



Photo: Tom Bohr

At last, our bell again calls worshippers to Caldwell

Ben White readies our venerable 1947 vintage bell for a new support structure so its sweet tones can again be heard by worshippers throughout our Elizabeth neighborhood.

Read more about the extraordinary repair and re-installation process on pages 6 and 7.

3D Dream Team named

The team will review and digest pages and pages of discussion notes as we work to plan for Caldwell's future.

Page 3

Parents to get ESL classes at church

Although no children will be taught this year at Caldwell, parents of Bilingual Preschool children will get ESL classes at in the Price Building

Page 5

Calling all parents: time to get things started!

Caldwell is ramping up to help our students of all ages. You can help.

Page 8

The Charlotte PRIDE festivities are about to begin

It's an opportunity to again show Caldwell's all-inclusive personality.

Page 9

Caldwell in photos

We say goodbye to Abong but hello to tomatoes, plus two Moral Monday photos by **Joyce Deaton** and **Katy Hill**.

Page 10

The government of God?

This summer's events in North Carolina have brought many of us, time and again, back to a central question for any person of faith:

How should Church and State interact?

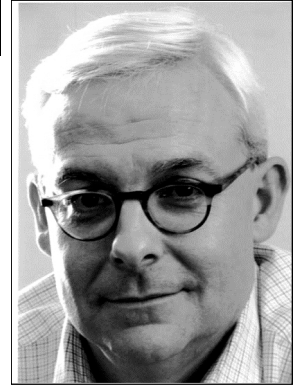
Federal and state tax laws make it quite clear that churches and preachers are not to endorse candidates by name. Beyond that "bright line" standard, however, religious institutions are given a fair amount of leeway.

One way to think about this question is to remind ourselves that our faith is to be a guide and framework for ALL things in life. Our faith should form and inform all we do. Yes, U.S. government is built on the principle that there is NOT to be an official church of the state. Still, we can – and should – expect our leaders, in all realms of life, to practice morality and ethics that meet the standards of our faith.

In Jesus Christ, God's clearest self-disclosure, we find a clear framework for what we might call the "government of God," which transcends all human systems and, for those of us who call ourselves Christians, is to be the rule of all of life. In his book Jesus and Politics, British Christian political theorist **Alan Storkey** plumbs the Gospels and other books of the Bible to construct a clear set of what he calls "Jesus' political principles." They are summarized below, with citations.

Could we ever hold our hope for such a "government of God?" What do you think?

1. **All are made in God's image and are to be equally valued** (Parables of Lost Sheep, Lost Coin). No life is less valued in the Kingdom. Jesus "lifts up the humble" (Luke 1:52-53), invites all to the banquet (Luke 14:15), teaches the Great Commandment and breaks down power and privilege when it fosters unjust inequality. The government of God changes inequality to equality, saying the "last shall be first" (Matt. 20:16) and commands respect and provision for children (Matt. 18:10-11).
2. **Jesus is ultimate truth, the light of the world.** He calls all to dwell/live in truth and avoid darkness, saying "there is nothing that will not be brought out in the open" (Luke 8:17). As our King, Jesus says "everyone on the side of truth listens to me" (John 18:37). Jesus condemns self-righteousness, exposes the error in any self-justifying ideology and calls all to humility.
3. **Jesus commands the rule of love, justice, mercy and compassion, especially for the weak.** He does not limit charity and justice to private activity but calls all systems to practice mercy (Parable of the Good Samaritan). He preaches good news to the poor (Luke 4:18-21, 7:22) and informs the rich they



Rev. John Cleghorn

have already received the comfort (Luke 6:24). He promotes a jubilee economy rooted in justice and the common good.

4. **Jesus favors integrity in God over popularity**, (Luke 16:15). Jesus repeatedly makes "unpopular" choices, exposing the limits of the general human will. He associates with the lowly and outcast, avoids crowds, seeks isolation, turns away from human favor and orients followers to God's will above all. (Matt. 6:1-18).
5. **Jesus upends earthly power.** He debunks the notion of power as "control over." He paints the Kingdom in the Beatitudes, where the meek shall inherit the earth (Matthew 5:5). He preaches liberation to all in His truth versus any state or political doctrine (John 8:31-36), says any plan not planted by God will be pulled up (Matt. 15:20) and is portrayed as the "Lamb on the throne." (Revelation 5:6), denying violence and finally being sacrificed for all.
6. **Jesus preaches forgiveness and reconciliation.** He calls all to self-examination, breaks down barriers and creates common ground in

Pastor's column ... page 8

*Have event and committee news, calendar items, photography and other tidbits Caldwell members and visitors ought to know about? For each newsletter issue, please send items by the 10th of each month to: david.bradley@yahoo.com
Visit us on the web at:
www.caldwellpresby.org*

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

Rev. Evie Landrau

Associate Pastor

Leslie Gipple

Business & Operations Manager
admin@caldwellpresby.org

Contributing Editors

John Cleghorn
Dave Bradley



Caldwell in 3D: Discernment - Discussion - Dreaming

THE DREAM TEAM IS NAMED

Your 3D ideas now in hands of a top team

This group will pour over and summarize notes and discussions as we move closer to a plan for the future of our church - with results this year

“And they shall dream dreams and have visions.” Acts 2

Just as God promised dreams and visions to the apostles in the second chapter of Acts, God is giving Caldwell members dreams and visions as well. Throughout the summer, Caldwell members have been gathering in 20-plus small groups to discuss new possibilities for Caldwell and its ministries. Now a diverse team has been named by the Session to give shape to your dreams.

Called **“The Dream Team,”** this team will review all the notes from the small groups, focus hard on what it means to be a church that is missional and transformative, and draft a report for the session.

This work is expected to last through the fall.

“The session is deeply grateful to these members for taking on this important calling,” said Clerk of Session **Gina Shell**, who has also been leading the “Caldwell in 3D” process this year. “Now we will ask for God’s wisdom to dwell with this team as it gives shape to our collective ideas and input.”

Added **Rev. John Cleghorn**: “We continue to be guided by our Mission Statement and we look forward to a fresh expression of how we will serve God in the next phase of our life together. What a blessing that more than half of our active members participated directly in the process to date!”

MEET YOUR DREAM TEAM

Janet Blanchard	Gina Shell
Carl Brinson	Merritt Tracy
Jill Flynn	Yvette Wilson
Jonathan Hardin	Beth Van Gorp
Jamie Hofmeister	Ex-Officio (non-voting):
Bob Metzler	Rev. John Cleghorn
Jacob Ratliff (youth rep.)	Rev. Evie Landrau
	Will Davis (former intern) in a support role

There will be no shortage of quality discussion notes for the Dream Team to ponder and review.



Glory to God: The New Hymnal

When polled last year, the Caldwell congregation voiced a preference for “short-burst” educational offerings on Sunday nights, such as recent series on Immigration and “Economic Apartheid.”

To get ready for a new PCUSA hymnal, Caldwell will offer a new Sunday night series Sept. 8, 15 and 22 at 6 pm with a very informal pot luck dinner to be served. Music Director **Anne Hunter Eidson** will lead this series. Come and learn more about music in worship and what went into the production of a new hymnal. We’ll also sing some favorites, learn their stories, hear of each others’ favorites, and sample some new offerings.

The new hymnal replaces our current book, which was published in 1990. It is the product of a national committee that began work in 2008. The new hymnal, titled “Glory to God,” will use more inclusive language. It will combine traditional hymns and Psalm-based hymns with new selections and offer a wider variety of global music, including languages such as Korean, Mandarin Chinese, Arabic Hebrew, Spanish, Latin, French, Sotho and Swahili. It offers more gospel music than previous versions.

Don’t forget that you can dedicate one of the new hymnals to a friend or loved one if you would like to help the church defray the \$15-per-book cost. You can also buy a copy of the out-going hymnal for your personal collection for \$5. Call the office or contact **Molly Griffin** for more details.

If you would like to read more about the new hymnal, go online: www.presbyterianhymnal.or/faq.html



Seen from a faith perspective:

Moral Mondays

Largely overshadowed by politics, these citizen counterpoints to legislative action had a spiritual component for those who ventured from Caldwell to Raleigh

Jesus' teachings concerning justice and compassion are very clear. Many of the people hurt by the actions of this legislature--the poor, the ill, the children--don't have the economic freedom to go to Raleigh and make themselves heard. It was a blessing to be able to stand in their stead and try to make a difference.

Joyce Deaton



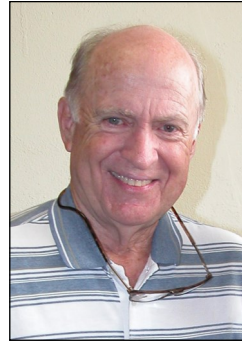
I have to admit, it's been more of a 'you're killing our public schools', but part of my spirituality is every child deserves a decent education. The inequality thing violates those principles. I think it definitely ties into what we're about.

Katy Hill



There's no way you can read the Bible without getting the impression that there is compassion for the "least of these", as Jesus would say. It's that simple to me. There's a common thread in all the major religions of the world for compassion as a take-away. We're all in this together as God's children. If one suffers, everyone suffers.

Zach Thomas



My decision to participate was directly tied to my faith and understanding of the gospel. The Biblical models and instructions to care for the poor and oppressed, to think of everyone, rather than ourselves, and to "bear witness" as injustice was unleashed. God's spirit, I believe, was unleashed and made more powerful through the encouragement we all simultaneously gave and received, moving "forward together, not one step back." May it be so.

Ann Hunter Eidson



As a Christian, I just felt it was something I needed to do for myself and others who could not get there. There are so many people who are going to suffer from this, people who don't have much. I felt like what I was doing was pleasing in God's sight. I felt I was doing it for the right reason. It was in line with my faith. It's what my faith called me to do.

Yvette Wilson



This year's NC government seems to be legislating away the social progress of our formerly progressive state by erasing the tools that have created a community of people who care for each other across the borders of financial, racial, and political differences. Restricting the right to vote, unfairly taxing the poorest people, and making social beliefs into law have sharply divided our people. The worst offenses are those that limit the futures of our children by restricting the quality and availability of public education. Churches must speak for compassion, community and for people who cannot speak for themselves.

Alex Smythers



ESL classes are a big part of the total family picture for students and parents. Caldwell will host classes again this year.

OUR SUPPORT FOR CBP CONTINUES

Parents to benefit from ESL classes hosted at Caldwell

The Charlotte Bilingual Preschool (CBP) is ready to kick off the school year with 72 children and their families!

Caldwell has been an integral part of the school's program providing ESL (English as a Second Language) classes for parents; hosting *La Posada*, a Christmas tradition; providing music for the classroom and the Christmas Party; reading to students and supporting the Wing Haven program.

Caldwell to host ESL classes

For the 2013 - 2014 school year, classes will not be held at Caldwell. However, we will be connected to the school through our relationships with the parents in the ESL classes which will be hosted by Caldwell. At this time there are 18 ESL volunteer teachers! Most likely Caldwell will host *La Posada* during the month of December. We view this school year as our opportunity as a church to redefine our role in service to this fragile population amongst us.

Rocio Johnson, a CBP teacher known to those who worked with the school, has been promoted to an administrative position. Rocio taught at Caldwell and has a special connection to our church. We know she will do well in her new position.

Just as Caldwell has spent considerable time on our 3D endeavor, CBP will be doing much the same this year as they "Discuss, Discern and Dream" about the school's future.

- By Ann Alford



A recent class for new members shows a lot of interest in Caldwell. The classes are held Sunday morning at 9:45 downstairs. New members are received the first Sunday of each month. Bring your questions with you!



Our bell tolls for thee

Months after it was silenced when a support bracket snapped, our bell has at last been repaired and is ringing again - but not without an enormous amount of planning and toil. Here's how the renaissance of our 600 lb. 'B-flat' bell came about.

1 **Tom Bohr** of our Buildings & Grounds Committee said motion and vibration over a period of time - the 600 lb. bell has been in place since the late 1940s - took a toll on the A-frame structure. The frames that support the bell moved further apart from each other, and a bracket finally gave way under the weight of the bell. Fortunately, the bell came to rest on support members in its box and didn't plunge all the way down through the tower.

2 You don't buy parts for a 70+ year old bell at a local store. According to Tom, planning the repairs took about nine months - and the parts had to be custom designed and fabricated.

Manufacturing of the hardware, and recently the installation done during the first week of August, was handled by **Chime Master Company** in Lancaster, Ohio. **Nathan Croo** of Chime Master hefts some of the powder coated steel supports as all the parts were moving into place in the bell tower. The fabrication process alone took nearly two months.

As near as Tom can determine from combing through historical and Internet materials about the 32 inch diameter bell, the bronze bell has a 'B-flat' tone. Although Chime Master workers work on roughly 50 to 60 bells per year, Tom reports this is only the second A-frame bell the company has worked on this year. The bell was cast at **Meneely Bell Foundry** in Troy, NY.

The approximately \$6,000 in repair costs were funded through an anonymous donation.

(Photos 3 - 6 by Tom Bohr.)

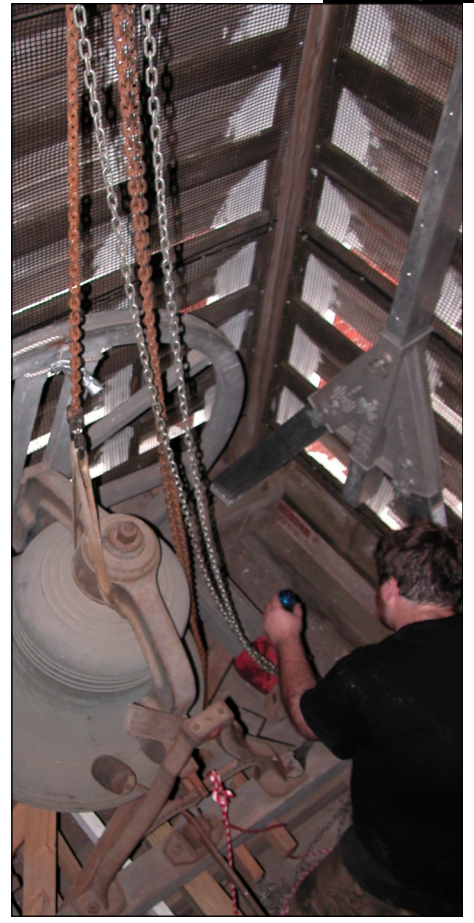




3 Among the toughest chores was hoisting gear more than 30 feet up the bell tower through a narrow entry door to the bell housing. Here, Nathan does the heavy lifting, hauling solid metal up with a rope.



4 Braces were put in place to hold a winch used to lift the bell while the new A-frames were installed. The cramped confines of the bell tower made quite a repair challenge for the two man crew.



5 The bell had to be hoisted aloft while the new framing structure was put into place. The bell was suspended during this portion of the work.



6 The heavy bell needed heavy-duty equipment to lift it into the right position for the new A-frame apparatus. Notice new screens to keep animals out of the belfry.



7 Office manager **Leslie Gipple**, who arranged much of the repair work, and Tom marvel at everything that is needed to repair the bell.

Calling all Caldwell youth and their parents ... It's time to get things started!



Come to an organizational meeting Sunday, Sept. 8 at 5 pm, Fellowship Hall, to hear about plans for weekly offerings for high school and middle school youth. "God is smiling at the growing number of youth of all kinds that now call Caldwell home," said Education Chair **Caroline Lublinkhof**, who is leading the organizing of new programs. "Last spring's youth-led worship service was a wonderful glimpse of what our youth have to offer the body of Christ."

- A new high school program will meet weekly. Named "The Orchard," it will explore each participant's spiritual gifts through discussion, service and fun.
- Middle school youth, who have dubbed themselves "The Seekers", will meet Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. to build on what they have learned in our children's Sunday school offerings.
- Later, in October, a Sunday morning confirmation class will launch for youth aged 14 and 15, which leads participants to their choice of whether to "confirm" their baptism by becoming full members of the church.

"Successful youth programs depend on buy-in from youth and, as important, their parents," Caroline emphasized. "We hope all youth and their parents will come to our kick-off meeting on Sept. 8 to offer their input and support.

"We're also looking for adult volunteers to share in leading our youth offerings," she said. "Working - and walking - with our young people is as fun for leaders as it is important to the life and future of the church. This is how we fulfill our vow to help raise our kids to understand God's love and call."

If you are interested in helping and want more information, contact Caroline at 704-651-1077.

Hygiene Supplies Needed in Guatemala

The **Guatemala Vision Team** will be collecting hygiene supplies for Common Hope during the month of September. Please put any of the following **newly purchased** items in the designated boxes in the narthex: bars of soap (no liquid soap, please); small hand towels; wash cloths; toothbrushes; toothpaste. Children's storybooks in Spanish are also requested.

The **Common Hope Collection Drive** will run from after Labor Day until September 29. Caldwell's Vision Team will travel to Guatemala in October and will be taking your donations, goodwill, and commitment to Common Hope with them. Contact **Cathy Lum** (catbivslp@aol.com) or 704-237-3731 if you have questions.



Pastor's column

Himself (Ephesians 2). Reconciliation comes from God, who "causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good." God is "merciful" and "kind to the ungrateful and wicked." (Matt. 5:45, Luke 6:35-36).

7. **Jesus teaches stewardship over ownership.** God says "The world is mine and all that is in it." (Psalm 50). All resources are to be used in reference to God and one's neighbors and are not to be possessed. (Kingdom parables, parables of the Rich Fool and Prodigal Son, Beatitudes).
8. **Jesus insists on peacemaking, commands his followers to love their enemies** (Matt. 5:9, 44) and forgives his opponents (Luke 23:24).

Intercessory prayer on Wednesdays

Intercessory prayer - for people who have asked for special prayers on behalf of others or special circumstances - will be held in the prayer room on Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Peg Robarchek said people can put prayer requests in containers in the rear of the sanctuary or give their requests to her or to **Rev. Evie**



Landrau.

Peg encourages people to visit the intercessory prayer sessions.

"We'd love to have a few more people, and they don't need to feel

nervous. It is a special process. She said the group goes around a circle to "just lift up prayer requests. They don't have to initiate it."



Caldwell's own Leslie Gipple points the way to an attendee at a recent conference for church business administrators. She volunteered and attended.

Caldwell's growth, activity level put it in company of larger churches

Caldwell may be deemed a 'small' church, but our growth and activity level is such that we may learn more from larger churches, according to **Leslie Gipple**, Caldwell's Business & Operations Manager.

Leslie recently attended, and helped organize, the U.S. conference of the National Association of Church Business Administrators which was held in Charlotte.

"The opportunity to go to these conferences is a booster shot for small to medium sized churches," said Leslie. The conference was a chance to wade knee-deep into the latest trends in finance, technology, human resources, church communications, advanced accounting and risk management, according to Leslie.

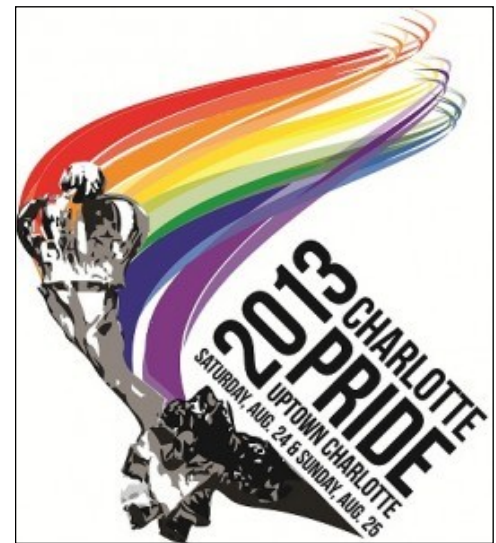
Although small churches struggle with the same issues, Leslie said "Our yardstick doesn't need to be other smaller churches. We've grown by leaps and bounds, but we have a lot of disparity between our church and other churches our size. It's really the amount of activity and growth, not just the number of members."

One key takeaway for Leslie: "We are companies. The business of a church is much more sophisticated than it was years ago. There's a lot to stay abreast of and stay ahead of the curve."

From the GLBT members of Caldwell:

Why should our straight allies at Caldwell go to Charlotte's PRIDE Parade?

1. It means you're proud of us. We grew up in a world where nobody was proud of being gay – or even being slightly *different*. And straight people definitely didn't stand up for gay people. Think about how it makes *you* feel when somebody's proud of *you*. Yeah, that's what you do for us.
2. It means you've tried to put yourself in our shoes and tried to understand something that is completely foreign to you. It's easy for other gay people to "get" us, but you – you took the extra step.
3. It means you took a risk. We don't have a choice in supporting the gay community, but you do. You could have just blended in with everybody else, but you choose to stand up for us – and possibly lose friendships and relationships over your difference in beliefs.
4. It means that you care about our well-being. We can tell you *right now* that we wouldn't be alive today without you. And that's not being dramatic or sensationalizing the situation. That's the honest truth. It means the world to us to have straight people make us feel "*normal*". You understand that we don't want to be anybody's *gay* friend; we just want to be your *friend*.
5. It means you think we're equals. It means you believe in us and our rights. It means you think we deserve to have everything you have. We welcome you and need you at Charlotte Pride. Seriously. It may be uncomfortable, but do it anyway. You have no idea what it will mean to *us*. Not only will it show your support, but also it will give you a little insight on what it feels like to always be a minority.



CHARLOTTE PRIDE is about to get underway, and Caldwell is involved. Event coordinator for the church, **Ryan Kingston**, outlines how you can take part:

- **Sunday, Aug. 18**, 4 - 5:30 p.m., interfaith service at Caldwell.
- **Saturday, Aug. 24**, CHARLOTTE PRIDE festival, Uptown on Tryon Street. Parade at 1 p.m. starting at Tryon and 9th. You are invited to march along "with the LGBT community and their allies" said Ryan. Call Ryan with questions: 704-995-0736.



Caldwell bade 'goodbye' to intern **Abong Fankam**. She did a fabulous job at our church.



(Photo: Joyce Deaton)



Caldwell members (top) at Moral Monday, and Pastor John surveys the scene. (Photo: Katy Hill)



A crew of students from Davidson College did yeoman's work to spruce up some outdoor facilities for a week. (Photo: Tom Bohr.)



Tomatoes are coming along nicely in our community garden

Caldwell Good News! Bulletin Board

AUGUST	
Sun., 18, 4 - 5 p.m. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Interfaith service, Sanctuary Prayer vigil for Humane Immigration Reform, Sanctuary
Mon., 19, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Women's Book Club, location TBA
Tue., 20, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. 6:30 - 7:30 .m.	Buildings & Grounds Committee, Shelby Room Yoga, Fellowship Hall
Wed., 21, 3:45 - 6:45 p.m.	Contemplative prayer, Prayer Room
Thurs., 22, 6 - 8 p.m.	NC Faithful, Fellowship Hall
Fri., 23, noon - 1:30 p.m.	Finance Committee, Upstairs
Tue., 27, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Session, Shelby Room Yoga, Fellowship Hall
Wed., 28, 3:45 - 6:45 p.m.	Contemplative Prayer, Prayer Room

SEPTEMBER	
Tue., 3, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Yoga, Fellowship Hall
Wed., 4, 3:45 - 6:45 p.m.	Contemplative prayer, Prayer Room
Thurs., 5, 6- 8p.m.	ESL Teacher Training, Price Bldg.
Fri., 6, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.	ESL Teacher Training, Price Bldg.
Sat., 7, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	ESL Teacher Training, Price Bldg.
Mon., 9, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Women's Circle, Shelby Room

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>



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.