

“...It is because you chose to not forget”



Leanna Miller reads her poem ‘Thank You’ during a Sunday meal prepared by our guests at Caldwell House as their way to thank those who provided meals and other support during their stay in the Price Building. Her poem is reprinted on page 5.

Guests at the shelter return the favor for those who set food on the table for them

The women pooled resources - including food stamps - to prepare a table as so many others had done for them on so many Sundays, and all ate together in a meal that said,

among other things, *thank you for what you have done for us.*

After you receive, you should give

The meal was planned and prepared by all the women sheltered in **Elizabeth’s Caldwell House.**

For **Regina Caldwell**, one of many organizers, the meal was a *‘Thank you’ meal...page 5*



Regina Caldwell, who arrived in September, says “When I first came here (to Caldwell) I didn’t know it would be like this...with kindness and love.”



Diego and Dulce, as Joseph and Mary, led the La Posada (‘The Inn’) procession, a recreation of Mary and Joseph’s search for a room for the night. A story and more photos are on page 4. (Photo: Tom Bohr)

Inside this issue:

Pastor’s Message	2
Mortar for Mission makes gains	3
Caldwell walks in La Posada	4
‘Thank you’ meal	5
Christmas at Caldwell	6-7
We sponsor Modesta’s brother	8
Volunteers go up on the roof	9
New members, photos	10
Good News! Bulletin Board	11

The 12-Day Effect

Pastor's Message

One of the joys of Advent each year is sharing its meaning, both newfound and recovered, in the lives of others. Now, our time of waiting is almost over. In worship, we've moved beyond the Advent hymns to singing Christmas favorites.

Advent holds us back until the very moment we can wait no more. Our hope is pooled up as water brimming at the top of a dam, ready to flow it over or break it down altogether, taking with it, we pray, whatever weariness or despair we feel and carrying us into a new year of joy and growth.

The Caldwell young adult fellowship has taken time this year to get reacquainted with Advent, both its ancient meanings and its new. That sharing, in person and on Facebook,

not only helped us appreciate our time of expectation; it also inspired a new intentionality about what comes next, the Christmas season.

You remember the Christmas *season*, don't you? Christmas, after all, is not the morning you open your gifts before going to the movies in the afternoon and then beginning to dread the task of taking down the tree and the decorations. Christmas is a twelve-day season of jubilant praise that Christ has come to dwell among us.

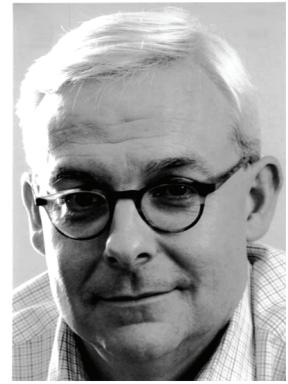
What if

What if, one member of the young adult group asked? What if we were as intentional about that twelve-day season as we have been about Advent? Might that help others hold onto the liturgical pace of life rather than giving in so quickly to the more secular talk of New Year's, resolutions and all of that?

What if we observed the Christmas season by giving of ourselves on each of the days of Christmas? It might work like this: On the first day of Christmas, we do one thing for one other person, on the second day we do something for two people and so on. Over the twelve days of Christmas, that's 66 acts of giving kindness per person. Adds up pretty quickly, doesn't it, especially of many of us are engaged?

A kind word to a stranger

What are we talking about here? What kind of giving? It might be something large, if we want to do that, or it can be something as simple as a kind word to a stranger, a small gesture to a valued friend, a simple gift or some other recognition to mark the season. Or, we could get together and do something for several people at once. What if we said the words "Merry Christmas" to the recipients of our efforts, to remind



Rev. John Cleghorn

her or him that we are still in the season of giving praise for the arrival of our Lord?

How we might inspire each other

Also, what if we shared our experiences, reactions and reflections with each other as we went (we'd share via the Caldwell Young Adults group on Facebook since there is so much else going on in the holidays)? We could exchange ideas about what kinds of things we are doing. What might we learn from each other? How might we inspire each other to carry the light into the world in new and creative ways?

So, let's do it, we said. We could call it the "12-Day Effect."

So, as of December 25, Christmas morning, through Jan. 5, the "12-Day Effect" is in effect. You don't have to be chronologically a young adult to participate. The more the merrier, the brighter the Light that we can give to others. Let our acts multiply!

Merry Christmas to all with most profound gratitude from the Clegorns to each one who considers Caldwell their church home!

Caldwell Good News!

A monthly publication of
Caldwell Presbyterian Church
1609 East Fifth Street
Charlotte, NC 28204
704-334-0825
<http://www.caldwellpresby.org>

Rev. John M. Cleghorn
Pastor
pastor@caldwellpresby.org

Veronica Rogers
Pastor

Rev. Dr. J. Diane Mowrey
Parish Associate

Leslie Gipple
Office Manager
admin@caldwellpresby.org

Contributing Editors
John Cleghorn
Dave Bradley



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*

Mortar for Mission passes \$116,000 mark

The drive to repair our aging church has made gains

Mortar for Mission, the effort to raise funds to make needed repairs to Caldwell's infrastructure, has passed the \$110,000 mark in pledges.

The funds have already been pressed into service. Peeling sanctuary walls have been repaired and repainted, but that is just the first step in significant repairs - as opposed to improvements - that await your church in the coming months.

"New pledges or donations have been coming in every day," said campaign chair **Johnny Johnson**. "We have received some gifts that were very generous indeed, but we are of course grateful for even the smallest gift, as every dollar counts. We still are hopeful that all who are a part of Caldwell will participate in some way. The newly painted sanctuary is joyous to see, and how exciting it will be to see other projects reach fruition."

Tom Bohr of the **Buildings and Grounds Committee** said the funds address both structural and visible items that the church, by his estimate, was not able to adequately address for the prior 15 to 20 years before Caldwell's recent rebirth. The visible areas for repair, such as stained glass windows, "tends to be more expensive. The funds are to restore and maintain the church," not for non-essential projects. "The painting makes me feel great," said Tom. "We know that people like **Jimmy Todd**, wanted to see this done." The late Mr. Todd was often seen tending to some physical element of the Caldwell campus.

The campaign has helped "turn the corner," said Tom. "We are now able to do these things."

If anyone is not familiar with the campaign, please see Johnny, **Beth Van Gorp**, Tom or any minister.



Mortar for Mission Committee chair **Johnny Johnson** makes the case for pledges during an informational luncheon held early in December. Pledges of any amount are welcomed. The campaign runs through December.



New sheet metal coping being installed over capstones on back parapet wall of sanctuary.



Painting of the exterior of Caldwell buildings in process. (Photos and captions: Tom Bohr)

Caldwell walks with Hispanic friends in La Posada

More than 130 follow in the steps of Mary and Joseph to find room in the inn

La Posada - The Inn - is the annual re-creation of the steps **Mary** and **Joseph** took to find overnight shelter - but only after repeatedly being turned away. The procession has been part of the Christmas observance of Hispanics for centuries.

This year Caldwell members and guests walked with families from the **Bilingual Preschool** - an assemblage estimated at more than 130 worshipers - and later held a joint service ("We journeyed with Mary and Joseph as if in a foreign place...before finding a place in the inn," Pastor **John Cleghorn** told the congregation the following Sunday) and then enjoyed a communal meal (plus numerous attempts to break open a piñata, which finally yielded and spilled its bounty on the floor of Fellowship Hall, much to the delight of the children).

*Mary and Joseph were turned away repeatedly, this time by inn keepers portrayed by **Ann and Alex Smythers** (below). The piñata (below, right) was built to take a beating - and it got one. (Photos: **Tom Bohr**)*



*The candlelit **La Posada** procession wound its way from Caldwell to a nearby park where Mary and Joseph tried to find room anywhere - and settled on an inn.*



After the procession, celebrants gathered for a joint bilingual service.



'Thank you' meal...

"small token" to those who had helped shelter and feed homeless women month after month.

"To me, after you receive, you should give," said Regina, who has been at the shelter since September. "When I first came here, I didn't know it would be like this, with the kindness and love for people in our circumstance."

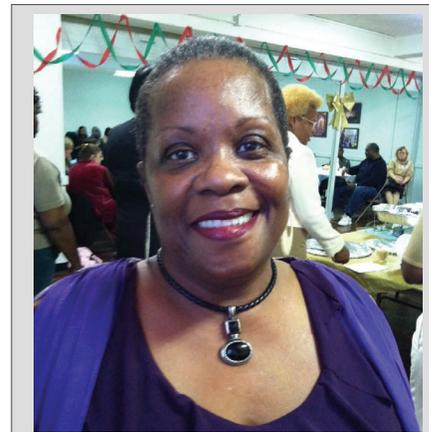
The women began to return the favor in the early morning hours on Sunday, according to **Tamika Giles**. "We started to work at 2 a.m. making food," said Tamika. "It was just amazing, all this teamwork. We ate cold cereal in the morning so we could have more time to do this."

The women's hard work goes back to Caldwell's missional effort to create a Sunday Sabbath shortly after the shelter opened. Pastor **John Cleghorn** said the church asked women 'what would be most helpful to you?' Their response: 'A day off for rest from their daily duties of finding work, among other things.'

Pastor Cleghorn said it was beneficial to the women to be able to stay at Caldwell all day Sunday. It meant, too, that women would have to be fed, hence creation of the Sunday breakfast and later, a Sunday noon meal, all of which was prepared by church volunteers, including food donated by neighborhood restaurants, such as **Nothing But Noodles**, as well as other congregations and individual sponsors.



*"It was just amazing, all this teamwork," said **Tamika Giles**. "We ate cold cereal in the morning so we could have more time to do this."*



*"It is one of my gifts from God is to write anything I choose," says **Leanna Miller**. "When I think of words for this occasion, I think 'gratitude'. Words come to me."*

THANK YOU

*From the bottom of our hearts, we want to say, "Thank You"!!!
Not that these mere words are enough to convey what we really feel to be true.*

*It was your acts of kindness to give us food to make sure that we were fed,
While others' actions gave us a clean peaceful place to lay our heads.
Some gave us clothes and coats to cover our bodies and backs,
Others gave time and knowledge to help take us out of lack.*

*We were even gifted with many recreational activities of art crafts, beauty and exercise,
We were told the words of GOD to heal our spiritual, mental, and emotional cracks to help give us peace and help make us wise.*

*It is because you chose to not forget,
Even when the burdens of your own lives did beset!!!
You remembered to help others less fortunate than you,
You showed the love of GOD and what it can and will always do!!!*

*No, the mere words, "Thank You", could never convey,
All the gratitude we really feel that these two little words can never truly say!!!*

**Thank You!!!
From the Ladies of Caldwell House
By Leanna R. Miller
December 16, 2012**

The women of Caldwell House pooled their resources, including their food stamps, to plan, purchase and prepare plenty of food, decorate Fellowship Hall, host and serve, and clean up after their wonderful meal. They also prepared gift bags for sponsors who have been so helpful during the shelter's stay at Caldwell.

The Christmas season

It is Christmas time again at Caldwell. The church is alive with sights (and sounds) of the season from solemn services to greenery and décor to the happy voices of singing children.



The ledges below our stained glass windows (above) were decorated with care, and candles on the **Advent Wreath** waits to be lit at the start of Sunday services.

Our **Women's Circle** held their annual luncheon at Sharon Towers (upper right). 19 diners attended. The refurbished front doors were festooned with wreaths, and our tree in the sanctuary was decorated with traditional **Christmons**. Alongside is the nativity scene that was part of our **La Posada** celebration.



For the second year, a solemn **Blue Christmas** service was held on a Thursday evening. The service is a time for those who have felt any sort of loss during the year to reconnect with the larger meaning of the season. Here, **Jim Curtis** provides a musical interlude to befit the occasion.



Our tree was decorated by **Richard Campbell, Susan Poel, Marilyn Rowland, and Lynn Watson**.

at Caldwell Presbyterian



The voices - and faces - of 21 youthful singers lit up a Sunday service (with help from maestro *Angela Everitt* and the accompaniment of *Zach Thomas*) with their renditions of *What Christmas Means* and *Away In A Manger*.

What would you give the Christ child for Christmas?

In keeping with an *Upside Down Advent*, CGNI asked members and guests if they could give a gift to Jesus, what would it be?



A bed
Joe McDonough



A song, because that's the only way I talk to God.
Manley Roberts



The words that come to mind are serenity and peace. There would be no object I could give Him. God knows how great he is. He doesn't need me to tell Him.
Jim Everitt



I would give him praise. What else can you give Jesus but praise?
Nigel Salter

Gift...continued

*I would just give him
my smile.*
Felicia Pine



*I would give Him a
basket filled with all
things bright and
beautiful, and then
sing Him a lullaby of
joy and light and
hope.*
Linda Sluder



*I think to extend peace to other
people as best I can, and to my-
self, too.*
Fred Powers



*I want to say love.
That is what I would
give.*
Ruby Jones



My love and my heart.
Mary Lou Lindsey



Service. Time.
Caroline Lublinkhof



Honor.
Tiffany Salter



*Right now I can't
think of anything wor-
thy.*
Elora Hefner

Change in Common Hope sponsorship keeps ties to Modesta's family

Recent changes in the situation of Maria Modesta Raxón Chajón, the student Caldwell has sponsored for four years through **Common Hope** in Guatemala, bring changes in our sponsorship as well.

Modesta, now 14, started school near age 10 and completed the fourth grade. However, she will not return to school in January. Instead, she will stay home and help her family on their small farm near San Rafael. Her decision is understandable, said **Kate Heider**, sponsorship manager for Common Hope. "In her traditional Mayan community, it is expected that a girl is married by age 17, so she is also preparing for the next stage of her life. While this is not the dream we would have had for Modesta, I always remember that she now has more education than her mother, who had no formal education, and even her father, who only passed second grade."

Though we are saddened by Modesta's decision, there is also good news. Since Caldwell decided some time ago to sponsor a Common Hope child, we requested another child, and have been reassigned to Fermin Raxón Chajón, Modesta's six-year-old brother, who is now in preschool. This perfect match allows us to keep up with Modesta and deepen ties with the family.

Caldwell members who have visited Modesta's family during vision trips will remember Fermin as a lively, engaging youngest boy who loved playing with airplanes. When **Zach Thomas** was in Guatemala recently for the graduation of the child he and **Sally** have sponsored for years, he visited San Rafael and delivered a letter full of love and good wishes for Modesta and a backpack full of school supplies and toys for Fermin. The photo on the right shows Fermin at school with his gifts from Caldwell. Even more importantly, our Common Hope sponsorship provides schooling for him and social work, nutritional and medical support for his family.

Joyce Deaton, CGN! correspondent



Another building block in Caldwell's mission



Caldwell volunteers find satisfaction up on the roof

Caldwell volunteers cemented - or, rather, shingled - their reputation as willing, hard workers for **Habitat for Humanity**.

Our work crews climbed atop a roof in Northwest Charlotte on a brisk Saturday morning to tear off and replace shingles. Usually, teams build homes, but Habitat has programs for those who need repair and home rehab rather than construction.

Lisa Sorzano of Habitat said homeowners who apply for the program pay approximately 10% of the project cost. "They do pay us a small amount or whatever they can afford to pay," she said.

That's when Caldwell volunteers step into the picture, and their work is highly appreciated and prized, said Habitat work site coordinator **Cody Shores**. "A lot of our volunteers don't have any construction experience," he said, as he went on to compliment Caldwell workers. "As long as they have a good attitude and want to work, I'll take that all day long. We couldn't get done what we get done without volunteers like those at Caldwell."

It cuts both ways. "Being out here and helping folks to have a safe place that is wonderful for their family," said **Sheena Bossie**, is what brings her out to projects. "I learn new skills along the way and there's great fellowship with the people at Caldwell."



Caldwell volunteers (left) take five during a Saturday morning re-shingle as part of another Habitat for Humanity project.

*Above, **Greg Shell** and **Sheena Bossie** know how to attach shingles.*

"I just feel so good," says Greg about lending a hand. "The work is hard but the end result is when you see how happy they (homeowners) are and appreciative of it. It makes me feel happy."



Cornie gets Pres. Life Membership
Longtime Women's Circle Bible teacher **Cornie Pleasants** has received a **Life Membership in the Presbyterian Women**. Circle leader **Elaine Hultman** said the award recognizes "everything she has done through the years. She has been our bible teacher through all the changes in the church." That includes years with high Circle attendance on through when just a few people went to Circle meetings, said Elaine.

'Tis the season...for coats!

The women of Caldwell House are a little warmer this season.

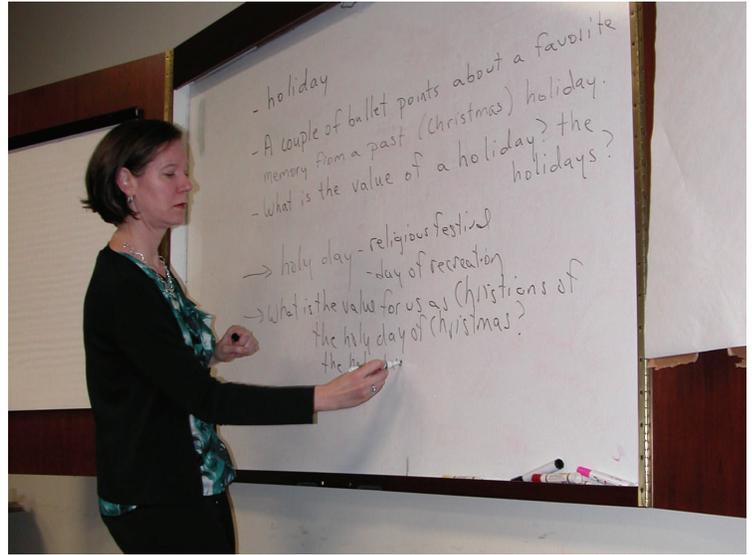
It is reported that **Susan Poel** arranged for 19 coats to be given to the women, and **Carol King** found another 12 coats to be put to good use.

Thanks to all who donated such important winter clothing.

New members, and Caldwell in pictures



Our newest members (from left to right) **Brooks Johnston, Ben Boyles, Rich Brooks and Jonathan Hardin.**

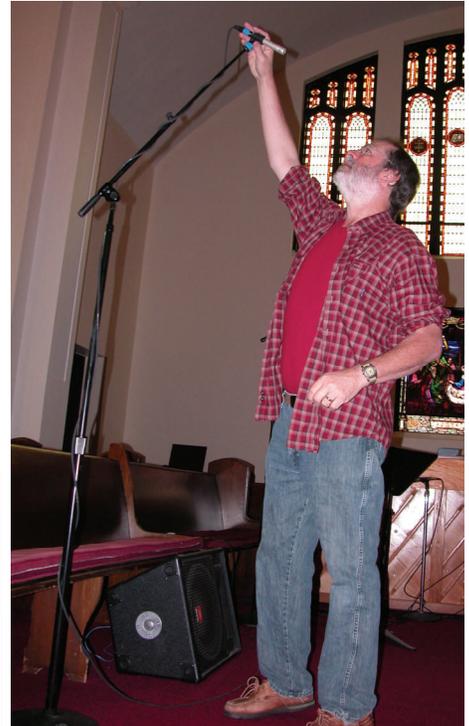


Helen Hull notes material for the adult Sunday school class on the Advent series, *Preparing for Christmas*. She said there is no class on Sunday, Dec. 30 but a new class starts Jan. 6 at 9:45 a.m. Also, she said "We are in the process now of planning Adult education offerings...for 2013." If you have topics you would like to see covered or would like to help coordinate, contact Helen at 704-806-1410, nchelen2012@gmail.com.



As usual, there are and visitors (not strangers) in our midst.

Clockwise from top left: **Bud Lohr and Linda Shenton-Lohr** of Ft. Mill; **Darrell and Marie Hayes** of Charlotte; **Fabio Ramos** of Cornelius, **James Duckworth, Brent Clevenger and Jodie Granger**, all of Charlotte.



Sound master **Don Cowen** does his Sunday sound check. Don has done faithful duty for several years. If you would like to help Don, reach him at dcowen@carolina.rr.com.

Caldwell Good News! Bulletin Board

COMING UP SOON...

DECEMBER

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service, 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

JANUARY

Tuesday, January 8

Yoga, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, January 9

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

Thursday, January 10

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

Sunday, January 13

Guatemala information meeting, 12:30 - 1:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Monday, January 14

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

Tuesday, January 15

Finance Committee, 12:15 - 1:30 p.m., Up stairs

Yoga, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Thursday, January 17

Education Committee, 6:30 - 8 p.m., Upstairs
Worship Committee, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Shelby

Monday, January 21

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

Tuesday, January 22

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

Yoga, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

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 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 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

Mrs. Irene Kennedy 419 Clement Avenue

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

Charlotte, NC 28210

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

1609 East Fifth Street
Charlotte, NC 28204

<http://www.caldwellpresby.org>



Caldwell Good News! (USPS 082-860) is published monthly by Caldwell Presbyterian Church, 1609 East Fifth Street, Charlotte, NC 28204. Periodicals postage paid at Charlotte, NC. **POSTMASTER:** Please send address changes to Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1609 East Fifth Street, Charlotte, NC 28204.