



# Caldwell Good News!

A Monthly Publication of Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church

April 2010

## The Lenten series hosted by Caldwell fared very well in attendance and participation

Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian and its active membership succeeded mightily in making other Elizabeth area churches feel right at home during the Lenten series of Wednesday services hosted by Caldwell.

Visitor comments (the series drew more than 800 attendees) were very complimentary. Attendees said they enjoyed the mix of worship leaders and styles they experienced over the course of the series.

Of special note was the amount of money raised during the post-service soup and bread luncheons.

Elizabeth area restaurants took turns providing the delicious yet simple fare. In all, more than \$3,200 was raised - one \$5 donation at a time - with proceeds going to **Friendship Trays** and the **Community Culinary School of Charlotte**.

Leaders behind the planning of Caldwell's effort were **Ruth Curtis, Elizabeth Hyland, Alice MacKay** and chair **Lawrence David Sander**.

The Elizabeth Communities of Faith will now begin to think about additional joint activities in the months to come.



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### Inside this issue:

Pastor's Message	2
Before Guatemala: Mexico	3
Lent, Easter at Caldwell	4-5
Small pieces of our picture	6
Bulletin Board	7
Our Mission	8

*A longstanding tradition continues at Caldwell. Caldwellians made the Lent and Easter seasons truly special for our church and other denominations in the Elizabeth community. As is our tradition, members adorned the cross on the front lawn with flowers from their own gardens on a gorgeous Easter morning.*

*See more photos - and member reflections on the sacred season - inside on pages four and five.*

## A look at Session activities

### Pastor's Message

**“You can never plan the future by the past.”**

Edmund Burke, 18<sup>th</sup> century  
British political writer

Last month in this space, I described some of the work your session (governing board) did on an annual retreat as we thought about how to move from the “new thing” God began at Caldwell to the “next thing” God wants for us. Edmund Burke’s quote above is especially apt for Caldwell, where we began with an essentially clean slate. As individuals, everyone here has past experience at other churches – good, bad and indifferent – but we did not inherit a blueprint to follow as the New Caldwell. So we are frequently dreaming up ideas and forging new plans to achieve those dreams.

This year, your session is working very intentionally to outline plans for what

we want to achieve in our various areas of ministry. Any good plan is always evolving but I thought I would share some of what’s in the pipeline for 2010.

**Congregational Care – Beth Van Gorp, chair:** This team of people focuses on a range of aspects of congregational life - from visitation to fellowship to the Women’s Circle to our weekend retreats to supporting our members who are experiencing a disruptive life event. On April 11, about 25 members gathered to brainstorm a range of ideas on how we care for each other in particular. The discussion included ways to keep track of members we haven’t seen in worship recently, how we can be in deeper relationship with those members who are unable to attend at all and how we can strengthen our prayer ministry. Our Congregational Care ministries are truly life-giving. As Presbyterians, we believe in what’s called the “priesthood of all believers,” meaning each of us is qualified – and called – to serve. We are blessed to have so many people willing to invest themselves in caring for others in our church family.

**Newcomers Committee – Mark Rowe, chair:** Every Sunday we are blessed with first-time visitors, along with a steady stream of repeat visitors and potential new members. This team is working to bring more consistency to how we greet newcomers, orient them to life at Caldwell and incorporate them into the many opportunities of the church. One of their newest efforts you may have seen is to give fresh-baked cookies to visitors to worship. Nothing says “welcome” like a cookie! Other initiatives include organizing more group activities for people in their 20s and 30s, hosting periodic lunches for frequent visitors to learn more about Caldwell and – YES! – reviving our use of name tags so we can know each other by name.

**Administration Committee – Richard Bargoil, chair:** As the church grows, this is an area of increasing activity. It supports the office functions, lead by Office Manager Leslie Gipple. Just one of its tasks is to create a member directory, which is much in demand. We have



**Rev. John Cleghorn**

member information on most folks but need to validate its accuracy. We also need to gather contact information for some of our more recent friends and members and will ensure that all privacy considerations are taken into account before we publish anything. Richard is also looking for someone to help with Communications, including our website (**hint, hint**).

**Worship – Carl Brinson, chair:** Lots goes on behind the scenes of our worship services and this committee dutifully looks after all the details. A new second hymnal of gospel music is in the final stages of preparation. The committee is also always open to new ideas about how we can keep our blended worship style fresh and inclusive.

These are just some of the plans of our active committees. Serving on a committee is a great way to get to know more people and to give back to the church. If you’re interested in any of these activities, contact the chairperson. If you have interests, talent and time to serve in other ways, contact me or **B.G. Metzler**, who organizes our Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure.

*Have event and committee news, calendar items, photography and other tidbits Caldwell members and visitors ought to know about? For each newsletter issue, please send items by the first of each month to the church office: [admin@caldwellpresby.org](mailto:admin@caldwellpresby.org)*

*Visit us on the web at:  
[www.caldwellpresby.org](http://www.caldwellpresby.org)*

### Caldwell Good News!

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## Before Guatemala was an arduous mission trek to Mexico

### Nearly a half century separates Caldwell mission trips to Latin America

The Caldwell **International Mission Team's** recent trip to Guatemala can loosely trace its ancestry back more than 50 years when another intrepid group of Caldwell members traveled South, too – but to Mexico.

The two trips matched each other in spirit and Christian intent. As retold in a printed chronicle of Caldwell (*A History 1912 – 1964*) a group of 22 set out by automobile caravan in July 1959. Most of those in the entourage were youngsters overseen by chaperons, and trip appeared to be largely a tour of mission activities rather than the hands-on approach taken in Guatemala.

The itinerary included stops at the National Presbyterian Church, El Buen Pastor in Monterrey, Bible schools in Mexico City, an experimental farm in Teloloapan, Chilpancingo (where they saw a Hostel

for Boys built in part with a 1957 Birthday Offering at Caldwell), and finally a hospital in Morelia.

But when it comes to logistics, the two treks were light years apart. Rather than a jet excursion in the relative comfort and speed of coach class to Guatemala, the hardy troupe set out in 1940 and 1950's vintage station wagons - lugging a boxy, homemade eight-foot-wide-by-20 foot long camper (dubbed "Al's Ark" after senior pastor and trip leader Dr. A.B. Montgomery) that, when unfurled to 32 feet by 16 feet, could sleep up to 30! All the better to shave trip expenses thought organizers. "To make such a journey in the accepted way – by plane or chartered bus and staying in hotels – was out of the question for them as the expense would be prohibitive," according an article penned by Mrs. Montgomery. Al's Ark did the trick cost-wise even in 1959 dollars: the cost per person - \$100. And the length of their Mexican trek? An incredible five weeks. We'll help you do the math: that's roughly \$3

per day per person.

Yet there are parallels between 1959 and 2009. "What did the group learn from the trip?" wrote the chronicler of the pilgrimage. "Firstly, that faith in Jesus Christ diminishes the differences of race and culture almost to (a) vanishing point so that you can see your fellow human beings as people, as individuals with the same physical and emotional and spiritual needs as yourself."

### Help build with Habitat!

**Saturday, May 15** is our next Caldwell Habitat work day. Join our crew to help a Charlotte family fulfill their dream of home ownership. No experience needed; the Habitat site managers teach us and many church members are experienced at building jobs, making it easy to learn "on the job." The church has some basic tools in case you don't have any. A sign-up sheet is available in the church sanctuary or contact **Tom Bohr**: [tbohr@carolina.rr.com](mailto:tbohr@carolina.rr.com).

## Spend Labor Day weekend at work: in Guatemala

**Common Hope**, our partner organization in Guatemala, is organizing a **Vision Team** of individual volunteers from all around the country. These individuals will work in Guatemala September 4-11 of this year, over the Labor Day holiday. Team members will meet for the first time in Guatemala, and friendships will be forged over days of working with and for Guatemalans and evenings of reflecting over each day's activities. You can expect to learn and grow, and to have a wonderful time! Anyone who is interested can contact Sally Thomas at 704-496-4140 or [sallymthomas@earthlink.net](mailto:sallymthomas@earthlink.net).

**Eds. note: The Mission & Justice Committee has selected April 26 - May 5, 2011 as Caldwell's next Vision Team trip to Guatemala. Stay tuned for more information.**



*Caldwell's Youth Group hit the lanes at a recent outing. No word on strikes or spares (heaven forbid any gutter balls) but a good time was had by all. From left to right: KK Curtis, Helen Curtis, Kristin Weiss, Sophia Weiss, Pastor Clegghorn, Dominic 'Trey' Richard and Ellison Clegghorn.*

## A season of joy for

Lent and Easter were celebratory times at Caldwell. We hosted local churches, feted our members at a hearty breakfast, worshiped as one and in general shared the season with members of our spiritual community.



*Mike Watson brings food for Loaves & Fishes and gets food for thought - a palm frond - from a friendly assistant usher.*

*Left - The Easter breakfast was a good time for members and guests to break bread and enjoy each others company.*



## Lent, Easter hold special meaning for Caldwell members

The Lenten season and Easter mean different things to Caldwell members but there were some common spiritual threads.

**Ruby Jones.** It made me feel real calm inside, and made me feel joyful, and I just felt wonderful throughout that whole month of Lent. And I enjoyed the services, and enjoyed the whole process. I felt real good about all of it. It was like a joy and a lot of weigh lifted off me, and I just felt easy about

everything. I had a lot of stuff going on, but at the moment, the other stuff going on didn't bother me.

**Elora Heffner.** I enjoyed the Wednesday Lenten meetings and the luncheons afterward. I thought it was very special we had it at Caldwell among all the churches involved. I thought it was very special we were chosen to be the first church to host it. I thought it came together so smoothly, and everyone got along so well. It was a treat to meet and have lunch with people from other churches. Its nice we were getting together as an inter-denominational thing. And I thought all the services

were beautiful. It was just so well organized. I don't know who put it all together. And the times I was there, they had a different lunch. I just thought it was a good way to know people from the other churches. There were so many good positive things about it. I thought it went really well.

**Bo Jordan.** The celebration of Christ's resurrection, combined with Caldwell's special Easter miracle of rebirth from a few years ago makes Easter at Caldwell especially bright. We are truly Easter people at Caldwell. Easter is seriously happy at Caldwell, and I loved it.

# the Caldwell family



*Our wonderful Easter breakfast had plenty of food for everyone - even the smallest Caldwell members and our guests.*

*Left - Helping hands from some of Caldwell's youngest congregants made for a beautiful arrangement of flowers brought from the gardens of Caldwell members.*



*Pastor Cleghorn's mother, **Gwen Cleghorn** (center), heard her son preach during the Lenten season. Here she is with ushers **Marjorie Bell** and **Bob Metzler** on the front steps of the church. She was visiting from her home in Atlanta.*

**Mark Rowe.** Well, I went to two or three of the Lenten services, and I guess for me they were just kind of a peaceful reaffirmation of God's love and forgiveness. I just think that the thing about it was, it was a time when I felt that each of the sermons were messages not about God's judgment of people but more about his love for people and for his making good things that come out of bad things that happen. For me, we don't have all the answers of some of how God works, but ultimately, he uses it for his good. That's what I got out of it. The services were a peaceful time of contemplation and to relax and be there and have time to think about God's love.

**Fred Powers.** I think my spiritual connection was in a broader range, Christ was in action uniting four churches and two hospitals. I've never experienced that before, and we need to do more and more of that. It just felt like a neighborhood again. This is part of Jesus' kingdom, and he's showing us the way. It just meant so much to me, and I went to the last one (Lenten service), and I was in tears. I was in tears after going to Caldwell and having all the other churches there. I helped put that cross up, too, and that was a wonderful experience for me. I never knew what it took for us to be so active, and I just feel so blessed to be part of Caldwell in all its stages, and this was the high point.

**Carol King.** Sharing communion with each other at the Maundy Thursday service was so meaningful, because it made it like what it must have been that night. It made it so much more personal, and it was a very poignant experience. It made it come alive. Having the congregation's eyes on us as a group, it just felt so real, and we always don't get to have that as an experience. It felt real. It was an experience I will not ever forget. When we were in the total darkness and John slammed the Bible shut with such force, the total dead seriousness of it, it was a powerful moment. All of that came together to make for a personal, powerful experience. It was just blissful.

## Small pieces of Caldwell's big picture

### Caldwell is getting another intern in ministry!

**Danny Trapp** will begin work at Caldwell in early May. He is a student at Union Theological Seminary-PSCE at Charlotte, the same school that gave us Veronica Rogers and Pastor John Cleghorn.

Danny has lived in Charlotte for almost 25 years, including the last 22 of in the same house in the Cotswold neighborhood. He is an elder and deacon at Myers Park Presbyterian Church, where he started its Mexican border ministry relationship, chaired the Worldwide Ministries and Denominational Relations committees and ran its Room in the Inn program. He is also a longtime volunteer counselor at Urban Ministry Center.

Danny had a 25-year career in banking and equipment financing, including NCNB/Nationsbank, First Union and Springs Leasing. He left banking to work in the non-profit arena, where he is Program Director of Mecklenburg Sentencing Services, a program of the Center for Community Transitions (formerly ECO).

Danny was born and raised in Sumter, S.C. He graduated from Wofford College in 1981 and is married to Scottie. They have two daughters – Simmons, age 20 and Catherine, age 17. The family has visited Caldwell for worship many times, so you may have met them.

**Veronica Rogers**, who served as an intern in ministry for the last 9 months, will graduate from seminary on Saturday, April 24. She plans to take some time off to visit family before deciding what comes next.

Danny's areas of focus are still being finalized. Caldwell is fortunate to be an attractive environment where seminary students can learn ministry in an urban, diverse, inclusive and missional setting.

### Here are just some of the items in the works to expand our Congregational Care and Support efforts:

- 1) Survey the congregation about organizational preferences and then organize and train sub-committees associated with visitation and direct (primary) congregational care that utilizes lay leadership and church membership and friends as volunteers.
- 2) Provide support to existing Congregational Care and Support programs, attempting to nurture an esprit de corps among those leaders.
- 3) Determine whether a 20/30's group is a viable idea, then support formation of such a group if it is feasible.
- 4) Explore (possible implement) of additional small group activities such as group dinners.
- 5) In the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year, convene a long range strategic planning team regarding congregational care issues. This group would make recommendations about things such as longer term, more intense lay ministry (such as Stephen's Ministry), support groups (i.e. gay & lesbian, bereavement, and auto-immune disease problems) and other opportunities for increasing congregation life (such as creating a wellness program.) The implementation of these recommendations would be in 2011 & 2012.

**Beth Van Gorp**, CGN! correspondent

*On Monday, April 12th the group pictured, including the Women's Circle, Church members and friends toured the Billy Graham Library and the Graham Family Home-place. It was inspiring! (Photo and column: Linda Schick, CGN!*



# Good News! Bulletin Board

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### APRIL

**Monday, April 26**  
Session, Shelby Room

### MAY

**Saturday, May 1**  
Church picnic, 2:00-6:00 pm, Veteran's Park

**Monday, May 3**  
Men of Caldwell, 6:30, Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, May 9**  
Mother's Day!

**Saturday, May 15**  
Habitat for Humanity work project, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. Project details TBA.

**Monday, May 17**  
Women's Book Club, 6:30- 8:30 pm. Details TBA

### JUNE

**Sunday, June 6**  
Congregational Covered Dish, 12:15 pm, Fellowship Hall

**Monday, June 7**  
Men of Caldwell, 6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

**Monday, June 21**  
Women's Book Club, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Details TBD

Want the latest updates and news about Caldwell? Follow Pastor Cleghorn's blog - "From the Pastor's Desk". It's cool and you can read it now.

<http://www.caldwellpresby.org/pastorsblog/>

## 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 - 9:00 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

## **PLEASE! REMEMBER OUR MEMBERS UNABLE TO ATTEND IN PERSON**

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

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

## 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.

### Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church

1609 East Fifth Street  
Charlotte, NC 28204

<http://www.caldwellpresby.org>



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