

Caldwell Good News!

A Monthly Publication of Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church

June 2010

Caldwell opens its doors - and heart - to preschool

Somos una gran familia. El edificio es un regalo del Dios, y es no para nosotros solamente, pero algo para compartir. Entonces, bienvenidos a todos.

We are one big family. This building is a gift from God and is not only for us, but something to share. So, welcome to everyone.

With those reassuring words of welcome on behalf of Caldwell by **Zach Thomas**, more than 70 preschoolers and their parents, along with staff of the **Central Avenue Bilingual Preschool** stepped through the doors to their new preschool home: the **Price Building** at Caldwell.

A celebratory festival featured games and tours of refurbished and equipped classrooms that open in earnest next August when the school begins its first full year. More than 70 attended the festivities in the grassy expanse near the church's vegetable garden.

"I cried when Zach said what he said," says **Barbara Cantisano**, executive director of the preschool. "We were coming to a place where people have open arms and open hearts. We all felt that way."

The collaboration marks the end of 18 months of discussion for the preschool to become, according to **Ann Alford** of Caldwell, a "mission on

renovated office space. Furnishings were assembled and situated in classrooms.

The efforts to retool the building were warmly received. "The parents were very receptive and touched by Caldwell's efforts to welcome them," says Ann. "We are off to a positive start with our neighbors 'next door'."

The Price Building was configured into two classrooms. The classrooms are divided into two rooms; one with 20 children, the other 14. Each multi-age room has a mixture of three, four and five year olds.

Cantisano says there is no funding to finance a summer session although "We'll look into funding next year."

The existing preschool location – what Cantisano describes as much smaller with far fewer children – will remain open. But she says the larger space in the Price Building is welcomed, indeed. "The fact that they (staff and students) have their own rooms and so much space, the parents really appreciate that. We've already had new enrollments," says Cantisano.

The preschool site coordinator at Caldwell is **Adriana Canon**. The office phone is 704-333-2024.

Months of planning for a wonderful new school has come to fruition. The school feels, as Ms. Cantisano says, "Muy bienvenidas! (very welcome)."

Full photo coverage of Festival Day to welcome the bilingual preschool is on pages six and seven.



The preschool will use two primary rooms with mixed age classes of three, four and five year old students.

our doorstep." Alford reports that to prepare our 'mission' for the three to five year old preschoolers arrangements were made for several new windows, new tile flooring in classrooms along with ceramic tile in the entry way, bright lighting in the classrooms, a security system, and

Inside this issue:

Intern's Message	2
A ride rewarded, new members	3
Open your heart	4
A journey to a new beginning	5
Bilingual preschool festival!	6-7
Caldwell in photos	8
Small pieces of our big picture	9
Your money matters	10
Good News! Bulletin Board	11

In turn

Intern's Message

Who is Called?

As a mid-life second (or third) career seminary student I am often asked about my sense of call.

How did I know this is what I want to do? Did I hear a voice? Do I still feel I am on the right path? Implied in these conversations is that I have an experience of God that they do not. That somehow this "call" of mine is special while their perceived absence of call makes them less special. That could not be further from the truth. I believe God calls all of us in some way or another and I'm not a big fan of a ranking system for ministry. My call or John's is no

more important than anyone else's, just different.

This approach assumes everyone has something to offer which I also believe. Whether you were baptized

Whether you were baptized in this church or just stepped into a church for the first time, God can and will use all of us to further God's kingdom

in this church or just stepped into a church for the first time, God can and will use all of us to further God's kingdom here in Charlotte and around the world.

During my time with you at Caldwell I will be helping John and the session look at issues of church capacity and engagement. What are our members and friends involved in? What would they like to be involved

What would they like to be involved in? What does the church need folks to be involved in? Who is not involved who would like to be?

in? What does the church need folks to be involved in? Who is not involved who would like to be? Who is overcommitted? While this may sound to you like a business project I think these are important "kingdom questions". As a community of faith in the reformed tradition Caldwell should be engaged in the world and with each other while at the same



*Danny Trapp, Intern
in Ministry*

time taking care of ourselves and each other. Caldwell is already better

As a community of faith in the reformed tradition Caldwell should be engaged in the world and with each other while at the same time taking care of ourselves and each other. Caldwell is already better at this than many churches

at this than many churches who often have a relatively small percentage of folks overly involved and a large number not involved at all. But just because we might be better than others doesn't mean we are where God would have us be.

I look forward to engaging with many of you in the coming months to try to sort out what "call" means, individually and as a community of faith. Jesus implored his disciples to follow him. I wonder what that might look like for modern day disciples like us. It will be fun finding out.

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A ride rewarded for G.W....



This occasional feature spotlights members of Caldwell.

Sometimes there are side benefits to a relaxed ride around town. Particularly when the drive involves a particular church on East 5th street.

The way G.W. describes things, his decision to visit Caldwell two years ago almost seems accidentally on purpose.

“One day I was riding around and drove by the church, and I decided to stop in,” he says. “I came in one Sunday and that was it.” He’s been a member ever since.

In actuality, G.W. (his real name is **George Baker**, but everyone knows him by his initials) says “someone told me about it.” He’d been thinking of changing churches and the vibes from the community grapevine about Caldwell were positive indeed.

So what does he like most about the Sunday services? “I like the minister, and I like the music. That’s a pretty good combination.”

G.W. is a regular at far more than our 11:00 a.m. Sunday services where he’s typically seated in a pew on the west side of the sanctuary. He can be seen at the Men’s Groups and other functions.

For G.W., his choice of a new church home boils down to a few basic points. “They treat everybody right. Yeah, I enjoy the services at Caldwell. I enjoy the preaching, and I enjoy the people. I like it. Yes, I enjoy the activities. I like the fellowship.”

New members...and what visitors say

We are very glad to welcome a new family to our Caldwell family:

Lainey and Frank Sickinger, and their daughters **Elise and Mira**

If you think Caldwell might be a church you’d like to explore further, we cordially invite you to not only sit in on our services, hear our wonderful choir, and hear the sermon, we invite you to attend a new member class. Call the church office or visit the calendar page on our web site: caldwellpresby.org.

Most Sundays CGN! asks first and second time visitors for their first impressions of our church and our congregation. Here are some recent comments (before they’ve had the chance to eat their welcome package of fresh baked cookies):

“It’s very welcoming...I’m just trying to take it all in.”

“It’s nice...it’s different.”

“This is a very open, friendly place.”

“Well, I have really enjoyed it. It is the one that really fits with what I need. I won’t be a visitor much longer.”

“The music is terrific!”

Open your heart to something new...

Join the Caldwell Vision Team in Guatemala

Plans are already underway for our second mission trip to Guatemala next spring. **Kick-Off Information Lunches** for anyone interested in joining the team, hearing about **Common Hope**, or learning about Caldwell's commitment to the people of Guatemala will be **July 18 and August 8** immediately after Sunday worship. Join us for a light lunch so we can answer your questions and share our excitement about an experience that is sure to change and enrich you in unexpected ways.

The **Vision Team** will be in Guatemala April 26 – May 5, 2011. Trip leaders are **Elise Deal** (704-358-4977; edeal@rbh.com) and **Kitty and Tom Bohr** (704-552-9474; tbohr@carolinarr.com). Contact us with questions or to let us know you are interested even if you can't come to one of the lunch meetings. By the way, joining us for a lunch is not a commitment to join the team, but we hope you will!

Caldwell's relationship to the people of Guatemala goes

far beyond just the few days when our church's representatives are on the mission trip. Several of our members sponsor children through Common Hope, purchase coffee through As Green as it Gets, provide supplies, maintain an interest in the justice issues of the region, and simply pray for our friends in Guatemala.

We ask that you especially remember them in your prayers as families dig out from the recent floods and mudslides caused by Tropical Storm Agatha. All 1,800 Common Hope families in the Antigua valley, some now known personally to Caldwell's Vision Team, have been accounted for, many dealing with loss of personal belongings, significant mud and water damage in their homes, and lack of food and clean drinking water. Common Hope reports that crops have been damaged, jobs have been lost, and public transportation is seriously compromised, so there will be short- and long-term food deficits. Many families will also need housing repairs, retaining walls to shore up existing housing, or completely new homes. Go to www.commonhope.org for more information and photos of the damage.

Kitty Bohr, CGN! correspondent

...But let your heart go out to old, and new, friends...

A violent storm does significant damage to a locale Caldwell volunteers have come to know well

Hurricane **Agatha** flooded the town of **San Miguel Escobar** in Guatemala last week. You can see the destruction on the video posted at the website www.asgreenasitgets.org. Caldwell Church's **Vision Team** visited that town in December. Some of the names and faces on that video are familiar to **Zach** and **Sally Thomas**.

Agatha left nearly 500 people without a home in San Miguel Escobar. The cathedral there is now housing some 260 residents. The death toll is at seven, but six people are still missing and presumed dead. An additional 30 people are counted as simply missing.

Corn fields were totally washed away. However, coffee plants withstood the water and mud. It could have been worse for the coffee farmers, some of whom are recipients of loans from members of Caldwell. They lost a few hundred pounds of coffee beans, but many of their fields are now inaccessible. Gruesome work has now begun to dig out the carcasses of dead animals and disinfect the properties.

If you would like to make a contribution that will go directly to recovery work, make your check out to **As Green As It Gets**. This group extends the work of Common Hope in San Miguel Escobar. Zach Thomas will be glad to send your checks to the group's director.

Zach Thomas, CGN! correspondent

One regular's journey to a new beginning...

Johnnie Frazier has traveled a long road but Caldwell members, and his own hard work, have made his path to self sufficiency much, much smoother.

You may not know **Johnnie Frazier**, but if you attended the lunches as part of the Lenten Series hosted by Caldwell or sampled his delicious sweet rolls at the Palm Sunday breakfast, you know his work.

Johnnie's story is one of hard time, decades of support from friends - including Caldwell and other churches - and people willing to help the 62 year old Charlotte native earn his way back to society.

The Caldwell part of his story goes back indirectly nearly 20 years when Frazier was a prison inmate. It was about that time that now-Caldwell member **Mary Carol Michie** was among several local residents who struck up a correspondence with Frazier. The years of letters came full circle when Frazier emerged into society and worked to ply his chosen trade - cooking. In particular, Frazier is a baker. Aside from the sweet rolls, he has also baked for **Mike Watson** and for the recent Women's Retreat for **Alice MacKay**. He's willing to bake for members, too.

Frazier's interest in food came early in life when he used to tag along to the canning plant where his father worked, and young Frazier was allowed to stir some of the cooking pots. He marveled then about how the plant made the finished product "look so pretty."

His baking prowess took hold in prison, and as **George Michie** relates, "He spent time in 17 different prisons - not because of his actions - but because he was a hot commodity. As a baker he was very much in demand and thus the transfers to dif-



*George and Mary Carol Michie with beaming Caldwell visitor **Johnnie Frazier** who holds his hard-earned diploma from the **Community Culinary School of Charlotte**. Frazier is looking for quality work in the food and restaurant business. His specialty: baked goods. Reach Johnnie at 704-493-8172. (Photo: Amy Leary)*

ferent institutions."

As Caldwell members and guests tasted, Frazier has ample skills in the kitchen. He parlayed those to a degree this year from the Community Culinary School of Charlotte, hoping to parlay the degree and his positive attitude to full time work in an established restaurant. So far, however, no eateries have given him his big break. He fills the income gap mowing lawns, washing cars and other odd jobs. He is available to help Caldwell members with such jobs.

Michie is impressed with Frazier's ethic to find quality work. "I have tried to help fellows in the past with job leads and interviews and they just come up with excuse after excuse why they didn't follow through on these opportunities. Johnny's always thinking ahead about what he could to help his current situation. He follows through on every lead and is tenacious in his pursuit of something."

Frazier is quick to acknowledge his past but with an eye firmly on his

future. "Whatever I can do to stay to the right, and work hard and give back to society rather than take from society" is what Frazier says he will try to do. His goal is anything in the kitchen "as long as I'm around food and can be around chefs, and learn how they do it. I want that first hand experience."

His experience in prison has also created an opportunity for him to help others. He relates the realities of prison life to youth groups without pulling punches. "It makes a difference, and if we can save just one, the mission is accomplished."

Frazier is often seen at Caldwell services, sitting in a back pew. He is a church regular who appreciates his new chance and to experience what he missed over the years. "Hearing a baby whine and a dog bark, going to store or being out at night by yourself and how to use a phone or ride a bus. That's what I'm getting used to. I like it." (Amy Leary and George Michie contributed to this article.)

Bilingual preschool comes to Caldwell

No need to ask if everyone had a good time at the festival to welcome the bilingual preschool to Caldwell. Each photo speaks a *mil* words. The school has gained much needed added room but the needs remain great: the waiting list to attend the preschool is at nearly 200, well above the 34 children currently served.

To judge by the line of youngsters patiently waiting, face painting (right) was a big hit. The kids looked comfortable in new surroundings.



Zach Thomas did the honors to welcome preschoolers and their families to their new school home. (Photo by Zach Thomas)



There's nothing like a spirited game of musical chairs to rev up young children - and get them familiar with their wonderful new surroundings in Caldwell. Classrooms will see a mixture of three, four and five year old children. Classes begin in late August.

well;



Classroom spaces were spiffed up with new flooring, fresh coats of paint, some new windows, and plenty of school supplies. But the big gift is more useable space to accommodate more children and families. Also in the works: playground equipment.

*on behalf of Caldwell to wel-
families to both the festivities
Photo left, above, below: Sally*

*It's off to the races for these happy
sack-athletes and preschool execu-
tive director **Barbara Cantisano**.
Caldwell is glad to welcome them.*



Caldwell in photos...



Fresh off a rave performance at the Caldwell picnic, **Foli Kän** (the performance group of Charlotte Community Drummers) rehearses on a pleasant evening in front of the Price Building. Office manager **Leslie Gipple** (right) plays the balafone (xylophone) as **Janet Blanchard** (below) keeps time on a djembe. Foli Kän means 'rhythm language'.



Queen for a day. **Cameron Tracy** styles the latest in tiara fashions on a recent Sunday. Her mother **Merritt** says Cameron "likes to dress up and accessorize."



The majestic tower on the west side of our beautiful building stands out in the twilight of a gorgeous summer evening. Don't forget to keep the church in mind in your estate planning. Your kindness will help keep our church campus in good shape.

Small pieces of Caldwell's big picture...

Women's Circle has new leader

Linda Schick served two wonderful terms as chairperson of Caldwell's **Women's Circle** and in a recent election, **Elaine Hultman** was chosen as the new chairperson. **Lynn Watson** has agreed to stay on as the Circle's treasurer, **Cindi Hayden** as secretary and **Cornie Pleasants** as our faithful Bible Study leader. Elaine can be contacted at 704-536-2401.

Have news to post for others to see? Use our real, honest-to-goodness bulletin board

Janet Blanchard reports there is a new **Church and Community** bulletin board, a space dedicated for members and friends to post information for sharing with one another. No, it's not a bulletin board in cyberspace, but an actual physical bulletin board located in the hall behind the sanctuary just outside the choir room door. You may post news or announcements about community activities, brochures, church related activities, services provided or needed, and other information that you think would be of interest to other members, friends and visitors. Please remember that the bulletin board is in a public place so you'll want to be intentional about including names or contact information, and you should remove dated information in a timely manner. This bulletin board belongs to everyone in the church so you are encouraged to use it!

The wedding planners

Caldwell is popular with brides and grooms: seven weddings are booked for this year. This is an opportunity to generate revenue for the church. **Ann Alford** and **Eloise Hicks** have developed a **Wedding Policy and Questionnaire** for bridal couples wishing to use our church and engage our Wedding Facilitators. Planning the wedding ceremony and meeting the wishes of the bride and groom takes precise planning and flawless execution. Every effort is made to support the vision of the wedding couple but the tenants of the Presbyterian Church are strictly followed. The bride and groom along with their wedding party are reminded that the ceremony is a religious rite and should be approached as a serious, reverent moment. Weddings have been small -100 or fewer guests or large - 225 guests while wedding parties range from two attendants to large groups of 20 attendants. No wedding is perfect but every effort is made to minimize obvious "bloopers". Every possible problem - mothers left behind at the hotel, florists who are very late, annoying photographers, no-show limo services, hysterical brides, flower girls who crater at the sight of the wedding guest and more are all part of the wedding experience. On the other hand, it is rewarding when a bride and groom tell us that they were grateful that Caldwell was there for them or, as recently was the case, the Father and Mother of a Caldwell bride visited our Sunday Services and shared that their daughter was married in our church 1 year ago. Many relationships are formed with the Caldwell wedding experience.

Please inform church office when pastoral visit would be appreciated

Beth Van Gorp makes good points when it comes to pastoral visits to those in need of attention. One concern raised through various conversations about congregational care is about the need to publicize the fact that relatives and friends of those who are hospitalized should contact the church office to arrange for or receive pastoral care as hospitals can no longer release information about patients unless given explicit permission.

Please inform the church office when a member or friend is in the hospital or would appreciate a pastoral call or visit. Because of privacy laws, do not assume the hospital is calling the Church or pastor on your behalf.

Watch this space...for volunteer news

There is a mechanism in the works to that will make volunteering at Caldwell greatly efficient. Various committees have been asked for their volunteer needs. There will likely be some electronic means to relay - and match - your interests with those of the church. Watch this space in July for more volunteerism news.

How your money matters...

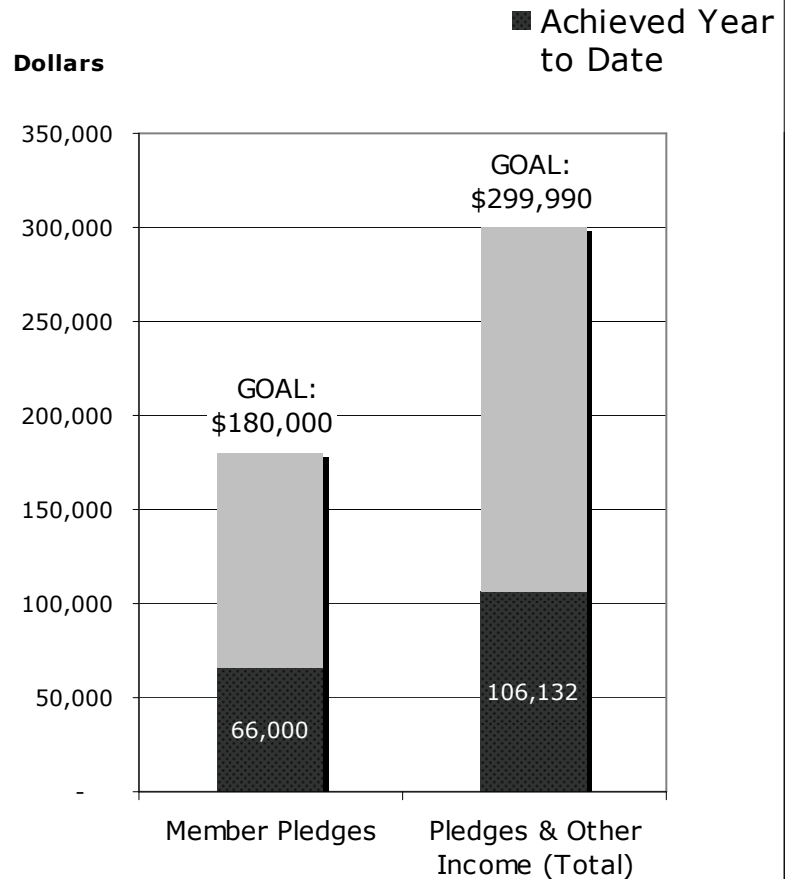
As we approach the half way point in our fiscal year it's a good time to review the financial health of Caldwell and plan for adjustments or changes if needed. At all churches, giving is seasonal and there are ebbs and flows in giving trends. The same is true for Caldwell and it brings challenges in knowing what to prioritize and expect for the remainder of the year. Where do we stand right now? In looking at expenses we are just where we want to be. Although Caldwell's committees and ministries work with lean budgets, the church is operating within the targeted or expected range. Income, however, is on the low side considering we are almost at mid-year. In order to meet our target expenses for the remainder of the year we need to pay attention to Caldwell's income.

When we look at income, we consider the pledged income from Caldwell's members and friends, and we consider income from other sources such as giving by visitors, gifts, memorials, grants and rent. As you can see in chart, we have a great deal of ground to cover to reach our goals for both pledged and other income. **How can you help?** Pledges are an important part of Caldwell's operational income and a recent analysis showed that most members have given less than their pledged amount for this time of the year. In a few cases there are good reasons – a change in employment or other financial obligations means that giving is put on hold for a little while. But, more often than not, folks simply forget to bring their checkbook to church on Sunday or assume that they'll catch up later on and time slips away. If you aren't sure where you are in meeting your pledged contributions, you can call the church office at any time to receive a copy of your giving record (704-334-0825).

Please remember that Caldwell depends on your contributions, and giving according to your pledge makes a significant difference each and every week.

Janet Blanchard, CGN! correspondent

Giving as of June 1, 2010



Nancy Nance, Bob Metzler and George Michie get the scoop during the monthly Accelerated Readers Ice Cream Party at Merry Oaks Elementary.

Caldwell Good News! Bulletin Board

COMING UP SOON...

JUNE

Sunday, June 20

Adult Sunday school, 9:45 - 10:45 am, Up stairs

Newcomers class, 9:45 - 10:45 am, Fellowship Hall

Monday, June 21

Women's Book Club, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, location TBA

Wednesday, June 23

Southern Fiesta with Bilingual Preschool, 5:00 - 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, June 27

Adult Sunday school, 9:45 - 10:45 am, Up stairs

Newcomers class, 9:45 - 10:45 am, Fellowship Hall

Monday, June 28

Session, 5:30 pm, Shelby Room

JULY

Sunday, July 4

Adult Sunday school, 9:45 - 10:45 am, Up stairs

Newcomers class, 9:45 - 10:45 am, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, July 6

Caldwell Women, 6:30 - 8:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, July 11

Adult Sunday school, 9:45 - 10:45 am, Up stairs

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	Emeritus @ 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	Emeritus @ 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.

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Periodicals

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