

Caldwell House to shelter women through year end

Homeless women will stay with us through December; 'best partnership ever'

Saying that Caldwell "sets the tone" for how the faith community can minister to homeless women, the Director of Social Services for the **Salvation Army** said the "people on the front lines working with the homeless were pretty happy about the news" that the doors to our Caldwell House will remain open to shelter homeless women through the end of 2013.

Deronda Metz said on any given night, 700 women in Charlotte are homeless, and the 50 beds Caldwell devotes to provide warm and safe housing "is really huge, it is definitely helpful. The need is so great."

Beyond meeting a critical need, Caldwell's 'let women stay here' attitude buys more time for the Salvation Army and other local advocates for the homeless to find other long term solutions. "It puts some

other plans in place," said Metz. "Any time we can have something in the interim is going to be of benefit to the people we serve who are just trying to get some shelter."

Caldwell House was barely two months away from shuttering the doors when the Salvation Army determined that a workaround could be made on cost issues. Gone would be computer classes, Sunday Sabbaths and other resources that help women collect themselves, land jobs and apartments.

But it is Caldwell's missional willingness to open our collective arms

to those in need that Metz said is especially significant.

"I think Caldwell sets the tone, a model of how you would really like to see a safe community," said Metz. "It sets a tone of how when the faith community gets involved with a non-profit those both mesh and we can get a positive result."

She said there were other facilities the Salvation Army might have been able to open "but those would not have had the same impact" as has been felt at Caldwell.

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Preschool classes open to 20 students

Classes now open on a reduced scale; 'these are American-born children'

The **Charlotte Bilingual Preschool** opened its doors in the Price Building on January 22 to 20 students ages 4-5. This year's number of children is roughly half the number served at Caldwell in recent years. The focus of instruction remains the same - to build student and familial skills to succeed in Charlotte, notably as relates to learning English.

Caldwell member and preschool interim director **Ann Alford**, said parents of preschoolers "are thrilled because the alternative is their child would go directly from their home to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools speaking no English and unprepared for a daily classroom routine." Ann also said *Preschool...page 4*



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Onward and Upward

Pastor's Message

My father was one of those dads that didn't mind being perceived as a bit corny. One indication of this was that his parting words – whether in person, in letters or e-mails – were always “Onward and Upward.”

As I look out over all that lies before us in 2013, those words seem apt. We have a new session in place to guide and direct our various areas of ministry and engagement. I feel honored to work with this group of committed disciples, which, actually, is true with every session. More important, their leadership is backed by the remarkable energy of the congregation and sustained growth in our membership and resources.

Also, we move on into a bright future in God's care and providence. Following up on all that we learned

and experienced in our 2012 centennial, we will mark where we are as a five-year old church in a 100-year old body (so to speak). We will gather together to talk about our future, cast our eyes upward for direction and set course for our ministry together for the next three to five years.

Let me say a bit more about both your session and a plan to engage you in setting Caldwell's course for the next 3-5 years.

The Caldwell Session for 2013

Five newly elected officers join seven who continue serving their three-year terms. On Jan. 22nd, the session adopted the structure depicted in the chart page 3.

Each of these elders or their designees will be reaching out to everyone who signed up for a role in last fall's Discipleship Campaign (Time and Talent pledges), if they have not already. If you have any questions about any of these areas, ask the appropriate elder or me. Keep in mind all session meetings (fourth Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Shelby Room) are open and any information from the session meetings can be shared, unless it deals with sensitive personnel matters.

Caldwell in 3D: Discernment, Discussion, Dreams

Soon you will be hearing more about how the session wants to invite everyone's help and wisdom in thinking about the future of the church. To be clear, our Mission Statement remains our guiding star. But, because God is always doing “a new thing,” we should regularly seek the Lord's purpose for how we live up to that Mission Statement – and we should do it together. The Session is calling this visioning process “Caldwell in 3D: Discernment, Discussion, Dreams.”

Discernment: As a first step, we



Rev. John Cleghorn

will invite the congregation to read and learn more about what it means for a church to be truly “Missional” and “Transformational.” These adjectives describe what we want the Caldwell experience to be – both for ourselves and for those we serve in God's name.

Discussion: As a second step, we will organize the congregation into small groups for two important reasons: First, to build new relationships and strengthen old ones. Second, to share ideas and inspirations relating to one or more of the following key areas in the life and future of Caldwell: Use of our Campus; Purposeful Congregational Growth and Diversity; Meaningful Worship; Nurturing and Educating Youth and Children (Youth Spiritual Development); Use of our Minds and Growth in our Faith (Adult Spiritual Development); Deepening and Strengthening Congregational Relationships, Care and Life.

Dreams: From the congregation's small-group conversations, a working group will be organized and charged to draft a bold and compelling “dream-filled” plan for the next stage in our life together. It will be

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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

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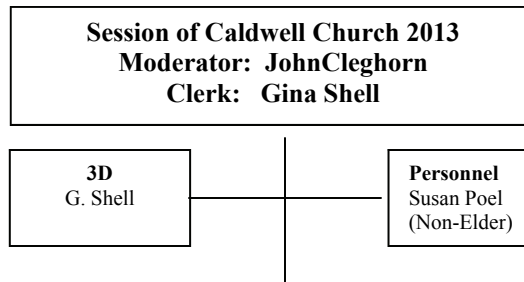
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How your church works: the Session, Committees

Session, committee assignments set

The session, Caldwell’s governing body comprised of Elders, along with the committee assignment for Elders, is now set for 2013.



Mission & Justice Alex Smythers	Worship R. Campbell	Education C. Lublinkhof	Buildings/ Grounds T. Bohr	Congreg. Care R. Curtis	Finance M. Griffin	Administration K. Bohannon	Newcomers J. Johnson
Propose M&J priorities for Caldwell’s ministries of time/talent and treasure; Recruit and organize teams to do M&J ministry Latino Ministries Coordinating Committee	Working with ordained staff, plan for implementation of all Worship and Sacrament ministries. Includes leadership, direction for worship music and choir director(s) Special Services Weddings	Adult C.E. and Spiritual Formation classes Nursery Godly Play School-Aged Class Youth- Middle and High School Public Forums (with Missions and Justice)	Campus maintenance, repairs , Capital Projects, organization of volunteer labor. Co-Administration of Mortar for Mission Fund Help manage relationship with on-campus ministry partners	Visitation Crisis Care Funerals/bereavement Intercessory Prayer Team Transportation	Works with session to build and monitor budget; oversee all financial systems; advice and support for Office Mgr., develop money handling protocols Co-Administer Mortar for Mission Fund	Ensures church has administrative and information systems to achieve its mission. Projects as needed General Office and Communications support Advises on leases, insurance, etc.	Attention to visitors and newcomers; welcome, invitation, orientation to life of church; Engages new members in church ministries working with Volunteer Coordinator

Discipleship
S. Harmon-Robinson

Vol. Coordinator –

Stewardship of Time, Talent, Treasure; includes raising the church’s budget, recruiting volunteers for various ministries.

Congregational Life
Y. Wilson, W. Petty

Fellowship (monthly activities)
Women’s Circle; Women’s Group; Men of Caldwell; Young Adults; Book Club, etc.
Wednesday/Sunday night programming

Meet our new intern, Phanta Lansden

Phanta Lansden has joined Caldwell’s ministry staff as an intern. She is a student at **Union Seminary** in Charlotte, with a focus on leading Worship and Congregational Care.

The mother of three young children (**Alivia, Aria and Aryn**) her favorite Bible verse is Proverbs 3:5-6: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.*

Pastor John Cleghorn said “she brings, as with all of our interns, her individual perspective and experience in training for ministry and for being a child of God. As a young mother, she helps us stay in touch with the life of young parents, such as having to juggle everything. As a person with master’s degree in social work, she has skills and insights into our Mission & Justice activities, including Caldwell House. She’s already demonstrated that she brings energy and emotion to the style in which she leads worship.”

Her first impression of Caldwell: “Amazing!”



Church makes hay with CROP walk



*Caldwell CROP walkers (and their supporters) take a deserved break to accept awards for their mileage. Left to right: **Pat Killian, Stephen Idol, Marion Idol, Regina Caldwell, and Jennifer Hall** (Charlotte CROP director). Walkers not shown: **Theresa Riley, Kim Barnes, Peg Robarchek, Mark Rowe, Rich Brooks, Lal Chhuangi and Elisabeth Downing.***

The group donned their walking shoes and walked on behalf of their pledgers on an October Sunday to raise money to alleviate hunger in the Charlotte area.

Preschool from page 1

parents are anxious for their children to learn English and to become accustomed to and be aware of the social-emotional issues that are part of the elementary school experience. Command of English is the cornerstone to success in school for children of immigrant families. Without it, students “will be labeled as problematic from a social and academic standpoint,” said Ann. “We are giving them a boost up because they are learning faster.”

Yet the educational effort extends beyond each preschooler to their families. “We are also reaching the parents as well, and that is part of our success,” said Ann. “We teach parents how to interact with teachers and attend parent teacher conferences. Many parents have a limited education so we emphasize the importance of going to school, arriving on time, supporting the school and participating as a volunteer. Parents are required to take at least one semester of English.”

That the preschool was able to open this year is due to the generosity of an unnamed donor. The program at Caldwell is not licensed as a preschool but the primary Central Avenue location is, and that may open doors for future funding. The Caldwell location is “not eligible for state funding, but I do see a growing interest in early childhood education for the bilingual child,” said Ann.

Education is the primary mission of the preschool, but according to Ann, its base work reflects other societal needs, too.

“I think that, number one, these are God’s children, and number two, it’s an underserved population, and immigration is a highly volatile social issue,” said Ann. She thinks that may help spur a larger conversation among all the parties “Once people wrap their heads around the fact these are American-born children, it becomes a social justice issue. It’s also educating the community that they are American-born children. who don’t go away even if the parents are deported.”

Recently, nearly 200 people celebrated the success of the 2012 Charlotte CROP Walk, which raised over \$295,000. Several awards were given for fundraising, years of service, etc. But most special was the award for Inspirational New Participants. Our own **Regina Caldwell, Theresa Riley, and Kim Barnes** of Caldwell House were the winners. They were also the 26th highest fundraisers overall with \$1,087 raised. Only Regina could be at the awards dinner, as the others are now with family out-of-state. But it was very special for her to be honored in this way. Our beloved Ms. Pat was also on hand to celebrate with us.

Thanks to our Caldwell walkers from the congregation: Peg, Mark, Rich, and friends Lal and her friend Elisabeth. And last, but certainly not least, thanks for all of you for your support of all of us, especially Regina, Theresa, and Kim.

Marion and Stephen Idol, CGN! correspondents

Shelter from page 1

How Caldwell warmed to, and then supported, the shelter was very telling to Metz. “The church embraced it so well - which we just love - it’s so different when you have a church passionate about it because they will figure out ways to make it result,” said Metz. “The church embraces the partnership (with the Salvation Army) and the shelter more so. This is the best partnership ever.”

So, what would Metz tell the Caldwell congregation? “What I would tell them, the congregation at Caldwell, is we are so thankful to them opening up their congregation, opening up their hearts and embracing the women we serve, and treating them as part of their ministry. We are just thankful.”

*Learn more about volunteering at Caldwell House. Contact Volunteer Coordinator **Jackie Trail** with Salvation Army at Jaclyn.trail@uss.salvationarmy.org or speak with **John Cleghorn.***

The Confession of Belhar



Liz Wagner

Another confession? Didn't we already vote on this? Why now and why this one? Yes, yes and good question...

In 2010, the 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church asked presbyteries to decide whether the Confession of Belhar should be included in the *Book of Confessions*. During the period the presbyteries were discussing the Belhar Confession; they were also contemplating our new form of government and amending ordination standards. With all that going on, some speculate that the need for another confession and the specificity of Belhar to address that need did not receive the attention it deserved. To that end, the 220th General Assembly has commissioned a special committee to 'reopen the case' and determine if the Belhar Confession should be reintroduced to the presbyteries for inclusion in *Book of Confessions*. I have been selected to serve on the special committee and will travel to Louisville, KY to attend our first meeting in February.

At this point, I have little to share about this beautiful document that could fit into an already full newsletter. So I beg your indulgence, please allow me to share my reflections and insights as the committee's deliberations unfold over the next few months. I begin the 'Belhar journey' with these rather naive understandings:

- The Reformed tradition acknowledges that Christians from other times and locations provide witness to the how the Word of God calls them to worship God and interact in the world.
- Confessions are statements constructed when the truth of the gospel is at risk and the integrity of the church is threatened.
- Nine of the eleven confessions originated from a European perspective. Belhar was written in South Africa.
- The Belhar Confession proclaims "that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ...that God calls the church to stand by people in any form of suffering and need and against injustice and with the wronged."

I am excited to participate in the operations of the church on a denomination level and sharing the journey and insights with you.

Return to a Sacred Place...Join the Caldwell Vision Team in Guatemala

Plans are underway for our third mission trip to Guatemala in October. We had an enthusiastic turnout at our first information meeting on January 13! The second meeting for anyone interested in joining the team, hearing about **Common Hope** or learning about Caldwell's commitment to the people of Guatemala will be held on **February 10** right after Sunday worship. Join us for a light lunch so that we can answer your questions and share our excitement about an experience that is sure to change and enrich you in unexpected ways. There is a possibility of sponsorship funding for anyone who would love to join the Vision Team, but who feel financial constraints. If this opportunity speaks to you, we hope that you will join us! We also invite former Vision Team members to join us for lunch to share their experiences with others.

The **Vision Team will be in Guatemala on October 6 through October 13, 2013**. The trip leader is **Cathy Lum** (704-237-3731; catbivslp@aol.com). Please feel free to contact her with questions or to let her know if you are interested even if you can't come to one of the lunch meetings. By the way, joining us for a lunch is not a commitment to join the team - but we hope that you will!

Caldwell's relationship to the people of Guatemala goes far beyond the few days when our church's team is on the mission trip. Several members sponsor children through Common Hope, purchase coffee through *As Green as it Gets*, provide supplies, maintain an interest in the justice issues of the region and simply pray for our friends in Guatemala. Trips to Guatemala are an integral part of Caldwell's mission and justice ministry and enhance work that we are doing locally in our community.

As Caldwell begins plans to return to Guatemala, those who have gone before remember their experiences and how they have been forever changed by the kindness and spirit of the children and families served by Common Hope, the mission of Common Hope and the beautiful country of Guatemala. We hope that you will open your hearts to the opportunity and join us on this journey as we return to a sacred place.



This year the **Caldwell Garden** is being divided into community garden plots maintained by individuals or teams, with sign up on a first come, first serve basis. We will continue our mission of feeding the hungry by asking participants to share a portion of their bounty. Guidelines and recommended donors will be provided and a commitment fee of \$25 will go toward the cost of water and other supplies.

A few plots are still available and a workday to prep the ground is set for Saturday, March 9. Contact **Merritt Tracy** (merritt.tracy@hotmail.com) or **Katy Hill** (catherine.hill@gmail.com) if you would like to stake a claim this spring in the Caldwell Garden!

The Christmas season ends on a high note for guests

A final Christmas party for our shelter guests was a good way to provide them personal items they need. **Cassandra Mays** worked for several months to secure the donated items (toiletries, Bibles, watches, etc.) that were very well received. Cassandra also orchestrated the festivities held in Fellowship Hall.



Cassandra Mays stands with two of the several tables she weighted down with gifts for the women of Caldwell House. Aside from ample gifts for everyone, she also arranged for food - and an overall great time. Every guest received a Bible (left). Below, a basket of brightly wrapped watches were much appreciated, too, as were the bags of other personal goodies. Great job, Cassandra!



Mortar for Mission at nearly \$140,000

Mortar for Mission, the fund to help repair and potentially restore vital portions of Caldwell's aging infrastructure, has reached \$139,500 according to campaign chair **Johnny Johnson**. Johnny said "We are thrilled to have received so many pledges and gifts to the campaign. Needs are great and the work has already begun. While we are greatly blessed, we remain far short of what is needed to make all of the critical repairs to the church and campus. Please know that it is not too late to give or pledge. It will take help from us all to be good stewards of the gifts that have been handed down to us."

Pastor from page 2

informed and shaped by everyone's input and provide a map for the first part of our second century.

If you would like to be part of the team that organizes and directs the Caldwell in 3D initiative, just contact Gina Shell or me. Onward and upward. Amen.

Years of going on to glory



Will Davis, Caldwell Intern

One of the real joys, for me, of being an intern in ministry at Caldwell Presbyterian is having the opportunity to spend time in the church buildings themselves each week. There is so much history here. It is recorded in the brick and mortar, and in the witness of generations of faithful disciples of Jesus Christ who have been called to worship and serve the Lord in this particular place.

On my first day here, I found a copy of the *Caldwell Cookbook* that was published in December of 1975. In addition to recipes, it included a brief history of this church which was birthed in March of 1912, when eighty people from the Elizabeth neighborhood appointed a commission to organize them into a congregation. What began as a small frame building at the corner of East 5th and Park Drive has grown into the large campus we occupy today.

If you haven't done so lately, take the time to stop and look around when you pass through the small anteroom that leads from the main sanctuary to the Shelby Room. It is known as the Memory Room, and the artifacts on display there are a window into the past of both our church and our denomination. Among the things you will find are a collection of Presbyterian hymnals dating back to 1917; a silver plate presented to the church by the Girls Circle of 1918; the Roll of the Ladies Adult Bible Class of 1923; and memorials to Caldwell members who have gone on to glory.

Those of us who work in the church office on Tuesday mornings usually get together for a brief devotion prior to our weekly staff meeting. We had gathered one morning in the Prayer Room, which is located on the hallway just behind the chancel. I asked others about the room's history. It turns out among its many uses over the years it had once been the Session meeting room. As we reflected upon how we had now joined the long line of faithful witnesses who had used this room, Hebrews 12:1-2 came to mind: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us...run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

Just as it would have been impossible for the people who established this church a century ago to imagine the new thing that God is doing at Caldwell today, there is no way we can peer into the future and see exactly where the Holy Spirit will take us next. But in the coming months, under the guidance of the Session, we will have a unique opportunity as a congregation to engage in an intentional process of Discussion, Discernment and Dreaming about our future. We are calling it *The Future in 3D*, and Pastor Cleghorn has more details about it in his newsletter column this month.

We are all a part of the ongoing history of this great church. We have joined the long line of disciples of Jesus Christ who have shaped its witness. So I hope that you will feel led to join in this exciting venture, as we seek to participate with the Holy Spirit in shaping the worship and mission of Caldwell's next hundred years!

What Do You Contemplate Giving Up for Lent?

What are you giving up for Lent?

In a few weeks, lots of folks will start talking about "giving up" something for Lent. Chocolate is a popular sacrifice, or sugar. Neither one of those has ever worked too well for me. A couple of years ago I gave up Facebook for Lent. I'm not sure I can be that strong again.

Here's an idea for this year: Give up one hour a week.

Just one hour. One hour that you might otherwise spend on Facebook. An hour with your favorite electronic game. An hour of *Downton Abbey* or *Fifty Shades of Grey*.

Maybe an hour spent sitting in traffic after work.

What if you give up an hour that you fill with something dispensable and fill it with contemplative prayer?

Beginning the day after Ash Wednesday, you're invited to gather for 20 minutes of contemplative prayer, followed by a half hour of discussion about the many expressions of prayer. We'll meet every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. through the Lenten season and will conclude with Caldwell's second annual 24-hour prayer vigil during Holy Week.

The dates are February 14 (yes, we know that's Valentine's Day, but the day was, after all, named for a saint, so what better way to celebrate than to include some very special prayer time), February 21 and 28, March 7, 14 and 21. The time is 5:30 p.m.

Liz Wagner and I are launching this contemplative prayer initiative. So corner one of us after the service if you have questions, or contact us directly.

(Read about Peg's experience with giving up Facebook for Lent. Check out her blog at www.coachpegnow.com and look for Social Media Fast under categories.)

Peg Robarchek, CGN! Correspondent, (coachpeg@aol.com)



Votive candles wait for hands to hold them before the start of December's La Posada event that Caldwell hosted with the Hispanic community.

Caldwell in photos



Former Caldwell House resident **Daisy Oatman** is flanked by **Rachel Eldridge** and **Tom Bohr**, who helped deliver donated living room furnishings on a recent Monday morning to Daisy's new apartment.

Daisy is among a growing list of 'graduates' who have bid farewell to Caldwell House as they move on to their next phase of self-sufficiency.



Zach Thomas performs a special arrangement - 'Song for Veronica' - he composed at the going away party for **Veronica Rogers**. "Our associate pastor was part of God's plan; Veronica Rogers deserves a big hand... We go to a church that will lose a black pearl. Veronica's loved ones to her mean the world" went some of Zach's lyrics.

Yes, YOU Can Be an ESL Teacher!

One of the most fulfilling things you can do as part of the Caldwell community is teach English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for parents of children at the Charlotte Bilingual Preschool. The classes are a "chance to get to know the parents, learn about the cultures of the countries they come from, and help make them feel welcome here in the U.S. It's rewarding to be a part of this - as well as just plain fun," according to volunteer teacher **Joyce Deaton**.

Currently, three classes for about 40 parents are taught twice weekly by **Alex and Ann Smythers, Joyce Deaton, Smitty Flynn, and Marilyn Rowland**.

YOU can be an ESL teacher! You do not have to speak Spanish, and you do not have to be a certified teacher. Some training is desired - upcoming workshops are listed below and you can "apprentice" with one of the current teachers. The lessons are outlined in the curriculum, which includes student workbooks and a user-friendly teacher's guide. Right now, all of the ESL classes will be during the day with specific weekdays and times to be worked out based on your availability. We especially need teachers for early afternoons.

It is important to our ESL students to learn English to help their children with school, get a job, and someday become citizens. The ESL classes we teach at Caldwell are a true and long-lasting gift to both parent-students and teachers.

Join our important and meaningful ministry. Contact Alex Smythers: 704-258-0361, alex.smythers@carolina.rr.com.

Upcoming ESL Teacher Training Workshops are March 22-23 and April 12-13 through the Edge Institute at the Metrolina Baptist Association in Charlotte. A \$40 registration fee includes materials, meals, and snacks. For information or a registration form, email gailc@theedgeinstitute or call 704-598-6200.



Caldwell alum doing well at S.F. seminary

Susan Pierson went West to start her education toward the ministry

There's plenty **Susan Pierson** likes about the San Francisco bay area, but her memories of Caldwell quickly span the 2,700 miles from her to us.

"I miss Caldwell very much. I keep up on Facebook and followed the centennial," said Susan. "I've just been busy, and it's been a good experience. It's a small school."

"It" is the **San Francisco Theological Seminary**, a school of 100 students where Susan just wrapped up her first semester. "I did really well academically," she said with a noticeable sigh of relief. "In college I didn't always perform the way I wanted to."

Like other aspects of life in California, the school environment took some getting used to for her. "I have to say it's almost like boot camp. The first year we don't talk about faith," said Susan. "So it was at first nitty-gritty stuff. We joke to ourselves, 'this is the least amount of time I've spent in church'."

First year students also joke 'there is no Jesus this year.' New students take, in order, the Old Testament and Hebrew as they beef up on church history. Susan will take her first theology class in the spring. Still, "this is sort of a foundation which I've appreciated," she said.

Four days a week, Susan joins other students at chapel services. "They do chapel in different ways every day so you can see different ways of doing church services."

As for church, Susan visits local congregations but "I haven't found a home community yet." She has noticed how laid-back and active Californians are and how that impacts churches - and church attendance. "Church is very different out here.



Susan Pierson on the seminary campus. "I'm grateful to everyone for their support and I miss everyone." (Photo: **Lawrence Sandler**, also a friend of Caldwell.)

Most people don't go to church. The way it plays out is that the Sunday congregations are smaller. There's a lot to do in California on Sunday mornings. Here everyone is bike riding or hiking. Stores are open. Church is different."

Seminary students, however, tend to stick together, said Susan. "I live on campus, and I've found a group of friends and study folks. It's a very supportive pastoral community. It's a good environment."

Students may be on a collective faith journey, but they follow their own paths. That may be because all but one of the first year students are in their upper 20's, and life experiences impact their ambitions. Most are undecided about their ministry, including Susan. "I am still discerning about what I want to be," said Susan. "I don't necessarily picture myself in a church. Maybe I would like something with similar outreach like Caldwell or even urban

ministry." She doesn't discount a call to ministry in a jail or prison setting.

Seminary also gives students a dose of religious reality when it comes to the status quo and future of our denomination. "We are all told the Presbyterian church is not expanding, so people are looking for more creative ways to go into ministry," said Susan. "There may not be a pulpit for everyone." She is also unsure where she may eventually land, including a return to North Carolina, particularly for an internship.

What Susan does have are strong feelings - and thanks - for Caldwell. "I've gotten so much great support. I miss Caldwell very much. I haven't seen that sense of church in California, but I miss the community at Caldwell. I'm going to try to come visit this summer. I'm grateful to everyone for their support and I miss everyone."

A goodbye from Veronica Rogers

Over the years, the Presbyterian church has decreased in membership as have most reformed communities of faith. It appears the church no longer has relevance for many, especially in the 20-30 age group. So the challenge facing the Presbyterian Church in 2013 and beyond is that of listening closely to what God's voice is saying to us in a new way.

We find this statement of commitment in the Presbyterian Book of Order:

As it participates in God's mission, the Presbyterian Church (USA) seeks... a new openness to see both the possibilities and perils of its institutional forms in order to ensure the faithfulness and usefulness of these forms to God's activity in the world... (F-1.0404)

We must be willing to continue to reform. Not only is this a challenging time in the Presbyterian Church it is also an exciting time, one of hope and openness to "a rebirth."

When I first heard about Caldwell's *Phoenix* rising, I was intrigued by the story of a congregation that had gone to the precipice, that was now experiencing a rebirth through the Holy Spirit. How could be this be when so many congregations were dying? How was this congregation different? So I made the decision to come and see what God was doing in this church. The love and commitment I found in this church exceeded my expectations.

Over the past 3 years, Caldwell has not only grown in the number of congregants but also in the depth of its ministries. Each Sunday we share in a verbal affirmation of faith, however in the book of James, we are reminded that "faith without works is dead." Being a missional church denotes action. And that action can be seen in Caldwell's commitment to live out its mission as stated on the bulletin. It is a mission that is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ as he spoke to his followers in the beatitudes and throughout his ministry.

This church continues to experience a rebirth because of its willingness to do things differently. Over the past years, I have noticed an even greater commitment of Caldwell to actively participate in God's plan for salvation, and living out the mission to which we have been called. As Presbyterians we adhere to the concept of the priesthood of all the leaders. So, many believers in this congregation engage in ministering to those who are less fortunate by providing food, housing, housing and clothing for those in need; taking care of those who are sick or bereaved; encouraging those who are discouraged; praying for others; joyfully participating in worship.

This congregation is intentional about including all of God's people as we seek ways to build a diverse and loving community. Each Sunday at Caldwell, I am warmed by the shout of 'welcome' to our visitors because it reminds me of my first visit to Caldwell and the joy that I felt at receiving this blessing.

When I look out across the congregation, I see hope on the face of our worshippers. Even in the midst of pain and disappointment. I see a diverse body of worshippers who are open to the Holy Spirit as they express whatever emotions and revelations they are receiving at any given moment. I see children and young people who will continue to carry out God's mission through this church when many of us are no longer able to do so. I will especially miss the Sunday devotions with our friends from the Caldwell House, the thought provoking Sunday school classes, and our lively Sunday morning worship.

I will miss regularly seeing those whom I have formed such close relationships.

Yet I will remind myself of the moments I shared with each of you. Those will remain with me forever. I will read the cards the children of Caldwell gave to me and I will smile. I will read your love letters and be assured of God's grace. I will look at the pictures and remember the wonderful times of sharing and laughter. And I will cherish each gift of encouragement you gave me during this time of transition. And so, I no longer call you my parishioners; instead you have become my family and my friends.



In joyous news, 11 new members - count 'em! - joined Caldwell a few Sundays ago. (Front row, left to right) Maisha and Daneen Terrell, Gabriel and Jett Russell. (Back row) Ivan Marcotte, Sam Barnes, Jesca Yiskah - El, Chuck and Judy Atwell, Reid Griffin and Wayne Russell.

Caldwell receives (and welcomes) new members the first Sunday of every month (we welcome new guests every Sunday, too!). If you have any questions about joining our active, diverse, broad-minded, missional, and on-the-go congregation, please call the church office at 704-334-0825.

Caldwell Good News! Bulletin Board

COMING UP SOON...

JANUARY

Tuesday, January 29

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

FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 3

Newcomers class, 9:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, February 5

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

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

Sunday, February 10

Newcomers class, 9:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

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

Monday, February 11

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

Tuesday, February 12

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

Wednesday, February 13

Mission & Justice Committee, 6:00 - 7:30, Shelby

Thursday, February 14

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

Sunday, February 17

Newcomers class, 9:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Monday, February 18

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

Tuesday, February 19

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

Building & Grounds Committee, 6:30 - 8 p.m., Shelby

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

Thursday, February 21

Education Committee, 6:30 - 8 p.m., upstairs

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, 2:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 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>



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