

## Homecoming a hit for alumni, guests and members

Many alumni came home, along with many others, to celebrate 100 years of Caldwell Presbyterian Church

They came to dance, others came to break bread together, and some even came “home” to the church where they were baptized, but all took part in a festive weekend to honor the 100th year of **Caldwell Presbyterian Church**.

The grand weekend was the culmination of a year of recognition for a church that over the course of a century has experienced the highs, then lows, then highs again of a missional church that mattered to its community.

“I think it was just a real awesome and meaningful weekend,” said centennial committee chair **Beth Van Gorp**. “I think it let us be joyful together and celebrate the fact the church survived 100 years, and we have a live and revived congregation.” She also gave credit to more than 20 alumni who returned

to the church of their roots. “I appreciate the fact that we got to honor those who had come before us,” said Beth. “We wanted people to look back over the history of the church and appreciate the journey that allowed us to be in this place now, and also start to think about where we will be in the next 25 or 50 years. The silent auction was really amazing in terms of how much was raised.”

That amount was nearly \$2,000 according to **Molly Griffin**. “The auction I thought was a great success. But I was confident that we would have fun, and we would raise money, and those things happened. It added another dimension to the dance. Almost everything sold. It was just a great time.”

*Find more centennial news on pages 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9*



*Sylvia and Herb Gill of Mint Hill. Herb grew up attending Caldwell, and was baptized here. They returned for the Sunday service on our homecoming weekend.*

*Estimates of alumni who visited Caldwell for the Sunday centennial service were more than 20. Many of these alums took part in other centennial events earlier in the year.*

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*Amanda (Thomason) Berry, (far left), returned with granddaughters Sara and Rachel Poste, husband Jim Berry and daughter Meredith Poste. “I was baptized here,” she says. “My parents Arlene and Bubba Thomason were married here.”*

# A prayer for our discipleship

## Pastor's Message

Upon receiving **Mecklenburg Ministries' Community Service Award** last week, Urban Ministries Center Executive Director **Rev. Dale Mullennix** reminded the guests at the awards breakfast of what he called "the six-word obituary."

It is an exercise used to encourage people to think about their life and how they would sum it up, and it demands excruciating brevity. Dale is a man of deep faith and has dedicated his life to Christ's command in Matthew 25 to serve God by serving "the least" of our brothers and sisters. Not surprisingly for those who know him, his six-word obit was a humble and Christ-centered prayer: "So many chances. Why me, Lord?"

Dale's "six-word obituary" is a perfect prayer for our individual and

collective discipleship. As you read this column, I trust you are in the final stages of deciding how you will pledge your time, talent and treasure to our Lord and this church for 2013. On Sunday, Oct 28, we will conclude our Discipleship season by dedicating our pledges - and celebrating - in worship.

### "So many chances ...."

At Caldwell, we are not lacking in "chances" to serve neighbor and to serve Jesus. Over the last five years, our "menu" of ministries has grown from a short list that fit on one page to an inventory that fills an entire catalogue. The success of each of those ministries depends on your spiritual gifts. Each is a worthy and needed way to respond to God's love for you.

Do you want to work with children and youth, an area where we feel called to do more as the number of children here grows? Are you passionate about mission and justice? If so, you can shape our ministries by serving on the **Mission and Justice Committee**. Or, if you are more of a hands-on type, you can build **Habitat Houses**, work in the Caldwell garden to feed others or volunteer through **Room in the Inn**.

Are you fed spiritually by caring for others in our congregation - those who may be aging, in crisis or in need of transportation? Do you want to help build relationships within our church family, through fellowship activities and other gatherings?

Are you a young adult looking to meet and grow with others who share your interests and love of Caldwell? Do you like to read and discuss books? Interested in leading Sunday school or worship? Do you have skills with finance or administration or buildings and grounds?



Rev. John Cleghorn

Then there is our use of money. We all have different abilities to give but our personal covenant with our Lord is *not complete without* a financial commitment to help the Kingdom of God, a prayerful dedication of our money that honors where we think God belongs in our lives.

Are you tithing? If not, can you move closer to a tithe by increasing your pledge for 2013?

### "Why me, Lord?"

In the second half of Dale's prayer, we can hear our own voices. "Why me, Lord?"

Why any of us? Why has any of us been given the gift of this church family that has become so important to each of us? Why is any of us worthy to be called to be a disciple of Christ? How can we ever merit what our Lord has done for us and continues to do for us? Our faith teaches us that we cannot earn any of these things. Our best response is to say "yes" to that call, a "yes" that includes some level with sacrifice.

Then, we are fed, often to our surprise. When we feel as if we may miss that extra money we pledged to the church or that extra few hours a month, we find the opposite.

*Pastor's column...continued page 5*

*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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## Ofrenda to commemorate All Saints Day on Nov. 4

On November 4, Caldwell will again honor the “saints” that have gone before us with our traditional *ofrenda* in the sanctuary to commemorate **All Saints Day** and the “**Day of the Dead.**” Everyone is invited and encouraged to bring photographs, small mementos, and marigolds to place on the *ofrenda* to celebrate the lives of your deceased loved ones. Remembering the Latin American tradition of **Día de los Muertos** highlights our continuing connection to our Latino brothers and sisters at the **Bilingual Preschool**, throughout Charlotte, and in Guatemala.

An *ofrenda* is a table set up to honor and show respect to the memory of ancestors and is a way of recognizing the cycle of life and death that is human existence. In Mexico,



*pan de los muertos*, a special bread glazed with sugar, is always included on the *ofrenda*. 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. **Kitty Bohr**, CGN! correspondent

To: The Members of Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church,  
I want to thank all of you. For the support, encouragement, wonderful food, supplies and prayers you have given all of us at Merry Oaks. You have made this a much better place with your generous and loving hearts. Thank you so much! Have a fun and relaxing summer and I will see you in August.  
Sincerely,  
Marcy H. Closner  
P.E. Teacher

Think your donations of school supplies and volunteer support haven't made a difference to the students and staff at **Merry Oaks Elementary**? This nice note from teacher **Marcy Closner** expresses the thanks of a grateful community of students, parents and faculty.

Our dedicated CROP walkers included, from left to right, **Mark, Kim, Peg, Theresa, Rich, Elisabeth, Regina, Marion and Lal**. They put our best foot forward.

## CROP Walk makes strides to end hunger

CROP Walk Sunday was a wonderful success. After a fabulous lunch with the congregation, our team of 9 walkers set out. **Peg Robarchek, Elisabeth Downing, Mark Rowe, Rich Brooks, Regina, Theresa, and Kim** (our new friend Lal from Burma) and I spent the afternoon working off those desserts from the celebration! There was lots of talking, laughing, and sweating.

Our speed walker prizes go to Kim, Peg, and Elisabeth. We are still eating your dust! Fundraising prizes go to our walkers from B, whose combined donations are currently at \$900, and counting! Team totals are currently at \$1,500!

Caldwell, your generosity is incredible, and truly appreciated. Regina, Kim, and Theresa were thrilled and so proud at the end of the walk to serve in this way. They are excitedly awaiting their final totals in 2 weeks, when we will finish up our fundraising.

So, it is not too late to support Caldwell's hunger relief efforts through the CROP Walk. We will be accepting donations online or at church until October 28.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, Caldwell.



## Celebratory meals 50 years apart



*Do you notice the resemblance? These photos were taken from nearly the same vantage point - but 50 years apart. Caldwell marked 50 and 100 year milestones with meals in our gymnasium. Both celebrations drew large crowds to honor these significant events in the life of Caldwell. (Top photo: Mark Rowe)*



*Santonio Hampton, 19 months, and his grandmother Carolyn Hampton of Charlotte are ready for the Sunday centennial service. "It's nice. This is my first time," said Carolyn. "It's a nice house of the Lord."*

## Committee news

### Session

- On October 7, **Zoraida Stewart**, **Felicia Pine**, and **Jerry Ancrum** were elected to serve along with Elder **Ruth Curtis** on the Elder Nominating Committee for 2013. This committee will be responsible for searching for a slate of candidates to serve as Elders for 2013 - 2015.
  - The Session is planning to have it's annual retreat in November.
  - The Discipleship Campaign is in full swing. Letters about the campaign were sent out the members the first week of October.
  - **Pastor Veronica Rogers** will be with us through January 6, 2013.
- (By Mark Rowe, Clerk of Session)

### Education Committee

Enjoy working with children? We still need volunteers for our growing children's programs. Our volunteers assist once or twice monthly. The only requirements are a love for children and a background check (which the church will help administer). Please email **Sharon Harmon**, Education Committee chair, at [sharonharmon67@yahoo.com](mailto:sharonharmon67@yahoo.com). (By Sharon Harmon, Education Committee Chair.)



*A table of nametags awaits both members and guests prior to the start of the Sunday service as part of Caldwell's centennial observance.*

## Good grief!



**Veronica Rogers**

Our Centennial year has been one of excitement and celebration! On Friday, we danced the night away as we listened to the music of **Smitty Flynn** and the **Rivieras** band. And on Sunday, we worshiped joyfully followed by a banquet fit for a royal homecoming. But in between our Friday and our Sunday celebrations, we paused on Saturday to celebrate the life of a young man who did not live to see his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. Just in this year alone, we lost three dear parishioners who were instrumental in keeping this church alive, **Jimmy Todd**, **Ann Ranson**, and **Toby Herring**. We also grieved with our sisters and brothers of Caldwell who lost their parents, children, grandchildren and other family and friends over the past years. Even in the midst of the celebration last weekend, we were remembering those who had gone on to eternal life before us. But such is life. In between joy, there is bound to be pain.

We have all experienced losses — of a loved one, health, job, relationship, home, hopes, or dreams—so we all have something about which we grieve. Grief is a normal part of the journey of life, sometimes called “a reluctant journey.” Grief is a place where we would rather not go, yet we must.

The month of October is absolute breathtaking in North Carolina. But for some, the turning leaves, in spite of their beauty, serves as a reminder of the times when we faced the lost of someone we loved dearly. So the fallen leaves of autumn take on a new meaning. As we look forward to the festivities of the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, we sometimes dread the realization that there are those who will not be present at our tables. We are torn between the need to grieve and the demands to get into the spirit of the season. There is a way to do both. With help, we can cope with our feelings of grief during the holidays and help others to manage theirs.

Last year, on December 20, 2011, we gathered for Caldwell’s first “Blue Christmas” worship service. It was a time of reflection, acknowledgement of our grief and celebration of our loved ones who have departed this life and other losses. Those who participated in this contemplative service found this to be a time of comfort and sharing of sacred space, in our hearts and in this sanctuary. We left the gathering with a renewed sense of hope rather than added burden of grief. Our worshipers’ response to “Blue Christmas” brought about a greater awareness of the need to address our issues of grief rather than pretend that they do not exist.

We are blessed by our Caldwell sisters and brothers who are extraordinarily supportive when someone sustains a loss, surrounding the bereaved with spiritual, emotional and physical care. Among the questions often asked are “How can I support this person in his or her grief? What do I say that would be of comfort? What cliché do I need to avoid?”

Next month, we will have two workshops on bereavement that will help us to answer these questions and others. The sessions will be led by facilitators from *Hospice and Palliative Care of Charlotte* and are open to everyone. The first workshop, “**What’s so Good about Grief**,” will be held on Sunday, November 11 and will present a general overview of the grieving process. It is designed to increase our understanding of grief and help us to become more accommodating of others who are grieving. The second workshop, “**Grief and the Holidays**,” scheduled for Sunday, November 18, will provide insight into why the holidays can be so difficult and equip us with spiritual and emotional tools to cope with those feelings of pain. Both workshops will be held in the Shelby Room from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm on Sunday evenings. A light supper will be served.

Who should attend? This series on loss is a gift to anyone who has experienced grief or knows someone who is grieving. **Would that be you? See you there.**

### *Pastor’s column...*

In giving, we receive something nothing else in the world can provide – the joy of serving our God by serving others. By loving our neighbor as ourselves, we are offered the chance to see the face of our faith and to feel closer to Christ. That, I believe, is what the Macedonians experienced when they gave with such “*abundant joy and overflowing generosity*,” even when they had little to give.

“They gave themselves first to the Lord,” the Apostle Paul said of those disciples who demonstrated a “wealth of generosity.” There are all kinds of wealth. Theirs was the most “excellent,” said Paul, an expression of their sense of privilege of being loved by God. It was the same kind of self-less prayer as offered in Dale Mullennix’s prayer, “So many chances? Why me, Lord?”

### **Music Director search update**

After researching church music best practices, talking to area subject matter experts and reaching a consensus about Caldwell’s musical identity, the Music Director search committee is at an important milestone: a complete job description. The committee is circulating the description to key contacts in Charlotte and beyond. It hopes to receive and sort resumes and then move toward interviews in the next few weeks. Questions or candidates to committee chair **Jim Curtis** at [jcurtis1@carolina.rr.com](mailto:jcurtis1@carolina.rr.com).

# Dancing the night away

It wouldn't be a homecoming without a homecoming dance. Caldwell sure knew how to step to that tune during its centennial celebration.

A big crowd was on hand and in great spirits for the Friday night gala at **St. John's Baptist Church**. The mixed group included members, guests, **friends, friends of friends, and women from Elizabeth's Caldwell House**.

Unlike previous dances, this party also featured a silent auction along with the sale of other items to benefit Caldwell.

It didn't take long for the crowd to get into the swing of things thanks to the music of **Smitty Flynn and the Rivas**. All-in-all, a great way to kick off the centennial weekend by kicking up our heels.



Revelers dance the night away to the lively music of **Smitty Flynn** of a weekend of Caldwell's homecoming festivities. The evening *Estimates* pegged attendance at nearly 140.



**Smitty Flynn** - who doubles as leader of Caldwell's choir - works the keyboard as he entertains dancers.

Visitors (below) had a chance to purchase a variety of items with the proceeds to benefit Caldwell.



**Charlie Brown** and **Terry Nille** (left) and **Terry Nille Mancinelli** (right) graced the floor of wonderful dance as the festivities got underway.



# Way for their church



*...nn and the Riviervas at the celebratory dance on the first night ...g also included hors d'oeuvres, desserts and a silent auction.*

*Janet Blanchard ...s and Marie ...roove to the beat ...music. ...g (below) pose ...underway.*



*Gail and Vic Morris, friends of Jill and Smitty Flynn, are poised to grab a pen at the silent auction portion of the Caldwell dance. In the true Caldwell fashion of sharing, many attendees brought desserts and other foods to accommodate the crowd.*



# Centennial moments: Caldwell in spiritual journeys

With Caldwell wrapping up its centennial celebration, *CGN!* asked congregants and guests: *'What does Caldwell mean to you at this point in your spiritual journey?'*



*Caldwell has reconnected me with my spirituality. I had lost touch with the church, not with God, but now I know the true meaning of church.*  
**Johnny Johnson**



*Caldwell is a family I have never experienced in a church. I feel I am walking with people. It's a foundation and a purpose in my life.*  
**Cassandra Mays**



*My spiritual journey at Caldwell is connected very closely to the children of Caldwell. As I share Bible stories and lessons with the children each week, I find that I am given the constant opportunity to learn and grow spiritually. I try to help the children see how lessons from the Bible apply to their daily lives, and then I can also see clearly how the lessons apply to my daily life as well.*  
**Angela Everett**



*It's a blessing to go to Caldwell.*  
**Gino Harris**



*It means joy and community and growth, spiritual growth.*  
**Judy Atwell**



*Right now Caldwell is the only women's shelter, and if it wasn't for them, I'd be sleeping in the streets this very night.*  
**Hope Howard**  
(Hope is shown with a basket she made for sale at the dance. The basket did sell.)

*Journey...continued next page*





*Caldwell is the place where I have most felt I am the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.*

**Marion Idol**



*I live eight hours away from my family, and Caldwell provides the sense of family I don't have near here.*

**Sharon Harmon**



*Caldwell to me is about community. It is about sharing a community of faith with other people who are seeking. It is about asking questions, considering answers, and asking more questions within a community of faith that welcomes that kind of thing.*

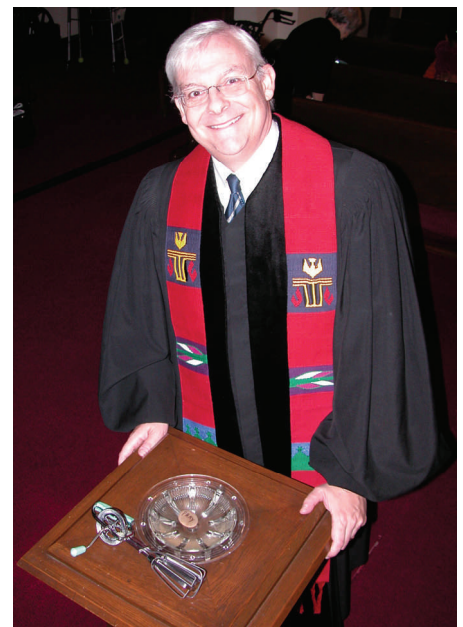
*It is about finding hope again and being able to share that hope by working in the Kingdom, among the Kingdom, and on behalf of the Kingdom. It is also about having an amazingly loving, caring, welcoming place to raise our daughter. A place that will allow her to form her faith and to continue to ask the questions we all have throughout her growing years. Most of all, it is a daily reminder of the miraculous things that are possible for all of us, individually and collectively, through the power of Grace and Love. So much so, that this place and these people often render me speechless, and that's not a condition I often find myself in.*

**Tovi Martin**



*It is community and an unconditional support that I feel blessed and loved and cared for.*

**Rhett Brown**



*In 5 years here, through the witness of so many remarkable Caldwell disciples and my ongoing study of the Gospels, my "Christology" (the knowledge and understanding of Jesus) has deepened and broadened. Every week I watch Caldwell folk respond to both the example of Christ's life and the meaning of his resurrection. As a result, I can better balance the two sides of Jesus - the human and the divine. What a gift it is to serve this church!*

**Pastor John Cleghorn**

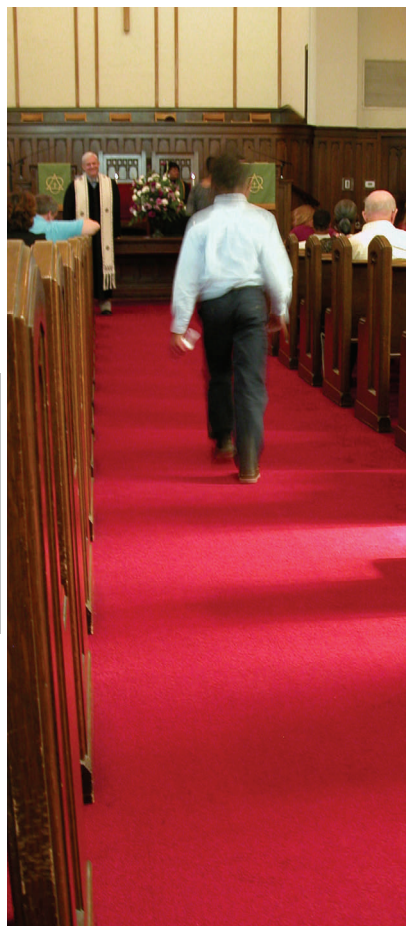
# Caldwell in photos...and more good news



Caldwell's garden plot is prepped for the planting season next spring (although one green pepper plant refuses to go quietly into the winter). **Katy Hill** says "Come spring we will give Caldwell members a chance to be good stewards of our earth and lay claim to a community garden plot, sharing a part of the abundant harvests that follow with neighbors in need." The garden shed is done, too.



**Myrtle Anderton and Donna Willis (top)** have visited several times. Donna says they looked at Caldwell "on your website and we saw your information." **Mike and Laura Simmons (below)** also dropped by. "We've been looking around and we really like this one and we will keep coming back," says Laura.



**Nathaniel Freeman** bounces his way down the aisle to join his friends for Sunday school.



**Jennifer Weaver**, came to Charlotte from Ft. Bragg. "I've been bouncing around at different churches, and I want to find a home somewhere." She had been looking online and found Caldwell.



# Caldwell Good News! Bulletin Board

## COMING UP SOON...

### OCTOBER

#### Monday, October 22

Finance committee, 12:15 - 1:30 p.m. upstairs

#### Tuesday, October 23

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

#### Wednesday, October 24

Mortar for Mission committee, 5:30 - 7: p.m.  
Shelby

### NOVEMBER

#### Tuesday, November 6

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

#### Thursday, November 8

Congregational Care committee, 6 - 8 p.m.,  
Shelby

#### Sunday, November 11

Lunch Bunch, 12:30 p.m. location TBD  
'What's so good about grief?' 6 - 8 p.m.  
Shelby

#### Monday, November 12

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

#### Tuesday, November 13

Merry Oaks committee, 10 a.m. - noon, Shelby

#### Wednesday, November 14

Mission & Justice committee, 6 - 7:30 p.m.,  
Shelby

#### Thursday, November 15

Education committee, 6 - 7:30 p.m., Shelby

#### Sunday, November 18

'Grief and the holidays', 6 - 8 p.m., Shelby

#### Monday, November 19

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

## Church Calendar

### 1st Monday

6:30 p.m. - Men's Group

### 2nd Monday

Women's Circle

### 3rd Monday

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

### 4th Monday

5:30 p.m., Session, Shelby

### 1st Tuesday

6:30 p.m. - Women's Group

### 2nd Tuesday

6:30 p.m. - Mission & Justice Comm., Shelby

### Wednesdays

7 p.m. - Choir practice

### 2nd Thursday

6 p.m., Congregational Care, Shelby

### 3rd Tuesday

12:15 p.m. - Finance committee, Upstairs

### 3rd Thursday

12:15 p.m. - Worship committee, Shelby  
6:30 p.m. - Education committee, Upstairs

### Every Friday

7:30 p.m., AA, Shelby

### Sundays

9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School, Upstairs

11 a.m. 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

Monday, 1:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### Pastor's Office Hours

Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Reach Pastor Cleghorn on his cell phone:

704-957-4511

## **PLEASE! REMEMBER OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND IN PERSON**

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

**Mrs. Barbara Atkinson** Lake Park Nursing Center

Mailing address 830 Faircrest Drive

**Miss Toby Herring** Carmel Hills

**Mrs. Irene Kennedy** 419 Clement Avenue

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

Charlotte, NC 28210

2801 Carmel Road, # 115

Charlotte, NC 28226

Charlotte, NC 28204

## 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 important, 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 Presbyterian Church

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