that our Endowment Policy & Procedures document had been approved by the Session. We are excited and humbled at the developing opportunity to assist in investing in the future of Culdee Presbyterian Church.

The Endowment Committee discussed investment options and opportunities. Emphasis remained on ensuring the security of any funds entrusted to the Endowment Fund Committee, and a wide variety of investment opportunities were discussed including: FDIC insured CD's and Treasury bills, fixed annuities, investment grade securities, and electronic investments. We were grateful to learn that Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church, who has a seasoned and successful Endowment Fund, is willing to collaborate with Culdee Endowment Committee members on as needed basis. Emphasis remained on maintaining the security of any investments, and keeping a focus on the continued integrity of the Committee entrusted to handle any donations.

The Committee was made aware of a \$30,000 Certificate of Deposit (CD) at Culdee Church, making minimal interest, that was ready to mature on 10/20/2015. A motion was made and approved that upon the maturity of the existing Church CD that the monies from the CD be designated to the Endowment Fund Committee for investment. A lively discussion ensued, and the Committee also learned, of an anonymous Benefactor who was willing to match the Endowment Committee's first donation up to \$10,000, with the Benefactor's donation to be used for a designated purpose.

I am happy to share that shortly after the Endowment Committee meeting, the motion to designate Culdee's existing Certificate of Deposit to the Endowment Fund Committee was approved by the Session. At the direction of the Endowment Committee, and serving in the role of Secretary and Legal Counsel for the Endowment Committee, I was humbled to draft a motion to accept the matching gift offer as an anonymous gift and any interest, to be used for the designated and much needed purpose of paving and maintaining the Culdee parking lot facilities. This second motion was approved by the Session in a special call meeting on October 18, 2015. We are excited about the opportunity for investment and growth in front of us, and are committed to serving the best interests of Culdee Presbyterian Church.

The next tentative Endowment Committee meeting is January 3, 2016. In the interim, with investment opportunities upon us, Committee members will meet intermittently on an as needed basis. Our focus remains on building security of investment, and developing continued trust and integrity in the Endowment Fund Committee. If you have any questions about giving to the Endowment Fund, or investment procedures, please contact any of the Endowment Fund Committee Members, Teresa Cole, Jim Dalton, Cate Short Frederick, Dannie Jackson, Tim Lea, Ann Savage, Mark Thompson, and Pastor Joseph Washburn who will be happy to direct you in the process. 'Whoever obeys his command, will come to no harm, and the wise heart will know the proper time and procedure.' Ecclesiastes 8:5.

Respectfully submitted in Christ,

Cate Short Frederick

# November 2015

November 2015

December 2015

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					

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
<b>Nov 1</b> 8:20am Reach Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 4:00pm (Cong. Care) 5:00pm Bid/Grnds	<b>2</b> 9:00am Knitting	<b>3</b> 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Circle 1 7:00pm Circle 3 Martha Mathews	<b>4</b> 10:00am Day Circle 6:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:45pm Christmas Choir	<b>5</b> 9:00am Quilting 12:00pm Men Of God 7:00pm Circle 2 M.R. Whitaker	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:20am Reach Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Session Meeting	<b>9</b> 9:00am Knitting	<b>10</b> 6:00pm Handbells	<b>11</b> 6:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:45pm Christmas Choir	<b>12</b> 9:00am Quilting 12:00pm Men Of God	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:20am Reach Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	<b>16</b> 9:00am Knitting	<b>17</b> 6:00pm Handbells	<b>18</b> 6:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:45pm Christmas Choir	<b>19</b> 9:00am Quilting 12:00pm Men Of God	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Barium Springs Off. 8:20am Reach Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Community Ser.	<b>23</b> 9:00am Knitting	<b>24</b> 6:00pm Handbells	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7:00am Thanksgiving B'Fast/Thank Program'	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:20am Reach Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 4:00pm Movie Night 6:00pm Bid & Grnds	<b>30</b> 9:00am Knitting	<b>Dec 1</b> 6:00pm Handbells	<b>2</b> 10:00am Day Circle 6:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:45pm Christmas Choir	<b>3</b> 9:00am Quilting 12:00pm Men Of God 7:00pm Circle 2. Laine Lea	<b>4</b> 6:00pm Christmas Dinner	<b>5</b> Ladies Shopping Trip