

Caldwell Good News!

A Monthly Publication of Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church

May 2010

82 years of Caldwell membership lends perspective

One Caldwell member has seen the church thrive, falter, then thrive again

In her eight decades of membership, **Jackie Abernathy** has seen the church's heyday and high points and lived through times so tough she wondered if the only church she's ever called home - since the 1920s - would survive another week let alone another year.

Jackie has attended Caldwell since she was six years old - she's now 88 - and she has done a bit of everything from Sunday school teacher to a seat on the Session (which she did until the past few years). And she's seen it all, too.

"Sometimes we had to bring in extra chairs," she says, to accommodate the crush of hundreds of members at the height of Caldwell's popularity. Chairs would squeeze in the aisles or behind the last row of pews. "I remember one time we had **Leighton Ford** (who married

Billy Graham's sister) preach at a revival, and that would really bring people in. That was at a time when people didn't move around as much as they do now, so that was big."

Much about Caldwell was big. Sunday school classes were well attended, says Jackie, with 15 to 20 or more in each class. Her class of 20

Services in the '40s and '50s were a marked departure from what Caldwellians see today. "The services were much different," recalls Jackie. "If somebody would've stood up and clapped, the roof would've fallen in. It was much more somber, much stiffer. We had a choir that sang up in the loft. They were not like our choir is now. And for a long time, we didn't speak to each other in church. Back years ago, people were

Jackie...continued on page 10



Jackie Abernathy has stood with Caldwell through thick and thin.

older kids decided to venture on a class trip to climb Crowders Mountain, the height of which she found unnerving. "I thought if I ever get my feet back on the ground, I'll never do this again."

Price Building work on schedule; plans continue for bi-lingual preschool

Floors and windows in the **Price Building** are getting attention by workers in preparation for the arrival of young children who will attend the Caldwell expansion of the Central Avenue Bilingual Preschool.

Ann Alford reports the Work Day in April to spruce up the building was successful and was followed by workmen who tackled remedial projects and renovations to the building's interior, including replacement of three windows, removal of old flooring, and classroom re-painting. School furniture will be delivered, assembled and put into place. The playground is near completion. During 2011 funding will be sought for new playground equipment. The Director and the staff of the school have voiced their appreciation and excitement about their expanded location to the Caldwell site.

(A photo of workers is on page 5.)

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Message	2
Women's, men's groups meet	3
Fund raising policy, big picture	4
Caldwell in photos	5
Adult Sunday school	6-7
Bumps in the wedding aisle	8
Poetry, financials, lovely ladies	9
Jackie Abernathy...continued	10
Good News! Bulletin Board	11

Being Multicultural

Pastor's Message

Just what is a “multicultural” church?

That was just one of the questions I asked this week while at a two-day meeting of a team I've been asked to join. The committee is charged with designing and organizing the PCUSA National Multicultural Church Conference, to be held in Charlotte in April 2012.

That may seem like a ways off, but it's not – at least in terms of what it takes to organize a national conference. One of the first things our team is doing is attending the 2010 National Multicultural Church Conference in Chicago later this month.

So what was the answer to my question? Let me say first that I had a pretty good idea of the answer. After all, as a preacher, every Sunday in worship I look out at the many faces that make up the Caldwell mo-

saic. As a pastor, I am blessed to walk with our diverse members through the joys and sorrows of their lives, lives that span many experiences and perspectives, lives being

Every Sunday in worship I look out at the many faces that make up the Caldwell mosaic

out in neighborhoods across the city. By God's grace, we are one of the most diverse churches in the city.

But does that make us “multicultural?” As with a lot of things in life, it's good to ask the question. The answer is “Yes,” according to Raafat Girgis, who heads the Multicultural Congregational Support Staff of the PCUSA. A multicultural congregation or ministry is one that “intentionally recognizes, celebrates and incorporates the gifts of diverse membership in worship, in leadership and ministry and in evangelism.”

Caldwell certainly meets that definition. To be sure, we always have room (and, I hope, the spirit) to explore new ways of worshipping, leading, ministering and evangelizing. (For example, would we ever follow a hymn on the pipe organ and a gospel tune on the piano with an offering by the Foli Kan drumming group that performed at our church picnic?)

Our membership is diverse, racially and in other ways. Our mission work with Merry Oaks Elementary, in Guatemala and with the Central Avenue Bilingual Preschool is

Our membership is diverse, racially and in other ways



Pastor John Cleghorn

opening new avenues of learning and building community. There is talk that several of our members want to learn Spanish together. God has blessed us with extraordinary opportunities to build and deepen relationships that cut across the lines that divide our society in too many places.

How does Caldwell compare? Nationally in the PCUSA, 1,750, or 28%, of our churches self report that they are “modeling” what it takes to meet the definition of a multicultural church. That percentage is higher than I would have expected – and that's good news. As our city, state and country grow more and more

Our churches must reflect and demonstrate diversity and inclusiveness to remain relevant and in touch

pluralistic, our churches must reflect and demonstrate diversity and inclusiveness to remain relevant and in touch.

I will be the first to say that I have a lot to learn about how churches can successfully be multicultural. At the same time, perhaps Caldwell can help teach others, based on the gifts and interests of our members, the opportunities we've been given and the missional spirit of our church. Then, when the National Multicultural Church Conference comes to Charlotte in 2012, Caldwell can celebrate its centennial in amazing new ways that glorify God.

Caldwell Good News!

A monthly publication of
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

Women now have their own monthly group, too



Gina Shell makes welcoming remarks to attendees at the first-ever women's group on Tuesday, May 4. The initial organizational meeting drew 15 women who ate a light supper, then got down to business about meeting dates, etc..

As a first order of business, the newly formed Caldwell **women's group** decided to meet the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at the church.

Gina Shell says beyond a meeting date and time, not much else is decided. "That's about as far as we are right now. Other details to follow. I'm really happy about it."

Formation of the he group was prompted by a speaker at the recent women's retreat. According to Gina, "A guest facilitator, **Rev. Kate Murphy**, talked about discipleship, and living as a Christian in the world, and encouraged us to encourage each other. It inspired a few of us to say 'how can we do this?' and one thing led to another. And here we are."

Caldwell's **men's group** convened their regular monthly meeting on May 3 with more than a dozen men gathering for an evening of food and fellowship.

Group leader **Craig Rhodes** kicked things off. Once a splendid meal of scallops, corn-on-the-cob and other fixing's prepared by **Mike Watson** were polished off, **Troy Aleong** briefed the men on a proposed service component that involved a number of projects, including a healthy dose of sweat equity to clean up a number of spare rooms throughout the church plus deferred maintenance tasks.

The final hour was devoted to a round-table discussion led by **Pastor Cleghorn** on "Men of the Bible." His choices for three significant men: **Abraham, Job, and Paul**. The pastor posed thoughts usually associated with the biblical figures. For Abraham, who was prepared to sacrifice his son to God: How do we handle conflicting loyalties? For Job, the rich man: How do we handle adversity and remain faithful? And how could Paul, a Roman citizen and a Jew, be a man in a multi-cultural era who saw he was on the wrong side of things?

The men's group dined on excellent cuisine, then talked about a meatier topic: "Men of the Bible."

The evening drew a nice crowd: 14 attendees. The group has been meeting for several months.



Session adopts fund raising policy

Raising financial support for Caldwell's various activities, missions and operations is an ongoing process that is both rewarding and challenging. By far, most of the church's financial support comes through annual pledges, tithes and offerings and other gifts. When developing each year's budget the Session allocates funding raised through the stewardship campaign to fund our mission and justice work as well as other ministries and operating costs. However, financial resources are also collected through several fundraising events that occur each year to sponsor special activities. One example is **One Great Hour of Sharing**, an annual fundraiser sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (USA) to support ministries working with hunger, disaster assistance, and self-development of groups of people oppressed by poverty and social systems. Another example, more locally focused and specific to Caldwell, is the recent **Merry Oaks Book Fair**.

There is a delicate balance between adequately supporting both the external and internal work of the church, and setting realistic goals for Caldwell's giving capacity. To help with this process, the Session recently adopted a new fundraising policy to insure we have a coordinated, planned approach to how and when the congregation is engaged and asked for financial support of a Caldwell-related ministry or activity.

For the purpose of this policy, fundraising is defined as an event through which money is solicited from the congrega-

tion and collected by the church and/or its representatives. Highlights of the policy include:

- All fundraising efforts will be in accordance with Caldwell's Mission Statement and values of the church.
- Any fundraising event must be approved in advance, and collections will follow the church's established accounting procedures.
- Approvals must be processed prior to any announcement of the fundraising event during worship service or through the bulletin, website, newsletter or other communications.

Proposals for fundraisers should be submitted at least three weeks in advance to the finance committee, via the church office, for approval (email is sufficient and the address is admin@caldwellpresby.org). Information should include the purpose of the event, project leader contact information, beneficiary of the event and method and location of the collection.

In the near future we hope to establish a bulletin board where members may post information about various charity events that may be of interest to the church community.

The complete fundraising policy will be posted on the church website within the next month.

Small pieces of Caldwell's big picture...

Group for young people in the works

Know anyone in their 20's or 30's, either in body or in spirit? We're looking to start a 20/30-somethings group at Caldwell, and will be meeting for lunch after church on Sunday May 23 to fellowship and discuss what folks would like from such a group. Hopes for the group include both fellowship and spiritual study opportunities. We will meet at lemonade after church and depart for lunch afterward. So if you think you'd like to attend, please contact **Bo Jordan** at bo@bojordan.com or 980-875-8023.

Mark your calendar for a Gospel Sing

There will be a Gospel Sing at Caldwell on Sunday, May 23rd, at 4:00. **Ted Martin**, who is the father of **Kevin Martin**, is putting the program together to raise awareness of multiple sclerosis. Ted's inter-denominational choir will be singing as will our choir and a few others. Contact Kevin's mother, **Prenetta**, at 704 399-2725 for more details.

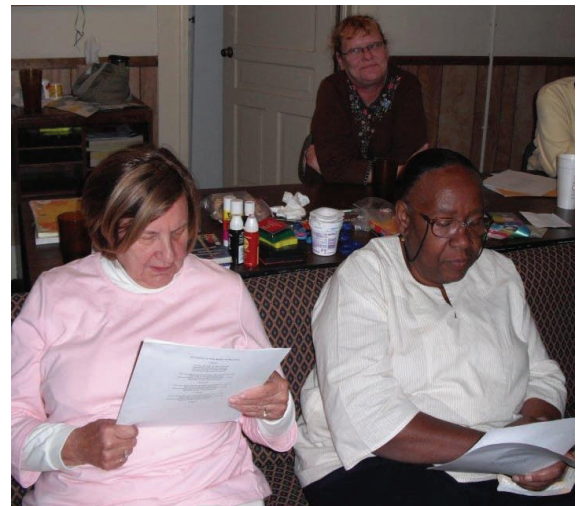
Caldwell comes through for Loaves & Fishes

Nice job Caldwell: it is reported March was the biggest month ever for donations to Loaves & Fishes. Keep it up!

Roll up your sleeves for Habitat for Humanity

Saturday, May 15 is our next scheduled Caldwell Habitat work day. Join our crew for that day and help a Charlotte family fulfill their dream of home ownership. No experience is needed; the Habitat site managers do a great job of instructing us and many of our church members are experienced at the various building jobs we do as volunteer labor, making it easy to learn how to do the task at hand. The church even has some of the basic tools needed, in case you don't have any. A sign-up sheet to join the work crew on May 15 will be available in the church sanctuary each Sunday or contact **Tom Bohr** at tbohr@carolinarr.com or 704-552-9474.

Caldwell in photos...



More than 30 women ventured to the North Carolina wilderness near Montreat for the women's retreat. Word is the food and fellowship were wonderful.



Our victory (over hunger) garden was recently planted behind the church. Volunteers turned out on a nice Thursday to make it happen. Watch for photos next month to see how your garden grows!



*(Left) Workers clear debris from the front entry to the **Price Building** in preparation for new flooring. Remedial work and other updates, plus a clean up by volunteers, is readying the building for a true educational use - the bilingual preschool will become a tenant. The building may be ready for youngsters in the very near future.*



*(Above) A big Caldwell welcome to **Danny Trapp**, our new ministry intern. Danny is in the office early Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. He is with us through December.*

Adult Sunday school a valuable co

Sunday school another step in spiritual journey for adults at Caldwell

At 9:45 on Sunday mornings, a reverent group of church members meets upstairs for a long-held Caldwell practice: adult Sunday school.

This informal class, coordinated by **Jeff Mitchiner** but led by the group itself, tours the Bible.

According to Jeff "it's not a closed group. They can walk in the first time, and they may not jump into the discussion, but every lesson is somewhat self contained. You can never get as much by yourself as you can with other people. You hear what other people say and think 'I've never thought of it that



Insook Lee made several points on Luke 24 during a Sunday dialogue..

way'." Many of the seven to 10 Sunday regulars have been in the group since it launched three years ago.

The group is very verbal and the interplay between members focuses heavily on personal interpretation of

readings and dialogue. Jeff says "It's as much reflections on that as opposed to getting down all the facts." The Bible is not surveyed in chronological order. The process of what the group studies is, as Jeff says, "intentionally erratic based on the interests of the group."

Like others in the class, Jeff finds the lively discussion stimulating. "I can only say from myself, it pushes and expands my faith, and it enlivens it. You get challenged and encouraged in your faith journey."

Caldwell Good News! asked several members how adult Sunday school figures into their spiritual lives. Here are their answers.

I just wanted to say that I have really enjoyed our Sunday School class for a number of different reasons. To tell you the truth, I first started going partly as a way to meet people--I can be shy, so starting out with a smaller group whose names I could get to know, seemed like a good way to get involved in the church. Also, I like the intellectual side of Sunday School--the theology interests me. The "Red Bus" has fit the bill on both counts and has correspondingly deepened my spiritual life. The group itself is so welcoming--it's a very comfortable atmosphere for discussion--at least, I think so--I hope so! And I pretty much immediately felt comfortable. And I like the focus on the Bible--the whole "red bus" nickname comes from the concept that we are just touring the Bible, getting off at different stops and spending time with different parts. So we have read parts I had not really studied before--and there have been a lot of times where I have read something and thought, (embarrassingly), "I didn't know that was in the Bible!" So I have learned a lot in general. Also, one theme that I would say that has



Coordinator Jeff Mitchiner makes point, dives in to the assignment. Jeff starts the ball from there. Seven to 10 people

emerged, or been emphasized, at least for me, from our tour, is that of the community of faith--it's reiterated, over and over, in the Bible, in different ways, that worship is a communal activity. And I feel like I see that--live that--through the Sunday School class and the way it has helped me feel connected to the larger Caldwell and church family.

Helen Hull

I had never really attended church until 9 years ago so it is an opportunity to learn more about the Bible and to ask questions and gain understanding from others in the class some who are seminarians and some who have been in church all their life. We have some very broad ranging discussions that are started by our individual reading or understanding of what the scriptures are trying to say to us now and what they were saying to folks when they were written. I have also led the Sunday school on occasion which is really a treat because you know that that you can spark some real good discussion

on-



*ts about an exercise before the group
e conversation, but the group runs with
attend on any given Sunday.*

with this group.

That is not static or ended, it continues. We ask hard questions of ourselves, of the Bible and our faith. We have an opportunity to share our faith journeys and what brought us to this place and our conclusions about the bible as a result of our journey. We have a diverse group who came many different ways to get here and it is fascinating that we are all here together now sharing this!

Jim Everitt

Sunday school has always been an integral and important part of my spiritual life, starting as a child. My adult Sunday school class there (previous church) was the one place where we could be unified in the spirit – a place of comfort and peace, yet challenging at the same time. For almost a year, since I left that church, I was without an adult Sunday School class and my spiritual journey has been harder because of its absence. I also knew I had to find a small group at Caldwell to get to know some of the members in a

deeper way, and the adult Sunday School class was the best way for me to do both. The Adult Sunday School at Caldwell is a place of challenge, of learning, and of expression. I can be myself there. I can reveal my fears and my dreams. I can learn from others who have experienced God's presence in a way that gives me hope that I, too, can grow deeper in relationship with God and with Christ. Being in Sunday School is as important to me as being in Sunday morning's church service – both are a way to worship God by learning more about how Christ wants me to live, how I can be in ministry to others, and how to listen more closely to what God is telling me through Scripture.

Being in Sunday School makes me face the reality that I need more than what I can do on my own to live a transformed life. It is fellowship



Carol King

with other believers and seekers and going on that journey with others. It is an acknowledgement for me of the importance of God in my life. Sometimes it takes a bit of work to carve out that extra hour on

a Sunday. Yet even that is an acknowledgement that Sabbath is a day of rest and not of busyness. The picture comes to mind of the New Testament story about Jesus when he was 12 years old and had stayed behind during the Passover. Upon his parent's arrival at the synagogue when they came back to look for him, he responded to their query of why he was there by saying, "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" My need is the same. I have to be in God's house, and, along with morning worship, Sunday School is the place I want to be.

Carol King

It has figured in more prominently than I had originally imagined it would. Through our discussions in Sunday School I have finally developed the ability to accept the notion of "mystery" being something we have to live with as Christians; not reading each word so literally, but rather seeking out the intent of the message the writer was trying to communicate, and also the ability and or willingness to "link" certain passages in one book of the Bible with passages in another book so that together they seem more clear than either of them standing alone.

The interactive aspect is also important. Being a person with an above average number of questions and opinions, I welcome the chance to get these out; and I must say that for the most part I am surprised that most of the other class members generally accept my comments and questions in a positive and constructive way. I think it says that I travel better on a red bus with a guide than I do on a Motorbike with a roadmap in a strange place where I don't know my way around and can't speak the language.

Mike Watson

A walk down Caldwell's aisle has its share of bumps

Caldwell is fortunate to attract wedding couples to our beautiful sanctuary. Not every wedding, however, goes according to plans. But it creates memories for the bride and groom - and everyone else involved. Here are great notes from one such memorable event.

1. Bride was the last to arrive on Saturday. (Usually the bride arrives long before her guests). Wedding was at 5:00; she got there at 4:20.
2. Florist did not show up until AFTER guests were seated! (Matron of Honor/bride's sister wept in frustration with the bride and florist.)
3. Mother of the bride was left behind at Duke Mansion.
4. Mother is finally retrieved and delivered to Caldwell. She doesn't like her corsage. Wants something different!
5. The visiting pastor takes it upon himself to enter the sanctuary, unprompted and without cue, with the groom and best man and proceeds to just stand there. This is it was not what was rehearsed!
6. Moments before the ceremony guests are still arriving including a large group at the bottom of the entrance to the sanctuary. It seems the bride's father is entertaining the guests. The wedding ceremony is now 15 minutes BEHIND schedule!
7. The bride's father is retrieved.
8. Mother and father of bride are newly divorced after 38 years of marriage. Tension ensues.
9. Mothers of bride and groom and grandmother escorted to back of church-with corsages in place! Corsage malfunction avoided.
10. Two cabs pull up. Hired cars responsible for delivering the groom's out-of-town aunts and uncles errantly went to the WRONG church - where there was another wedding! Relatives quickly figure out they weren't at the correct church! However, the hired cars were onto their next gig! Yellow Cab to the rescue!
11. Wedding on hold for tardy relatives to be seated. Just about ready for the bride's grand entrance when...
12. Six women relatives of the bride's mother rush to the back of the church and start talking to the bride's mother! The groom's mother says, "Thank goodness we have a sense of humor!" The bride's mother "shoes" the late arrivals back to their seats as the process of seating the mothers of the bride and groom begins - in theory.
13. At the very last nano-second the bride's brother in-law decides to walk his mother-in-law down the aisle. This was not discussed or rehearsed! The appointed groomsmen is perplexed and disgusted with all the last minute changes. Drama ensues.
14. Bride and her attendants are assembled at the rear. At this point Canon in D has been played several times over.
15. Finally, everyone is lined up and one of the four flower girls who is only 18 MONTHS old throws a screaming fit; sprawled on the floor. In the planning stages the bride is cautioned about the potential "performance" by a toddler in front of a room full of strangers. The bride assures the planners there will be no problem. The baby is handed to the bridesmaid closest to the other 3 mature flower girls (ages 5-7). Baby calms down. Ceremony further delayed.
16. Total time the groom, the pastor and other groomsmen (16 total in the wedding party plus bride and groom) have stood patiently waiting: over 30 minutes.
17. The pianist misses her cue because the timing is so off. The bride makes it down the aisle but there is no recollection that fanfare music has actually accompanied her walk.
18. The pastor launches into a lecture on the size of the wedding bands.
19. Unbeknownst to planners, the bride decided she didn't want the groomsmen to dismiss the guests in a methodical "dismissal" by rows/pews. After the bridal party left the sanctuary it looked like a Sunday morning passing of the peace scenario - total chaos.
20. Once pictures are over debris in the front rows of pews is picked up including that created by 18 month old flower girl who has entertained herself by shredding paper and envelopes and throwing pencils and pens.
21. The bride and groom and their parents have left but men's voices are heard at the rear of the sanctuary. Six groomsmen are idling on the sidewalk. The bride appeared to forget arrangements for their transportation to the reception. Their personal cars are at the hotel. An offer is made to drive them in two shifts to either the hotel or reception site. They are frustrated-and borderline hysterical. They discuss what to do. As the group heads toward the volunteer car, a rusty, faded hotel shuttle pulls up and the driver rolls down the widow and says, "I think I'm supposed to pick y'all up". The groomsmen start laughing and slapping each other on the back and lamenting what a mess the day has been thus far. They hug the coordinators, then leave.
22. As co-coordinators **Ann Alford** and **Eloise Hicks** return to the sanctuary, Eloise smiles and says, "I saved the best for last". "Now what?" She shares with that the bridal couple planned to go to Thailand for their honeymoon since she has family there. However, the bride didn't get her paperwork completed in time so they had to go to an alternate destination! A final laugh is shared with the acknowledgement that had everyone known the honeymoon snafu up front, the day would have been self-explanatory.

Ann Alford, CGN! correspondent

It's Spring!

Spring is here and, oh what a joy!

I'm awakened at sunrise by the songs of a family of birds
 who've made my home theirs;
 I look out my windows and am reminded of when I learned
 that "verdant" meant green; The world is so verdant in the
 Spring!

Spring flowers bring smiles to my face;
 From daffodils to cherry trees, dogwoods and azaleas;
 Their once-a-year splendor makes them even more special;
 But...flowers bring pollen;
 This is the season when all cars are green and we are thankful
 for Claritin and Zyrtec;

As I write, my back aches and my arms are tired, but no com-
 plaints from this gardener;
 It's all part of the process;
 Pull weeds, remove debris, replenish soil, plant and dream;
 Today I planted tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and petunias;
 Bring on the Ibuprophen! Tomorrow is coming.

By **Doreen Byrd**

Our most recent financials

Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church
 Financial Results through March 31, 2010

First Quarter

	<u>Budget*</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income			
Pledged			(5,949)
All Other	<u>29,998</u>	<u>25,439</u>	<u>(4,559)</u>
TTL In- come	<u>74,998</u>	<u>64,490</u>	<u>(10,508)</u>
All Expenses			<u>3,954</u>
Net Gain/Loss			<u><u>(6,554)</u></u>

* Annual budget divided by 4

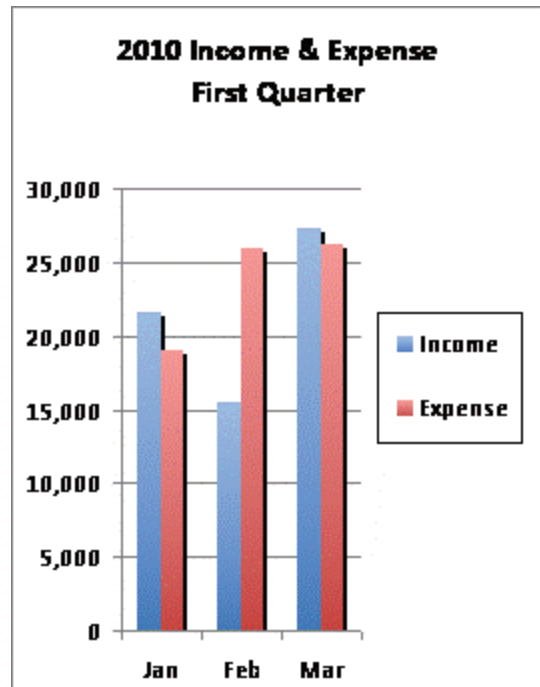
Notes:

First quarter results show a net loss of \$6,554.
 Expenses are lower than projected by 5%.
 Income is lower than projected by 15%.

This income trend is normal for the first quarter,
 and we expect to see it trend upward thru the year.



Three lovely ladies grace our front entrance on a recent beautiful spring Sunday morning. Left to right are **Elora Heffner, Anne Ranson, Jackie Abernathy**



Submitted by **Janet Blanchard**, CGN! correspondent

New members...and what visitors say

Caldwell is thrilled to welcome these new members:

Carol King

Nickie PeGan

Amy & Kraig Magas (parents of **Jack & Bennett**)

Interested in membership in our personable, active and growing church?

Contact the church office for more details. New member classes are being scheduled.

"I feel very comfortable here. I like the more informal atmosphere than I am accustomed to. I feel very much at home."

"It's pretty good so far, I can tell you that."

"I think it is wonderful. It is very nice, and very friendly."

"My first impression is I am very happy to walk in here."

"I like this place. It is a very friendly, open church."

"I felt at home. I like the blend of people."

"We enjoy it. We don't have a church and have been looking for a couple of years."

Jackie...continued from page 1

so stiff they would walk in and sit down, and get up and leave when it was over. That's the way it was. Dr. Nesbitt was the minister, a little short man, but he'd pound the pulpit sometimes, and he said he did that because he saw people nodding off and that would wake them up."

That rigid mindset perhaps contributed to a slow change Jackie perceived in the 1950s. Attendance began to decline. "During that time, it was beginning to show signs of going down, and gradually some of our most active members would leave and go to other churches," says Jackie. Even Jackie and her late husband **Walter** were tempted. "When things started going down, he thought we should see about joining another church. Well, we'd go to another church but then he'd say 'let's go back to Caldwell.'" Jackie never saw the influx of young people necessary to keep a church vibrant and alive. "We were not getting young people into the church back then, and people didn't do then what people do now, which is to go see people. People back then just weren't as outgoing as they are now."

As the lifeblood of any church,

members, continued to turn away from Caldwell, Jackie had doubts her church would survive yet she stayed the course, decade after decade. "Yes, I did (think it would fold). I was just hanging in there. I didn't want to pull out. I wanted to stay on and see what happens. When a church doesn't take on new members, it's a bad sign. It got to the point where we had only six or seven coming to church." The darkest hours were not too many years ago when the Session reluctantly chose to shutter the doors. A letter to that effect was to be sent to the local Presbytery. The pastor during the crisis, **Charles Macdonald**, broke the not unexpected news to the few parishioners at a Sunday service.

Then came nothing short of a miracle on 5th street. When the announcement to close was made, Macdonald was approached by a visitor – **Kevin Martin** – who asked simply if he and his wife, **Tovi**, could still join the church. Martin went on to say the couple knew of other candidates also looking for a new church home. Unable to attend that particular service, Jackie took a call not long afterward from Macdonald who broke the joyous news by asking her "Are you sitting down?" More good news lay ahead.

The following Sunday, Jackie stationed herself at the church entrance to welcome potential visitors. "I was at the door when everyone started coming in, and I'd make one name tag, then another, and they just kept coming and coming and coming," she recalls. "It was a surprise since we had been so down. That was the beginning of the way Caldwell is now." When her longtime friend **Sue Aivaz** passed away recently, Jackie's faith in the spirit of the resurrected church was again rewarded. "People went to call on her family, and that's the way people do with each other. We are friendly with each other."

"Caldwell is in a much better place," she says. "Everybody is just so willing to help. Everybody seems to do more, they want to help the church. I'm up to the place where I'm so old I can't do much." Many in the congregation, however, might beg to differ with her.

"Caldwell is home to me," she says, even though the trial of driving 11 miles to church, followed by the familiar use of her walker for mobility, might be enough to keep others at home. "I just feel like if I go to church I feel like I can get through the rest of the week."

Caldwell Good News! Bulletin Board

COMING UP SOON...

MAY

Monday, May 10

Women's Circle, 10:30, Shelby Room

Thursday, May 13

Ascension Day

Saturday, May 15

Habitat for Humanity work day, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sunday, May 16,

New member class, 9:45 am - 10:45, Fellowship Hall

20-30 something's group, 12:15 pm, George's lemonade stand on the front lawn

Monday, May 17

Women's book club, 6:30 pm, location TBA

Sunday, May 23

New member class, 9:45 am - 10:45, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, May 30

New member class, 9:45 am - 10:45, Fellowship Hall

JUNE

Sunday, June 6

New member class, 9:45 am - 10:45, Fellowship Hall

Congregational covered dish, 12:15 pm, Fellowship Hall

Monday, June 7

Men's group, 6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, June 8

Women's group, 6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Church Calendar

1st Monday

6:30 pm - Men's Group

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

1st Tuesday

6:30 pm - Women's Group

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 entry basket.)

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 WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND IN PERSON

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

Mrs. Barbara Atkinson	Lake Park Nursing Center	3315 Faith Church Rd., Room 402-A	Indian Trail, NC 28079
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

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>



Periodicals

Postage Paid

Charlotte, NC

Caldwell Good News (USPS 082-860) is published monthly by Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1609 East Fifth Street, Charlotte, NC 28204. Periodicals postage paid at Charlotte, NC. **POSTMASTER:** Please send address changes to Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1609 East Fifth Street, Charlotte, NC 28204.