



Caldwell Good News!

A Monthly Publication of Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church

January 2012

Volunteer time, talent at core of Caldwell’s mission

Project leads to contact their volunteers soon; then the real work begins

The time and talent portion of our recent stewardship campaign is about to hit the streets - and the kitchens, and the shelter, and the classrooms.

Committee and project leaders are preparing to contact those who signed up for myriad projects and efforts inside the church and out.

“Volunteer reports are being sent to the team leads,” says volunteer coordinator **Bob Metzler**, who compiled the stewardship campaign’s people-power results. “People who have signed up will get a call.”

That volunteers will be contacted is what Bob terms as the first of a “two piece effort.” He describes phase one as a “big communication piece over the next two to three weeks. Everyone should know we have their name. We have a touch point for folks.”

If a volunteer has not heard about their assignment, Bob encourages anyone to “pick up the phone or send an email” to their team or committee lead with any questions.” You can also email Bob directly at volunteer@caldwellpresbyorg with any questions.

Bob adds that many assignments or projects are not immediate (such as those in the spring or summer), meaning volunteers may not hear from their committee chair until the assignment is closer to happening.

Indeed, some committee work is already underway, such as **Room in the Inn, Mission & Justice, lay readers, ushers** and **Sunday greeters** as well as the **Sunday Sabbath breakfast** for our guests from **Elizabeth’s Caldwell House**.

Adds **Rev. John Cleghorn**: “The people of Caldwell inspire me every day. Their depth of commitment,

compassion for others and generosity of time and effort gives true meaning to the old idea that the church is a “priesthood of all believers.”

The door is still open for those who have yet to volunteer from our pool of available member and guests. “We have everyone current who has sent in a (time and talent) sheet,” says Bob. “It’s never too late to volunteer. This is not a one time thing. If you haven’t put your name out there and want to help, let us know. It is an ongoing process so we can connect the dots.”

The big picture view is not the amount of time you spend on behalf of others, but that you spend time at all. “The point is, the punch line, is that we all have a chance to volunteer,” says Bob. “And that’s great because we have to get people involved. It is a two edge thing, the leader and the volunteer.”

5 reasons I’m excited about our Centennial

Beth Van Gorp, Centennial Committee Chair and *CGN!* correspondent

1. **24 Hour Prayer Vigil**, Wednesday of Holy Week, April 4- 5. When the first elders were elected on April 4, 1912, I’m sure they offered prayer. As a congregation, we’ll take turns praying for our congregation, friends and family and our world over a 24 hour period ending at the Maundy Thursday service. One of the reasons I’m excited about this is because I think I’ll get a chance to experience some new, to me, ways of praying. I feel the power of our regular “Joys & Concerns” prayer time and our Prayer Team and I’m wondering how this experience might change our church.
2. **Day of Service**, May 19. On the 100th anniversary of the first service of Caldwell, we’ll gather to worship, serve our neighbors and share a meal together. I can’t think of a combination of activities that more accurately reflects what draws many of us to this community. We open

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That first set of meeting minutes

Pastor's Message

March 2, 1912

"A number of Presbyterians met at Elizabeth College to form the support of the official committee appointed by the Presbytery in regard to the organization of a Presbyterian church in this section of Charlotte Mr. M.E. Trotter, chairman of the official committee, reported that one hundred and two church members had signed the petition to Presbytery for the church and that \$1,600 had been subscribed for a Pastor's salary. Dr. A. A. McGreachy made a strong address in regard to the matter and moved that a committee of two be appointed to present the petition to Presbytery."

In fountain-pen ink and tightly formed, no-nonsense cursive letters, A.M. Young recorded those first steps that led to the formation of Knox Presbyterian Church, forerun-

ner of Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church.

The pages that hold that first set of meeting minutes are now tattered and yellowed, the ink a bit faded. Like good Presbyterians, those who wanted a new church showed a penchant for form and order, working intently through polity, petitions and committees. The charter members had come from other Presbyterian churches in town – First, Second, Westminster, 10th Ave. Presbyterian churches in Charlotte and even Alden church in Kansas.

Still, their formal language and methods can't hide the resolve of those pioneers to this new "section" of Charlotte, made accessible by a new trolley track that ran "all the way" from the Square at Trade and Tryon to Elizabeth College (where Presbyterian Hospital now sits).

The day before that meeting in Charlotte, a man named Albert Berry had made the first parachute jump from a moving aircraft over Missouri (he lived). A month later, the Titanic sank. On the global stage, the Republic of China was established, the mayor of Tokyo presented Washington, D.C. with 3,000 cherry blossom trees and Europe trembled with the early signs of World War 1.

A century later, we now begin Caldwell's centennial year, a 12-month celebration that **Beth Van Gorp** describes in her article on the cover of this edition of the **Caldwell Good News!**

Between now and May, we will find chances to look back on the last 100 years here at Caldwell, in the Presbyterian church in America and in Protestantism overall. In our Adult Sunday school, worship, fellowship and other special programs to be announced, we will learn more about Caldwell's rich history and seek lessons from the church's first century.



Rev. John Cleghorn

Then, in April and May, we will incorporate two important anniversaries into the life of the church – the first meeting of the church elders in March and the first worship service in May. Through the summer we will consider "the present" of Caldwell church and some of the issues that face our city and our society. Then, in the Fall, we will turn our eyes forward, seeking God's guidance for our next century. The Fall will include a homecoming event in October and a one-time financial drive to raise money to make much-needed repairs around our buildings and grounds.

It will be a full year, one that invites our intentional study, prayer and discernment about what God has done here, is doing and still will do. Please join me in thanking Beth Van Gorp for leading this broad set of activities as well as all those who are part of the effort. Join me also in asking for our Lord's blessings and guidance for us in 2012.

God has told you what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God. Micah 6

Let the Caldwell centennial begin!

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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The spiritual impact of Martin Luther King

Ahead of the January 15 birthday of **Martin Luther King**, *Caldwell Good News!* asked several Caldwell congregants how Dr. King influenced their spiritual journeys.

Dr. King showed me, for one, what it meant to be strong. He had lots of strength to know what the end would be. He focused us with a laser-like idea of what a Christian should be.

Kevin Martin



I'm from Atlanta, and one of the things about my eighth grade confirmation, we went from our suburban Presbyterian church to Martin Luther King's church. It was interesting because it was so different. It was as you would expect it to be and when you come here (Caldwell) it is a combination of the two.

David Ashley



I grew up in Birmingham, Alabama in the late 50's and early 60's when everything was happening. It had a big impact on me. I grew up around racists. The bottom line about Martin Luther King was I understood he was a man of God living in a way a man of God should act.

Peg Robarchek



When I think of him, I think about the equality that he so much wanted for everybody, and for the poor. It didn't matter the color of your skin. And Caldwell reminds me so much of what he fought for and walked for and prayed so much for.

Annie Cox



I would say the power of forgiveness, the power of togetherness and belief in the power of humanity and equality.

Jon Gilchrist



I happened to hear him speak in New York. He gave his "A knock at midnight" speech. Had I been older – I was a teenager at the time – I would have followed him. I think he was a prophet. He was non-violent, focused, articulate and an inspirational speaker.

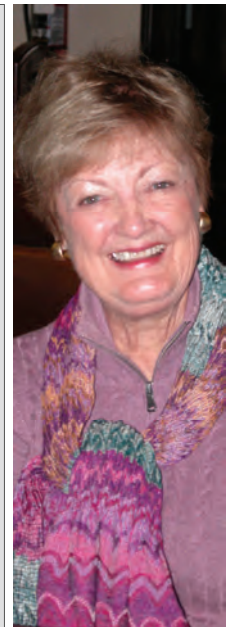
Ann Alford

(eds. note: "A knock at midnight" was based on Luke 11: 5-6)



He certainly has been part of my growing journey. Part of that is what brought me to Caldwell. You know, like a lot of us, I grew up in a lily white world. This journey has opened so many passages, to come here and worship with all of God's people. It's just another step in the journey.

Mary Lou Lindsay



Someone is Praying for You



Veronica Rogers

Blessed are the available. Blessed are the conduits, the tunnels, the tools. Deliriously joyful are the ones who believe that if God has used sticks and rocks to do God's will, God can use us. (Max Lucado)

Many have been requesting prayers for persons or situations by completing the Prayer Request form found on back of the pew. You may have put your prayer requests in the offering plate or in the pottery on the table in the back of the sanctuary. And you may have wondered: "Is anyone really praying for the situations or the persons as I requested?" Rest assured. **Someone is praying for you.**

In Old Testament culture, it was the responsibility of the priests to stand before and between God and the people. But in Christ, we are all a part of the priesthood of believers and therefore, we can be intercessors for each other. We are constituents of a holy priesthood (1 Peter 2: 5) and members of the kingdom of priests (Revelations 1:6). It is the Holy Spirit who helps us in our weakness when we do not know how to pray. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us with the grace that we cannot provide for ourselves.

Several of our sisters and brothers at Caldwell have volunteered to be open to the Holy Spirit as they intercede with God on behalf of others. When a prayer request is received, it is sent to the intercessors of the Prayer Ministry. You may specify that you want prayer for a situation without giving your name. If you request absolute anonymity, your privacy is respected and prayers will be done by the ministers.

The intercessors who serve in our prayer ministry were asked: "**How do you pray for those who request intercession?**"

One intercessor has been studying about the concept of priesthood in the Old Testament and the call for a kingdom of priests. She notes that the priests or intercessors identified with those for whom they interceded. They "eat with them, sit where they sit and bear what they bear." Even though she is aware that our "omniscient God knows our every need before we ask," her intercessory activity consists of reading each person's name or concern aloud. This act signals her to be aware of God's presence in each situation and reminds her that the intercession is not for her but for others. Her spiritual discipline is one of praying upon arising in the morning. Then throughout the day, she seeks to identify the specific needs of our congregants and the needs of the world. She ends the day by remembering those persons and concerns before going to sleep.

Someone has a little home altar where she lights incense and sits to meditate and pray. She prints out the prayer list and keeps it on her altar. Wednesday is her "dedicated prayer day;" however she prays at other times as well.

Yet another intercessor finds it best to do his prayers at work in the morning before the day's activities begin. He listens to inspirational music to help him achieve a meditative state which enhances his focus on the prayers. The intercessor listens to these songs in this order: *Jesus is Love* (The Commodores), *Step to Jesus* (Maceo Wood), *O Happy Day* (Edwin Hawkins) and *Look at Me* (Tremaine Hawkins). Then he begins his prayers for the people.

One intercessor wrote: "I pray for our fellow followers immediately when I receive your email." This person prays daily for those who have requested prayers and for our church family in general, even before opening her eyes. Later, she goes to the special place where she does her devotions and prays more specifically for the needs that have been cited. She prays throughout the day and at night as she is going to sleep. When she awakes in the middle of the night, she talks to God about the needs of other.

Someone prays as soon as he receives the initial notice and then adds to that list as other requests are received during the week. He generally prays in the morning in preparation for the day, and again at night in review of day's events.

During the week, prayers are being said in homes and in our church sanctuary. Some members of the Prayer Ministry refer to the lists for months and continue praying as new requests are made. Others jot down the names and situations mentioned in "Joys and Concerns" and include those in their meditations. They are not only praying for our concerns but offering prayers of gratitude for our joys as well. And there are members of our church who have not officially joined the Prayer Ministry but are praying for others throughout the week.

One member of the team made this observation: "In and of myself, I can do nothing regarding these concerns and needs. The interceding Spirit makes possible an exercise of faith and patience in the midst of human need."

Someone is praying for you!

Elizabeth's Caldwell House...An Answered Prayer

Lisa McLennan



One of my favorite parts of the Sunday Sabbath breakfasts with the ladies of Elizabeth's Caldwell House is listening to their stories.

After the breakfast is prepared and served, I love to grab a cup of coffee and a sausage biscuit and sit down to fellowship with the ladies. Each week I am blessed by my time with them. One Sunday recently, I was talking with Loretta. She is originally from Caldwell, Idaho. Before heading to the east coast she tried to find a shelter in or near her hometown which would allow her to stay close to her mother and family. She shared with me that she frequently prayed for God to provide her with a shelter in her hometown of Caldwell. Needless to say, she was unable to find lodging and began to travel east. It was only after arriving in Charlotte, that she realized her prayer had been answered. It just wasn't exactly how she imagined it would be. She was praying for shelter in Caldwell.

That's what she got alright, only it was at Elizabeth's Caldwell House in Charlotte rather than in Caldwell, Idaho. She feels blessed and grateful that God did answer her prayer. She has been with us for 5 months and frequently helps prepare breakfast as a volunteer. After spending several months on a waiting list for an apartment, I am happy to report that Loretta was scheduled to move into her new place on January 9th. She said she plans to be a frequent visitor with us. Praise be to God, who always hears our prayers.

My heart was greatly warmed this past Sunday when we did the food drive for Loaves and Fishes. Those three baskets were overflowing with food! Your help is needed! Sunday Sabbath breakfast doesn't just magically appear. This is a vital ministry of our congregation. Our kitchen will produce approximately 2860 hot breakfasts for our neighbors at ECH in 2012. It will take the whole community to make this happen. How can you help?

1. Volunteer to come and cook...email me at lisam@caldwellpresby.org and I will add you to the schedule at your convenience.
2. Donate some food...So what exactly will it take to fix breakfast in 2012?
 - 208 cans of orange juice concentrate
 - 2496 sausage patties (that's about 315 pounds)
 - 2600 frozen biscuits (that's about 75 bags of 36 biscuits from Costco)
 - 3744 eggs (312 dozen)
 - 1248 containers of yogurt
 - 520 pounds of fresh fruit
 - 1560 cups of grits
 - 30 pounds of butter
 - 25 quarts of jelly
 - 52 gallons of milk
 - 312 packets of oatmeal
 - 40 boxes of Cheerios
 - 60 pounds of coffee
3. Make a breakfast casserole. We freeze them and when we have enough to feed everyone we cook them. You can make one (or several) and place them with a label in the freezer.
4. If none of these appeal to you, financial contributions are also welcome. It costs about \$75 each week to buy the groceries when we don't have food donations. Any contribution amount is appreciated.

*Our biggest need is for OJ, sausage, frozen biscuits and eggs. If you can contribute something from the list above it will be used! There is a freezer located downstairs near the ice machine. Please place your items in the freezer. Please contact me with any questions and thank you for your willingness to help.

Caldwell's mission: on

The Caldwell mission extends beyond our walls. In fact, our service to others breaks walls down.

There are numerous ways for you to serve Caldwell and those served by Caldwell. Here are a few of many, many such opportunities.

If you have yet to volunteer and any of these possibilities pique your interest, contact the person shown, or coordinator **Bob Metzler** at volunteer@caldwellpresby.org.

More and more children now attend Sunday school. The need for volunteer help becomes very important to the spiritual growth of our youngsters.

If you have the time and interest, contact **Doreen Byrd** by email at musicmist2003@yahoo.com.



Flowers for Sunday services. A good way to share your garden bounty, celebrate loved ones or other special remembrances. Contact **Marilyn Rowland** at mrowlan1937@att.net.



How about the Newcomer's Committee members walk together to lunch? How we make guests feel welcome in Caldwell. Email **Mark Rowe** at mark@newcomer.org.



... volunteer at a time



...? Here, members and prospec-
at a local pizzeria after a service.
our inclusive church is a big plus
nrowe4@carolina.rr.com.



The sign says it all: estb. 1912.
As our gorgeous building heads
into its 100th year, the need to
attend to our physical plant is on
the upswing. There is likely a
spot for you on the Buildings and
Grounds committee.
If you can help attend to our
church inside and out, contact
Troy Aleong by email at
troy_aleong@yahoo.com.



When the ground warms, you can
always get your hands dirty in the
Caldwell garden.



You could read scripture.
Scripture is central to our wor-
ship services. You are more than
welcome to lead the congrega-
tion from the pulpit.
Contact **Cyndi Haden** at
Cyndi.haden@aol.com



**You could be one
of the friendly
faces at the front
door.**
Ushers are always
in need and are
our de facto wel-
coming committee
for all who attend
Sunday services.
If you are a people
person, let Lynn
Watson know at
mama-
lynn_friscomom@
yahoo.com

**Feed others in
need.**
Every Sunday we
serve a wonderful
breakfast to sev-
eral dozen guests
from the shelter.
If you are a morn-
ing person willing
to pitch in and
cook (or can buy
groceries), contact
Lisa McLennan at
lisam@ caldwell-
presby.org.



A beautiful Christmas season at a beautiful church

Christmas at Caldwell was a season of serenity and solemnity. Our church celebrated it in many ways.

From pine boughs on our front steps that welcomed visitors, to ornaments and children’s handcrafted birthday cards for Jesus, to a ‘Blue Christmas,’ it was a memorable Christmas holiday for everyone involved with Caldwell.



Pastor Cleghorn relays final instructions to children about to create ‘Happy Birthday!’ cards for Jesus. Ellen Martin’s card (above) is among cards shown at caldwellpresby.org/pastorsblog.



Lisa McLennan, Laura Wilcox, and Laura’s daughter Lauraette Kelley, who recently moved back to Charlotte from Michigan, at the Christmas breakfast. Of Caldwell, Lauraette says “It’s very diverse and friendly. It makes you smile.”

Dozens of poinsettias graced the sanctuary as Caldwell members and guests remembered those who were with us in spirit.



Alternative gifts and meet Liz, our new intern

The **Alternative Christmas Gift** project to benefit Common Hope was a great success. Caldwell members and friends bought all of the "in honor of" gift cards provided by Common Hope, collecting a total of \$975. Thanks to your giving spirit, 39 pairs of New School Shoes will be purchased for Guatemalan children and 13 needy families in Guatemala will receive Emergency Food Baskets through Common Hope. Thank you for sharing the Love, Hope, Joy, and Peace of Christmas with our far-away neighbors.
Kitty Bohr, *CGN!* correspondent

Liz Wagner is Caldwell's newest intern

Please welcome **Liz Wagner** as our new intern through July. Liz is the third Caldwell intern from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte.

Liz, married and the mother of two sons, says "I visited Caldwell a few years ago on the recommendation of friends. I found it to be such a different worship experience, so invigorating, that I wanted to be part of it. In my internship, I will focus primarily on Christian Education but also want to learn more about congregational care and liturgy and worship."



'Blue Christmas' offers hope to those experiencing loss

A new phenomenon on the Presbyterian worship landscape, Caldwell held its first '**Blue Christmas**' the Tuesday before Christmas weekend.

The solemn ceremony of reflection was moving in its silence for those who, for whatever reason – the loss of a loved one or other personal grief – feel sadness during an otherwise joyous part of the Christian year. One by one, people rose to quietly place objects on a center table that are their reminder of people and events past. Many spoke to the meaning of those objects, and in silence lit votives from the Advent Wreath as a symbol of remembrance and "source of light against the darkness."

Veronica Rogers' meditation reminded 19 congregants that confession applies to more than our spiritual ills. It is recognition and acceptance of our feelings of sadness and a service such as Blue Christmas helps us understand those feelings in the context of a comforting and answerable higher source.

In her closing prayer, Veronica asked:

Comforting God, wrap us in your presence in this time of remembrance. With these candles, help us to find your light, a light that will guide us day-by-day, step-by-step, as we try to live fully and wholly. We cherish the special ways in which our loved ones have touched us. We thank you for the gift that their lives have been to us. Now comfort us. Encourage us. Empower us as we approach this season of celebration of your birth. We know that you share our pain and our grief. Thank you, dear God, for your loving presence. Amen.



Blue Christmas congregants begin to gather in a circle before the service.

Jim Curtis (right) and Bill Hicks performed moving solos during the service. Jim says his participation in the service "is on one level a chance to serve with a gift of music that I have and to deeply sympathize with people who are blue at the Christmas holiday."



Caldwell in photos



Cerita, a guest from Elizabeth's Caldwell House, visits on a recent Sunday. "It's very hospitable. This is maybe my fourth service" to attend."



Robert Smith and Jessica Rohlik of Mooresville wed in our lovely sanctuary on a Saturday in December. (Courtesy, Erik Perel Photography)



Joe Lublinkhof and Caroline Cheek pose before a Sunday service in December.

5 reasons...continued from page one

ourselves up to the power of the Holy Spirit by worshipping, we take those experiences and want to share it through service and then we come together to renew and create relationships among one another while enjoying a meal.

3. **Homecoming Week-End**, October 12-14. Anyone else have fond memories of the previous Caldwell Dances? We're having another one on Friday, October 12 with food, dancing and fellowship with our friends and ministry partners. What could be better? You'll regret it if you miss it, just ask someone who missed the last ones! Then on Sunday, October 14 we're inviting friends, recent and long term, to celebrate with us at a special worship service followed by dinner on the grounds.
4. **Reflection and discernment** – I must admit to having a strong streak of sentimentality so I am looking forward to hearing stories about Caldwell "back in the day." And at the same time I'm seeing this year as a unique opportunity for us as to try and look clear-eyed at the past. We have some things to

celebrate and I know some things that might make me uncomfortable about how the Church universal has operated over the last century. I think we can do that and then look at where we are, some issues that are important to us now, and where we might go in the future.

5. **Gratitude** – One of my favorite parables is about the Kingdom of God being like a mustard seed – not because it grows big but because it's a bit of an unwanted weed, vigorous and unruly, and can't be easily controlled. For many the path to Caldwell was not simple or pain free, and so this messy version of the Kingdom feels about right. So, I am grateful to catch an occasional and fleeting glimpse of the Kingdom of God amongst the Caldwell community. I describe my church as messy and unruly and I know people take it as a compliment. I meant it to be. One of our greatest gifts is our beautiful old campus, which houses so many ministries. The session and leaders of the Centennial committee have endorsed the idea for a one-time, special gift to help fund repairs for our buildings and grounds.

Caldwell Good News! Bulletin Board

COMING UP SOON...

JANUARY

Sunday, January 15

Reception for Fred Hamilton, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, January 18

Zumba, 6 - 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Monday, January 23

Session, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., TBD

FEBRUARY

Wednesday, February 1

Zumba, 6 - 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, February 7

Caldwell Women, 6:30 - 8 p.m., Shelby Room

Wednesday, February 8

Zumba, 6 - 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Monday, February 13

Women's Circle, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Shelby Room

Women's Book Club, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., TBD

Wednesday, February 15

Zumba, 6 - 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, February 22

Zumba, 6 - 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Monday, February 27

Session, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., TBD

MARCH

Tuesday, March 6

Caldwell Women, 6:30 - 8 p.m., Shelby Room

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, Shelby

6:30 pm - Finance Committee, Upstairs

6:30 pm - Education Committee, Upstairs

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. 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

Charlotte, NC 28204

11240 Ballantyne Trace Ct. Charlotte, NC 28277

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.

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