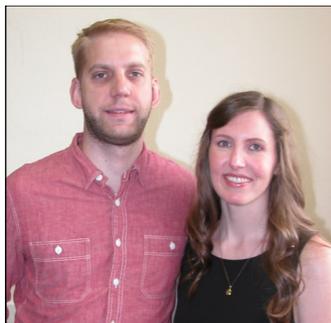
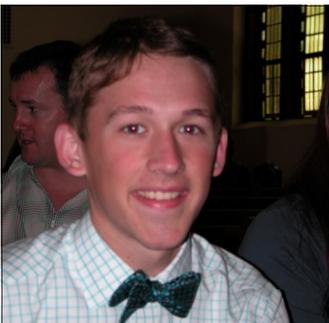




New member issue
 Visitors, friends, and worship-seekers who found Caldwell in 2013



CGN!
 Caldwell Good News!
 November, 2013

Walk with Mary and Joseph in Las Posadas
 The faithful will follow in their footsteps Dec. 14
 Page 5

Caldwell's banner day at Blue Branch
 Caldwell turns out in numbers to support a church founded by slaves
 Page 8

Who are these new members? Page 6



Recollecting hope

Note from John: I received a call last summer asking if I might contribute to a special Christmas issue of Our State magazine that would offer variations on "A Prayer for North Carolina." As we enter this season of Advent hope, I could think of no more hopeful message than the story of this amazing congregation. Thank you for letting me share it with our state.

Five years ago, I was called to serve as pastor to a small, urban church in Charlotte where a remarkable thing had happened. Once a thriving, prominent congregation of families, successful business and civic leaders, the church shrank as suburban sprawl and urban withdrawal changed its neighborhood and its city. Over four decades, membership dwindled from 1,100 members to an active group of about twelve.

But that remnant never gave up hope. This sturdy group clung to its faith, believing the end for Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church had yet to arrive. They were right. In the

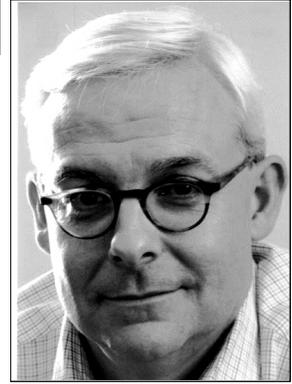
fall of 2006, the old, white, traditional Presbyterians were joined by a group of people who looked very different but shared the same fundamental faith. Caldwell church came back to life as a place of hope for others.

In this season of Advent that leads to Christmas day, Christians remember and wait again for the birth of Hope. You might say we re-collect hope. Our hope is always with us in our Lord, but we too often forget that. We misplace it amid our busy-ness. Or, we place hope in the wrong places and the wrong things. Advent is a time to stop and re-gather the true hope that sustains and guides us, whether we are in the low, dark valley or atop the sun-drenched mountain.

In the last five years, our state climbed out of the valley but is far from the mountaintop. We've bounced back from the Great Recession, but are met with the reality that many of our former, high-paying jobs are being replaced by lower-paying ones. We're recovering our momentum, getting back on our feet, but it's taking longer than in past downturns. Millions of North Carolinians, impoverished, unemployed and under-employed, feel the human toll, from Boone to Beaufort, from agricultural communities to urban centers.

On top of our economic realities, our state greets this Christmas far more divided than in recent memory. N.C. politics have attracted less-than-positive international and national attention, a departure from the norm. We've also lost some leading lights, including **Gov. James Holshouser** and Charlotte civil rights attorney **Julius Chambers**. It's been a year the Old North State may be glad to bid farewell.

So, we welcome gladly this time to re-collect hope, a time to slow down and look up, to rest and re-gather ourselves. North Carolina has rebounded before; it will again. I know it from our history. I see it in the eyes and feel it in the spirit of our people.



Rev. John Cleghorn

Closest of all, though, I receive hope from my un-conventional but joyous and committed congregation, now about 300 strong. Many from that loyal remnant of the original congregation are gone now. But on Sundays I see the last few of those lovely, faithful, proper Presbyterians sitting in the pews alongside all manner of other people - various races and ethnicities, rich and poor, urban and suburban, gay and straight, lifelong believers and brand new ones. When the gospel choir gets going, I see our oldest member, at 92, take hold of the pew in front of her with age-curved fingers, pull herself to her feet and join in the clapping and swaying with a beautiful smile on her face.

I see those who are struggling to make ends meet find strength in faith and family, both blood and church family. I see many who have returned to church after years away from organized religion, delighted to be able to worship as they are, to serve alongside others in building the Kingdom and to seek the face of hope in the manger this time of year. I see children of many hues, the multi-cultural face of our future state, as they study the "old, old story" completely undistracted by

Pastor's column ... page 9

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



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*

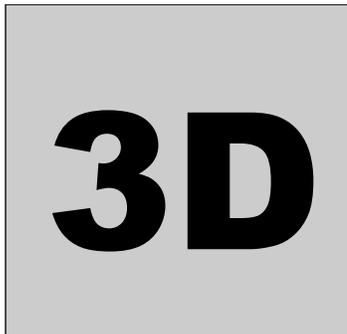
Caldwell in 3D: Discernment - Discussion - Dreaming

Next steps: distill reports “into a concrete list ... of dreams”

The reports generated by 14 small group summertime discussions have been reviewed and analyzed.

■ Now, according to our Dream Team, the group will begin to “pull on the group’s collective wisdom and God’s guiding hand to provide a concrete list of immediate, mid-range (1-3 years) and long range (3-5 years) dreams.”

■ The report can be found at caldwellpresby.org. Click on the *Caldwell in 3D* tab on the right hand column.



Caldwell’s Dream Team is moving into the discussion and dreaming portions of Caldwell’s far-reaching 3D process.

The team has reviewed and analyzed the results of this summer’s intensive sessions held by more than a dozen groups of Caldwell members.

Beth Van Gorp of the Dream Team said the team’s multiple meetings have resulted in the examination of common themes arising from the small group process. The group is, the report says, “still diving into particular ideas.”

Numerous such concepts are included in bullet points:

- Needing to take the many, varied program ideas and distil/gel them into the ideas that best serve the mission of the church.
- Needing to nurture, protect and support the things that are core to our mission and values.
- Needing to be intentional in choosing programs and using our core values as a lens in determining which pro-

grams to choose.

The initial findings include potential direction for Caldwell programs, including our missional approach, ways to continue to be inclusive and diverse, and how much risk the congregation is willing to assume as we seek the future path for our church.

Up next is movement toward the end of the 3D process: the refinement of specific ideas that will continue into the new year.

These involve identifying of immediate, mid-range and long-range proposals for action and the team asks the church for guidance as they “pull on the group’s collective wisdom and God’s guiding hand to provide a concrete list of immediate, mid-range (1-3 years) and long range (3-5 years) dreams.”

October church financial report

Please complete your pledge card as soon as possible

Pledged income	\$205,186
Unpledged income	59,437
Rental income	28,750
Other operating income	10,866
Total operating income (5.5% below budget)	\$304,239
Total operating expense (5.5% below budget)	310,959
Operating deficit	(6,720)

Caldwell’s financial picture continues to look reasonably healthy – demonstrating the capacity to absorb a major heating/air conditioning repair, an \$82,000 project. However, this project and a few other wrinkles mean we all need to do our part to rebuild our savings and operating accounts.

Pledged and unpledged giving for September and October have lagged behind annual projections. In addition, Bread of Life Christian Ministries departure last month from Belk Hall (they merged with another church) decreases our rental income. As a result, we need members and friends to help us end the year well financially as we all give back to God as much as we can. For those of you who pledge, you will receive a letter in December updating you on your yearly giving. Please make every effort to fulfill your pledge before year end.

As we look ahead to 2014, we also need to wrap up the Discipleship Campaign so we know what our budget will be to do ministry in the coming year. We’re grateful for the 95 individuals, families and couples who have turned in their financial pledge, putting us on track for 2014. But we’re still hoping to receive pledges from a number of members and friends and we are short of our goals. If you have not yet done so, we encourage you to prayerfully consider what your contribution for next year will be and return your pledge card to the church as soon as possible or pledge online at caldwellpresby.org.

Our Discipleship theme of “Hope and Renewal” reminds us that our Lord is always going ahead of us. We look forward to everyone doing what they can to participate with God in ministry.

-By Molly Griffin



Rev. Evie Laudrau

... let us renew our commitment to be a church that journeys with the marginalized ... through concrete acts of justice and solidarity ...

God of Life thank you for leading us to justice and peace ... Bonding with the marginalized for a just and inclusive Caldwell!

The 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Busan, Korea ended with the affirmation that the global Christian

community's intention is **to stay together and work through the many challenges of our present time.** This is no small affirmation in a gathering with brothers and sisters from different faith communions, countries, cultures and languages. The Church was urged and encouraged to continue its commitment to justice and peace. Through dialogues, worship, Bible study and making concrete decisions for the future we reaffirmed our commitment to justice and peace in a global changing landscape. World Council of Churches (WCC) General Secretary **Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit** said, "This assembly has provided a significant momentum for the ecumenical movement." I will add it also provided a personal awareness of God's activity in the world and love for all.

In the midst of our many differences, one thing was sure; the God of life was with us! In the midst of our disagreements on doctrine, practice and theology, the Holy Spirit mediated in our midst. In the midst of stories of terror and evil shared amongst us, the God of life was present healing and proclaiming the way of Jesus Christ as the answer. For instance, the God of life made the Divine Presence known through Nobel Laureate **Leymah Gbowee** who spoke on just peace. Gbowee is a peace activist, social worker and women's right advocate. Our sister "led a nonviolent movement of Christian and Muslim women that played a pivotal role in ending Liberia's civil war in 2003." She told us stories about marginalization, forgiveness and her personal experience with anger at seeing the destruction of life and community during the war.

These were the stories that made me echo Matthew 5:9, "Blessed are the peace makers..." **And so, how do we at Caldwell renew and affirm our commitment to justice and peace?** I believe it is happening even now through the witness of the Guatemala Mission Team, the youth's participation at the Cross Urban Plunge at Myers Park PCUSA and the countless ways God has enabled us to further justice and peace. We have witnessed our commitment to justice and peace sealed through Spirit-led actions. Therefore, now more than ever, we can affirm our intention to continue to bond with the marginalized for a just and inclusive Caldwell.

In our ecumenical conversations marginalization was defined as "a social, economic, cultural and political reality that is profoundly moral and spiritually challenging, which contradicts the basic Christian affirmation that all people are created in the image of God." What is your definition of marginalization? Is it being rejected and brutalized on the basis of sexual orientation? Or is it being rejected by a societal system that does not give preferential treatment to the poor, but glorifies those with power and money? Or yet, is your marginalization due to struggles with mental illness like depression, bi-polar disorder or overwhelming anxiety? Marginalization can take many different forms in our midst and all of them de-humanize and question our God-given place in society. Thus, we are called by the Jesus that labored on the margins to live and advocate for a different reality of justice and peace.

Caldwell family, let us renew our commitment to be a church that journeys with the marginalized, affirming that the God of Life in Jesus Christ is the Author of this miracle. We become brothers and sisters not because we even desire to do so at times, but because our Elder brother Jesus Christ has created a space for us to learn how to love one another with the love of God. When we commit and remember to walk with the marginalized (whom may be you or me) we affirm that "diversity of creation is a gift and self-expression of the divine." We become a church that celebrates and lifts up the richness of diversity through our concrete acts of justice and solidarity. Our challenge, however, is to "recognize the ways in which we mirror the powers and principalities against which Jesus struggled." We are called in acts of confession, repentance and worship to recognize how we have been complicit in the further marginalization of people by our actions. Our commitment to the marginalized and each other must include honest dialogue and prayers were we are vulnerable with one another and with God. Since we have been made brothers and sisters through the resurrected Christ, then there is no other choice. We must give ourselves permission to struggle together for a more peaceful, just community and lifestyle. Let us seek where the Holy Spirit is at work and join in! Amen.



Las Posadas recreates the steps of Mary and Joseph to find shelter before the birth of Jesus.

Journey to Bethlehem

Follow Mary and Joseph during

LAS POSADAS

Families of the Charlotte Bilingual Preschool and the Caldwell community will take part together in the Latin American tradition of *Las Posadas* on **Sat., Dec 14**. We will follow Mary, Joseph, and the donkey as they search for room in the inn for the birth of Jesus. Once we find refuge, we will join together to share the beloved Christmas story and music as we worship with our Latino brothers and sisters. We then celebrate the great event with traditional foods (tamales, special cookies, fruit punch) and a Christmas-star piñata for the children.

We will gather at **4:30 p.m.** at Belk Hall for our journey to Bethlehem in a candlelight procession through the park. Last year, close to 130 adults and children experienced this heartwarming and meaningful event. It is a great gift to us at Caldwell from the parents of the Bilingual Preschool children that they are joyfully sharing this important part of their culture that deepens and enriches our own traditions and understanding of the mystery of Christmas. *Las Posadas* is one Christmas activity you will not want to miss.

Hospitality and opening our doors to all (even a donkey) are key to the spirit of *Las Posadas*. Volunteers are needed to serve as innkeepers and to help with the fiesta. Contact **Ann Alford** (apalford@msn.com or 949-872-8406) if you can help.

-By Kitty Bohr

“I said to myself, ‘the presence of God is all over this place’.”

The Rev. Betty Meadows came to Caldwell to preach about prayer in the lives of congregants, and she found a church that accepts the power of prayer, and more.

“I could feel the spirit of God while when the choir warmed up,” said Rev. Meadows. “People were greeting each other of ethnicities and races. I felt joy and the presence of God. I said to myself, ‘The presence of God is all over this place.’”

Rev. Meadows, who leads the **Presbytery of Charlotte**, said Caldwell issues “an invitation for all that all are welcome, all races, sexual orientations. All people are children of God and are welcome. It’s not just a bunch of words, you care for one another. It’s a tremendous example of Jesus. It’s not shallow, it’s a community who care and love for each other.”

Her sermon reminded listeners that prayer, in any form, may be a work in progress but is important nonetheless. “If thanksgiving is all you can pray, it will be enough,” she said. “When you are intentionally with God, you will be more kind and loving and intentional.”



Rev. Betty Meadows

A year of new members

55

By the numbers:

- 55 new members through Nov. 2013
- Adult members, 276, approx. 50 friends, 35 children
- More than 300 total "Caldwell family" members

Local growth:

- Caldwell has been among fastest growing Presbyterian churches in Mecklenburg County for the past seven years measured by rate of growth



Caldwell has been in a wonderful position in 2013: we have attracted more than 50 new members drawn by the opportunity to worship - and serve - in an open, welcoming congregation.

The church has received 55 new members through transfer, affirmation of faith or baptism.

How potential new members find, and later settle upon, Caldwell as their new church home varies, but there are common threads behind many of their decisions.

As is often the case, personal referrals pave the way for a new church relationship. **Maisha Terrell** met **Tracy Hewitt** at a business meeting and Tracy extended an invitation to visit the church. "She invited us on a Friday and we came that Sunday and never left," said Maisha. "I can say I feel very welcomed and very loved. It's a quiet place for me to worship with my partner (**Daneen Terrell**)."

That Caldwell doesn't shrink from social issues that might discomfort others is also a consideration.

Austin Tate said he was drawn to the church's leadership position on such issues. "I like the focus specifically on the immigrant population," specifically the Hispanic community, said Austin. "I like the acceptance of everyone, no matter of race, sex or creed, that's made a major difference." The choir's mix of gospel and traditional music is also important to him, as is the "leadership of John (Cleghorn). No question, he has proven what it is to be a servant leader. He walks the walk."

A 'warm port in a storm'

For others, Caldwell came at a necessary time in their lives.

When **Ivan Marcotte's** middle son, **Mitchell**, passed away in Oct. 2012, Ivan renewed a relationship of long standing with pastor Cleghorn.

Pastor Cleghorn "was nice enough to do the service for us, and I potentially was just look-

Above right: Not an uncommon scene the first Sunday of each month: a group photo of new members.

Top row, left to right:

Eddie Capote, Jamie Hofmeister, Sarah Cline, Syd Howell

Bottom row:

Jennifer Gaskin, Caitlin Culp, Linda Shenton and husband Bud Lohr

Next page: more new member photos.

■ On the front cover

Top row, left to right:

Rachel Eldridge, Donna Willis and Myrtle Anderson, Austin Tate, John Crowell, and Matt Felts

Second row:

Delores Harps, Stacy Bolden, Tina Purnell, Noellee and Brent Johnson and son Sidney

Third row:

Scott and Robbi Walls, Jean Musa, Iyanah and Isaiah Lawrence, and Dee Rogers

Fourth row:

John and Janetta Lambert, Jeff Capell, Jocquin and Kelly Fuller and daughter Olivia, Elizabeth Ireland and Jimmy Squibb

Fifth row:

David Cheek, Billy Broyles, Mike and Laura Simmons, and Grace Jordan

The service concluded, Ivan returned to Caldwell the next Sunday. "I would just tell you, the very first instinct was, it candidly just felt like home. It felt very warm and embracing, and we just kind of took it from there."

Since then, Ivan's perception of Caldwell remains unchanged, and if anything, has grown.

"What I felt was true is actually reality," he said. "Everybody in the congregation that I have met is genuine" and Ivan's initial impression of the church "has certainly grown beyond that."

Getting used to us

People sometimes comment on the noticeable activity they see as they drive by the church. That was the case for **Nicole**



(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.



Top row: Gareed and Nicole Gardner with children Nia, Sam and Aiden.

Gardner and her husband Gareed.

"I remember driving by and seeing such a diverse congregation coming and going – that in itself is notable and wonderful.," said Nicole.

That drive-by impression stuck with her. When the couple contemplated a new church home, "Caldwell was the first one we visited," said Nicole. "We loved the joyous feel of worship. The choir was fantastic and the people were welcoming. This was a church that seemed to be living its faith. It was everything we were hoping to find. How could we not join?"

But their conversion was not without challenges.

They had left a church with "many wonderful people who we dearly love" and a robust children's program. Plus, Nicole "was very much at home" with the theology of another faith.

Still, Nicole said "We are convinced that Caldwell is the place we are meant to be as a family as we continue the journey of faith, and we look forward to getting to know our fellow travelers at Caldwell."



Clockwise from top left: Jacob Ratliff, Joe Lublinkhof and Chris Skibinski.



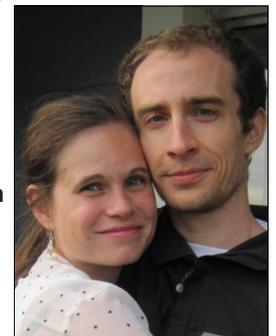
Not pictured in this issue: Martha Bruce.

Caldwell receives (and welcomes) new members the first Sunday of every month. There are no classes per se though Newcomers courses are offered to help folks get oriented; potential members are welcome to participate in any Caldwell activity.

Jesus Experiments - Open Invitation to all who are interested, intrigued, or just curious

So many of us want to live in the way of Jesus--pursuing a life that is deeply soulful, connected to our real needs, and good news to our world. Yet too often our methods of spiritual formation are individualistic, information driven or disconnected from the details of everyday life. We simply are not experiencing the kind of transformation that is the historically expected result of the Christ phenomenon... Perhaps what we need is a path for discipleship that is more like a karate studio than a college lecture hall.

This paragraph is taken from the introduction of *Practicing the Way of Jesus: Life Together in the Kingdom of Love*. The first half of the book covers the "why" and "how" stuff. The second half details actual experiments based on Jesus' life and teachings covering themes of identity, purpose, security, community, and freedom and peace. **If this approach seems at all challenging, intriguing or attractive to you, AND you'd be up for giving it a try, please contact us.** We would like to host a regular gathering of folks to go through the book, reflect together and, especially, support each other in trying the experiments. All ages and stations of life welcome. Caldwell attendance/membership not required. Feel free to share invitation with others. Depending on response, we may hold an initial meeting one weekend in December and hit the ground running in January. Please call or email **Silje and Justin Rowell**: 704-237-0709, justin7001@yahoo.com.



Mecklenburg Ministry Events calendar:

Thanksgiving service with a message

Tuesday, Nov. 26	<p>What: Mecklenburg Ministries' 38th Annual Citywide Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at 7 p.m. on November 26, 2013.</p> <p>Where: Covenant Presbyterian Church (1000 E. Morehead St.).</p> <p>Speakers: Dr. Ron Carter, President of Johnson C. Smith University, will offer a Thanksgiving Message, Mr. Srikanth Rajagopalan will offer a Children's Message, and music will be provided by our Interfaith Choir.</p>
For more information	Contact Marion Idol , cmmsidol@carolina.rr.com .



A banner day for Caldwell at Blue Branch

A few weeks ago, the first Caldwell Day was held at **Blue Branch Presbyterian Church**. 28 people from Charlotte traveled an hour to worship at an historical African-American church near Sharon, SC. Some 50 local Blue Branch supporters welcomed us.

Worshippers entered a simple structure built on the original flooring from the 19th century and sat on pews made by former slaves. The Caldwell choir and the Mt. Hopewell Baptist Church choirs sang traditional gospel and spirituals. **Billy Powell**, a trustee of Blue Branch, shared the history of the church and explained the importance of having a sanctuary. **Rev. John Cleghorn** then delivered a message concerning the need for today's congregations to acknowledge sins of prior generations such as reliance on slave labor to accrue the finances necessary for church buildings and furnishings.

According to oral history, in 1848 slaves began assembling secretly at the slave cemetery near Blue Branch to hold their own worship service. In 1870, a minister of **Bullock Creek Presbyterian Church** assisted them in affiliating with the United Presbyterian denomination. The church was built adjacent to the slave cemetery. Although disbanded, Blue Branch Presbyterian Church hosts an annual homecoming on the first Sunday of September.

-By Kathy Neal

Welcome to **Casita de Amor**

Little House of Love

A new worship community

There's a new worshipping community supported by Caldwell with the goal of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ in innovative ways: Casita de Amor (*Little House of Love*).

From the moment I came to Caldwell, I've seen the dedication this church has to journeying with the Latino/a community. You have walked with brothers and sisters through providing a safe space for the Bilingual pre-school to flourish, through visible acts of justice and by building relationships. Due to your love and dedication, Caldwell has received a seed grant from the *1001 New Worshiping Communities* of the PC(USA). This grant will enable us to explore ministry in new diverse ways!



ESL graduates get their diplomas from our Carol King.

Little House of Love is part of a bigger initiative happening in the Presbyterian Church, USA.

Pastor Evie invites anyone in the Caldwell family who feels called to serve with our Latina/o sisters and brothers to join! The mobile *Casita de Amor* (Pastor Evie for now) will begin meeting with mothers at the Charlotte Bilingual pre-school twice a week to engage in *holistic discipleship*. This simply means exploring ways we can grow in the Christian faith. Our main goal is to apply

practical ways that can positively impact our mind, body and spirit.

We will meet Wednesdays from 3-4:15 p.m. and Fridays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. The main goal is to build relationships, participate in Spanish Bible Study/devotion and then do Zumba Fitness classes (and other art forms). Eventually, the goal is to have *Casita de Amor* in both Caldwell and the Pre-school. We welcome your abundance of gifts and ask for your prayer as we embark in this new journey with God!

-Pastor Evie Landrau

Pastor's column from page 2...

their differences. These are all portraits of hope.

This season is also a time when we are called to lend our hope to others. So we seek to reassure the women who live in our transitional homeless shelter and know that it will close Jan. 1 due to a lack of community funding. We worship with our Latino neighbors and learn about what the hope of Advent and Christmas mean to them as immigrants in a foreign land trying to give their children a better future.

We also lend hope to members who have lost a loved one, for whom this season can be so difficult. We draw near to those facing a difficult diagnosis, some of whom may be having Christmas with their loved ones for the last time.

Our prayers extend beyond us. For North Carolina, we pray with a fervent hope rooted in our state's capacity for rebound and renewal. Our state has always sought "to be rather than to seem." It's been a state where those from east and west worked together through cooperation and compromise. It's a state of earnest, hard-working people who have twice raised the commonwealth to prosperity by its bootstraps, once before the Civil War (by investing in public schools and the state university) and again through the tobacco, furniture and textile industries after the turn of the century.

We are a state that looks forward rather than back, an inclusive state that worked gradually to provide equal opportunities for all its people, a place that invested in roads to aid commerce and in teachers and public schools to advance the ever-rising generations. That is who are.

For Christians, this time of year reminds us that we live between "the already and the not yet," the birth of Hope in our Lord two-thousand years ago and the promise that our Hope will one day be fulfilled beyond our greatest expectations.

In the meantime, as North Carolinians, we pause this Advent to remember who we are and to re-collect the hope that sustains us in building a place for all to call home.

Your RITI role is perfectly acceptable as part of the whole picture

This season (December of this year through March of 2014) Lynn Watson and I are coordinating Caldwell's participation in **Room In The Inn** (RITI).

RITI is an emergency program whereby churches and a few colleges and other facilities in Charlotte provide, usually on a one night a week basis, an evening meal, overnight lodging in their gym or fellowship hall, a hot breakfast and a bag lunch for homeless families, men or women. People are screened through the Urban Ministry. It's not a final solution to Charlotte's homeless crisis but a stop gap measure while more permanent and effective solutions are sought.

For over six years, Caldwell has partnered with St. John's Baptist to provide, on the first Friday of each month, starting in December, the volunteers and food for 12 homeless men. St. John's provides the facilities, mattresses, linens and showers. St. John's handles the other three Fridays per month with their own volunteers.

On those first Fridays of each month, where can we each fit in? What model could we follow to serve in this critical community ministry? One of these 3 stories from Scripture may resonate with you.

The first model is the innkeeper in Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph arrived at night, probably cold, dusty, and certainly in distress. They were strangers. The innkeeper couldn't give them what they wanted, but he gave them what he had: a place that was warm and safe. This may be your model. Maybe the most you can do is help set up on Friday afternoon, or bring a dozen rolls, or help clean up on Saturday morning. This is perfectly acceptable.

Maybe your model is Jesus and his 12 disciples at the Last Supper. These were his closest friends. He loved them. He wanted them to share a special meal. Twelve disciples. I don't think it's a coincidence we are responsible for 12 men. If this is your model, you may want to not only bring a dish, but stay and eat and visit with our homeless guests. Or help with breakfast and send the men off with a hug, showing them love and acceptability, valuing them for who they are. This is perfectly acceptable.

Or maybe your model is the father at the top of the hill who sees in the distance his youngest son, trudging up the rocky path, downtrodden, disheveled, feeling hopeless. The father doesn't hesitate; he runs to his son and throws his arms around him, saying, "Oh my son, you were lost and now you are found. Oh, my son, welcome home." This may be your model of unconditional love. You can do anything from set up or bring food or listen intently to a guest, or tell them how much he is cared about, or eat and share, or clean up, or spend the night, or help with breakfast the next day, hand out lunch bags as men return to Urban Ministry or out into the day. This is perfectly acceptable.

Perfectly acceptable. Perfectly acceptable by God. It's a part of the whole picture. For, indeed, along with each of you, these men are God's precious children, acceptable in God's sight.

To volunteer, you can sign up on our website, www.signupgenius.com/go/30EoC4FA4A629AB9-room and you'll be on Caldwell's site, ready to click on how you would like to participate.

Thank you for considering Room In The Inn as a way to serve some of God's precious children.

-By Carol King



New room for our youth

Our youth ministry is gaining steam - notably marked by creation of a new room for our young members.

Joe Lublinkhof says "The high school kids picked the colors and the middle school kids did the painting at our recent 'lock in'." He said "**Caroline** is the driving force with **Jamie Hoffmeister-Cline** and myself leading the effort of the youth group as a whole."

Caldwell Good News! Bulletin Board

NOVEMBER

Mon., 25	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Mustard Seed Experience, Shelby
Tue., 26	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Yoga, Fellowship Hall
Wed., 27	3:45 - 6:45 p.m.	Contemplative prayer, Prayer Chapel

DECEMBER

Tue., 3	9 - 10:30 a.m. 1:30 - 3 p.m. 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	ESL class, Price Bldg. ESL class, Price Bldg. Yoga, Fellowship Hall
Wed., 4	3:45 - 6:45 p.m.	Contemplative prayer, Prayer Chapel
Thu., 5	9 - 10:30 a.m. 1:30 - 3 p.m.	ESL class, Price Bldg. ESL class, Price Bldg.
Tue., 10	9 - 10:30 a.m. 1:30 - 3 p.m. 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	ESL class, Price Bldg. ESL class, Price Bldg. Women's Circle, Shelby Yoga, Fellowship Hall
Wed., 11	3:45 - 6:45 p.m. 6 - 7:30 p.m.	Contemplative prayer, Prayer Chapel Mission & Justice, Shelby
Thu., 12	9 - 10:30 a.m. 1:30 - 3 p.m. 6 - 8 p.m.	ESL class, Price Bldg. ESL class, Price Bldg. Congregational Care, Upstairs
Fri., 13	6:30 - 9:30 p.m.	Young Adult Fellowship, Shelby
Sat., 14	4:30 - 9:30 p.m.	Las Posadas, Belk Hall
Mon., 16	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Women's Book Club, TBD
Tue., 17	9 - 10:30 a.m. 1:30 - 3 p.m. 6:30 - 8 p.m. 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	ESL class, Price Bldg. ESL class, Price Bldg. Buildings & Grounds Comm., Shelby Yoga, Fellowship Hall
Wed., 18	3:45 - 6:45 p.m.	Contemplative prayer, Prayer Chapel
Thu., 19	6:30 - 8 p.m. 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Education Comm., Upstairs Worship Comm., Shelby

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

Church Calendar

Sundays

9:45 a.m. - Adult Christian Education, Shelby Room
10:00 a.m. - Seekers (Middle School Sunday School), Price Building Youth Room
10:45 a.m. - Nursery is open
11 a.m. - Worship (including Children's Sunday School)
6 p.m. - Links (High School Youth Group), Price Building Youth Room

1st Sunday

Communion

Session receives new members

2nd Sunday

Ten Cents a Meal Offering

All Sundays

Loaves & Fishes Collection (non-perishables in entry basket)

3rd Monday

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

Tuesdays

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

2nd Tuesday

10:30 a.m. - Women's Circle

3rd Tuesday

6:30 p.m. - Building and Grounds, Shelby Room

4th Tuesday

5:30 p.m. - Session, Shelby Room

Wednesdays

3:45-6:45 p.m. - Contemplative Prayer, Prayer Room

7:00 p.m. - Choir Practice, Choir Room

2nd or 3rd Wednesday

6:00 p.m. - Mission & Justice, Shelby Room

2nd Thursday

6:00 p.m. - Congregational Care, Shelby

3rd Thursday

6:30 p.m. - Worship Committee, Shelby

6:30 p.m. - Education Committee, Upstairs Meeting Room

Fridays

7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous, Shelby Room

2nd Friday

6:00 p.m. - Young Adult Fellowship

3rd Friday

12:15 p.m. - Finance Committee, Upstairs Meeting Room

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.