

BELK HALL 'RETIRED' AS TEMPORARY PLACE OF WORSHIP

CGN!

Caldwell Good News!

January 2014



There's always enough food for all at our communal meals, such as this holiday gathering last month. Such togetherness builds a sense of community.

Mission & Justice: are you in? Page 3

We were glad to have lots of young faces at our Christmas eve service. Page 6

Caldwell observed Christmas in many ways. Page 7

Former intern **Danny Trapp** now at Mecklenburg Ministries. Page 8

Adieu, Belk Hall. It served well as our temporary house of worship. Page 10

CALDWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

Pastor's Column**A Time for Mutual Learning and Exchange**

One of the most-repeated themes that emerged from Caldwell's "3D" small group meetings last summer focused on our church's diversity. Specifically, you expressed how you cherish our diversity and want to enrich it. Thanks be to God!

One aspect of our diversity is our racial diversity. We know that it is not something to be taken for granted in a nation where, as Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, the worship hour is the most segregated hour of all.

Your Session and Dream Team (the leaders who are sorting and sizing all the ideas voiced during our 3D visioning process) have elevated made how we, as people of faith, deal openly and honestly with differences of race and class one of their highest priorities. In the coming weeks, with your input, these leaders and your staff will work on specific ways we can make that part of our journey as a church family more real.

In February, however, we have an immediate opportunity to learn and talk more about race. African-American History Month has been part of our church planning for several years. Recently, staff, Worship Committee and other leaders gathered to brainstorm several ideas for this coming month.

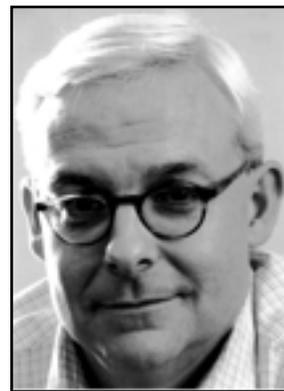
Our theme for the month will be "A Cloud of Witnesses." This phrase comes from Hebrews 12:1:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us

Some of our most important "witnesses" are those of all races who have fought to help all people lay aside one "sin that clings so closely," specifically racism. Other witnesses are those African-Americans who achieved great things to advance society. Still other witnesses can include each of us who witness against the sin of racism by speaking truth and calling us to be guided by what the "Great Emancipator," Abraham Lincoln, described as "the better angels of our nature."

With all of that in mind, here is some of what is planned for African-American History Month at Caldwell:

- Witness by story-telling: Each week in worship, a member will share a few brief words from their own experience, intended to help us reflect on African-American heritage and our shared goal of deepened racial reconciliation.
- Also each week in worship, Music Director **Anne Hunter Eidson** will feature an African-American hymn writer.
- All will be invited to contribute to a "Cloud of Witnesses" collage, a piece of visual art containing written 'snapshots' of African-Americans who have helped us in our journeys as Christians.
- On Saturday, Feb. 15 from 10 a.m. - noon, all will be invited to to gather for a facilitated conversation about race to be led by **Willie Ratchford**,

**Rev. John Cleghorn**

executive director of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee. Willie is a widely respected thought leader and community beacon.

Finally, I have been asked to speak to Charlotte's largest Rotary Club on Feb. 18 on the subject of race in Charlotte and America. I invite your thoughts and suggestions about that talk.

To be sure, we endeavor to explore this part of our humanity not as some vague, feel-good civics lesson. As people of faith, God calls us to the work of reconciliation in the name of Christ and for our shared witness to the Kingdom, a place where people of all differences co-exist in peace and mutual respect. I look forward to seeing you at some of these events.

Women's Retreat in April

Mark your calendar now for the annual - and fabulous - Women's Retreat in the rustic Lookout Lodge near Montreat.

The retreat is always a highlight of the year with fellowship (including wonderful music), great programming, incredible food - and more!

The retreat is open to members and Caldwell guests and visitors and is low cost.

Watch for details, or, call Katy Hill at 704-335-1510.

Caldwell Good News!

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Your Mission and Justice Committees enter the new year optimistic and excited about our continuing missions to help feed people, help with homelessness, help children, and help promote justice for all within our community.



These are long term projects, but our continuing committees include groups helping with Loaves and Fishes, Our Community Garden, Merry Oaks Elementary School, Souper Bowl, Crop Walk, Room In The Inn, Habitat for Humanity, McCreesh Place, Mecklenburg Ministries, Latino Ministries, Justice events like the Gay Pride Celebration, Citizenship events and much more.

We lost the Elizabeth Caldwell House women's shelter last fall, due to changes in the Charlotte and Salvation Army strategies for fighting homelessness, but we are busy preparing for the new initiatives that we expect from the Dream Team and the Session.

Come to one of our meetings or call one of the committee coordinators listed on our web site under "Serve" / "In the World."

By **Alex Smythers**, 704-258-0361

Caldwell ended the year in strong financial position.

Income for the year was healthy at **\$432,383**, and expenses were held to **\$400,820**. We therefore ended the year with a cash reserve of over **\$31,000**.

At the end of the year, we held **\$122,138** in general cash assets, significantly higher than at year-end 2012, when we held **\$93,648**. We remain debt-free. In addition, our capital account held **\$119,909**. However, a significant part of both our general cash assets and our capital account will be used to pay for the new heating and air conditioning systems for our building.

CALDWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ANNUAL BUDGET 2014*

Income	2013 Actual	2014 Budget
Tithes & Offering	355,541	396,000
Gifts & Designated Income	13,055	12,500
Rental Income	30,784	19,000
Event & Misc. Income	3,496	5,384
Pass-thru/Grant	<u>29,506</u>	<u>7,500</u>
Total Income	432,382	440,384
Expenses		
Staffing and Benefits	248,839	284,589
Contract Labor	17,883	18,450
Admin/Communication	31,999	36,125
Buildings and Grounds	41,825	50,625
Education	2,333	4,050
Worship	6,478	2,245
Finance	5,973	7,600
Congregational Life & Care	7,929	9,200
Mission and Justice	18,339	20,000
Pass-thru/Grant	<u>19,233</u>	<u>7,500</u>
Total Expenses	400,831	440,384

Rev. Evie Landrau

My hope is that Casita de Amor will become a place of hope, healing and connections in Christ Jesus for Caldwell and the broader community.

Hopes for Casita De Amor in 2014

We continue full speed ahead with Casita de Amor (Little House of Love), which seeks to create a space for Christian discipleship and community building with Latina/o sisters and brothers.

Since its beginning this ministry has drawn many mothers from the Charlotte Bilingual Pre-School who have opened their lives and hearts to me as pastor. Actually, call me the "Zumba Pastor," since in addition to Bible study and prayer we actually take time to focus on wellness and workout following Bible study. I believe that God has designed us to be wholistic people that seek wellness in body, mind and spirit. In addition, my hope is to use art in its various forms to add creativity and inspiration to our weekly gatherings. Caldwell, I would like you to see the excitement on my sisters faces at this great opportunity! Praise the Lord!

You can also become a part of this journey of the 1001 New Worshipping Communities of the Presbyterian Church (USA) through *Casita de Amor*. Our first goal is to build community by proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. You are welcome to be present by participating with us in the Bible Study and Zumba class on Wednesdays from 3 - 4:30pm and Fridays from 9:30-11:30am at the Charlotte Bilingual Pre-School at Third Presbyterian Church on Central Avenue. As God continues to reveal the vision, we will also have activities and begin a Spanish worship service here at Caldwell soon.

For now, we are in need of Caldwell volunteers that are interested in supporting us during Bible study and devotion by simply being there to pray with us. While the ministry is in Spanish for now, prayer and fellowship indeed go beyond language barriers. It would also be nice to have Caldwell members and friends come join the Zumba class, which happens immediately after Bible study. We are also in need of volunteers that can share their gifts in the arts (dance, writing, poetry, crafts, etc.) and/or fitness. Many of our ladies have many demands and limited financial resources that prevent many from joining a fitness facility or do art projects. Finally, our hope is that we can begin a Spanish worship service that will give us the opportunity to make a joyful noise unto the Lord. In order to do this we need volunteers to help with music amongst other things.

My hope is that *Casita de Amor* will become a place of hope, healing and connections in Christ Jesus for Caldwell and the broader community. Through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection we have been given the opportunity to become a family! Let us enjoy this awesome opportunity given to us by God and participate in what God is doing.

Sharing our abundance

The Garden of Eve donated 355.6 pounds of organic vegetables to Friendship Trays in 2013! It may not seem like it now, but the growing season is not too many weeks away. Please look at Caldwell's community garden as another way to serve those in need.





**Making
Connections in
the Prayer Room**
Each Wednesday,
3:45 - 6:45 p.m.

New Bible Study: Sacred Relationships

How are your relationships with others impacted by your relationship with God? How is your perception of God colored by your interactions with your loved ones? And what can the Bible teach us about healing and strengthening these sacred relationships?

A new Bible study series launching in February will explore the complex questions of the most important relationships in our lives: our parents, our children, our spouses and significant others, as well as the relationship with our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

The first in the open-ended series will be *Sacred Relationships: Women and God the Father*.

Led by **Jesca Yiskah-El**, it begins on Wednesday, Feb. 5, at 6 p.m. in the Quiet Room on the second floor of the Price Building.

The interactive study will revisit the essence of God and how women's relationships with God may have been colored by dysfunctions in relationships with earthly fathers with all-too-human imperfections.

Caldwell Women's Circle

Summary of 2013 activities

Once again the Caldwell Women's Circle has had a very good year! The Bible Study, "An Abiding Hope," the presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy was taught by Cornie Pleasants, our faithful teacher. The titles of our lessons were, "God at work," "God's Call to Serve," "Get Free by God," "Passing through the Waters," "God Provides," "Becoming a Holy People," "Covenant Living," "Temptations Along the Way," and "God's Alluding Presence."

Our donations included, The Thank Offering, Least Coin, Share the Warmth, and Crisis Assistance. We also made sandwiches for the Salvation Army Women's Shelter. We placed a poinsettia in the church for Christmas and a Lily at Easter to honor our past and present members. Our field trip in April was to visit the Billy Graham Library. It was so enjoyable and inspirational.

The year of 2013 was brought to a happy close with the Christmas luncheon at Sharon Towers. It began with a moving devotion by Cornie Pleasants and the blessing by our Caldwell Associate Pastor, Everdith Landrau. Lunch was delicious and then the fun began with the White Elephant gift exchange. It was quite lively and fun. Our luncheon was brought to a close with singing Christmas Carols accompanied on the piano by Anne Hunter Edison, our talented Music Director. I believe a wonderful time was had by all and it put us in the Christmas Spirit.

By **Elaine Hultman**, Circle Chair

The children of our Christmas eve

We enjoyed the company of many young people in our midst for our Christmas service.

Emily Newgreen (age 6 mos.) and her dad **Kyle** lit up the service.



Patrick (age 8) and his sister **Melany Johnson** are all smiles.



Rev. Evie's sister **Esmeralda** (age 19) was glad to be with her older sister for Christmas.



Benjamin Ratliff stopped for a moment before his family found their seats.



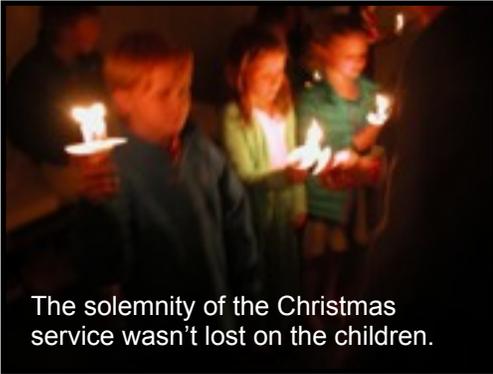
Dorothy (age 5) and **Briana** (age 7) Allen-Slatery are pretty in front of our tree.



Addison (front, age 7), **Cole** (age 9) and big brother **Caleb** (age 11) **Chitester** pause for a quick photo.



Allie Eidson (age 8) and **Breanna Toney** strike a festive pose just after they arrived for the service.



The solemnity of the Christmas service wasn't lost on the children.



Candles await their best and highest use.



Deneen Terrell
Made sure no one went away hungry at our communal meal.

Caldwell observed Christmas in a variety of ways



Nothing like a little background drum music to keep the atmosphere lively.



It was standing room only - perhaps sitting room only - at our Christmas Eve service.

Mecklenburg Ministry Events Calendar:

Evil...human or divine, meditation - and camping

Tuesdays through Feb. 25	17th Annual Comparative Religion Series: <u>Evil...Human or Divine?</u> Presented by Temple Beth El, <u>consecutive Tuesdays, January 21-February 25, 7-9 PM</u> Temple Beth El, 5101 Providence road, Charlotte, NC 28226 Educators and religious leaders from 9 Charlotte area faiths discuss their faith's perspective.
Saturday, Feb. 8	The Radian Heart Retreat- Cultivating Kindness Mindful Members- A Meditation Practice Community Guided meditation, wisdom teachings, mindful walking, Teacher: Ruth King, MA Insight meditation teacher and life coach. <u>Saturday, February 8, 2014 10 AM - 4 PM</u> Charlotte Friends Meeting, 570 Rocky River Road, Charlotte, 28213 Cost: \$25 plus offering to teacher. No one turned away. Event website: http://ruthking.net/2013/07/25/a-day-of-practice/
Saturday, March 15	Citywide Cardboard Campout Youth event March 15, 2014 5:30 PM Registration and information: cardboardcampout@meckmin.org , www.meckmin.org , or 704-565-5455
	For questions, visit Mecklenburg Ministries Website at www.meckmin.org , or call email Marion Idol at cmmsidol@carolina.rr.com .

Former Caldwell intern now Executive Director at Mecklenburg Ministries

Danny Trapp, a former intern at Caldwell, is the new executive director of **Mecklenburg Ministries**.

"I would say for a good while now I've had an interest in the concept of interfaith," said Danny.

His time at Caldwell prepared him for just that eventuality. "While I was there (at Caldwell) I confirmed some things and one of which was I was pretty comfortable with a pretty good level of diversity, and I could operate with that. While I appreciated what I was able to do in terms of worship activity and preaching, what I realized that what I went into seminary for is I would use my training in a non-profit, social services type of role. I confirmed that direction at Caldwell."

How he defines interfaith spreads beyond simply finding the commonalities between faiths.

"The concept of interfaith, and that of different faith traditions, is not only finding their common ground with

each other but learning to celebrate each others differences," said Danny.

He noted that one of the tag lines at Mecklenburg Ministries is 'From common ground to higher ground' but he said "While it rolls off the tongue nicely, we haven't defined the higher ground. The interfaith dialogue the last 25 years has been on finding the common ground. Christians, Muslims and Jews have a commonality we can rally around" but it is more than that.

"To me, the higher ground is being exposed to and celebrate the differences of the different faith traditions. One of the things we need to do in interfaith is not just come together and talk, but move from our communities into other communities of faith - and understanding those - before coming back to our own. To do so, said Danny, makes us "better equipped to have conversations with that community."

That Danny landed his position is fortuitous. "Back when I first went to seminary, one of the first things I said when people asked what I wanted to do is, 'I'm not exactly sure, I could see it working in non-profit world like Mecklenburg Ministries', he said. "I never imagining I would work here. I never imagined I would end here."

Your Holiday Giving Makes New Year Bright for Guatemalan Families

Thanks to the generosity of our Caldwell family, many Guatemalan families will have a brighter 2014. Many of you helped support the mission of Common Hope through the purchases of alternative Christmas gifts. Through your support and care, Caldwell Presbyterian Church was able to purchase **30 emergency food baskets** which will provide food for a family for weeks, **10 pairs of children's school shoes**, and **11 picture books** to help a child learn the joy of reading. Through several other donations, we were able to provide enough **textbooks for two classrooms** and **a new home** for a Guatemalan family that is clean, dry and safe.

Caldwell's mission team saw firsthand the impact of the simple gesture of providing food, nutrition, shelter, clothing, books and education when we traveled to Guatemala in October. Thanks to all you have opened their hearts to the people of Guatemala and have given so generously of their time, talents, resources, love and friendships throughout this past year of service and mission.

Thanks to God!

Gracias a Dios!

By **Cathy Lum**



Bedrock on the mend

One of the day-to-day bedrocks of Caldwell, **Leslie Gipple**, Business & Operations Manager, is on the mend after a nasty fall off her bike. Leslie suffered a shoulder injury that required surgery.

She reports her "range of motion is improving. I wear this circulating ice sleeve up to 4 hours at a time, about 3 hours a day." Get well soon!

Manley Roberts and **Emily Cox** made for a dynamic musical duo at a recent service.

Emily plays trumpet and said her appearances to accompany Manley are often spontaneous. She said she also plays with the Charlotte Pride band.



Adieu, Belk Hall

The venerable building did yeoman's duty to host services during a recent cold snap until our new heating and cooling system went online



Belk Hall has seen its share of events over the years.



A computer glitch that shut off heat to the sanctuary had folks scrambling to return hymnals to Belk Hall for one more service.



The children got one final rousing send off to Sunday school.

Caldwell Good News! Bulletin Board

January

Tues., 28	ESL class ESL class	9 - 10:30 a.m., Price Building 1: 30 - 3 p.m., Price Building
Wed., 29	Contemplative prayer	3:45 - 6:45 p.m. Prayer Rm.
Thurs., 30	ESL class ESL class	9 - 10:30 a.m., Price Building 1: 30 - 3 p.m., Price Building

February

Tues., 4	ESL class ESL class	9 - 10:30 a.m., Price Building 1: 30 - 3 p.m., Price Building
Wed., 5	Contemplative prayer	3:45 - 6:45 p.m. Prayer Rm.
Thurs., 6	ESL class ESL class	9 - 10:30 a.m., Price Building 1: 30 - 3 p.m., Price Building
Sun. 9	Newcomers lunch	12:30 - 1:30, TBD
Tues., 11	ESL class Women's Circle ESL class	9 - 10:30 a.m., Price Building 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Shelby Rm. 1: 30 - 3 p.m., Price Building
Wed., 12	Contemplative prayer Mission/Justice Comm.	3:45 - 6:45 p.m. Prayer Rm. 6 - 7:30 p.m., Shelby Rm.
Thurs., 13	ESL class ESL class	9 - 10:30 a.m., Price Building 1: 30 - 3 p.m., Price Building
Tues., 18	ESL class ESL class	9 - 10:30 a.m., Price Building 1: 30 - 3 p.m., Price Building
Wed., 19	Contemplative prayer	3:45 - 6:45 p.m. Prayer Rm.
Thurs., 20	ESL class ESL class	9 - 10:30 a.m., Price Building 1: 30 - 3 p.m., Price Building
Tues., 25	ESL class ESL class	9 - 10:30 a.m., Price Building 1: 30 - 3 p.m., Price Building

Other standing events

2nd Monday

Women's Circle

3rd Monday

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

4th Monday

5:30 p.m., Session, Shelby

2nd Tuesday

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

Wednesdays

7 p.m., choir practice

2nd Thursday

6 p.m., Congregational Care Comm., Shelby Rm.

3rd Tuesday

12:30 p.m., Finance Comm., upstairs

3rd Thursday

12:15 p.m., Worship Comm., Shelby Rm.

6:30 p.m., Education Comm., upstairs

Every Friday

7:30 p.m., AA, Shelby Rm.

Sundays

9:45 a.m., Adult Sunday School, Shelby Rm.

11 a.m., Worship (including children's Sunday school) Sanctuary

1st Sunday, Holy Communion, Session receives new members

All Sundays, Loaves & Fishes Collection (non-perishables in basket at main entrance to Sanctuary)

Administrative office hours

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

Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 - 5 p.m.

Pastor's office hours

Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Reach Pastor Cleghorn on his cell: 704-957-4511

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 in 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, follow the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Church newsletter: Caldwell Good News!

Caldwell Presbyterian Church

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