

Caldwell Good News!

A Monthly Publication of Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church

December 2010

Shelter leaves mark on women - and Caldwell

The shelter for homeless women at the church may close but the spirit that made it a success remains with church members; ‘There but for the grace of God go I’

When Caldwell flung open its doors to the **Center of Hope** shelter, the thinking was to house women and keep them safe. Yet it was soon thereafter that an opening of a whole other type occurred: church members opened their hearts to the possibilities of helping others.

Our donations of time, talent and treasure were returned in kind as those sheltered quickly came to be seen as people just like us, and while their circumstance may have differed from ours, many shared their faith journey with us as we shared ours with them.

Caldwell members felt compelled to help even if they had no idea what form that help would take.

Jill Aleong began to drop in unannounced at the shelter, unsure of what her role would be. “I just started showing up and doing things with the women that I’d do with my friends, talking to them, eating with them,” says Jill. It was as if she had walked a mile in their shoes. “It gave me a better picture of what was out there. When you think of a homeless person, you don’t think of cell phones or part time jobs (which some had). They just can’t get a leg up. These people are just on the

edge of getting an apartment or a better job.”

The idea of no apartment or steady work also struck **Nancy Faires**. “I tried to put myself in their shoes, because it takes courage to wake up in the morning if you have no place to call home. I reflected on what they put up with on a day to day basis,” says Nancy. “It’s a full time job to be homeless. You have to find something to do, if you don’t have a job, you have to look for a job. It is

Shelter continued...page 8

Chrismon tree a long-time Caldwell tradition

The Chrismon tree is a mainstay among Caldwell’s Christmas traditions. But what do the ornaments mean? Learn more on page 10.



For many years Caldwell’s Chrismon tree has been decorated with hand-made ornaments that reflect the solemnity of the season.



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There was plenty of room in our inn

Pastor's Message

If you read Dave Bradley's moving cover story about the **Salvation Army Shelter for Women** at Caldwell, you may have learned something you did not know: The shelter will close in early January when the funding runs out. I want to share more about that.

The idea for the shelter at Caldwell began in late August, when the Salvation Army main shelter for women (the **Center of Hope**) was overflowing. When Caldwell offered its space, the word went out that \$77,000 was needed to open an overflow shelter to operate through the end of 2010. Foundations, churches and individuals contributed the money. Dozens of people from Caldwell and across the city converted the old classroom space into a warm, comfortable home atmosphere and the shelter opened, only about a month after the idea first came about. Thanks be to God!

So, we've known that the funding would run out. Several Caldwell leaders met with the Salvation Army's leaders and other homelessness advocates and experts. Again and again we asked, "Is there any possible way we could avoid closing the shelter?" As we asked that question, we found that we were struggling with a deep emotional attachment – not to the project in abstract but to the individual guests with whom we'd broken bread, studied scripture, served in the community and raised our voices in song.

After wrestling with the question for more than an hour, we came to the sober decision to close the shelter, but with a commitment to do everything we can to reopen it later. As someone in the meeting characterized our thinking, we needed to take one step back to see if we can take two (or more) steps forward.

Our guests will continue to be sheltered through the Room in the Inn ministry through the cold, winter months. In the meantime, we will be thinking about ways to reopen the shelter, perhaps operating in the warm months when Room in the Inn is not underway.

That will depend on finding significant funding. Monthly operating costs are about \$25,000 to house 45-50 women. Think of it as \$16 a day per person, which pays for housing at Caldwell and three meals a day, transportation and services at the Center of Hope, such as employment preparation, social work and substance abuse support. That, most would agree, is a remarkably cost-efficient way to deliver services. We will work with the Salvation Army to identify those who might see that this is an investment worth making.



Rev. John Cleghorn

The timing of this is so very poignant. As **George Michie** said to me, we are reminded that there was "no room in the inn" that night for Mary and Joseph, yet God came into the world and, as Emanuel, the Christ, spent his first night in a shelter of another era. The opening verse of a hymn titled "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" says it this way:

*Gentle Mary laid her child, lowly in a manger;
There he lay, the undefiled, To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, Can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His favor.*

"Such a babe in such a place ... to the world a stranger." God surprised the world then and, as Dave's cover story notes, God has touched us in unexpected ways. The shelter has been an example of "reverse ministry" - we've been ministered "to" by and through the opportunity to host the shelter guests.

God has surprised all of us at Caldwell with opportunities to serve that we might never have imagined ourselves. It's not clear how, or whether, we can re-open our shelter at Caldwell. But we know this – we belong to a God of unexpected and abundant grace.

*Do you have event or committee news, calendar items, photography and other tidbits Caldwell members and guests should see in the newsletter? Please send items by the first of each month to the editor: david.bradley@yahoo.com
Visit us on the web at:
www.caldwellpresby.org*

Caldwell Good News!

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Coats in the (St.) Nick of time...and holiday decor



Just when Charlotte's weather turned coldest, Caldwell members donated 36 spare coats, 16 hats and 12 sets of gloves for women at the **Center of Hope** shelter.



Kelly Cleghorn spruces up the front doors with greenery.

Marilyn Rowland stretches to place an ornament on the Christmas tree.



Elora Hefner and *Lynn Watson* ready bows.



Usher in training? **Preston DeTemple** welcomes visitors and members at the front door.

16 year old shuns gifts to help others...

Most teenagers relish gift-opening possibilities for their 16th birthdays.

Not **Kristen Pascal**.

She told her friends to skip the gifts at her b-day party and instead bring checks - payable to the **Center of Hope**. Kristen donated the proceeds, almost \$600, to the shelter.

Why? "One of my friends used to collect cans (canned goods) for **Loaves & Fishes** and that gave me the idea," says Kristen. "I helped set up the shelter when it started, and that was a bigger connection for me. It felt really good to do it."

As for her friends, Kristen said they were surprised "but they thought it was awesome."



Kristen Pascal and her friend *Ellison Cleghorn* celebrate Kristen's \$600 gift.

'Tis The Season

Veronica Rogers



In these weeks of Advent, there are elves who work diligently at Caldwell to make our sanctuary even more beautiful. The malls are gaily decorated to maximize shopping. Radio stations have been playing carols ever since Halloween. Christmas is a festive time--- a time of hope and expectation, a time of celebrating the gift of the birth of the Christ Child. *'Tis the season to be jolly! Fa la la!* So you may be asking yourself: *Why am I having feelings of sadness?*

This wonderful season can also be a time of nostalgia, a time of missing our loved ones and the traditions that are no longer a part of our lives. For some, it is a season of distress, depression, and isolation. The holidays can become a time of high anxiety as we try to balance too many activities: entertaining, shopping, decorating, cooking, volunteering, and end-of-year obligations at work. We pay attention to advertisements which inform us that giving an expensive gift is the only way to express our love. We spend more than we can afford, then feel unduly stressed because now, we are financially over-extended.

Then there is the stress of pretending that we are a part of a "Norman Rockwell" family. In dysfunctional families, holiday gatherings can bring about memories of unpleasant experiences that we continue to play out in our adult lives. Many are emotionally or physically estranged from their families and long for the intimacy that being a part of a family can bring. For those who have suffered the death of a loved one, the loss of a job, or the uncertainty of a divorce, the reality of such a loss is magnified during this time of festivity and celebration. Studies have found that there is an increase in the number and severity of calls to crisis centers during the Christmas holidays.

Feelings of nostalgia are normal during this season of joy; however, here are a few tips that may lessen those holiday stressors: (1) Don't buy into the advertising hype of the season. Christmas is about the gift of the Christ Child, not the gifts of merchandising. (2) Although you may be missing old family traditions, you can start new ones. There are many lonely people who would love to be a part of your new "family" gathering. Each person can bring a dish for the holiday dinner and share in the joy of preparation and clean-up. (3) Stay active, exercise and volunteer to help others, but do not neglect to rest. Take care of yourself first so that you can be more available to others. (4) Maintain your adult role at family gatherings, even if others want you to assume the role of the six-year-old complainer (tattletale, fighter, teaser, victim).

If you do experience emotional distress such as high anxiety or depression during the Christmas holidays, share your feelings with a trusted friend or get help from a medical professional. If you are prone to depression, those feelings may be heightened during this season. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a free, confidential national network of crisis centers which provides 24-hour service. Someone can always be reached at 1-800-273 TALK (8255).

The season of Christmas can be a merry time. It is easy to share the joy but it may also be necessary to acknowledge the sadness. To balance out these competing sentiments, we can look to the hope that we find in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. So deck the halls!

The gifts that keep on giving...

It is the day after Thanksgiving. The weather is cool and cloudy and feels like fall. As I walked that afternoon kicking up leaves and looking at the bright yellows and ruby reds left over on the trees, I began thinking about Thanksgiving. It was a wonderful day. Bob and I were honored and blessed to be a part of the group to serve a sumptuous meal to our homeless guests staying at Caldwell. The bounty of food from our members and friends was incredible. Our guests were welcomed with candles and crisp linens and we had smiles and hugs for them as they entered our dining area. The gratitude from these ladies was so kind but our gratitude to be a part of their lives on Thanksgiving Day was almost palpable.

Our blessings as a church and continuing God's will are known in Charlotte. Our stewardship campaign begins to wrap-up for up-coming 2011. No matter the amount of your pledge we are so grateful for your prayerful consider-

ation to help our Caldwell mission. Thank you so much.

Many of you may look at end of the year giving, please consider Caldwell through a one time gift or a year long pledge for 2011. You may also remember us in your will through charitable planned giving to the church.

As I reflect on my Thanksgiving Day this year and look forward to the Christmas season and the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, I am so grateful for my life of blessings and thank the glory of God for our being a part of Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Corinthians 9:8

And God is able to make all grace overflow to you so that because you have enough of everything in every way at all times, you will overflow in every good work

BG Metzler CGN! correspondent

Danny Trapp

Closing Thoughts

When I began my internship in May the end was nowhere in sight. Not that I wanted it to be, but it's a little jarring that it is suddenly December and my time serving in ministry with you is coming to an end. My final Sunday in an official capacity will be December 19. It's been a great eight months and you have made me feel right at home. Thank you.

I have been working on something in my personal faith walk, a flaw if you will, and it occurs to me that what I struggle with is also something that the Caldwell family of members and friends should probably be mindful of. This struggle is something I call NLT Syndrome. I consider myself a progressive (not a big fan of the label liberal) and as a church with a reputation for being progressive we both need to be wary of NLT Syndrome. This malady rears its head when the media or politicians or maybe agnostic or conservative acquaintances throw around the term "Christian" with a presupposed definition in mind. That's when I, and maybe we, speak up that we too are Christian but we are "Not Like Them". I am as tired as anyone of this term being used in reference to conservative, literal, non-progressive folks as if that is the only way to be Christian. So many in a secular society assume that to be Christian is to be evangelical, narrow minded and a fundamentalist. But what concerns me is my reaction to this leads me to define my faith and even myself by what I am not instead of what I am. This is a slippery slope that gives critics of progressive Christianity a valid reason to refer to us as people that don't really believe in anything. Another way to think of this is something a friend told me many years ago. "If we become intolerant of the intolerant we become just like them".

NLT Syndrome is never far off my radar screen but it comes into particular focus around this time of year. The annual conflicts about the validity of the Virgin Birth (for the record I choose to believe in it theologically rather than gynecologically), the battle of Jesus vs. Santa Claus and of course the debate over Happy Holidays vs. Merry Christmas. The background noise makes me want to run for cover or maybe shout "I'm not like them!" My hope for me and all of us is to hang in there and proclaim what I am rather than what I am not. I am a Christian who proudly worships a savior that changed the world for everyone in it, red and yellow black and white, regardless of where personal theologies might land. What I am not, especially this time of year, is inconsequential compared to what God has done for me in the person of Jesus Christ.

So my closing thought for my beloved Caldwell family is to guard against NLT Syndrome (a "soul vaccination" may do the trick) and proudly proclaim our faith for what it is. A gift of grace from God gratefully received and faithfully lived. See you later...



So what is next for Danny Trapp? He told CGN! "I will be back to taking classes in the spring term and hope to start a non-parish internship (possibly in a jail or prison) in April. I should complete my studies in spring or summer of 2012 and then will hopefully figure out what in the world God is doing with me."

Members warm to ease of online donations...

"You may not realize that Caldwell now offers online contributions. It is a very easy process to set up - just go to www.caldwellpresby.org and click Online Contributions. I set up a regular monthly contribution starting in January so I can complete my pledge by year end. You can then set up a regular or a onetime contribution, and you can change it or stop it whenever you want. The system keeps up with your total gifts and sends you a periodic report. I am excited about not having to remember to send it in. You may like it too if you give it a try. Call Leslie if you need help."

Erskine Harkey, CGN! correspondent



Caldwell's latest Habitat for Humanity work crew (l to r): Greg Shell, Amy and Mike Hoy, Erskine Harkey, Chris Polk, Terry Nilles, and Tom Bohr. It was the final work day of the year, and the three bedroom house will soon welcome an excited family.

How Caldwell members and guests will celeb

Our celebration of a birth that changed the world means many things to members of Caldwell's congregation. For most it is a chance to bring families together while others mark it with quiet reverence. As our members and visitors know, it's not about gifts under the tree but the gifts inside us.

Kevin Martin says he and **Tovi** will welcome Tovi's brother, **Tracy Fitch**, visiting from Madison, Wisconsin. "I like Christmas. It makes me smile," says Kevin. In Tovi's family the main tradition is to open gifts on Christmas Eve, plus a special meal of anything the family craves, such as sushi. On Christmas day the family heads to Kannapolis to spend the day with Kevin's family which he says "makes too much (celebratory) noise. We don't make a big deal of the gifts. It's not so much about the commercial hype," says Kevin.

"My nine-year-old granddaughter invited me for Christmas eve," says **Fred Powers**. The anxious pair "will get up Christmas morning before mom and dad to see if Santa has eaten his Christmas cookies."

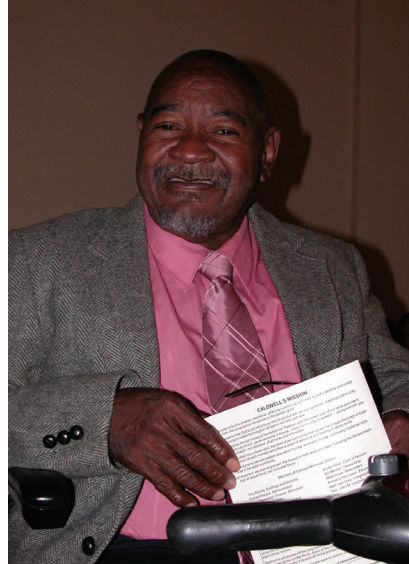
"Everybody in the family gets together, we open gifts and enjoy the whole family," says **Jimmy "Gino" Harris**. On the menu: chitlins, ham and turkey.

*For **Gino Harris**, the holidays are all about family.*



"A lot of our (holiday) is unknown," says **Don Cowen**. "We do have a niece (**Carlie Smith**) that visits from Wilmington." Since Carlie is a nurse who frequently works on Christmas, the family sometimes celebrates the holiday the weekend before. There is "no big plan, we just enjoy being together," says Don. That includes the family's two Boston terriers, who get a stocking of their own. When his wife **Jean** puts up the stockings, the dogs get excited. "Even our dogs even enjoy Christmas," says Don.

George Michie says the holiday celebration with family will be delayed until the Sunday after Christmas when they will meet up with 12 family members in Asheville where their daughter **Lynn** (a Presbyterian minister) lives. Also joining George and **Mary Carol** will be sons **Kirk** from Birmingham, Alabama and **Greg** from Chicago. Such a large brood makes hoteliers smile: most of the family rents rooms at Rock Mount.



"I plan to come to church for the holiday to celebrate the birth of Christ. Isn't that the way it's supposed to be? I think people celebrate it the wrong way by all the money they spend. My grand babies don't think like that."

Larry Howie, guest

*Christmas is not about gifts, says **Larry Howie**, it is about a higher meaning.*

Lynn Watson says she and **Mike** "go to our children's house now; it's a new tradition for us. We'll settle the details later (as for the Christmas meal)." Although a daughter and her family will spend the holiday in Florence, Italy the family desire to connect will remain undaunted. "We'll have Christmas by Skype. It's going to be a different year for us," says Lynn.

"My son (**Robert Heffner, Jr.**, a theater manager for 25 years) is coming in from Atlanta. He's a former deacon at Caldwell."

Elora Heffner

"My son (**Greg Rowland**) will visit from New York City, and my daughter (**Wyn Rowland**) and my son-in-law (**Galen**) and grandson (six year old Joshua) will come down from Philadelphia area. "We will have a ham loaf on Christmas Day with mustard sauce which is an old family recipe."

Marilyn Rowland

"I'll be with family in Charlotte, Lake Norman and Lake Wylie," says **Jim Wilson**, a visitor to Caldwell (to see his friend and music co-director, **Thomas Moore**). His daughter from Dallas, Texas will be here, too.

Rate Christmas: family, food - and reverence



“For the first time this year we’ll go to my son’s (Sheldon) house. The children say ‘momma, our family is too big (including a new grandson) for your house,’” says **Eloise Hicks**. About 10 of her family members will gather including attendance at the Christmas Eve service at Caldwell. “We’ll have a big breakfast of eggs benedict, fruit salad,” says Eloise. Here’s another holiday surprise: Christmas Eve is Eloise’ birthday.

“I’ll stay at home,” says **Cassandra Mays**, although “I’m hoping to be able to find a ride” to the Christmas Eve service. She can be reached at 704-712-5833.

“I’m staying here (Charlotte). This will be my first Christmas at Caldwell,” says **Cyndi Haden**. As for traditions, “just putting up the tree” and trimming it with “years and years of collected ornaments,” she says.

“My family is scattered up and down the northeast and southeastern coasts,” says **Georgann Bath**, a guest at Caldwell, who will stay in town but plans to come to the church’s Christmas Eve service. She credits her neighbors, **Nancy Nance** and **Jean Nance**, for influencing her to visit Caldwell.



Caldwell visitors **Jeff Sykes** and **Anthony Wade** of Waxhaw head east to visit both sets of parents in Goldsboro. Jeff says his family will dine on “turkey, stuffing and chicken salad.”

“I actually might go up to my sister’s (**Lorraine Johnson**) house in Richmond, Virginia. She demanded I come up there,” says **Troy Bowles**. Making the trip too: Troy’s brother **Woody**.

Troy Bowles will head to Virginia at the insistence of his sister.



Yvette Wilson, originally from Sacramento, California, will celebrate Christmas with her son, her nephew and his wife. “Our tradition is to have strangers at our table because we’ve always had a lot of cultures in our house,” says Yvette, “and it’s been that way since I’ve been a little girl.”

“Favorite Christmas memory: when I was growing up, we never got Christmas stockings – my mother used a shoebox filled with fruit and nuts – no candy or little gifts – just like her tradition growing up during the Depression. For us, afterwards, the fruit would go back into the refrigerator, and the nuts would be put in a dish on the coffee table in the den. Years later, a dear friend slipped into my house on Christmas morning and hung a Christmas stocking on my mantle, a stocking filled with all the little presents I had missed out on during all my previous Christmases at home. I still have one of the pencils with my name on it. And she is still one of my dearest friends. And my mother still puts out a shoebox of fruit and nuts.”

Carol King

CROP walkers race to a record \$2,507!...

Thanks to 14 CROP walkers (the most in four years) **Leroy Stinson, Wade and Eileen Kennedy, Wilma Petty, Tom and Kitty Bohr, Bo Jordan, Mark Rowe, Rosalyn Jacobs, Sarah Beth Mullet, Ellen Kelly, Matthew Rathke, and Richard and Sherry Bargoil** for making this a record CROP walk year for Caldwell! Walkers raised a record **\$2,507!** And we had one record breaking walker. **Leroy Stinson**, who has walked for the last three years, led individual donations for Caldwell with over 32 sponsors. The top three walkers this year were Leroy, Wade, and

Leroy Stinson (l) broke a Caldwell record for contributions for the CROP community walk. Thirteen other Caldwell walkers took to the streets to beat hunger, too, including **Wilma Petty (r)**.



Eileen. The Kennedy's online donations were a pleasant surprise and boosted Caldwell's total donation to CWS CROP! Caldwell cares about hungry people. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as CROP Walk recruiter the last four years. If you are interested in serving as Caldwell's recruiter CROP next year please call me at 406-600-3972 or let me know in church.

Maggie Devries, CGN! correspondent

Shelter...continued

all-consuming to be homeless," she says. "If I woke up in the morning, I'd wonder how I'd handle the same set of circumstances because I think 'there but for the grace of God go I'."

As it turns out, both sides handled the circumstances with respect and understanding, notably at a weekly prayer meeting.

Kitty Bohr, who led the sessions, saw a spirit of togetherness. "It brought us together," says Kitty. "Our faith was a common denominator. Sharing it was meaningful, and I learned a lot from these ladies. It has meant a lot to me, and it wasn't something I was doing for the women in the shelter, it was something I was doing with them." And there were others from the church involved, too. On any given Thursday night, Kitty was joined by **Marilyn Rowland, Insook Lee, and Yvette Wilson** in addition to Jill and Nancy. "We came from different denominations, but we had good discussions and good prayers," she says.

While the evening gatherings aimed to help women housed at the

shelter to further their faith journeys, attendees from Caldwell went along for the ride.

"For my own faith journey, it was meaningful because we were talking about our faith, learning from each other, and talking about how stories of bible impact us. It brought us together," says Kitty. Nancy felt much the same. "It's been a real growth experience for me," says Nancy, who notes that after she related the prayer group experience to a friend, the friend donated jewelry to the women, several of whom wore it proudly to the next prayer meeting. Her perspective about the homeless also changed. "This is just another person, she just hasn't had the breaks I've had."

The experience also helped to mobilize Jill as her role crystallized.



Jill Aleong says "It gave me a better picture of what was out there."

She was in the crew that initially painted the walls. Husband **Troy** helped haul furniture that makes a temporary situation seem warm and inviting. Jill brought over ironing boards and irons, and later organized a sumptuous Thanksgiving meal for 35 women – along with the help of 15 or so Caldwell members.

The shelter experience has been uplifting for Caldwell, and judging by aid from the community, it extended the church's mission throughout Charlotte. As Nancy says, "If you drop a stone in the water, the ripples go out."



Sentinel at the door. The **Loaves & Fishes** basket beckons us to help relieve hunger in Charlotte.

Committees in action...

Worship: **Carl Brinson** reported that the committee has been busy planning Advent activities and the Christmas Eve service. He also said that they will be decorating the tree and the sanctuary.

Education: **Kimberly Shumaker** was proud to tell us about the children making 'Thank You' cards for those who participated in the Stewardship Campaign. The training for **Godly Play**, the new program for our children's Sunday school, has been completed. Caldwell purchased some of the units for this program. Their first step is to tell a story from the Bible. Using resources such as art, felt and sharing food they build community by learning to listen and respect others. Every week there is the same story teller and a door keeper. Our program will be modifying class ages somewhat; 0 - potty trained will be upstairs, ages 3 - 5 downstairs, 6 -10 in another room. On December 4, work began on modifications to a room downstairs in order to set up a sacred space. The hope is to have **Godly Play** begin in February. The committee will communicate about this program through the bulletin, the newsletter and "Minute for Mission." This program can be used for many years. A benefactor is covering the \$2,800 up front cost. This is a very structured program that gets children ready for big Church.

Mission and Justice: **Doreen Byrd** and the committee are focused on the budget for next year.

Administration: **Richard Bargoil** reported that the new church directory would be completed before the end of the year.

Building and Grounds: **Troy Aleong** stated that he had no report.

Discipleship: **BG Metzler** said that the committee will be assessing what worked and what needs to be improved in the recent stewardship campaign. **Bob Metzler**, our Service Coordinator told the committee that we have 100 + volunteers who filled out time and talent stewardship forms. He is entering those names into a database. In the next few weeks he will have lists of volunteers to various committee chairs. BG requests that we please utilize this data.

Congregational Care: **Beth Van Gorp** reported that there were seventy responses from the handout at congregational dinner.

Newcomers: **Mark Rowe** reported that the committee will be launching the Caldwell Connector Buddy System with new members.

Finance: **Janet Blanchard** offered thanks to those who have sent in their budgets. We currently have \$177,000 pledged and budget requests total \$322,000. We are looking to achieve \$265,000 of supported income. That number includes some salary increases. Janet responded to a question that we do not yet have a percentage that we have committed to missions. There will be a workable budget before the next session meeting. Janet and Leslie spent half day learning about IRS regulations on rental income. Janet will share more on this later.

*Reported by **Eloise Hicks**, Clark of Session*

Advent season at Caldwell...

Few times are more sacred for a family or household than Christmas. Along with the Advent Season, Christmas time is rich in traditions which, in spite of modern commercial exploitation, still stir our hearts and imagination. The Christmas tree, the manger scene, the music and carols, the lights shining in the winter darkness prepare our hearts to receive the gift of God and joyfully proclaim the birth of Jesus Christ and call us to come and adore him.

At Caldwell we celebrate Advent by adorning the sanctuary with greenery, poinsettias (which our members and friends can purchase in honor or in memory of a special person), and a Christmas tree decorated with Chrismons. Chrismon ornaments are symbols that represent a variety of biblical and theological concepts that are well known to believers all over the world. Many of the Chrismons used on the tree were made by Caldwell members many years ago and some were made by our newest members recently blending the old and the new representing the "New Thing" at Caldwell.

Caldwell's annual Christmas Eve service is a meaningful time of worship with singing of carols, prayer and a meditation by our pastor, Rev. Cleghorn.

Carl Brinson, CGN! correspondent

See a companion Chrismon story on the next page.

The meaning of Chrismons...

The term "Chrismon" derives from "CHRIST's MONogram" and trees have been decorated with these handmade ornaments for more than 50 years.

All Chrismons are combinations of white and gold; white, the liturgical color for Christmas, refers to our Lord's Purity and Perfection; gold refers to his Majesty and Glory.

Each Chrismon ornament has special meaning. Caldwell has decorated its Chrismon tree longer than most can remember.

Three circles interposed symbolize the unity of the Trinity. The circles represent Father, Son, and Holy Spirit while the continuous interwoven line represents unity.



A King's Crown is the symbol of royal power and authority. It symbolizes Jesus as King of the Jews, in fulfillment of prophetic expectation, as well as the exalted Christ as King of Kings.



The descending dove is an ancient Christian symbol of the Holy Spirit.

Visitor comments and members who joined Caldwell in 2010...

What our visitors and guests say about our services:

"It's full. It's great."

"I like it. It's really nice, and it's really friendly."

"It's very good. They made me feel the same way – very good."

"So far it's been good. Very friendly and warm."

If you have visited Caldwell, we're glad you stopped by.

If you are interested in joining our diverse, interesting and spiritual congregation, please attend one of our Newcomer classes held shortly before Sunday services begin.

Or, call the church office, 704-344-0825, for more information.

Caldwell welcomed 28 new members in 2010

January

Craig Rhodes

February

Johnny Johnson Jr.
Cassandra Mays
Shawanda Jones

March

Carol King
Nickie PeGan
Kraig Magas
Amy Magas
Jack Magas
Bennett Magas

April

KK Curtis
Trey Richard
Sophia Weiss
Kristen Weiss

July

Shannon Vestal
Jeff Thompson

July...cont.

Kevin Walakovits
John Walakovits
Katelyn Walakovits

August

Nancy Faires

September

Yvette Wilson

October

Bo Jordan

November

Beth Johnson
Jessica McQuillen

Jane Wallwork

Troy Bowles

December

Sheena Bossie
Zoraida Stewart

Caldwell Good News! Bulletin Board

COMING UP SOON...

DECEMBER

Monday, December 13

Women's Circle, noon - 2 pm, Sharron Towers

Session, 5:30 pm, Shelby Room

Wednesday, December 15

Zumba, 6 - 7 pm, Fellowship Hall

Evening devotionals, 7:30 - 8:30 pm, Quiet Room, Price Building, 2nd floor

Thursday, December 16

Evening devotionals, 7:30 - 8:30 pm, Quiet Room, Price Building, 2nd floor

Sunday, December 19

Advent Centering Prayer, 9:45 - 10:45 am, Price Building

Christmas breakfast, 9:45 - 10:45 am

Wednesday, December 22

Zumba, 6 - 7 pm, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, December 23

Evening devotionals, 7:30 - 8:30 pm, Quiet Room, Price Building, 2nd floor

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 29

Zumba, 6 - 7 pm, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, December 30

Evening devotionals, 7:30 - 8:30 pm, Quiet Room, Price Building, 2nd floor

DECEMBER

Monday, January 10

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

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

Monday, 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

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
Mailing address 830 Faircrest Drive

Miss Toby Herring Emeritus @ Eastover

Mrs. Elise Hood Legacy Heights

Mrs. Irene Kennedy 419 Clement Avenue

Mrs. Ann Ranson Legacy Heights

Mrs. Irene Brown Emeritus @ Eastover

3315 Faith Church Rd., Room 600 Indian Trail, NC 28079
Charlotte, NC 28210

3610 Randolph Rd, Memory Care Charlotte, NC 28211

11240 Ballantyne Trace Ct., F-4 Charlotte, NC 28277

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.

Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church

1609 East Fifth Street
Charlotte, NC 28204

<http://www.caldwellpresby.org>



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