

Caldwell Good News!

A Monthly Publication of Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church

March 2010

Congregational care at forefront for Caldwell

For those tending to ailing or grieving members, follow the lead of the person in need. Listening is key.

Congregational care is an important focus for **Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church**. The ability for our members to tend to other members who are in pain or grieving the loss of a loved one is a service akin to “a form of worship” says Intern in Ministry **Veronica Rogers**.

Rogers’ recent workshop (**Congregational Care in Times of Illness and Bereavement**) for nearly 20 Caldwellians emphasized it would be their own experiences with illness and death, coupled with a shift in the perception of what is best for ailing members, that forms an approach to bring comfort to those who need it most.

The more than hour long session attracted Caldwell’s visitation team as well as those who just wanted to

know what to say if they ever had to answer the call to help others in need.

Yet those who attended didn’t need to look much further than their own backgrounds with grief and suffering as a guide. “One of the things is helping people come to their own comfort level with their own losses to free them to help them help others with their losses,” says Rogers. She led the group through exercises where they described their first experience with loss and how they dealt with it.

Rogers’ experience was shaped in part when, as an eight year old living near Charleston, South Carolina, she took her turn among other family members to sit up with a dying aunt. “It was an honor to sit with her. It is not something I found to be a burden. Now, we shield children from death, as if it is not a natural part of life. The idea of sitting with gravely ill, or sitting up with people, was accepted. We used to do that.”

Helping caregivers to cope with the common components of grief are the three tenets of such care: listening, consoling, and sharing of hope. “The one takeaway, and what I stress, if nothing else registers, is we need to listen,” says Rogers. The idea of consoling may not be as much verbal as it is just being there. “I talk about sitting with someone who is ill, and taking the lead from them. Some want visitors, some don’t. It’s okay to say to someone (who is ill) ‘you don’t have to entertain me.’ It’s okay to sit and read a book. It’s okay if the person is tired,

and it’s okay for them to turn their back on you to rest. The whole idea is to listen to the patient.”

When the visitor does speak, it’s worthwhile to consider what is said. Rogers counseled that it is best to frame our response to meet the needs expressed by the patient or bereaved. For example, it might be common to say ‘God does not put any more on us than we can stand’ when a better response might be ‘I am so sorry that you have to go through this’. Or we might tell the bereaved ‘Don’t cry. You must be strong for the others’. Rather, we might assure the person ‘It’s okay to cry. Even Jesus wept.’

Still, in the process of giving comfort, the giver seems to gain something in the two way transaction. “People are scared they don’t know what to say or want to make things better. Let people tell their stories is how to help patients. It becomes cathartic,” says Rogers.

It is worth remembering that the simple act of compassionate caring during some of the most critical periods in life is a form of answering to a higher calling. “I wanted people to be aware, when they provide comfort for God’s people, it is a form of worship,” says Rogers. “People have it within them to do what they need to do, if they will be there to listen. The main thing we came up with at the end of the session is how we respond to people. It really is a litany of listening. We ended with the sending, which was a prayer asking God that even in our brokenness, we can be with those who are broken.”

Inside this issue:

Pastor’s Message	2
Men’s Group & a story of faith	3
Cross is risen on front lawn	4
Small pieces of our big picture	5
A typical day in Sunday School	6-7
Now that’s talent!	8
Consider Caldwell in your will	9
Caldwell on beautiful day	10
Good News! Bulletin Board	11

Five questions, five answers

Pastor's Message

Lent, Easter and Eastertide (the season after Easter) are always big here at Caldwell – for the obvious reasons related to Christendom's highest holiday, but for other reasons, too.

Caldwell is an Easter church, a resurrection story, a church that all but died and was reborn in the fall of 2006. A number of our members trace their involvement at Caldwell to the Easter morning in 2007 when the front-page spread in The Charlotte Observer told that story. And, as it happened, you installed me as your pastor on the first Sunday of Eastertide, 2008.

More than once, you've heard me quote Isaiah 43 in reference to this rebirth: "Behold, I am about to do a new thing. Do you not see it?" This "new thing," something only God saw in advance, has been a gift to us

all.

Now, though, we're not quite so "new." It's been three and a half years since the resurrection began. Recently, the Caldwell session (your governing body) went on retreat to wrestle with the question: How do we move from being a "new thing" to being the "next thing" God has in mind?

To frame this dialogue, we began with some numbers. Looking somewhat conservatively at our effective membership, we've grown to become a church of more than 200 active members and friends. There is a great deal of research and analysis of church growth that suggests we've reached an important transition as a church family.

Many models and books and studies indicate that when a church moves past 150 members, it needs to think a little differently about how it fulfills ministry. Churches below 150 members feel more like a family, the research says. The pastor can do a great deal of the work of ministry. Above 150 members, the research says, everything from congregational care to developing educational programs may require some new thinking.

"Hold on!" some elders said when we looked at this research on our retreat. "That may true for many churches, but Caldwell is different in so many ways." And they were right. We are, in effect, a new congregation that is not set in its ways. Our members already do an enormous amount of the ministry of the church. What's more, our members aren't afraid of change and growth. If that's God's will, then we live into it, albeit prayerfully. For the most part, we're excited about our growth, not afraid of it, even if it means we all have to pull a little more weight in God's name.



Pastor John Cleghorn

Caldwell is different in one more very important way. In our mission statement, our promise to each other of how we seek to serve God, we say we seek to be a "missional community" striving to reflect the Kingdom of God in the here and now.

That word "missional" says a lot. It says we are always most focused on the guidance we find in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and its formative truth on our life as Christ's body. It says we should always ask, "How does the Gospel shape our every action?" instead of "What will make our church grow?" It says we seek to evangelize through our actions in serving others as Christ would instead of evangelizing by adopting the latest marketing gimmicks and cultural mores.

That word "missional" is a game changer, the session agreed at its retreat. It means understanding and planning for our growth is an important responsibility; we must be good stewards of our blessings. But, we also agreed, our growth to date is not the result of some strategy or plan. It is by the grace of God.

As long as that word "missional" is in our mission statement, it calls us never to settle for easy, off-the-shelf, cookie-cutter ways of being church. But we didn't earn or achieve this "new thing" in the first place – God did. So, the session agreed, we can discern how to be the "next thing" by keeping that firmly in mind.

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Caldwell Memorial
Presbyterian Church
1609 East Fifth Street
Charlotte, NC 28204
704-334-0825
<http://www.caldwellpresby.org>

Rev. John M. Cleghorn
Pastor
pastor@caldwellpresby.org

Rev. Dr. J. Diane Mowrey
Parish Associate

Leslie Gipple
Office Manager
admin@caldwellpresby.org

Fred Hamilton
Sexton

Contributing Editors
John Cleghorn
Dave Bradley
david.bradley@yahoo.com

Crash survivor's faith journey tested in icy Hudson

More than 30 attendees of the **Men of Caldwell** group hear how a harrowing plane crash solidified the faith of one survivor

The **Men of Caldwell** group enjoyed a sumptuous dinner of ribs and chicken provided by **Mike Watson**, then spent an hour digesting a journey of faith recounted by a survivor of the crash of US Air 1549.

Fred Berretta (son in law of Caldwell member **Jimmy Todd**) told his remarkable story of survival and how the moments before - and during - the forced water landing crystallized his religious tendencies.



Berretta told listeners "We are completely dependent on God's mercy. I am grateful to be alive."

Fred Berretta and his father in law, Jimmy Todd of Caldwell.

What began as a "perfectly normal flight" for the seasoned traveler turned eerie moments after the wheels went up and he put his seat back for the short flight. "I felt a hit and knew there was a problem. The engine was on fire." The plane was engulfed in total silence as it began a powerless downward glide.

As we all know, Flight 1549 made a miraculous landing on the placid river. But Berretta's own miracle of faith started long before that January day in 2009.

"I was not always a person of faith. We all have our own journeys. I was outside the church and knew how far away from God I was and it was frightening," says Berretta. He told the Men's Group he had to find his spiritual compass. "There are moments in our lives when God whispers at us, but it is not easy to hear."

That flight was one such moment. As the plane descended, Berretta, a Catholic, reconciled the fact that he would likely never see his wife and children again. He considered the plane as his probable coffin. In

those final seconds, he asked himself 'What kind of man am I?' as he thought about his faith. "I wondered what my faith was made of, and what am I supposed to do? I had a very clear vision," he says. As the plane got closer to the water, he prayed that God would be merciful to him and other passengers. He was halfway through the prayer when the plane hit the Hudson.

Once safe and dry, Berretta reflected on his fortune and why, of all planes, his was spared. "The answer is there had to be a greater good to come from it because in tragedy there can be a greater good although we can't understand it," according to Berretta. He saw the incident as a test of his growing faith. He saw the noble side of mankind as passengers helped each other. He knew he could not "take for granted any moment I have."

Even in the midst of crisis, Berretta feels he emerged stronger for it. "The more I think about it, the more hope I have, the more faith I have. Becoming a Christian is becoming the best version of myself."



The cross is risen at Caldwell...



*An impromptu work crew of **Jimmy Todd**, **Fred Powers** and **pastor Cleghorn** do the honors of erecting the cross on Caldwell's front lawn. (Photos: **Leslie Gipple**)*

Small pieces of Caldwell's big picture...

WANTED: Green Thumbs, Helping Hands, Nature Lovers, People who want to feed the hungry!

Last year the **Caldwell Garden** provided much-needed fresh produce to local food banks. This year the needs are just as great. Helping hands are needed for preparation, purchasing, planting, watering, tending, harvesting and distributing the fruits (and veggies) of our labor. Anyone interested in assisting with the garden in any capacity should contact **Doreen Byrd** at musicmist2003@yahoo.com or the church office.

Consider yourself invited to a pleasant tour of the Billy Graham Library

You are invited to join the **Women's Circle of Caldwell** for a trip to the **Billy Graham Library** on Monday, April 12th. All are welcome! There are wheelchairs there for those who can't walk for long intervals. It will be their reopening day, after renovations. We will tour the facility and have a light lunch, bought there. We will meet at Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church to leaving promptly at 10:30. We will return at about 12:30pm. There is no cost for the program, just cover the cost of your own lunch, please. Please RSVP to **Linda Schick** at 704-367-9270. This invitation is from the Women's Circle of Caldwell.

Save-save-save the dates: Mark your calendars for two events coming up:

Tuesday, March 23 at 7 p.m., Caldwell Sanctuary: "**Leaps and Bounds**" is an artistic performance that combines creative use of movement, personal narrative, Biblical narrative and music to challenge progressive Christians regarding stewardship of the earth.

Sunday, March 28 at 6.m., **St. John's Baptist Sanctuary**: The choirs of the partner churches in the **Elizabeth Communities of Faith** will perform.

Mark May 1 on your calendar for the always-sumptuous church picnic

Save the date for our **Annual Church Picnic**, to be held on Saturday, May 1st from 2pm - 6pm at **Veterans Park** at 2136 Central Avenue. We'll meet rain or shine -- please bring a covered dish for the 5pm festivities. Don't miss the fun, games, and fellowship.

Congregational Care discussion set for Sunday, April 11

You're invited to attend our **Congregational Care** discussion on Sunday, April 11th immediately following worship. A light lunch will be served. Please come and share about how you think we, as Caldwell members and friends should care for one another in times of crisis, sickness, and bereavement. All are welcome. This is part of our congregation's emphasis and planning surrounding Congregation Care issues in 2010. Please contact **Beth Van Gorp** at 704-372-2961 with questions or to RSVP.

Price Building updates

Progress continues to be made toward a **Bilingual Preschool** to be housed in the **Price Building**. **Ann Alford** reports "The preschool is starting to take off. I am working with several of their (the preschool's) board members who are identifying suppliers for playground equipment. HVAC has been checked out-all five units of the Price Building." Other minor plumbing repairs, general cleaning and other preparations are being made at this time.

If all stays on schedule, 34 four-year olds will be learning, playing and growing on Caldwell's campus later this spring.

A typical Sunday morning

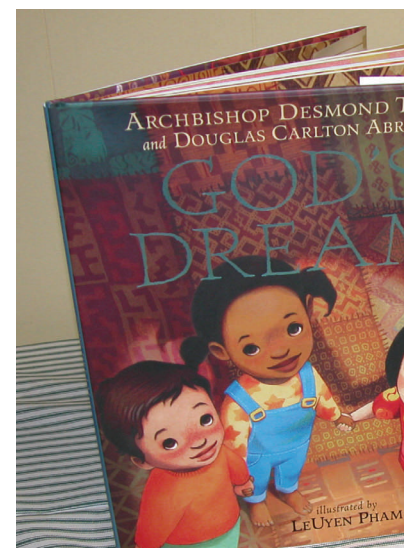
We all know by heart the “*May the Lord be with you there*” refrain as we wish our youngsters well when they head to Sunday school.

But once in their classrooms, the real work - and the fun - is just beginning for these smallest congregants.



Angela Everitt (above) begins each Sunday school with a child's version of 'Joys and Concerns' on the quilt before giving her charges' room to roam. One joy that was shared: "Thank you God for daddies who make pancakes."

Plenty of books, supplies and equal amounts of young creativity are on display.



Coffeehouse attracts incredible talent and a big crowd

The **Coffeehouse/Talent Extravaganza** was a huge success, much merriment and fellowship was had by all. In all, 19 performers did an incredible job in front of a warm crowd of nearly 40 onlookers. Plenty of fancy and non fancy coffees were available along with tons of tasty pastry's and nosh. There were corny old country jokes, funny stories, lots of music even from the newly engaged duo **Maggie and Bo**. There were visitors as well who shared stories of the transition from father of two boys to the grandfather of a little girl. Remembrances of a childhood in the Bronx & drum and song from Africa. Classic old sports jokes were shared by one our classics, George! We were all glad that the fire extinguisher was not needed for **Magic Mike's (Watson)** second act!!! **Charlie Brown** closed the show with a sing along, and as the final song was sung by all -Amazing Grace. That wonderful sound let us know we were all in our church home! Thanks to all the performers, fellowship folk ,and especially **Don and Jean Cowan** for doing the sound! We may have to make this a semi-annual event we have so much talent here!
Jim Everitt, CGN! Correspondent (all talent show photos by Jim)



Richard Campbell wowed the crowd with his high energy.



Newly engaged Bo and Maggie drew rave reviews.

*“Did you hear the one about...”
 No, **Jim McArthur**, we didn't but we're glad you told us some great jokes..*



No way the adults would get all of the attention.



Jean Prewitt and hubby Don Cowan did a great duet.

A guide to a Christian will

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

1 Peter:10

According to the Presbyterian Foundation, a will is the cornerstone of a well-organized estate plan and can proclaim your Christian Faith, demonstrating your response as a faithful steward to future generations. Making a charitable bequest is a wonderful opportunity to give witness to your faith and values.

Estate planning offers Presbyterians the opportunity to make an enduring statement of faith. This act of stewardship can leave an indelible mark on our church or a mission program. You may be surprised that even a small asset can be turned into a gift which will support your choices in perpetuity. You may even identify assets previously not considered that could be used to make a generous gift.

For more information go to www.presbyterianfoundation.org. If you need more information regarding your will and Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church, call BG Metzler or e-mail bgmetzler@earthlink.net for more information.

We welcome new members and many visitors

Caldwell has the privilege of welcoming several new members into our Caldwell family.

Be sure to give them a warm reception to our church when you see them.

Shawanda Jones and her three sons

Cassandra Mays

Johnny Johnson, Jr.

Are you interested in possibly taking a closer look at Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church as your new church home? Contact the church office (704-334-0825) for more information about Caldwell's membership efforts. You may also email the office manager at admin@caldwellpresby.org.

Correcting an omission...

Our apologies for not crediting **Helen Hull** last month for her article on Caldwell's volunteer efforts at Merry Oaks Elementary School. She also reminds you of volunteer opportunities at the school's Book Fair and Teacher Appreciation Luncheon. helenhull@gmail.com

As always, **Caldwell Good News!** asks first and second time visitors and guests what they think about our church, our services and our membership. This is what several had to say:

- "It looks warm and inviting."
- "The music is terrific."
- "This is a very friendly place. Every time I come here, there is something different and I like that."
- "It's great. There's a lot of energy here. And I love the diversity."

Lenten services draw many visitors

Lenten services for Elizabeth area churches hosted by Caldwell continue to draw visitors to the 12 noon Wednesday services. Our guests dine on a simple lunch after each short service.



Leaving our beautiful church on a beautiful day



Veronica Rogers greets congregants as they leave church on a gorgeous recent Sunday morning. Spring has indeed sprung. Rogers gave the sermon that morning.



Caldwell calendar now online - it's timely, user-friendly, and cool

Now you have even more reason to visit Caldwell's upwardly evolving web site: www.caldwellpresby.org. The **official church calendar** is online for you right now.

According to office manager **Leslie Gipple**, the calendar has all the bells-and-whistles to help you track the comings and goings at our busy church. You can see events months in advance. Once you click on an event, you can read a synopsis, including the organizer and his/her contact information. You can even email the event to others or send yourself automatic reminders so you never miss your favorite events at Caldwell. You can also designate events as favorites and even print off the calendar.

Where do you start? Visit www.caldwellpresby.org, and click on "Calendar" on the left hand column. It's easy!

Caldwell Good News! Bulletin Board

COMING UP SOON...

MARCH

Monday, March 15

Women's Book Club, 6:30 pm, Amelie's Bakery & Cafe - 2424 N. Davidson Street

Wednesday, March 17

Lenten series/soup lunch, 12 noon, Sanctuary

Sunday, March 21

Confirmation Class, 9:45 am, Price Building

Monday, March 22,

Session, 5:30 pm, Shelby Room

Wednesday, March 24

Lenten series/soup lunch, 12 noon, Sanctuary

Sunday, March 28

Easter Breakfast, 9:45 am, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, March 31

Lenten series/soup lunch, 12 noon, Sanctuary

APRIL

Thursday, April 1 (Maundy Thursday)

Tennebrae Service, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

Friday, April 2 (Good Friday)

Saturday, April 3 (Holy Saturday)

Sunday, April 4 (East Sunday)

Monday, April 5

Men of Caldwell, 6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Monday, April 12

Women's Circle, 10:30 am, location TBA

Friday, April 16-17-18

Women's Retreat, Montreat

Monday, April 19

Women's Book Club, location TBA

Monday, April 26, Session, 5:30 pm, Shelby

Church Calendar

2nd Monday

10:30 am - Women's Circle meeting

3rd Monday

6:30 pm - Women's Book Club

4th Monday

5:00-6:30 pm - Pastoral Relations Committee

2nd Tuesday

6:30 pm - Mission & Justice Comm., Shelby

Last Tuesday

6:30 pm - Communications Comm., Upstairs

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, Fellowship Hall

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

3rd Sunday Monthly Session meeting

(1:00 pm), Shelby Room

All Sundays Loaves & Fishes Collection

(Non-perishables in entryway basket.

Thank you!)

Administrative Office Hours

8:30 am -4:30 pm Weekdays

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

A card, a call, a visit - please remember our longtime members & keep in touch!

Mrs. Barbara Atkinson	The Little Flower, room 22	8700 Lawyers Road	Charlotte, NC 28227
Mailing address	830 Faircrest Drive		Charlotte, NC 28210
Mrs. Martha Cooper	2115 Bucknell Avenue		Charlotte, NC 28207
Miss Toby Herring	Sunrise Assisted Living @ Eastover	3610 Randolph Rd, Room 310	Charlotte, NC 28211
Mrs. Elise Hood	Legacy Heights	11240 Ballantyne Trace Ct., C-3	Charlotte, NC 28277
Mrs. Irene Kennedy	419 Clement Avenue		Charlotte, NC 28204
Mrs. Ann Ranson	Legacy Heights	11240 Ballantyne Trace Ct.	Charlotte, NC 28277
Mrs. Irene Brown	Sunrise Assisted Living @Eastover	3610 Randolph Rd., Room 228	Charlotte NC 28211
Miss Sue Aivez	8134 Sheringham Way		Charlotte, NC 28227

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.

Sunday Services at 11:00 a.m. Nursery and children's activities available during the service.

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