

# CGN!

Caldwell Good News!

February 2014



Belk Hall was wonderful as a temporary home for our Sunday worship but our congregation and guests were glad to bathe in the morning light - and warmer temperatures thanks to our new heating system - as services returned to our real home.

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The Prayer Room as an oasis: "It's a good place to be." Page 5

The next time you are at the store, drop some extra items in your cart. Page 6

Sponsors of Guatemalan children reflect on what their help means. Page 7

A human relationship wins out vs. race. Page 10

**Pastor's Column**

# Asking the right questions

## Caldwell's "3D" visioning effort is entering an exciting phase.

Thus far, the congregation has voiced dozens of ideas, some big, some middle-sized and some large. Your "Dream Team" and session have allocated each one to an assessment and decision-making process. Some have already been realized in new ministries and new approaches. Newsletter Editor Dave Bradley's article on the opposite page explores all this in detail.

Especially with the ideas that are larger in scope, now comes the part that can be described with a range of adjectives – stimulating, busy, outward-facing, uncharted and, in many ways, daunting. We're calling our biggest ideas "Big and Bold" because we want them to be the most impactful in many ways. What kind of impacts? Several factors play into these considerations:

- Our available campus space and commitment to use it to reflect the Kingdom of God on earth rather than hoard or reserve it just for our use;
- Our selection of partners, on whom we will rely, in some cases, to succeed; and,

- The opportunity for Caldwell members and friends to engage in deep and meaningful ministry with those served, supported and encouraged by our ministry.
- How can a new ministry be 'scalable' – that is, something we start out on a manageable basis but grow in scope, reach and quality over time?

All of those are appropriate 'real world' considerations to be made and their



consequences will have important outcomes on what we choose to do. Then again, it's important that we remind ourselves that we are not to be limited by a vision that is only "of the world." Had Christ limited his ministry by those standards, he might have soon been forgotten.

Instead, Christ went "to the margins," a phrase that has become important to this dialogue. Christ sought out those others chose not to serve - the poor (in spirit and in material things), the outcast, the marginalized, the discouraged, the powerless. We want to find those "on the margins" in Charlotte and share our "good news" through our actions and advocacy ... as the hands and feet of Christ.

We're also keeping other defining factors and questions in mind:

- How can our to-be-named endeavors for the Lord position



**Rev. John Cleghorn**

us to be *relational* in ways that break down barriers of race and class? As I asked in a recent sermon, how can each of us gain deeper empathy that draws us out of our apathy?

- How will our efforts be well-defined as filling an existing gap that Caldwell feels uniquely qualified to fill? Our city is full of ministries and non-profits. What we do should fit within and be additive to a systemic solution to our city's greatest social needs.
- How will our new efforts reflect Caldwell's distinct DNA and mission statement as a church that strives to be missional and transformational, progressive and activist, focused on justice and diverse in multiple ways?

So, you can see why I say that our current phase of exploration is daunting. These are big questions with big consequences! But it's equally clear to me that our Lord has blessed us with a range of connections across our city and experienced, informed and committed leaders to seek God's direction. Caldwell has been so deeply blessed with opportunity, assets and committed disciples. Surely the Lord will guide our path, *if we keep asking the right questions.*

Scripture gives us many stories and images to guide us. One is captured in

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*Pastor's column, page 8*

**Caldwell is entering the next phase of a nearly year-long effort to determine significant areas where the church can pour its energies in the near and long term.**

Caldwell in 3D - Discernment, Discussion, Dreaming - has reached the culmination stage of a church-wide introspection - nearly every adult in the church was involved in small group discussions - of broad 'what if' possibilities followed by distillation of discussion notes by a 12-member 'Dream Team' into a smaller list of common ideas across the smaller groups.

Now, according to **Beth Van Gorp**, there are five primary areas of focus up for further review. "This process is going to take a while because we want to be thorough, thoughtful and prayerful. All this will be happening in the next few months."

An all-congregation meeting provided an early view of the five points identified by the Dream Team:

1. A potential ministry for students at Central Piedmont Community College. Beth said Caldwell is the nearest church to these "neighbors."
2. Given the professional expertise within the church, Caldwell could become an entrepreneurship incubator. "People need a source of income," says Beth, and there might be a way for us to support people who want to start their own business."
3. The church could provide after-school care for children as an extension of our ministry to children and families. we would want the program to be intentional in gathering families and children from different races and classes.
4. Turning the bilingual tables: Caldwell has two updated, fully equipped pre-school classrooms with 34 seats and the Charlotte Bilingual Preschool does not want to expand here. We are told by informed leaders that there is interest in Charlotte in a preschool where more than one language is spoken. We want to explore the possibility of

# 3D

## Discernment Discussion Dreaming

a preschool that would allow low-income children, perhaps African-American and Latino, to be in class with middle-class kids.

5. The church could become involved with Hawthorn High School, a facility for high-risk teenage mothers or mothers-to-be. Beth says as a unique congregation, the church is well positioned to deal with issues of race and class.

Beth notes that these ideas are just entering the next phase of examination. "We don't know how many will come to fruition or what we will pour our energy into," she says. "Some may eliminate themselves as we investigate and we may

need to make some choices."

3D has done precisely what it was intended to do, according to **Pastor John Cleghorn**: involve the larger congregation in the future of the church and its ministries.

"It's done several things," says John. "First, I'm delighted with the level of participation and the hands-on interest in the process. Almost all our active adults have been involved in one way or the other, and that's a blessing.

"I'm excited about this next phase as we begin to look more concretely at some big and bold ideas, and as we engage people in the community to provide perspective on the role they think Caldwell should be playing in the city. I have confidence as always that the Lord goes and ahead and will lead us to the right answers."

Helping find those answers will be a new team of leaders assigned to each of the five major possibilities. Beth says those leaders will be "talking to people outside the congregation as to who are partners might be, where the needs are and where we're being called in terms of discipleship and where this missional approach is headed. We're in a good place."

As before, more help is needed. If you are interested in helping with this next phase, contact Beth (bvangorp@gmail.com) or **Gina Shell** (gshell@ci.charlotte.nc.us).



## Rev. Evie Landrau

**Sometimes it is hard to be a disciple of Jesus Christ if our spiritual, physical or mental health is not at its best.**

### Hopes for Casita De Amor in 2014

**We worship! We worship God with joy and delight like never before.**

Psalm 100: 1-2 tell us, "*Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him/her with joyful songs.*" Just like the psalmist, we shout for joy at the opportunity to gather for our first worship service in Spanish on Saturday, March 1, 2014 at 2 p.m. in Belk Hall.

Please join us Caldwell as we welcome our new worshipping community participants' home. The goal of a new worshipping community is to make disciples of Jesus Christ in new and innovative ways. *Casita De Amor* does it through Bible study, worship and focus on becoming wholistic people. We share the gospel in word and deed by empowering families to be healthy in body, mind and spirit.

As a pastor, I have witnessed how challenging it can be when our body, mind or spirit is in any kind of distress or turmoil. The distresses of life come through overwhelming stressful situations at work, home, community and the world. Sometimes it is hard to be a disciple of Jesus Christ if our spiritual, physical or mental health is not at its best. This is why *Casita de Amor* has also partnered with **Village Heart Beat** an initiative for faith based organizations with Novant Health, The Mecklenburg Department of Health and other agencies. We will journey together for 14 weeks in a health challenge learning about our bodies, minds, food and health while receiving health screenings from medical professionals free of charge. This initiative also provides *Casita* participants access to fitness classes and training for free. The best part of is that it is also an **ecumenical initiative really focusing on cooperation and Christian unity.**

Through these opportunities we have discovered that worship goes beyond Sundays and can really become a lifestyle. Worship becomes a lifestyle when we journey as community and open our lives to one another in Christian love. **Caldwell you are invited to journey** with us through prayer and participation. Even though we have maxed out of the competitors' capacity for the challenge, you can still do the health challenge with us by keeping a food journal, participating in health workshops and in the Zumba class and Bible study on Fridays from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at Third Presbyterian Church. If you are interested in sharing your gifts and talents with *Casita De Amor*, please contact Rev. Evie.

**New Bible study class - Sacred Relationships - already underway**

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 is each Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the Quiet Room on the second floor of the Price Building.



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

**‘We all need a quiet oasis’**

The recent spate of cold (and snowy) weather coupled with a furnace on the fritz may have put a damper on Wednesday attendance at the prayer room, but now that the weather is on the upswing the room can get back to what it does best: aid visitors on their spiritual journeys.

“It’s not about the number of people, it’s about the quality of the experience,” says **Peg Robarchek**. Peg, who helps organize the Wednesday sessions, sees an intention to those who visit. “What I have noticed is the people who come very often want to talk and need to talk about something that’s going on with them. They feel grateful someone is there. They can pray a while then talk. There’s a connecting there. It’s an opportunity

to visit with someone who will hear you.”

Attendance varies in this quiet refuge tucked behind the sanctuary. “We can have people filling the room and sitting on floors,” says Peg but there are often times “when we have one or two coming in, sitting in silent prayer or journaling. We all need a quiet oasis. There’s nothing going on there that people have to feel uncomfortable about. It’s just a good place to be.”



Although there were no reports of blisters during Caldwell’s participation in last fall’s 35th CROP Walk, church volunteers raised enough money that a few blisters could be excused.

**Stomp your feet: Caldwell raised \$3,800 in the CROP Walk**

But now the final fundraising total is in, and according to **Marion Idle**, “So far, last year’s walk raised \$310,000, of which Caldwell raised over \$3,800.” Shown at a recognition dinner at St. John’s Baptist Church are walkers **Regina Caldwell, Jesca Yiskah-El** and Marion.

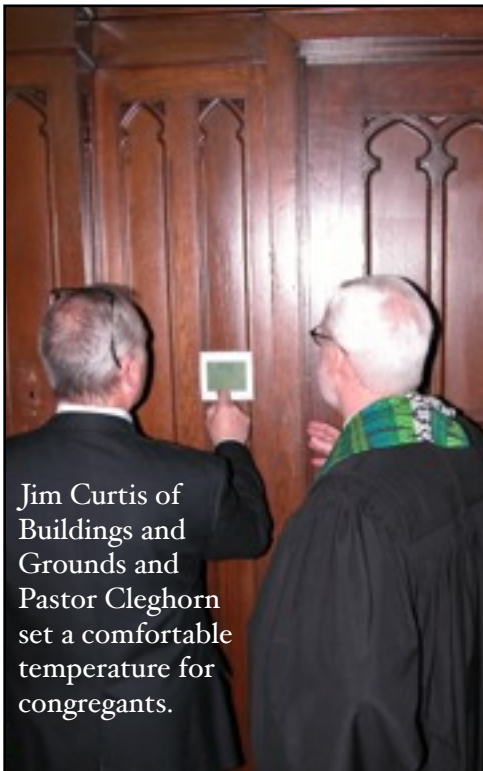


Representing Caldwell at the Women’s Health Conference were Yvette Wilson, Rev. Evie and Cheryl Emmanuel, Village Heart Beat Director.

# A warmer sanctuary welcomes back worshippers; 'It feels like coming home'

With heat issues resolved, congregants and guests return to our beautiful house of worship

So, how do members and guests feel about the return to our sanctuary?



Jim Curtis of Buildings and Grounds and Pastor Cleghorn set a comfortable temperature for congregants.



The first service back in the sanctuary also marked the debut of the new hymnals that included a notation of individual sponsors.



*It's more than esthetics. Coming here since 2007, this is home. This is Caldwell. This where I feel more at peace. It's pleasantly familiar.*

**Sharon Harmon**

*It's just a stark difference from my first place (Belk Hall). I feels more holy. I'm interested to see the service here as opposed to Belk Hall.*

**Tim Straw**



*I missed the way the light comes through the windows and the way the choir sounds in the sanctuary. It feels like coming home.*

**Sheena Ashley**

*It feels better. The atmosphere and the scenery and just the spirit that is in this room.*

**Ruby Jones**



*There is comfort in the sanctuary. That was missed, even the paint and the stained glass windows. It feels like coming home.*

**Ruth Curtis**

*Well, this is beautiful sanctuary. I love the windows. Church is really the people, not the building. I love the choir and people are always so friendly. This is my first time in here. I can't wait to see it (the service).*

**David Therrell**



*It feels like being home. Odd as it sounds, everyone is back in their place.*

**Ann Alford**

# Muy bien: Guatemalan children helped by Caldwell sponsors

Many Caldwellians have made the pilgrimage to Guatemala but many find they can help by staying home in Charlotte, too

**For years**, Caldwell members and friends have jetted south to Guatemala on a trip billed as a way to help families. But it's the visitors who often find it to be a *quid pro quo* situation; the generosity, humility and ethic of the Guatemalans, who often have very little in the

way of possessions, leaves a lasting impression on those who ostensibly came to help. There are, however, other ways to help short of a long trip. Many Caldwellians have chosen to sponsor children. Here are some of those stories.

**Sulmy** is a curious, friendly, slightly shy girl who has just turned 12. She lives with her parents, her grandfather, and five sisters, and she loves to play soccer and walk and play in the forest near her home.  
- **Sally and Zach Thomas**



**Diego** is an energetic eight-year-old who lives in New Hope, a village created a few years ago to house poor people who had been displaced by a hurricane. Diego has hyperactivity disorder and until recently has struggled in school because he had trouble concentrating. He's now seeing a neurologist, and medication is helping him to be more focused. He enjoyed a visit by Caldwell's vision team. In a recent letter, he says, "I am learning much faster now. I hope you will visit us soon."  
- **Joyce Deaton**



Richard and I have been sponsoring **Angel** for the past 3 years. We were in the second vision group from Caldwell to go to Guatemala. During our visit we touched by the great work that Common Hope provides to the families it serves. It did not take long for us to commit to this child and his dreams to become educated and live a better life. We are so proud of him - he has completed the 6th grade, which for Guatemalan children is time of highest risk of dropping out of school.  
- **Sherry and Richard Bargoil**



When Jennifer and Ann visited with **Jakelin** she brought with her a picture of our grandchildren to show them. She was happy to know a little bit about our life in Charlotte. She wants to be a nurse, but is having some trouble "making efforts in my studies." Mike and I hope to go on the next trip and meet her.  
- **Lynn and Mike Watson**



**Fermin** is a bright and lively boy of 7, the youngest in a family of five children in San Rafael, a traditional Mayan village in rural Guatemala. "This year I am in first grade, and I feel very happy," he said in a recent letter. "I like of my homework for drawing, painting." When the Caldwell team visited him this year, he was glad to see everyone and wants to know more about all of us. The younger brother of Caldwell's previous sponsored child, Maria Modesta, and now is pleased to be our special focus.  
- **Caldwell sponsors Fermin (written by Joyce Deaton)**



Editor's note: This article would not have been possible without the help of Sally and Zach who rounded up all the photos and contacted all the sponsors.

Mecklenburg Ministry Events Calendar:

# A film fest, cardboard camping, food for thought

<p><b>Wednesday, Feb. 26</b></p>	<p><b>Charlotte Jewish Film Festival: The Jewish Cardinal</b> The story of Jean-Marie Lustiger, the late Cardinal and Archbishop of Paris. Wednesday, Feb. 26, 7 - 9 p.m. Temple Israel</p>
<p><b>Saturday, March 15</b></p>	<p><b>Citywide Cardboard Campout</b> Youth event. Saturday, March 15, 2014 5:30 p.m. Registration and information: <a href="mailto:cardboardcampout@meckmin.org">cardboardcampout@meckmin.org</a>, <a href="http://www.meckmin.org">www.meckmin.org</a>, or 704-565-5455</p>
<p><b>Thursday, March 20</b></p>	<p><b>Food for Thought: Summoning Strength: A New Course for Courage</b> A discussion on hope; milestones for changing lives challenged by domestic violence. Thursday, March 20, 12 - 1 p.m., Covenant Presbyterian Church. Registration required. Call 704-565-5455 or online <a href="http://www.meckmin.org/register-for-events/">http://www.meckmin.org/register-for-events/</a></p>
<p>For questions, visit Mecklenburg Ministries Website at <a href="http://www.meckmin.org">www.meckmin.org</a>, or call email Marion Idol at <a href="mailto:cmmsidol@carolina.rr.com">cmmsidol@carolina.rr.com</a>.</p>	

## Toss items for Loaves & Fishes into your grocery cart

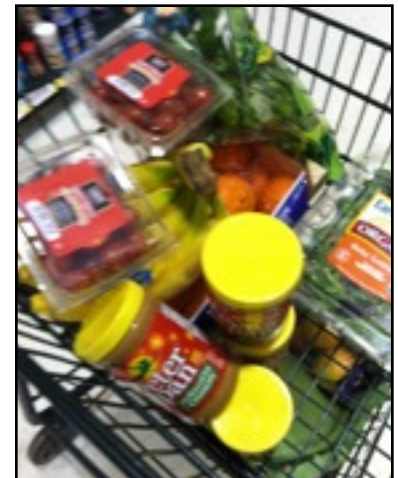
*Alex Smythers reflects on a good deed for those who go hungry:*

Ann and I took the backlog of groceries to First Presbyterian downtown.

There were a lot of clients today. Everyone has to have a referral from a member church to be served, and once admitted, they get to choose what items they want for their families based on a point system. This is new since Ann and I were last involved, but it seemed very nice for the clients to have choices - more like shopping.

Everything we took (120 lbs. of food) will be distributed. They divided the food into categories which were shelved together - vegetables, canned meats, bread, cereal, canned fruit, pasta, peanut butter, eggs and dairy and maybe a couple of others. They also have frozen meat which they use cash donations to buy.

The lady we talked to was very grateful for the donations. She also said that they can always use volunteers to help sort the foods, arrange shelves, take donations, and help the clients. Our overall impression was very positive. This is a basic mission to help people in real need.



## Pastor's column

a small statue I keep on the front of my desk as a daily reminder of the appropriate posture to assume in serving our God by serving others. It pictures Christ, our savior, prophet, priest and king, on his knees, washing one of his disciples feet, quoting Jesus in Mark 9:35 as saying: 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.'

May it be so with us. Thanks be to God!

New to Caldwell? Check out our newcomer class on Sunday mornings.





# Big Game? The real MVPs that Sunday were our youth at the Souper Bowl

Our youth stepped up big time to raise \$565 for Loaves & Fishes to help those who don't have much to eat.

(Photos: Sally Thomas)



Katy Hill gets a ladle of good soup.



Jocelyn serves Alex Smythers.



Rosabella and Ben help the next hungry guest.



Grayson and Jake help Johnny Johnson with his meal.



Hannah and Gabe do beverage duty.



## ‘The human relationship between the races won out’

Good Morning. I am Janie Richmond Lownes. For our African-American History Moment, I will share the story of my grandmother, whose name was Henrietta Phelps Jeffries.

Henrietta was a midwife and a founding member of the Macedonia A.M.E. Church in Milton, North Carolina, which is my hometown. She was born in 1857 in Halifax County, Virginia. She was the daughter of Elija Phelps, who was a slave, and Charlotte Ann Bennett, who was also a midwife. She married George Lawson, from Milton, at the age of 15, but she became a widow at the age of 22. She then married Allen Henderson Jeffries, a tobacco farmer, who was my grandfather. She had 11 children with Allen Jeffries and had a total of 18 children altogether. They raised their family in Milton.

Although born during slavery times, Henrietta was able to read, and she had a special calling to be a midwife, like her own mother. She was affectionately known as “Aunt Henrietta” in the community. She unselfishly went to whoever needed her service and gave it free of charge. She was often called upon to deliver both black and white babies in the community. She is recorded as having birthed “hundreds of children” throughout Caswell County, North Carolina. Henrietta was blessed with a God-given gift of helping others in their time of need.

However, in 1911, at the age of 54, Henrietta was brought to trial on charges of “practicing medicine without a license”. Some of the many mothers and babies that Henrietta helped had died, and she stood charged with giving harmful medicine to her patients. The trial was held at the old Caswell County Courthouse in Yanceyville, in front of a courtroom packed with her supporters. The penalty, at that time, if convicted, was death by hanging. Her trial was a very historic event for the small town of Milton and it received national attention from the press. The jury was made up of all white men. The judge listened to Henrietta defend herself without a lawyer, based on her Christian faith. Henrietta said that she was not practicing medicine and she was quoted as saying “I only went to those white women when they needed me. When they were in pain, I held their hands, and I was the first to love their little children when they come into the world.”

Henrietta’s words moved the judge so much that he dismissed himself from the bench, came down and stood beside Henrietta, and defended her himself. Then, as judge, he overruled any jury decision, and dismissed the charges. Such a dismissal was unheard of for an American woman of color at that time. Henrietta’s family was very relieved and she continued her profession as midwife until her natural death in 1926.

The trial is recorded in a book about the history of Caswell County. It was also made into a short film produced by a community college in Roxboro, North Carolina, with many of Henrietta’s descendants playing the characters. In 1999, my daughter Mabelle and I joined other relatives to see the trial acted out in a play, as part of the celebration for the newly renovated Yanceyville Courthouse. We watched the play in the same courtroom where Henrietta was set free 88 years ago. My relative, Bernice Jeffries, wrote the script for the play as an example of strength and faith. I agree with Bernice, who said that “to be an African-American woman and do what she did, and face justice – she had to have a strong faith and belief in God, and believe in what she was chosen to do.”

But the trial also highlighted many important racial and professional aspects – how African-Americans were considered fit for some jobs, but not for others. It is rumored that Henrietta was charged because doctors and pharmacists in the area thought she was taking away too much of their business. However, in the end, the human relationship between the races won out. The judge was able to sympathize with Henrietta as a human being. He was able to understand and uphold her vital role in the community.

I think my grandmother’s story has many lessons that we can all learn from. Thank you for allowing me to share her story with you today as part of our African-American History Moment.



Henrietta Phelps Jeffries



Henrietta Phelps Jeffries and Allen Wilson Jeffries

*Editor's note: this is a reprint from a portion of a recent Sunday service.*

# Caldwell Good News! Bulletin Board

## February

Tues., 25	ESL class ESL class Yoga  Theology on Tap	9 - 10:30 a.m., Price Building 1:30 - 3 p.m., Price Building 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Price Building, second floor back room 7 - 8 p.m., LeRoy Fox Restaurant
Wed., 26	Contemplative prayer Bible study  CMA	3:45 - 6:45 p.m., Prayer Rm. 6 - 7 p.m., Price Bldg., Quiet Room, second floor 6 - 7 p.m., Price Bldg. parlor, first floor
Thur., 27	ESLclass	9 - 10:30 a.m., Price Building

## March

Sat., 1	Casita Worship Service	11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tues., 4	ESL class Yoga	9 - 10:30 a.m., Price Building 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Price Building, second floor back room
Wed., 5	Ash Wednesday Contemplative prayer Bible study CMA	3:45 - 6:45 p.m., Prayer Rm. 6 - 7 p.m., Price Bldg., Quiet Room, second floor 6 - 7 p.m., Price Bldg. parlor, first floor
Thur., 6	ESL class	9 - 10:30 a.m., Price Building
Sun., 9	Newcomers lunch	12:30 - 1:30 p.m., loc. TBD
Tues., 11	ESL class Women's Circle  Yoga	9 - 10:30 a.m., Price Building 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Shelby Room 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Price Building, second floor back room

## 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.

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Caldwell Presbyterian Church

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