People sought - and found - spiritual rebirth here but it might have all gone for naught if one group leased space elsewhere and the local newspaper didn’t print a fortuitous Easter morning article.

This season of rebirth marks something of an anniversary for members who, several years ago and for a variety of reasons, were looking for a new church home. That they found Caldwell - and for some the search was scarcely one day long - is cause enough for them to remember what the search was like - and what the finding was like, too. Here are some of their reflections.

Little did I know the article in the Charlotte Observer that Easter morning four years ago would be a

Renewal continued on page 8

Our lovely church on a beautiful Lenten morning. In recent years the church has been good to its members, visitors, guests as well as others who use our facilities - and they have been good to Caldwell.
Resurrection stories

Pastor’s Message

A poem by C.S. Lewis about his wife, Helen Joy Davidman, who died prematurely not long after they had been married:

Epitaph
Here the whole world (stars, water, air, And field, and forest, as they were Reflected in a single mind) Like cast off clothes was left behind In ashes yet with hope that she, Re-born from holy poverty, In Lenten lands, hereafter may Resume them on her Easter Day

The story of how Lewis met his wife late in life, after having long let go of the possibility of being married, of having his life completed by another, is one of the most poignant I know. Lewis, the great British theologian and author, knew the heights of love and the lows of despair, but came away holding on to the joy and the grace of having known his wife, albeit for too short a time.

I ran across Lewis’ poem in doing some Lenten reading and thinking about what Easter means to Caldwell church in particular. No church I’ve ever known has experienced the surprising grace of resurrection quite like this one. Because of that, Easter means even a bit more here than at other churches.

Thanks to Dave Bradley’s passion for telling the Caldwell story, this issue of the Caldwell Good News! includes a number of Caldwell-specific resurrection stories. We celebrate with Mary Carol Michie, whose life has been spent giving new life to the church in many places, at the local and Presbytery levels. In the center spread (pages 6-7) you can read how Mary Carol is being honored for her devotion to God’s church. Thanks be to God for Mary Carol and George and how they have touched so many lives and built up the church!

Other stories in this edition tell of how a group of people, all living in separate homes and separated lives, woke up on Easter morning 2007 intending to go to church. They just didn’t know where. That morning’s paper featured the story of the “Miracle on 5th Street.” After reading the story over their morning coffee, this group of people found their way to Caldwell for church. They have been here every since. They are leaders and devoted servants of Christ in this place. Having not known one another then, they are fast friends now, bound by the Spirit of what God is doing in this place.

Then there is the story of Bread of Life, complete with the beautiful poems of Zoraida Stewart. This story reminds us that not one but two congregations will celebrate Easter on our campus next Sunday. In fact, the men of Bread of Life will start with a sunrise service at 6 a.m. and you are invited, to be followed by a breakfast.

All of these stories reflect Lewis’ line from his poem, “re-born from holy poverty.” It is part of God’s holy mystery that we cannot know the true power of resurrection until we die, at least in some way. How we die may take many forms – letting go of past experiences with religion that have been disappointing; letting go of old church locations so that God can lead us to new ones; or letting go of the things that divide us, such race or class or judgment.

Because Christ experienced the “holy poverty” of death on a cross, we can, by grace through faith, die to those things that separate us from God and one another … and be resurrected. Amen.
Women stand on ‘Soul Stirring Holy Ground’

The magic of Montreat set the tone for the 4th Annual Caldwell Retreat, April 1-2, 2011. Thirty eight women gathered together for an awesome weekend of fellowship and spirit. The Lookout Lodge was almost filled to capacity.

Friday night Katy Hill opened the retreat by having everyone introduce themselves by way of their feet. People shared stories of where their feet have taken them, what they like about their feet, and a couple showed off their very fancy, colorful socks!

Caldwell friend, Rev. Elizabeth Hyland, led Saturday’s program. The theme for the retreat, “Standing on Soul Stirring Holy Ground,” was chosen after hearing her New Year’s sermon, “A Grace-full Resolution.” We began by taking off our shoes. Elizabeth lifted a beautiful African bowl filled brought by Katy Hill. She reminded us of how preoccupied we are in our daily lives and it is important to stop, be still, and find pleasures in the beauty of the earth.

Saturday afternoon, we were free to hike, shop, read, nap or just relax. Janet “Ringo” Blanchard offered an extra treat by bringing her drums and offered to teach anyone who was interested in learning. Quite a few people took her up on her offer. She also played throughout the programs, and the Sunday morning worship service.

Sunday morning worship service was led by our special Veronica Rogers, keeping with the theme, “Standing on Holy Ground.” Her words, as usual were very meaningful.

After celebrating the Lord’s Supper, we were asked to come forward, if comfortable, to sit in a chair and wash another person’s feet. They, in turn, washed the feet of the person who washed theirs.

The group also planted a Peace Lily, dedicated to the church, is filled with Holy Ground (soil) from each of our yards, from the Caldwell garden, and from the ground from Lookout Lodge in Montreat. As we each blended the soil with our hands, uniting our souls, we became ONE with each other and the earth. May we all remember that the ground on which we stand is Holy, and is filled with God’s ever-present grace. If we just take a moment, stand still, and plant our feet on God’s Holy Ground, and in silence, look around us, listen, and feel the presence of our Creator and the wonder of all His creations, we will indeed be filled with God’s Holy PEACE.

Linda Sluder, CGN! correspondent
Bread of Life celebrates a new building, new beginning

Bread of Life Christian Ministries is comfortably at home in its new church home at Caldwell.

Both congregations joined together in the new worship space for a joyous “rededication” celebration of Bread of Life’s first Sunday of worship in its “new” building.

The brief service featured music and welcoming remarks from both congregations.

WHERE I DREAM

Two ships pass in the night
Chartered journeys all mapped out;
One going, one coming --
It is destined that they must pass
But oh, so carefully lest we witness calamity.

Two roads cross at a junction
There is one and another
Each separate, independent, lain in different directions
It is not so important to where they lead
As the fact that neither will arrive without traversing the other.

I believe there is sea enough for many ships.
I believe there is land enough for many roads.
Available space is not the problem
Tolerance, respect make room for all.
Peaceful coexistence would be the reward,
Harmony amidst the multitudinous melodies of life
This is where my hopes are, this is where I dream.

(1993, Zoraida)

A personal composition by Zoraida Stewart, Caldwell member, that she read to the joint congregations during the building rededication service.
ESL a family affair for bilingual students, parents

While their children are in bilingual preschool, the parents learn English, too

How much change did she receive? is an everyday math question for most of us, but it is a real-world example of how parents of bilingual preschoolers are taught English.

“The best way to learn the language is to actually use the language in the store,” says Jennifer De La Jara of Central Piedmont Community College who teaches Tuesday-Thursday English as a Second Language (ESL) courses to 14 parents of bilingual preschoolers while their children are in class. There is no cost for the classes which are taught in a large room at the north end of the Price Building.

De La Jara says the parents “are excited to learn” as well as be involved in their children’s education - and vice versa. “When children are exposed to math and take it home, it’s good for parents to be exposed to it, too,” she says. It’s beneficial to the entire family to practice at home what the learned in school.

De La Jara teaches the class by saying words or phrases in English, then repeats the items in Spanish, followed by more English. This “thematic based” teaching emphasizes English as students would encounter it throughout Charlotte - at the grocery store, the pharmacy, etc. English is also emphasized in other venues such as television and the media because, De La Jara says, the parents “understand what is in the mainstream culture.”

Mom studies so I’ll snooze. The ESL classes indeed involve the whole family. Some attendees are just more relaxed than others.

Jennifer De La Jara, standing left, leads a large class through an exercise. Students learn largely through situations they will encounter on a daily basis.
Lifetime of service leads to Outstanding

Mary Carol Michie of Caldwell has been honored with a Presbytery of Charlotte’s Outstanding Older Adult award. This article borrows from a letter written to nominate Mary Carol.

You can ask Mary Carol Michie how old she is (77), just don’t expect her to estimate how many letters she’s written to prisoners or her entire litany of volunteer efforts on behalf of the church or how many celebratory pound cakes she’s baked for youth groups and other happy church recipients. After more than five decades of Presbyterian service, well, let’s just say it adds up.

Actually, most of Mary Carol’s entire life has, in one way or another, reflected her philosophy that God put her here for a purpose, a philosophy she came by at an early age. When she was a young girl her parents moved from Georgia to a Presbyterian boarding school in Kentucky’s coal mining region where her father (a farmer) could tend the school’s fields and her mother could teach. Mary Carol’s parents moved in part for work, but it also reflected their own sense of obligation to their fellow man and woman. “My father, he was just a gift God gave us, he wasn’t an educated person,” recalls Mary Carol. “He had an innate ability to connect with people. It’s all about example, and it was his example he set for me, his concern for other people and his concern for people who had less than he had.” Mary Carol took to that concept. Her first job after graduation from a Presbyterian college: she returned to work at that same boarding school.

It was after Mary Carol’s marriage to George and the young couple’s move to Charlotte that her idea of volunteerism hit full stride – but only after a defining moment in their spiritual lives. She says as she and George did the rounds to search for a church home, “We went to a church the weekend after Martin Luther King was killed, and in the adult Sunday school class people were talking about his assassination, and one man said ‘he got what he deserved’. It was terrible what we heard. I was stunned,” says Mary Carol. “That same man was serving communion, and we said ‘we can’t do this’ we need a church that was integrated.” And find a mixed race church they did at Seigle Avenue Presbyterian. “I will always believe it made a big impact on what our children have become, because they had an opportunity to mix with African Americans and those who were poor. All that is God’s leading and God’s blessing,” she says.

Yet in her early 40’s, Mary Carol’s volunteer work added a new – and possibly unsettling to some – dimension to her calling on God’s behalf. She remembers a friend called to say ‘I hate to tell you this, but Derrick has killed somebody’. Derrick was a regular at Seigle Avenue. Although she says “I didn’t know anything about prison, I went down to see him one day.” Soon thereafter, she began to write him a monthly letter. “From time to time he would tell me of others – including those on death row – who were locked up,” says Mary Carol. “If I found the address, I’d write that person, too. This is how the whole thing started.”

That God allowed her to see the despair in others and respond in a Christian manner brings her, and the prisoners, satisfaction. “I guess God put it in me I had to go see Derrick,”
she says. “I really like doing the letters. I was nervous at first, I really didn’t know them. But it ends up being a blessing for both of us. I am just so blessed to have been put in the right place at the right time.” More than 30 years later she still follows that same path. She continues her personal obligation to write to four prisoners.

Of course, she has donated her time in other ways, too. Her pound cakes – sprung on surprised birthday recipients at Seigle and now at Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian – are the stuff of legend. A fractured hip suffered two years ago may have slowed – but not stopped – her drive to help others. She is very self-effacing about her quiet campaign to do the right thing. “I don’t know I’ve done all that much,” she says, with characteristic - and utterly sincere - humility.

Her response to ‘why serve others?’ is simple. “I think I would say, you may have some misgivings, and days when you look at it you’ll realize all your blessings. We trust God to do the best we can, and ask God to pick up where I left off.” Indeed, her example has encouraged many others to follow in her footsteps to give of themselves to others.

As for her arrival at Caldwell, she says “this is what the kingdom of God is supposed to look like, and no matter your color or sexual orientation, you’re welcome here. It’s such a wonderful conglomeration of all different kinds of people, and that’s what it will be like when we get to heaven.”

Since that fateful day in adult Sunday school, Mary Carol sees the bright side when others see gloom.

“I think we are doing as a society better than we did. We may never get to the point where we can say we’ve arrived because humans have a tendency to look at people’s faults rather than their good points. It all boils down to being able to see the God in everybody, no matter what they’ve done. You first have to look at them as a child of God. That changes things.”

Here is a portion of what the Presbytery of Charlotte wrote to notify Mary Carol of her selection for this prestigious award:

Dear Mary Carol:

Congratulations! Based on the nomination of the session of Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of Charlotte has selected you to receive a 2011 Outstanding Older Adult award.

The Session of your church chose to nominate you for this award in accordance with the guidelines for nomination, which include exemplifying positive images of aging personally, and serving as a role model to all generations for growing older with a sense of God’s grace. Yours is one of the fourteen awards that will be given this year.

We are proud to have folks like you in our Presbytery who live each day bearing witness to our Lord Jesus Christ. We look forward to seeing you on May 10th.

Mary Carol and other recipients will be honored on Tuesday, May 10 with a luncheon at Sardis Presbyterian. Call Nancy Youmans at 980-207-5214 for ticket information.
Renewal continued...

life altering event. I was dressed and ready to leave my house to attend my "regular" church but I glimpsed the Observer article, read it and decided to alter my plans and attend church at Caldwell that morning. I was overwhelmed by the friendly, joyous people who greeted me. I was a bit dubious that a crowd of people could sustain such enthusiasm so I returned to Caldwell every Sunday for several months and learned that not only is it possible but quite normal for a group of Caldwell worshippers to be filled with the Spirit. After 20 years of wandering from church to church, I knew I found my spiritual church at Caldwell. Within six months of the Charlotte Observer story I sold my house and moved closer to the church. I've learned that the more you give, the more you get and the same is true in a church. This time I decided to focus my heart and soul on the church, its people and the reason we are all there. So, with the encouragement of some of Caldwell's members, I jumped in, rolled up my sleeves and got busy and I am having a grand time with this "new thing" going on at Caldwell. What a blessing!

Ann Alford

renting out space. So I went and talked to Charlie McDonald and it couldn’t have been a better place for us. We met once per month for two years, but never gave it a thought to attend church services there. Then Tovi and Kevin (Martin) visited on a regular basis. They approached Charlie to join, but he told them the church would close. The next Sunday, 15 people came, then more the next weekend. It was God’s intervention that we ended up at Caldwell. If we had written our check to rent space elsewhere, we wouldn’t have gone there, and Caldwell might have closed its doors.

George Michie

Why Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church? Well for Bob and BG Metzler it was three different meant-to-be messages hearing about the church; from a previous member, a phone call about the church, and finally the Easter article about Caldwell. And then we visited!! We had a potluck dinner, and made a commitment to joining Caldwell. So one Sunday I went to church, and there were 20 of us going to join Caldwell. I have been a member basically since that Sunday. I love Caldwell, it is a special place for me. I mean, Caldwell is a church family. In my perspective, if Jesus came back tomorrow and walked in the doors at Caldwell, he would be pleased with the community, and the love and the faith. It is my church home, my church family. When I walk in the door I feel God’s love, I feel faith, and I feel acceptance. I feel all these things that are the essence of God’s love and grace.

Elise Deal

I wandered in the wilderness, and about maybe two months after the initial influx of people at Caldwell, I ran into Jim Schick at a restaurant, and he said ‘do you know what’s going on?’ and he told me the whole story. I showed up, and five minutes later, decided this was the place for me and I joined. I’d been church shopping. How very grateful I am to have found it. It is so wonderful.

Maggie DeVries

Help Wanted

These Caldwell efforts could use your help:

Weddings
Funerals
Discipleship
Needed: two volunteers
Strategize year-round donations
Congregational care
Buildings & grounds

Contact Bob Metzler if you are interested: 704-334-5656.
Office manager Leslie Gipple readies some of the nearly 300 Easter Sunday palm fronds ordered in February from Florida.

Just like the church next door, music is a major ingredient in the services of Bread of Life ministries.

All-around handyman Dan Mulligan applies his skills to lighting in Caldwell’s front yard.

Caldwell in photos...
We welcome new members, guests

Our new members include Russ Griffin, Tracy Godfrey, Anne Sangine, Jackie Peck, Will White with daughter Lila (Tracy Hewitt not pictured). Contact the church office (704-334-0825) if you are interested in membership.

Connecting across the miles to Guatemala

Children in Caldwell’s Bilingual Preschool are reaching out to their global neighbors in Guatemala by creating a special art project that our Vision Team will take to the preschoolers at Common Hope. With the help of their art teacher Erin Dennison, they drew pictures about themselves and their families to make a storybook about their lives in the United States, along with photographs of each child. Their stories will be shared with the Guatemalan children, who will then write and draw their own storybook that will be brought back to our Bilingual Preschoolers.

This is only one of the ways that people in the Caldwell community are participating in Caldwell’s mission trip to work with Common Hope in Guatemala, including donating school supplies to the Guatemalan children, loaning a suitcase, and putting together a care package for a sponsored child. Another way is to pray for the team members while they are representing you in Guatemala April 26 through May 5. The members of the Vision Team are: Richard and Sherry Bargoil, Tom and Kitty Bohr, Elise Deal, Shawanda Jones, Bo Jordan, Cathy Lum, Felicia Pine, and Jane Wallwork.

Kitty Bohr, CGN! correspondent

Art is in the eye of the beholder and for the bilingual preschooers, it’s all about the giving to their new friends in Guatemala.

Art isn’t the only activity going on for families of preschoolers. Language is an art, too.

Read how these children’s parents learn English on page 5.
COMING UP SOON...

APRIL

Sunday, April 17
Guatemala packing party, 4 pm - 6 pm, Fellowship Hall
Women’s Book Club, 6:30 - 8 pm, Upstairs

Wednesday, April 20
Lenten service, noon - 1 pm, Hawthorne Lane United Methodist Church
Zumba, 6 - 7 pm, Fellowship Hall
Evening devotionals, 7:30 - 8:30 pm, Quiet Room, Price Building, 2nd floor

Thursday, April 21
Maundy Thursday service, 7:30 - 9 pm, Caldwell sanctuary

Friday, April 22
Good Friday
Earth Day

Monday, April 25
Session, 5:30 - 8:30 pm, Shelby

Tuesday, April 26
Guatemala Mission Team departs

Wednesday, April 27
Zumba, 6 - 7 pm, Fellowship Hall
Evening devotionals, 7:30 - 8:30 pm, Quiet Room, Price Building, 2nd floor

Saturday, April 30
Habitat for Humanity project, 8 am - noon, location TBA

MAY

Monday, May 2
Men of Caldwell, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Church Calendar

1st Monday
6:30 pm - Men’s Group

2nd Monday
(Women’s Circle in recess until Fall)

3rd Monday
6:30 pm - Women’s Book Club

4th Monday
5:30, Session, Shelby Room

1st Tuesday
6:30 pm - Women’s Group

2nd Tuesday
6:30 pm - Mission & Justice Comm., Shelby Wednesdays
7:00 pm - Choir practice

3rd Thursday
6:30 p.m. - Worship Committee, Upstairs
6:30 pm - Finance Committee, Upstairs
5:30 pm - Education Committee, Shelby

Every Friday
7:30 pm, AA, Shelby Room

Sundays
9:45 am Adult Sunday School, Upstairs
11:00 am Worship (including children’s Sunday school)
1st Sunday Holy Communion
Session receives new members
All Sundays Loaves & Fishes Collection
(Non-perishables in entry basket)

Administrative Office Hours
Monday, 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Pastor’s Office Hours
Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
Reach Pastor Cleghorn on his cell phone:
704-957-4511

See calendar events online: caldwellpresby.org

PLEASE! REMEMBER OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND IN PERSON

Mrs. Barbara Atkinson
Lake Park Nursing Center
830 Faircrest Drive
3315 Faith Church Rd., Room 600
Indian Trail, NC 28079
Charlotte, NC 28210

Miss Toby Herring
Emeritus @ Eastover
3610 Randolph Rd, Memory Care
3610 Randolph Rd., Room 228
Charlotte, NC 28211
Charlotte NC 28211

Mrs. Elise Hood
Legacy Heights
11240 Ballantyne Trace Ct., F-4
Charlotte, NC 28277
Charlotte, NC 28204

Mrs. Irene Kennedy
419 Clement Avenue
11240 Ballantyne Trace Ct.
Charlotte, NC 28277

Mrs. Ann Ranson
Legacy Heights
3610 Randolph Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28277

Mrs. Irene Brown
Emeritus @ Eastover
Caldwell’s Mission Statement

In the Summer of 2007, Congregational Dialogues formed the foundation of our church’s renewed mission statement as adopted by action of the Session that Fall:

- We seek to build a diverse, intentional, affirming community animated by joyful worship and called forth into social action for service to the greater good.
- We seek to hear God’s call not only as individuals but also as a progressive, missional community striving to reflect the Kingdom of God in the here and now.
- We embrace the rich history of the Reformed Tradition and the storied past of our once-prominent, center-city church, as we welcome a diverse, urban community of seekers—young and old, gay and straight, rich and poor, of all races and ethnicities.
- We are called into a meaningful, transformative community that values the unique blessings and perspectives of each member and offers a place of welcome and healing to weary souls.
- We seek dynamic servant leaders who serve humbly, embrace change, and boldly challenge injustices in the wider community.
- Most importantly, we seek to proclaim the Gospel in both word and deed, following the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

God Invites. We Welcome. All.

Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church
1609 East Fifth Street
Charlotte, NC 28204

http://www.caldwellpresby.org