



Caldwell Good News!

A Monthly Publication of Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church

July 2010

For whom our bell tolls; it tolls for thee...

John Donne may have penned that famous passage in his 1624 *Meditation XVII*, yet he had no way to know he would have a devotee in one Caldwell member.

You can almost set your watch to the pleasant ringing of Caldwell's bell on Sunday mornings. The timely pulling on the sturdy rope is the work of **Fred Powers**. It is Fred who makes certain Caldwell's bell indeed does chime for you.

For the past four years, Fred has rung our 500 to 600 lb. brass bell for weddings, funerals and to call the faithful to religious services. The bell has drawn him, too, to what is very clearly a labor of love.

And Fred's reason to grab the rope in our west tower and give it a good yank several times each Sunday morning: "No one else was doing it, and I like real bells." He even enlists help now with the heavy tugging; he employs all-too-willing young

church visitors to grab the rope and hold on with all their might. It's surprising how much muscle-power is needed to make the bell clang and peal. The volunteer pulling power is, to Fred, another way "to have children and parents get involved in the church."

Bells were first used in towers centuries ago as a means to warn citizens of an impending invasion. Bells could be heard at long distance. Tower bells debuted as a call to worship for an Italian church about 500 A.D. The tradition has continued loud and clear across de-



Caldwell's beautiful bell. The inscription on the brass bell reads:

*Presented to
Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian
Church
By
Oliver Anderson Neel
As a memorial to his beloved wife
Margaret Wallace Neel
March 12, 1946*



Fred Powers and eager helpers John and Katelyn Walakovits give the bell rope some solid tugs.

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Message	2
Loaves & Fishes, interns	3
Merry Oaks, Guatemala trip	4
Pastor's column...continued	5
Fireworks!, bilingual picnic	6-7
PC membership drops	8
"...Great spiritual atmosphere"	9
Update personal information	10
Good News! Bulletin Board	11

nominal lines since those ancient times.

On a typical Sunday, Fred steps into the corridor just west of the sanctuary at 10:30 to make the first three rings of the bell. "It tells people that church is about to start," says Fred. The significance of three rings is to honor the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Don't worry about looking up bell protocol in a lectionary. Says Fred, "I just came up with this." It seems to work.

A visit to Caldwell's past

Pastor's Message

Here at Caldwell, we live closely with the words that we find in the sixth chapter of Deuteronomy.

As Israel prepares to cross over to the promised land, Moses gathers God's people to remind them of the contributions of their forefathers and foremothers. To paraphrase, **Moses** admonishes that living generation of God's people to remember always that it will live in houses it did not build, that it will drink from wells it did not dig and eat from fig trees it did not plant. The same goes for those of us who make up Caldwell church today. We worship in a sanctuary we did not raise. We learn and are formed in classrooms we did not build. We go out to serve the world

from an address we did not establish.

Last week, with the passing of long-time member **Martha Cooper** at age 94, we had the opportunity to give thanks for one family that did help raise this sanctuary, build our classrooms and establish this house of God here on the corner of Fifth and Park. The story of the Austin-Pettaway-Cooper-Schout family is as intertwined with the story of this church as any of its charter families.

Martha's parents, **Dr. George** and **Bonnie Austin**, were the first to be



Rev. John Cleghorn

Martha, long predeceased by her husband, had been unable to attend Caldwell in recent years. I visited Martha at her home in late May. She had not been very responsive in the



Three generations of one long-time Caldwell family gather at the front entry to the sanctuary many decades ago. From left to right, Martha Cooper, her daughter Anne Schout and Martha's mother, Mrs. Bonnie Austin Pettaway.

married here, on a Wednesday night, only three days after the church opened the doors of its new building in 1914. (The church was chartered in 1912 but did not have a formal building to speak of until 1914. It was then known as **Knox Presbyterian Church**, after **John Knox**, generally recognized as the founder of Presbyterianism in Scotland.)

previous days. Her daughter, **Anne Schout**, called to say her passing seemed near. I asked if I could visit, to convey God's peace, if nothing else.

When I arrived, Martha lay quietly in her bed, her eyes shut tightly and her loving and faithful nurse at her side. I was introduced and Martha's

...Continued on page 5

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Caldwell Memorial
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1,000 lbs. of Caldwell generosity for the hungry

Your generosity to **Loaves & Fishes** is measured in pounds, and not just a few hundred. This nice note came to Caldwell from one of the area's chief food sources for the hungry.

Dear Friends:

Thank you for support Loaves & Fishes by donating 1,000 pounds of food. Rising hunger needs demonstrate the contrast between our ever-rising standard of living and the harsh reality of living in poverty. The food you collected will enable Loaves & Fishes to provide basic nutritional food to people in crisis in our community.

Through a network of 18 food pantries, operated by a volunteer force of more than 700 people, Loaves & Fishes served more than 8,101 individuals in May of this year. The sad truth is that more and more people are seeking help for the first time and we know the need will continue to rise. We at Loaves & Fishes consider all who support this vital work, through the donation of money, goods or volunteer time, to be partners in our joint effort to provide food and support for those who need it.

Thank you for helping Loaves & Fishes offer a hand up instead of a hand out to people in need throughout our community.

Sincerely,

***Beverly Howard**, Executive Director*



*Caldwell's Loaves & Fishes coordinator **Elora Heffner** and usher (and chief lifter of the food basket) **John Chandler** stand by a partially filled food basket at the front entry to our sanctuary. Elora writes "The food you donate goes to the pantry at **St. Andrews Episcopal Church**. Through June of this year, we have donated over 1,000 pounds. Items most in need are canned meats, soup, canned fruit, peanut butter and 100% fruit juice. Thank you for your participation." As for the basket: fill 'er up.*

Davidson-Stapleton interns lead a Sunday worship service



For the third year running, interns from nearby **Davidson College** led spirited Sunday worship at Caldwell

Caldwell members and guests were treated to the lively insights and perspective of young people when four **Davidson-Stapleton interns** led Sunday worship.

Each took a few minutes to reflect on the themes and questions raised in a series of sermons by Rev. John Cleghorn on the future of the church. Their reward was a standing ovation.

From left to right are: **Sydney Kornegay**, **Hannah Pommersheim**, **Lindsay Beck** and **Corinne Hester**.

"Y'all have a wonderful church congregation!" said Corinne.

Caldwell help at Merry Oaks hits a year-long high note

Caldwell volunteers at **Merry Oaks Elementary School** made a big difference throughout the 2009-2010 school year! The contributions of time, talent and financial support from our congregation include:

- Hosted a Welcome Back Luncheon for 85 teachers and staff in the fall and provided funds and volunteers for a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast in May
- Provided greeters and office helpers the first week of school
- 25 friends and members helped on a regular basis as tutors and classroom assistants and at special events
- Co-sponsored a Book Fair and gave more than \$1,100 to supplement the purchase of books by the students
- Hosted four ice cream parties for up to 100 students recognized as *Accelerated Readers*
- Supported and encouraged the PTA through the identification of leaders; facilitated meetings and assisted with a highly successful Lotería event and June picnic.

Philip Steffes, principal of Merry Oaks, applauded these efforts and said, "We appreciate everything Caldwell Memorial has done for us, but what matters most is your being here, your presence with the students and teachers."

So, even as we all take a summer break from the usual routine, please ask yourself, "Wouldn't I like to be one of those volunteers at Merry Oaks who can make a difference for these students in the coming school year?" If this is true for you, just check the appropriate space on the form to the right and return at your earliest convenience to: **Mary Lou Lindsey**, 5943 Brace Road, Charlotte, N. C. 28211 or maryhilli@carolinarr.com.

Count me in as a 2010-2011 volunteer at Merry Oaks!

Yes! I want to volunteer as follows:

Weekly basis:

Lunch buddy _____
Classroom tutor/assistant _____
Media center _____
Office _____

As needed for special events: _____

I am especially interested in:

PTA _____
Family picnic _____
Lotería _____
Teacher Appreciation _____
Testing at end of year _____
AR Rewards Program _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please return to Mary Lou Lindsey

OPEN YOUR HEART TO SOMETHING NEW . . . JOIN THE CALDWELL VISION TEAM IN GUATEMALA

The next **Mission Trip Information Meeting** will be **August 8** immediately after worship for anyone interested in joining the Vision Team or hearing more about **Common Hope**. Join us in the Fellowship Hall 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.

Caldwell's **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@carolina.rr.com). Contact us with questions or to let us know you are interested even if you couldn'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!

Kitty Bohr, CGN! correspondent

Pastor's Column continued...

eyes opened to greet me. To everyone's surprise, so did her mouth. After days of near silence, she now had some things to say. Her mind was suddenly clear, vivid and sharp.

She began telling me about growing up in the Elizabeth neighborhood and her many years at Caldwell, when it was a pioneering congregation that stood out in this city. "I tell you," she said with deep conviction. "Caldwell had the cream of the crop."



Ever wonder why the floor of the Shelby Room slants toward the sanctuary? That's because it was the first sanctuary when the church opened its building in 1914. As the photo above left shows, there once was a small chancel with stained glass windows where the corner of the existing sanctuary now stands. The first sanctuary took up all the space - there were no other rooms at all - whereas now there is the Shelby Room, the small rooms/offices off the Shelby Room and the second floor above that space, where the church offices and "upper room" parlor are now. (Notice the old balcony in the photo.). The photo on the right shows the original bell tower and former entryway.

She described Christmas at Caldwell when Santa Claus would come down a ladder in the lobby of the Price Education building armed with stockings full of candy. She recalled playing with the pastor's daughter as a child around the manse that once stood where the gym stands today. She remembered wonderful church picnics, Wednesday night prayer meetings, how her grandmother made the communion biscuits and how, if she were lucky, there were a

few extra for her to enjoy.

Martha described the various ministers who served Caldwell ... and the irreplaceable role Mr. **W.E. Price** played here and across the denomination. She confided in me that Mrs. Price was the real strength behind Mr. Price ... and I allowed how that is usually the case. After about 20 minutes, she paused, cleared her throat and said: "You ought to be recording this." Luckily I had pulled out my I Phone and launched the Voice Memo app.

"The church, in my era, was the

surprise at her amazing rally. Anne said the family fondly called her Lazarus after that. She died peacefully on a Sunday weeks later.

There is no doubt that times were different in the years when Martha's parents and, then, Martha and her husband, P.H., helped lead this church. The world seemed far more black and white through much of the 20th century. I told Martha how we are trying to translate the timeless truths of the gospel to a new millennium. She smiled softly and, as if to say

'Good luck', she said "It's a strange world." That it is, I said.

We shared a quiet moment of agreement that connected the church's past to its future. In that moment, the bond that we shared was same mysterious bond that has connected believers through the centuries, the bond of Christian identity.

This summer, through sermons in June and the ongoing "4x4 dialogues," we are deepening our individual relationships and thinking together about how "to be a new church" in this 'strange world', as Martha described it - a post-Christendom world that us so much more pluralistic, a world that is vastly different from when Mar-

tha's parents were the first to be married here in 1914.

Thanks be to God for servants of the church such as the three generations of Martha's family who were part of the "old" Caldwell. Thanks be to God for all of you who carry on the work of the church today and into the future God has claimed for us.

center of our lives," she said. "It did everything that was necessary. There weren't as many things you could do then. It all happened here."

I explained how God had revived Caldwell and was continuing to do a new thing. She said she was so pleased. After about 45 minutes, I finally ended the conversation out of concern that Martha might give out. But it was important to Martha that the history be told and known.

As I left, the family expressed its

Caldwell party celebrates a bang-up 4th of July

After an impromptu cook-out, Caldwell's front steps offered 40 members the best seat in the house for the city's 4th of July fireworks
(Photos by Jim Everitt)



No doubt about it. Kids, the 4th of July and safe use of sparklers go together.



Grillmaster extraordinaire Mike Watson proves again he is without equal. The man can flat-out cook up a super-delicious flame-broiled storm.

Caldwell members and guests chowed down on grilled delights (below) then settled in on our front steps for a bird's eye view of Charlotte's fireworks extravaganza just a few short blocks away.

Kids weren't the only ones oohing and aahing over the spectacular display. It was a great night of fun for all.



Picnic brings Caldwell, Bilingual Preschool together



Caldwell members broke bread with parents and children who will soon attend the Bilingual Preschool in our Price Building. Scorching temperatures may have driven festivities inside but did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of both groups.



There was more than enough delicious food to satisfy what was a big crowd on a weekday night.



Youngsters will get a chance to spread their wings - Caldwell offers more space than current school facilities.



(Left) Not much interpretation of welcoming remarks was needed by parents of students about to attend the Bilingual Preschool. The good feelings from Caldwell members spoke volumes.

Presbyterian Church USA numbers decline 3%...

Total membership drops to 2,077,138; Caldwell bucks the trend by growing

As of 2009, the total membership of the national Presbyterian church is 2,077,138, a roughly 3% decrease, or down 63,027 members, from the previous year.

The **Rev. Gradye Parsons**, Stated Clerk of the **General Assembly**, said the latest statistics contain both good news and bad. "The good news is adult baptisms rose for the first time in at least four years, and the overall number in membership losses was the lowest it has been in the last decade," Parsons said. "The discouraging news is that while we're gaining members, we're still playing catch-up with the rate of decline."

The total number of PC(USA) congregations dropped by 94 to 10,657, including 15 churches that were dismissed to other denominations, compared to 25 in 2008. Twenty-six new churches were organized in 2009. (At Caldwell, membership grew in 2009 by 27 members, or 18%, to a total of 180 confirmed adult members, making

Caldwell the fastest growing church in the Presbytery for the last three years combined. Caldwell has since grown by another 16 adult members in 2010.)

Deborah Bruce, manager of the U.S. Congregational Life Survey and a staff member for the PC(USA) Research Service office said "The annual statistics released don't reflect the ministry and mission of individual congregations or the experiences of worshipers. Results from the U.S. Congregational Life Survey offer a look inside our congregations."

The median age of Presbyterians is 61, up from 58 in 2001. Four of five worshipers today are 45 or older. This reflects a decrease in the percentage of Presbyterian worshipers who have children living at home.

Yet Presbyterians are well-educated. Six in 10 age 25 or older have a college degree; among all Americans only one in four in that age group are college graduates.

Presbyterians have traditionally focused on improving the quality of their neighborhoods, towns, and cities. In 2001, three in 10 worshipers reported they participated in their congregation's community service, social justice, or advocacy work.

Today, more than one in three (35 percent) do.

Parallel to this is an increase in Presbyterian's involvement in community service apart from their congregation. Almost half of Presbyterians (46 percent) contribute time to their community's soup kitchens, Habitat for Humanity builds, public schools, shelters, scout troops, and other activities.

Fewer congregations today are providing direct emergency services (providing meals, food, or clothing for people in need). Nine in ten congregations provided emergency relief services in 2001. Eight in 10 do so today.

Yet more are providing health-related services (blood drives, health screenings, or health education programs, for example) — up from one-third in 2001 to four in 10 today. Congregational involvement in environmental activities and cultural or arts programs has also increased.

"The challenge," Parsons concluded, "is to use these strengths and sense of excitement to address important questions, like, how can we become stronger? Where is God calling us?"

Bell...continued from page 1

The bell is rung twice more at 10:45 and 10:55 as final calls to action prior to the 11:00 service. The bell was a relatively late addition to Caldwell when the West Bell Tower was constructed in 1946 as a donation by the late **Oliver Neel**. Caldwell is one of the few churches to actually have two towers although the East Tower does not have a bell. Fred says Caldwell's bell, 40 feet straight up in the tower, is "in relatively good shape" although a second rope is needed to separately operate the clapper, which Fred says,



The 64 year old clapper shows plenty of wear as a reminder to Caldwell members that church is about to start.

would give more options for use of the bell.

Fred's Sunday habit expanded to other events such as weddings and funerals. "It's a nice finishing touch" for those functions, he says.

The congregation knows our clanging bell is the signal that church will commence but for Fred the enjoyment goes beyond the start of the service. "I thoroughly enjoy it. The people at Caldwell are real, and the bell is real. I like the original organic-ness of it." That's just the sort of ringing in their ears that Caldwell members and guests have come to appreciate, too.

“It’s an honor to work in a great spiritual atmosphere”...

After 30 years of tending to our lovely church, Fred Hamilton says God’s house is important, but it is people who make the church

As he has for some 30 years, church sexton **Fred Hamilton** puts his heart and soul for a few days each week into the appearance and care of Caldwell Memorial. But as you talk to him, this is not so much work as it is a calling.

“I feel like this is God’s house, and what I do is please almighty God and the members,” says Fred, who is 74 years old. “It is an honor to work in a great spiritual atmosphere.”

Ironically, Fred’s semi-career (he retired from Duke Energy) at Caldwell was, at best, temporary. He credits Caldwell member **Toby Herring** with asking if he was interested in a temporary job to do a “thorough cleaning” of the entire church. The pastor at the time, **Chuck Kirby**, was pleased with Fred’s results and he asked Fred “Can you maintain this?” Fred’s answer: yes.

More than a quarter-century toiling at the same job is foreign to many of today’s workers, but to Fred it boiled down to something more. “What it is, they (Caldwell staff and members) treated me as if I was one of them. I was a part of Caldwell. Everyone has had such a positive attitude.”

He has seen Caldwell change over the years, but he has never seen a church change for the positive as much as Caldwell. “This is the biggest change I’ve seen since I’ve been here,” says Fred. “You’ve got a great mix (of people) here. I’ve never seen such a change. I never thought it could happen.”

Although his charge is the facilities, he sees the bedrock of Caldwell as far more than the building. “It’s not the church, it’s the people. The



Fred Hamilton grabs a brief moment of peace and quiet with one of his tools of the trade. Church members, he says, treat him “as if I was one of them.”

people make the church. There’s a lot of love in this church.”

More than anything, Fred has seen a congregation willing to roll up its sleeves and work together not only for the benefit of the church but of the community. “One of the greatest things I’ve seen is how people work together. It’s as if they all have a part in it. People even help me do my work.”

Fred, a member of **First Zion Missionary Baptist**, has not considered

leaving Caldwell for another church even though the North Carolina native (his wife of 45 years is **Mary**, and adult children are **Laverne** and **Chris** of Charlotte) has been recruited repeatedly to take his skills elsewhere.

He’s also been asked about what he might tell visitors about Caldwell. “I’d tell them this would be one of the warmest churches you could join. You can’t find a better place. There’s a lot to offer here.”

Send in your information for new church directory!...

Calling all Caldwell members: please participate in Caldwell's drive to update our member files.

You may have seen a bulletin insert or received a letter requesting that members and friends of Caldwell update their **personal contact information**. We have heard back from many of you, but there are many who have not responded. It is important that the church office can reach you by mail, phone and email, but we also plan to produce a **BRAND NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY** in mid-August to early September. The directory will list whatever individual contact information we have on file. So if you have not done so already, please update your personal contact information, ASAP.

You can do this in the following ways:

- Send an email to admin@caldwellpresby.org request the update form.
- Call 704-577-9061 to request the update form.
- Next week you can download the form online at www.caldwellpresby.org. Go to the 'Member Resources' page to download the form.
- Once you've completed the form, you can email it to admin@caldwellpresby.org.
- Or if you prefer to return your form by snail mail, here is the address to use:

Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church
1609 East 5th St.
Charlotte, NC, 28204

General Assembly Acts on Ordination Standards

This month, delegates from churches of the Presbyterian Church USA met to discuss policy issues including whether the denomination will change its ordination standards. Below is a Q&A from the denomination explaining the actions taken. In short, this action will result in all Presbyteries voting in 2011 on a proposed change.

– John Cleghorn

What did the Assembly do? What has changed?

The 219th General Assembly proposed a change to the PC(USA) Constitution regarding ordination standards (for deacons, elders or ministers) by a vote of 373-323-4. This action does not change the Constitution. It is a first step in the process. A majority of the 173 presbyteries would have to vote in the affirmative to approve the replacement by July 2011.

What does it mean?

The General Assembly suggested this new language:

"Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (G-1.0000). The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation (G.14.0240; G-14.0450) shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of office. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation."

Local presbyteries will vote before July 10, 2011.

New members, visitor comments...

Caldwell is thrilled to welcome several new members in our midst:

Shannon Vestal and Jeff Thompson

Please give Shannon, Jeff, Kevin, Katelyn and John a big welcome (give our visitors and guests the usual hearty welcome, too).

Interested in membership? Call the church office at 704-334-0825

Comments from our visitors:

"I like it. I enjoyed myself."

"I love the music here. That's what keeps me coming back. Of course, there's more than that, too!"

"I had a calm feeling. I had a calm feeling when I walked in here."

Among Caldwell's new members are Kevin Walakovits and his children Katelyn and John.



Caldwell Good News! Bulletin Board

COMING UP SOON...

JULY

Sunday, July 18

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

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

Guatemala Mission Intro II, 12:30 pm - 2:00, Fellowship Hall

Monday, July 19

Quilting Class, 6:30 pm - 9:30, Shelby Room

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

Sunday, July 25

Adult Sunday school, 9:45 - 10:45 am, Upstairs

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

Monday, July 26

Quilting Class, 6:30 pm - 9:30, Shelby Room

Sunday, August 1

Adult Sunday school, 9:45 - 10:45 am, Upstairs

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

Monday, August 2

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

Tuesday, August 3

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

Sunday, August 8

Adult Sunday school, 9:45 - 10:45 am, Upstairs

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

Church Calendar

1st Monday

6:30 pm - Men's Group

2nd Monday

(Women's Circle in recess until Fall)

3rd Monday

6:30 pm - Women's Book Club

4th Monday

5:30, Session, Shelby Room

1st Tuesday

6:30 pm - Women's Group

2nd Tuesday

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

Wednesdays

7:00 pm - Choir practice

3rd Thursday

6:30 p.m. - Worship Committee, Upstairs

6:30 pm - Finance Committee, Upstairs

5:30 pm - Education Committee, Shelby

Every Friday

7:30 pm, AA, Shelby Room

Sundays

9:45 am Adult Sunday School, Upstairs

11:00 am Worship (including children's Sunday school)

1st Sunday Holy Communion

Session receives new members

All Sundays Loaves & Fishes Collection

(Non-perishables in entry basket)

Administrative Office Hours

9:00 am - 5:00 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	Lake Park Nursing Center	3315 Faith Church Rd., Room 402-A	Indian Trail, NC 28079
Mailing address	830 Faircrest Drive		Charlotte, NC 28210
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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Charlotte, NC

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