

Caldwell Good News!

A Monthly Publication of Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church

October 2010

More than half of Caldwell pledges to volunteer

Pledges to help others shows caring is not in short supply at Caldwell

Let there be no doubt that Caldwell members are generous with their time, talent and treasure.

More than half of the members of the congregation raised their hands to say "I'll volunteer" according to **Bob Metzler**, who is holds the new role of helping church officers coordinate the volunteer efforts.

The number of volunteers – more than 90 – is "a great return, more than twice" the rate of last year, said Metzler. "It's really impressive, and it's incredible for a church our size." He said volunteers are not zeroing in on any one element of the church's ongoing mission but have spread their interests across a wide spectrum from Habitat to Humanity to Room at the Inn to the new Salvation Army women's shelter to reading scripture during services.

But for those of you who already volunteer but are not among the 90 who turned in paperwork, drop Bob

a line to let him know where and how you volunteer on behalf of the church. "What we need is people to turn in the time and talent pledge form even if they're already volunteering," said Bob. "We just need to account for everybody." Reach Bob at bobnbg@earthlink.net.

To date, the congregation has also responded enthusiastically to support the church financially.

On Commitment Sunday, October 10, the church received more than 60 financial pledges, totaling more than \$112,000. Based on patterns from past years, additional pledges are expected in the coming weeks as the church works toward its goal of

\$200,000 in pledges.

It's not too late for financial pledges - in fact you can now give online. See a companion story on page 3.

"The church is deeply blessed by these commitments," said **BG Metzler**, chair of **Discipleship**. "God calls each of us to find our roles in the church. It is not how much money, time or talent that you can give, but that you become a disciple by helping however you can and, as usual, the Caldwell community is responding."

Hope important to Beirut seminary

Political and religious strife dampens, but doesn't stop, a Christian seminary in Beirut

Despite a tense political and complicated religious situation in the Middle East, the leader of a Presbyterian-founded church school in Bei-

rut told Caldwell members the seminary continues to train graduates to serve the area.

"We are doing our best," said **Mary Mikhael**, president of the 150 year old **Near East School of Theology** in Beirut. Mikhael recounted Christianity's struggle to remain relevant in a region dominated by

Islamic influences where the school's Christian motives to serve the community can be construed as proselytizing, a crime that can be severely punished under Islamic law.

Story continued on page 5

Mary Mikhael heads a multi-denominational seminary in Beirut that was founded by Presbyterians.



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Elijah's Anger, John's Love and Patient Passion

Pastor's Message

Do you have a favorite role model from scripture? Maybe more than one?

At a recent event produced by **Union Presbyterian Seminary** in Charlotte, the wonderful author **Eugene Peterson** shared his scriptural role models with a room full of pastors. Peterson is most recently known for his marvelous work, **The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language**. It is not just a modern-language version of scripture; it is a carefully considered translation that speaks to readers like no other translation has.

Pastors know Peterson for many other books he's written about life in ministry. He served two churches as pastor over about a quarter-century. Then, he heard the call to turn his ministry to writing, and pastors across denominations have

been the beneficiaries of his wise counsel and broad perspective. So, who are the Biblical characters that shape the life of this deeply loved, deeply spiritual and deep-thinking servant of God and the church?

He starts with the Old Testament prophet Elijah, a man of "fiery passion" who was called to serve God in volatile "sea of needs," as Peterson put it. Elijah spoke for God in the 9th century BCE. Aiming his prophecy at the wayward, idol-worshipping Israelite King Ahab, he hardly minced words. He called it as he saw it. Clad in only a leather loin-cloth and a coat of hair, his appearance was as wild as his mannerisms. He spoke truth to King Ahab and Queen Jezebel, who pursued him across the land. Elijah was, as Peterson said, an angry prophet.

But Peterson said his idea of the Christian life was shaped equally by John of Patmos, who left us the Revelation to John. As our adult Sunday school is learning in its study of the Revelation, John shared Elijah's convictions about following God's ways. His writing reflects an intimacy that Elijah lacked. He composed The Revelation as a letter to seven churches he had likely served, churches struggling mightily against the pagan culture of Asia minor.

We might associate The Revelation with fantastic word images that are as frightening as they are captivating. Behind all of that, though, readers of Revelation find John's voice of love for the churches he served along with his abiding encouragement and unwavering inspiration.

Peterson's point is this: The Christian life, the life of discipleship that we have been considering these past weeks, might be considered as a blend of both Elijah and John of Pat-



Rev. John Cleghorn

mos. Elijah's anger with John's love. Elijah's passion with John's patience and perspective.

At Caldwell, we are all on a journey with God guided by our mission statement. That includes an exploration what it means to be a missional church.

Some days on that journey bring unmistakable evidence of the breaking-in of the kingdom of God in our midst. Other days bring frustration and even discouragement about whether our work in God's name amounts to anything. Some days we could all use a little more of Elijah's anger. On other days we could all use some of John's perspective and trust in God.

As we go forward, we all might keep in mind Eugene Peterson's blend of these two Biblical giants. The work of the church, as Peterson says, is slow and it can't be hurried. It is also urgent and can't be postponed.

Let us all pray, then, that we can model the kind of passionate patience it takes to be a true disciple.

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

*Visit us on the web at:
www.caldwellpresby.org*

Caldwell Good News!

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Caldwell Memorial
Presbyterian Church
1609 East Fifth Street
Charlotte, NC 28204
704-334-0825

<http://www.caldwellpresby.org>

Rev. John M. Cleghorn

Pastor

pastor@caldwellpresby.org

Rev. Dr. J. Diane Mowrey

Parish Associate

Leslie Gipple

Office Manager

admin@caldwellpresby.org

Fred Hamilton

Sexton

Contributing Editors

John Cleghorn

Dave Bradley

david.bradley@yahoo.com

Online donations make it easier to contribute to Caldwell

Technology has caught up to the process of pledging. Caldwell's online system is available right now. Why wait to try it?

An Internet-based donation process to make your giving to Caldwell easier and safer is now up and running.

There is an "Online Contributions" tab on the left side of the church's home page (www.caldwellpresby.org) where one-time or recurring gifts can be made. **Leslie Gipple**, office manager, said the click-and-give system will "make it easier for folks to remember to give." Members can use their credit and debit cards and bank drafts for scheduled giving.

Nationwide, the process has gained many converts:

more than 10,000 U.S. churches already have online giving in place. At Caldwell, the topic was discussed by the **Stewardship** committee, and Gipple made a presentation to the **Session**. The new process has been live since the first week in October and is tied to the annual Stewardship drive. Gipple said there is no better time than the present to give the system a whirl. "Don't wait until next year to use it," she said.

There are a number of advantages to online gifting. Gipple said the system is protected and very secure. Members can manage their giving accounts online, and since money is transferred online, the church office is safer, too.

If you have questions, give Leslie a call at the church office: 704-344-0825.

Día de los Muertos: a day to connect and celebrate

Bring photos and mementos of past loved ones to help us celebrate "Day of the Dead" on October 31

Throughout much of Latin America, the "Day of the Dead" is a significant time when family members who have died are honored and remembered. On October 31, Caldwell will celebrate our connection to our Latino and Hispanic brothers and sisters, both in Guatemala and here in Charlotte, with a special worship service commemorating **Día de los Muertos** and All Saints Day. A traditional *ofrenda* will be in the sanctuary to help us celebrate the lives of our deceased loved ones. **Please bring photographs or small mementos** to put on the table to honor

and remember the "saints" that have gone before us.

An ofrenda is a table set up to honor and show respect to the memory of ancestors. They and other traditions of Día de los Muertos are a way of recognizing the cycle of life and death that is human existence.

Most ofrendas feature photographs and reminders of the deceased, flowers (especially marigolds), candles, and favorite foods. Caldwell members are invited to bring an item of remembrance of a loved one. In addition, names of lost loved-ones will be included in worship liturgy. Anyone wishing to have the name of a relative included can call or email with that name.

In Mexico, pan de los muertos, a special bread glazed with sugar, is always included. A *fiambre*, a large

cold salad with quantities of meats and vegetables, is featured in Guatemala and served only on November 1 and 2.

November 2 is the official date for Día de los Muertos, which is most associated with Mexican traditions and is one of their most important festivals. They decorate and visit the graves of their loved ones and feel their presence. In Guatemala where the holiday is called "Día de los Difuntos" (Day of the Deceased), huge kites are constructed and flown over the cemeteries. Although this celebration is associated with the dead, it is not portrayed as a morbid or depressing time, but rather a period full of life, happiness, family, and fun.

Kitty Bohr, CGN! correspondent

Caldwell's connection to the Hispanic/Latino community takes many forms, all of which are intertwined in defining us as a missional church with a vision of being a multi-cultural community of faith. **The Bilingual Preschool**, our work with **Merry Oaks Elementary**, sponsoring a child through **Common Hope**, and sending a **Vision Team** to Guatemala are each pieces of the whole of our commitment to this ministry.

There are still a couple of spots left on the Vision Team trip to Guatemala in the Spring. If you would like to join us, contact **Elise Deal** (704-358-4977, edeal@rbh.com) or **Kitty Bohr** (704-552-9474, kswbohr@carolina.rr.com) immediately. The deadline to turn in your Common Hope application and deposit is October 24.

The Caldwell story in

Caldwell is indeed a community of believers and doers. From building homes to rebuilding lives, the church and its members are often seen extending the church's mission near and far.



Bo Jordan (who is a new member) jams with Charlie Brown at the men's retreat in Montreat. From all reports, the fellowship and food were first rate - as always.



As is the custom of many members, nearly 10 Caldwell volunteers rolled up their sleeves on a broiling hot Saturday to help frame a home for Habitat for Humanity on Charlotte's west side. Jim Curtis shows new member Zoraida Stewart the fine points of wielding a hammer. After watching Yvette deftly pound nails, it's evident she will be passing out coaching advice soon enough.

A 'thank you' from a working man

Johnnie Frazier is sore these days, and with good reason.

He has just started at MSX, packing Energizer Batteries atop pallets. He works the first shift from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. "It's a blessing for me to get the job. I feel important," said Johnnie. "But my hands and shoulders are so sore" from his days of hard work.

The MSX job is what Johnnie calls "my foundation" although he still accepts other work detailing cars as well as his first love, food preparation. Johnnie is found virtually every Sunday in the last pew.

Although he got the job by networking, Johnnie singles out Caldwell members for a special 'thank you'. "I want to give a special thanks to the people of Caldwell for their prayers and support. I can't thank the church enough."

He has more reason to be thankful, too. Frazier has been approved by the housing authority for an apartment off Fairview Road.



Have you noticed all the wonderful hand-painted artwork on the walls of the women's shelter? It's the artistry of new member Nancy Faires. If you haven't seen this fine display, you should. (Photo: Jill Aleong)

words and pictures

‘You feel the presence of the Lord over here’

It was a humble beginning, but for five women from the **Center of Hope** shelter in Caldwell’s **Price Building**, the first Thursday night prayer group alternated between praise for the Lord’s work and heartfelt thanks that such a facility exists at all.

“I am so grateful and thankful,” said **Elizabeth**, an overnight resident. “I thank God for the vision that he gave” that opened the doors to the previously little-used second floor.

The prayer group is very much a work in progress. After an opening prayer and introductions all around, Pastor **John Cleghorn** asked each of the five to reflect on the ups and downs of their days. Even in the face of circumstances that would be hard for many to fathom, every reflection dwelled on the “ups.”

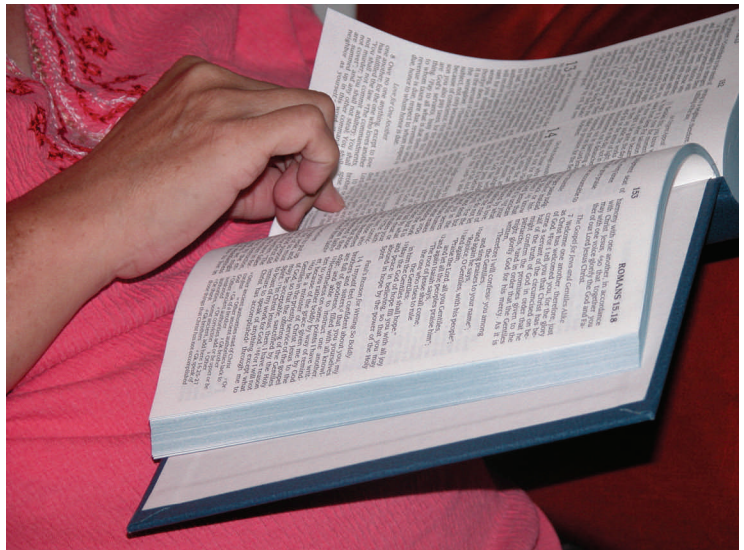
Two attendees had jobs waiting for them. Another commented on how the residents “really care for each other” while another said “there’s just something special here – you feel the presence of the Lord over here.”

The women are clearly glad that Caldwell came to the fore just as the Salvation Army’s primary shelter for women had reached a capacity crisis point. Our second floor shelter, refurbished with a fresh coat of paint, outfitted with new showers and decorated with furnishings many homeowners would be proud of, along with hand-painted art on the walls, was also complimented for its quiet and calm environment.

Caldwell is opening the entire life of the church to its guests. Since the shelter opened, several of the women have been coming to Sunday morning worship, singing in the choir and taking part in fellowship activities.



Women at the first prayer group at the Center of Hope told personal reflections of their day and read scripture, too.



Beirut...continued from page 1

“We are trying to build bridges with our Muslim neighbors,” said Mikhael, but she remains uncertain of “the future of Christianity in the Middle East.” The area’s tensions, she said, make for a difficult and complicated situation. “Islam has a mission of expanding in the world, and they have succeeded,” said Mikhael.

There are no reliable estimates of the number of Christians in the Middle East but the totals have declined significantly in recent times. Only one third of the population of Lebanon, once home to many Christians, claim to be Christian. Yet that total is well above Lebanon’s regional neighbors. Mikhael said percentages of Christians in Syria and Egypt are in the low single digits. Christians are the first to immigrate as religious-based political turmoil grows.

Still, the seminary graduates about 30 students each year, some of whom spread beyond Lebanon to Africa and Europe. Although founded by Presbyterians, other protestant denominations use the school as well. School leaders and graduates “have to be creative in their Christian witness” to both the Christian and Muslim communities, said Mikhael. “We have learned from each other more than we have hurt each other,” she said, adding hope is an essential element of moving forward with the school’s mission.

Mikhael told listeners “we need your prayers and support” as the school hopes to continue its mission.

Committees in action...

Newcomers committee at work on signage, translations

We are very pleased to announce that we have copies of the newcomer brochures completed and placed in the Sanctuary. A few projects we are working to implement by the end of the year include: translating our newcomer brochure into Spanish, adding signage on the church campus to make it more visitor friendly and easier to navigate, and utilizing our church website to help newcomers connect with our congregation. The newcomer committee continues, with the assistance of our children, to pass out cookies and information each Sunday morning to our first and second time guests.

2010 financial report

Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church
Financial Report as of August 30, 2010

	Budget Thru Aug 30	Actual Thru Aug 30	Difference
Income	\$ 200,000	\$ 179,480	\$(20,520)
Expenses	\$ 200,000	\$ 194,658	<u>\$ (5,342)</u>
Net Gain/(Loss)			<u>\$(15,178)</u>

As of August, giving is less than target for this time in the year, and expenses are in line with target. Overall, we have a loss of \$15,178 in our operating budget for the year. Typically, giving increases during the final quarter of the year. We will continue to closely monitor expenses for the remainder of the year.

Buildings & Grounds

The initial success of the Salvation Army Women's shelter in the Price Building took much time and effort by the committee, which next turns its attention to the 2011 budget year. We have improved the gym bathrooms; adding an 80 gallon water heater, upgrading plumbing; installing new door openers. The transition from the hallway to the bathroom/shower area was modified to make it safer to transition from one hallway to another. The pesky main drain was cleared of rocks and debris accumulated over the years by a professional plumber. New flooring was installed in the bath/shower area as well as the exterior hallway

Nominating committee

The process has started to choose new Elders to serve on the Session, and the nominating committee seeks nominations from the congregation. The committee hopes to wrap up its work by mid-November, with the installation of new Elders shortly after the start of the new year. Members of the nominating committee are: **Richard Bargoil, Kevin Martin, Jean Nance, Susan Pierson and Beth Van Gorp.**

Worship committee

The Worship committee will plan Caldwell's Advent Decorating and Christmas Eve Services in the next few meetings.

Congregational care committee

The Congregational care committee reminds you of these upcoming fellowship special events:

Covered Dish Dinner – November 21st following the service

Christmas Breakfast – Sunday, December 19th at 9:45a.m.

The fellowship committee is meeting on November 7th following the service to make plans for fellowship events in 2011 and anyone who would like to share ideas is welcome. Other Congregational care updates:

Visitations: plans are underway to begin taking communion to those unable to attend the service

Funerals: we are meeting to develop and create written procedures

Food Ministry: we have been able to use www.takethemameal.com to coordinate meals for several families.

Retreats: we will consider an all-church retreat in 2011 and to set dates for the men's and women's retreats now.

Education committee

We give thanks for Elizabeth Bevan, our long-time toddler teacher, who is taking a break from her intensive focus on our youngest members. We appreciate her kindness, hard work and can-do spirit. We will miss her dearly! As always, God is opening new doors at Caldwell. In light of Elizabeth's break, the church is planning to adopt Godly Play in teaching its preschoolers. Godly Play is a nationally recognized program that teaches Bible stories through hands-on materials. It has been nationally acclaimed and widely adopted across Christian denominations. To make this transition. The Education Committee will form a core team of teachers who will rotate in teaching our toddlers, using Godly Play. This is one of our most important ministries. If you want to be part of the core team or serve on the Education committee, please contact **Kimberly Shumaker, Gina Shell or John Cleghorn.**

Good News! Bulletin Board

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OCTOBER

Monday, October 18

Nominating committee, 5:15 - 6:30 pm,
Shelby room

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

Wednesday, October 20

Zumba, 6:00 - 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Monday, October 25

Session, 5:30 pm, Upstairs

Quilting Class, 6:30 - 9:00 pm, Shelby Room

Wednesday, October 27

Zumba, 6:00 - 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, October 31

Guatemala Vision Team, 12:15 - 1:15 pm,
Crop Walk, 2:30, location TBA

NOVEMBER

Monday, November 1

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

Tuesday, November 2

Caldwell Women, 6:30 pm - 8:00, Fellow-
ship Hall

Wednesday, November 3

Zumba, 6:00 - 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Monday, November 8

Women's Circle, 10:30 -12:00 pm, Shelby
Room

Quilting Class, 6:30 - 9:00 pm, Shelby Room

Monday, November 15

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

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 Sun-
day 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 UNABLE TO ATTEND IN PERSON

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

Mrs. Barbara Atkinson The Little Flower, room 22
Mailing address 830 Faircrest Drive
Miss Toby Herring Sunrise Assisted Living @ Eastover
Mrs. Elise Hood Legacy Heights
Mrs. Irene Kennedy 419 Clement Avenue
Mrs. Ann Ranson Legacy Heights
Mrs. Irene Brown Sunrise Assisted Living @Eastover

8700 Lawyers Road Charlotte, NC 28227
3610 Randolph Rd, Room 310 Charlotte, NC 28210
11240 Ballantyne Trace Ct., C-3 Charlotte, NC 28211
11240 Ballantyne Trace Ct. Charlotte, NC 28204
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>

