

INSIDE: COVERAGE OF CALDWELL'S SUPPORT OF A DIVERSE CONGREGATION



CGN!

Caldwell Good News!
June 2014

CALDWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

Pastor's Column

Good Grief

One of the most important things a church family can do for its members is to help them grieve.

We walk together through life's valleys and mountaintops, relating God's strength, Christ's hope and the power of the Holy Spirit in whatever highs and lows we face.

Experiences of loss can be defining moments for our faith. Faith can sustain us through these times as nothing else does. At the same time, faith can experience its most difficult tests amid loss, especially profound loss, such as the loss of loved ones. Sometimes, the trajectory of our faith can even be changed by how we experience God, directly and indirectly through the care of others.

With this in mind, the Caldwell Congregational Care Committee, chaired by elder **Kim Bohannon**, is setting time aside this summer to explore ways the church can deepen its care for those who experience life-changing loss. The committee will look at a range of types of losses – loss of loved ones, but also loss of jobs, loss of

health, loss of activity as we age, loss of relationships and, yes, even the loss of a beloved pet.

The committee will work on ways to “walk with” members before, during and after these various experiences. Its focus will be on caring that complement the particular pastoral care that Evie and I seek to provide as well as the excellent care our Bereavement Committee provides at times of death in the way of funerals and related receptions.

In those ways, this work builds on an excellent foundation. We have been told by funeral home directors that Caldwell offers one of the “best” funeral experiences in town, from the planning to the service to the reception and care for the family throughout.

But grieving is a process that extends well beyond time of death, funeral and burial. Indeed, some of the most difficult times of grief come a month or two or three after the phone has stopped ringing and the casseroles stop magically arriving at the doorstep. During and after loss, we can support members in all sorts of ways both spiritual and practical, from support groups to mowing someone's lawn.

With the newly added energy and leadership of **John Crowell**, the Congregational Care Committee this summer will be inviting members to pray and think about whether they feel called to this sensitive and special ministry. We will explore grief through sermons, workshops and other



Rev. John Cleghorn

experiences. Stay tuned to hear more in July and August.

A fundamental truth, witnessed and described throughout scripture from Moses to Jesus and his followers, is that God offers strength and comfort for God's children in all kinds of loss, even enabling us to grow through these defining moments. God gathers us in, enfolding us through the arms of divine grace and the arms of our church family.

The prophet Isaiah, anticipating Christ, gives us these words:

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:4-6)

Amen.

Caldwell Good News!

A monthly publication of Caldwell Presbyterian Church
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Now may be the time
to show your

Pride

Caldwell's reputation is one of inclusiveness and acceptance. "... we welcome a diverse, urban community seekers - young and old, gay and straight ..." reads our *Mission* statement. If you are like minded, here's how you can demonstrate that this philosophy works for you, too.



Preparations are underway for Caldwell's participation in this year's **Charlotte Pride** celebrations. Caldwell will be participating in Black Pride (July 19), in the Charlotte Pride Festival (August 16 and 17) and in the Pride Parade (August 17). We hope that everyone in the Caldwell family will find a place to participate and that as many folks as possible will join us in the Parade. It was an absolutely wonderful experience last year!

We need folks to be at our booth at both Black Pride and Charlotte Pride, probably in 2 hours shifts. Everything will be set-up for you. Look for **Peg Robarchek** and **Ann Alford** to offer opportunities to sign-up in the coming weeks. We will all be wearing matching t-shirts this year, designed with the Caldwell logo! A generous benefactor has made a donation so everyone can get a free shirt (we may ask for a donation). We will be asking all who participate to let us know their size. Our donation may not cover all costs, so if anyone else would like to help defray these costs, please let a member of the Pride committee know!

We will have a float this year! This is due to the generosity of one of our newest members, **Jane**

McBride. The float is rigged for sound and we plan to crank it up with the choir riding and singing! We need volunteers to be on the float decorating committee! If you are interested or artistic, please let us know! The Youth will also play a part in the parade.

Also new this year, we will provide a training session in advance, to help prepare those that will be working in the Caldwell booth. This will include tips on approaching and engaging others. We don't plan to be anything other than courteous, but we want to know the right thing to say when asked!

If you are interested in learning more, our next meeting will be Tuesday, June 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Shelby Room.

Those who have already joined the team include:

Johnny Johnson, Lisa Raymaker, Jane McBride, John Crowell, Peg Robarchek, Sarah Hofmeister-Cline, Jamie Hofmeister-Cline, Debbie Brindley, Sharon Harmon-Robison, David Robison, Ann Alford, Patrick Raymaker and Caroline Lublinkhof.

Can we add your name to this growing list?

By Johnny Johnson



Rev. Evie Landrau

I believe that global affairs are central to the healthy development of our local congregation.

From the Local Level to the Global Level

We can all agree with certainty that we live in a global world. Most of us have witnessed events live through television networks and the internet as they are happening across the world. Global news and affairs affect us radically.

Therefore, I believe that global affairs are central to the healthy development of our local congregations because at the end of the day we are all connected. Once again, I have the opportunity to represent our Denomination (PCUSA), as a member of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Central Committee. My goal will be to discern prayerfully what God is doing with other sisters and brothers from different Christian communions. The main topics we will address include:

- Trends in society, churches and ecumenical movement
- Role of the WCC in the ecumenical movement
- Strategic direction of the WCC: a pilgrimage of justice and peace

I would like to ask for your prayers as hundreds of clergy and lay leaders travel to Geneva, Switzerland from June 30 to July 9, 2014. Please pray for our traveling mercies, protection and discernment. Please also pray that we will together hear the voice of the Holy Spirit as we try to practice radical hospitality and Christian and Inter-Faith cooperation. **May our main prayer be: “God of life lead us to justice and peace, through Christ our Lord, Amen.”**

To the mountaintop and back

This was written many, many years ago by **Elaine Estridge** (now, Hultman) a lifetime member of Caldwell, while on a church retreat to Montreat. She was in the 10th grade at Central High School in Charlotte. How many of us have personally experienced this beautifully written passage? Thanks for sharing this with us Elaine!

MOUNTAINTOP

It was wet and muddy as we started our climb up *Lookout Mountain*. Then, the sun came up! It was shining down through the trees that enclosed us on both sides of the path, making it hot and humid.

As my friend dragged me up the last few feet of that mountain, I only wished I were home in bed. After we rested a few minutes and had begun to look around, we realized every bit of the 2-mile hike up was worth it.

It was about 6:00 in the evening, and the sun, a huge ball of fire, was just going down behind the mountaintops, with red, gold and purple spreading across the sky. It made the mountains look purple and gold in all its glory and it shed an iridescent glow over all of *Lookout Mountain*.

I could see for miles around. There were beautiful green valleys and lazy, gurgling streams making their way through the valleys and more mountains that seemed to rise up to the very height of the heavens.

As the sun's radiant glory began to dim and the night gradually closed in upon us, the lights of the sky came on with the lights of the town. I really felt that I was on top of the world. The dim outline of the majestic mountains seemed to protect us from all harm as the minister began to speak.

“I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord who made heaven and earth.”

While he spoke of God and nature and the miracle of creation, a strange peace and quiet came over our group that somehow had never been there before. I knew at that moment, high in the heavens, where now the stars were twinkling and the full moon was shining upon us, God was in our midst. I could feel His presence. He was there, in His world that He had so majestically created. All praise to God!

**A good church to call
your church home**

Caldwell welcomes all



I feel acceptance and inclusiveness, and I truly value the social activities this church stands up for and practices. It is willing to stand behind what we say we believe.

John Crowell



I like it. That's why I've been here for the fourth or fifth time. It's the diversity and acceptance of everyone.

Mitch Phelps



I just feel I am part of it. I don't feel distinguished as a minority. The church accepts me just as I am. I just feel welcomed.

**Debbie
Brindley**

I think the big draw for me is, it is very open and affirming. The life of the church is not centered around my sexuality.

Tim Strock



The good that ESL does

Caldwell volunteers bring English language skills to Latinos twice each week.



Ann Smythers

I really like getting to know the students. It takes a while, and they tend to be very reserved and hold back. But they do tell you their stories. You do what you can to help them. One other really important reason for teaching ESL is that I believe it's a critical ministry of the church. Many of our students are undocumented and are subject to harsh hostility from native-born Americans. It's essential for the church to lead the way in exhibiting Christian hospitality to these neighbors of ours.



Smitty Flynn

Alex Smythers

I have been doing volunteer work with Latinos since 2000, and they are happy, generous, family oriented people with a refreshing outlook on life, politics, and religion. I learn a lot from them, and find the immigrant people to be the bravest people I know. Teaching English helps immigrants to help themselves. Jesus tells us clearly to help widows, children and sojourners. It is our blessing to be able to share hospitality, and Christian values with new people. Key missions for Caldwell are combined in this ministry. As it says in Hebrews 13:2, *Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.*



Smitty is one of a number of Caldwell members and friends who have taken a keen interest in the well being of our Latino neighbors and friends.

He has donated his time and energies in the English as a Second Language (ESL) courses that Caldwell has conducted in our Price Building.

If you have interest in helping with our ESL outreach (no special Spanish language skills required) contact the church office.



Here's more good news in action about Caldwell's lengthy involvement with ESL. **Linda Pugh** and **Lynn Watson** (left) pose with a recent ESL graduate. **Carol King** (seated right) got a surprise birthday party from other ESL students. (Photos: Ann Alford)



Caldwell knows how to do church picnics



It's official: Caldwell knows how to throw a great church picnic. The food was good and the friendships were even better. To say a good time was had by all is a considerable understatement.





**Making
Connections in
the Prayer Room**
Each Wednesday,
4 - 6 p.m.

Room for more in 'a holy space'

Prayer Room activities are heating up as summer temperatures are on the rise.

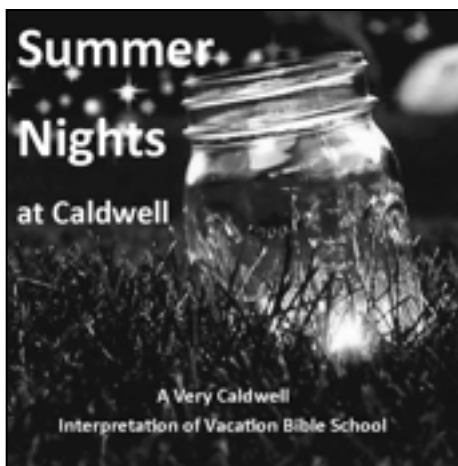
To be sure, prayer is central to much of what goes on every Wednesday, but there's a lot of variety for Caldwell parishioners and guests.

Peg Robarchek outlined several options that range from traditional prayer (4 p.m.), some group singing and a relatively new feature: *Living the Sermon*, an examination of the sermon from the prior week.

Peg said copies of the sermon will be available, and discussion of the sermon (starting at 6 p.m.) can also branch out into a conversation about the prior week's scripture. The first go-round went well: "We had a nice turnout" for the first group revisit to the prior sermon.

Whichever route appeals to you, there is plenty of room for more midweek worshippers.

Peg called the Wednesday opportunity for 10 - 12 people a chance to be in "a holy space to connect with God."



Here is the schedule for Summer Nights:

5:30 - 6 Get-acquainted games
6 - 6:30 Light dinner
6:30 - 7 Story and song
7 - 8 Fun & fellowship
8 - 8:30 Closing Prayer &
Song

Get the Scoop on Summer Nights at Caldwell

Some FAQs for everyone who wants the scoop on this year's very Caldwellian version of Vacation Bible School.

Q: Is this just for kids? Should I expect to drop off my kids and pick them up later?

A: No, Summer Nights at Caldwell has been planned for all ages and all kinds of families—in fact, it's perfect for our whole Caldwell family. Since there won't be child care, children must be accompanied by an adult.

Q: Can I bring friends, neighbors, other family members?

A: Please do!

Q: I get off work too late for the get-acquainted games at 5:30. Can I come anyway?

A: Absolutely! Come when you can and leave when you must. Things get started about 5:30 and will wrap up sometime between 8 and 8:30. But various activities will be going on at different times throughout the evening, so you'll be able to join right in no matter what time you show up.

Q: Bedtime comes early at my house, so I may need to leave before the closing prayer. Can I come anyway?

A: Absolutely! See the answer above. Please don't stay home just because you might need to leave before it's officially over.

Q: Will there be child care for toddlers and infants?

A: We wanted to create an intergenerational experience and allow everyone to get acquainted with and interact with others. So we decided not to take toddlers and infants away from the activities. We will have an infant area and a changing area will be available.

More Summer Nights information on next page

What are you **Praying for?**



My first thought was hope. I see us spiraling really fast in poverty, education and I feel helpless about it. I'd like to have more focus on bringing help where its needed.
Rev. Jeannette Hickman



I'm praying for clearness of purpose, praying for friends who are graduating and for a transition for myself and others, and for peace, too.
Susan Pierson



I am praying for patience. I have three kids and that alone makes me anxious. I'm praying for peace, too.
Carrie Mastro



I'm praying for myself and everybody at Caldwell church and for peace and joy.
Janie Lownes



I pray for peace, for our nation, members of my family and for an inclusive society.
Walt Hutchinson



I am praying for the leadership of our country to come together a little bit better peace-wise.
Reid Griffin

McCreesh Place looking for birthday volunteer coordinator

Wanted: A new volunteer coordinator for birthdays celebrated by residents of McCreesh Place.

The task doesn't demand much commitment: Birthday celebrations are on the first Wednesday in each yearly quarter at 5: 30 p.m. and last from 45 minutes to one hour. Tables must be set up, food served, and then light clean up. You would find volunteers to help. If you are interested, contact Margaret Fleeman and Margaret@fleemans.com.

Q: What's up with the "What would Jesus eat?" theme?

A: We wanted to make it easy for everyone to come straight from work without worrying about stopping by the grocery store on the way. So we'll provide rice or another grain dish, beans and greens and invite you to bring something to share that could have survived a day on a camel in first-century Palestine. Fruit (fresh or dried), nuts of all kinds, olives, tuna...let's see how creative we can get in answering the question "What would Jesus eat?" In addition, we'll have some sandwich fixings for less adventurous younger eaters.

Q: Front Porch Night? But we don't have a front porch.

*A: We will on July 10. In addition to get-acquainted games and an interactive Bible story, you'll have the chance to participate in crafts - including making your very own old-fashioned church fan - and making homemade ice cream (because we feel certain **somebody** must've carried an ice cream freezer on their camel).*

Q: Night #1 is Draw the Circle Wide. What's that?

A: Our special guests on June 26 will be our friends from Casita de Amor. In addition to get-acquainted games and an interactive bilingual Bible story, you'll have the chance to experience folkloric dances performed by our guests and a piñata that will help us bridge the language barrier using the Lord's Prayer.

Q: Festival! Tell me more!

A: The grand finale will be an end-of-summer music festival, along with a nacho/taco/burrito bar and other carnival-inspired activities. Don't miss the final Summer Night on August 7.

Q: How can I help?

A: Email Peg Robarchek at coachpeg@aol.com or leave a message on Caldwell's Facebook page. We'll have online volunteer sign-up - watch Facebook, the Yahoo group and Caldwell This Week for more details.

Presbyterian Church USA moves toward marriage equality

The Presbyterian Church USA General Assembly has voted to support marriage equality

According to our national church's Website, pcusa.org, "The 221st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) approved a recommendation from its Civil Union and Marriage Issues Committee allowing for pastoral discretion to perform any such marriage they believe the Holy Spirit calls them to perform, where legal by state law."

The General Assembly also "approved a recommendation to change language in the Book of Order to indicate that 'marriage involves a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman'."

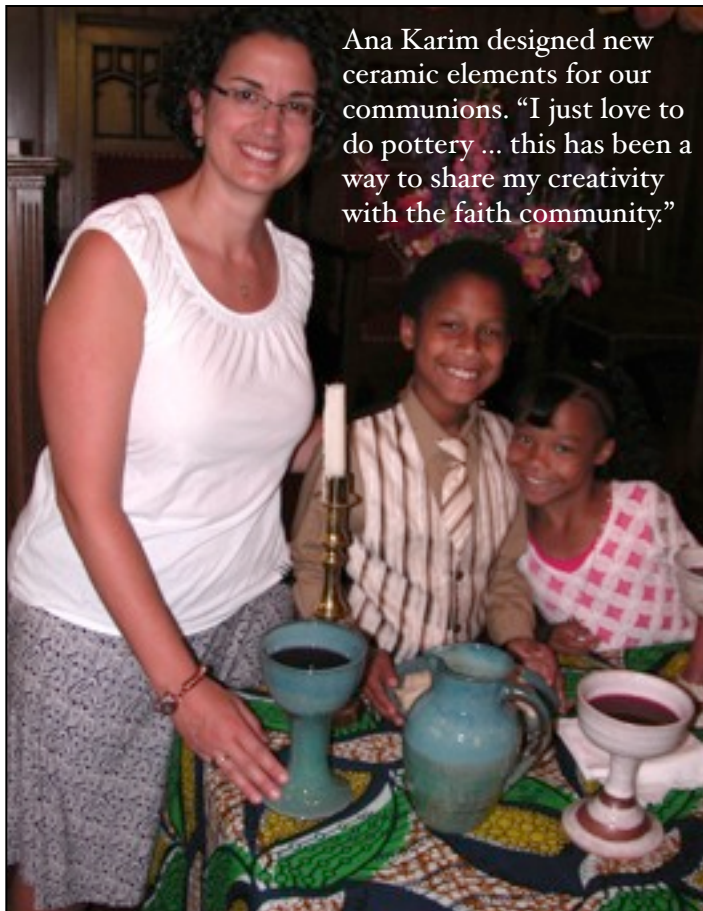
This is welcome news, according to Caldwell Pastor, **Rev. John Cleghorn**.

"I rejoice for all our LGBT brothers and sisters who get full recognition in our church. God's gift of marriage is now fully available in the church. The way is cleared now for pastors who would like to perform same-gender marriage. I'm glad the church policy is one of affirmation."

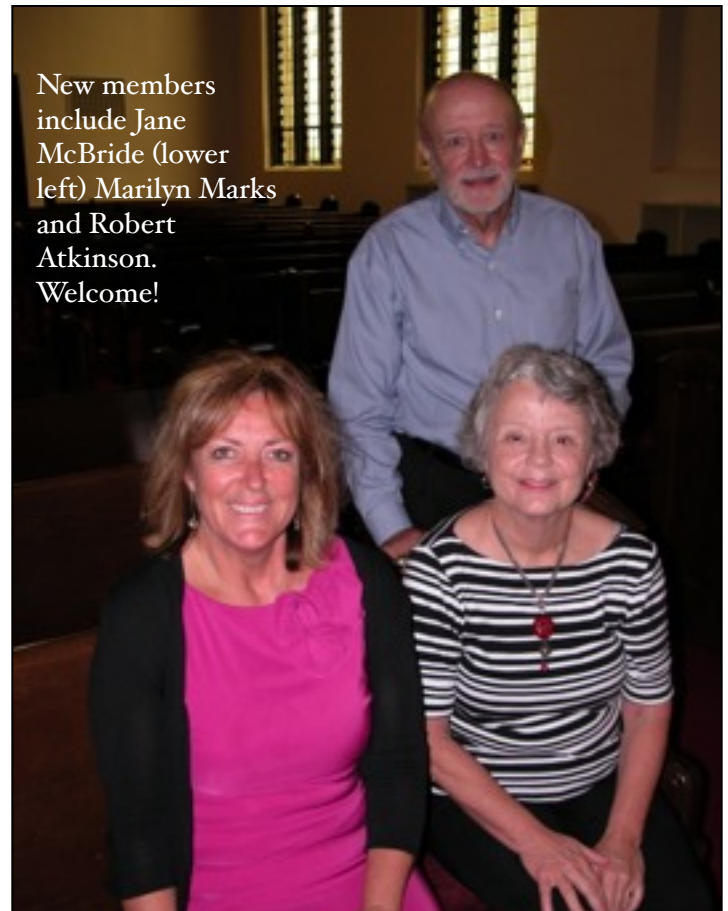
However, that path is muted in North Carolina and other states which do not recognize same-gender marriages.

The change in the Book of Order - the Presbyterian constitution - must also be ratified by Presbyterian churches on the local level.

Still, Pastor Cleghorn says the vote by our national governing body offers "Immediate freedom of conscience to who (pastors) who want" to perform these marriages.



Ana Karim designed new ceramic elements for our communions. "I just love to do pottery ... this has been a way to share my creativity with the faith community."



New members include Jane McBride (lower left) Marilyn Marks and Robert Atkinson. Welcome!

Caldwell Good News! Bulletin Board

June		
Sun., 22	Piedmont Courts Community	4 - 5 p.m., Front Room, Price Building
Tues., 24	Session	5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Shelby Rm.
Wed., 25	CMA	6 - 7 p.m., Price Building, First floor
Thur., 26	Summer Nights at Caldwell	6 - 8:30 p.m., Belk Hall, Shelby Room, Price Bldg.
Fri., 27	La Casita de Amor, Bible study and Zumba	9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Belk Hall
Sun., 29	Piedmont Courts Community	4 - 5 p.m., Front Room, Price Building
Tue., 31	Mustard Seed	6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Shelby Rm.

Sally Herlong joins Caldwell staff

Please welcome **Sally Herlong** who has joined Caldwell as our new Business and Operations Manager.



“I’m thrilled to death to be here,” said Sally. “I have been so welcomed beyond my expectations. I knew I would be, but it’s just beyond my expectations. People have been coming by just to speak. I’m overwhelmed with the kindness and welcoming.”

“Caldwell is blessed in so many in ways by Sally coming to our staff,” said **Rev. John Cleghorn**. “With an MBA in Accounting and a masters degree in counseling, she is highly qualified from a professional standpoint to manage the wide range of financial and operational aspects of our busy little church. As important, she is a lifelong Presbyterian, an elder and a divinity student who brings an immediate, inherent understanding of church issues and opportunities. We give thanks for all that Leslie Gipple did to build the foundations of so many things in the life of the “new” Caldwell and we look forward to celebrating her gifts and leadership in July. We give equal thanks for God’s providential sending of Sally to fill Leslie important shoes.” Sally retired after 26 years in student services at York Tech in Rock Hill, and then spent last year at Central Piedmont Community College in disability services.

Church Calendar

Sundays

9:45 a.m. - Adult Christian Education, Shelby Room
 10:45 a.m. - Nursery is open
 11 a.m. - Worship (including Children’s Sunday School)

1st Sunday

Communion

Session receives new members

2nd Sunday

Ten Cents a Meal Offering

All Sundays

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

Mondays

6:30 p.m. Mustard Seed Men’s Group (biweekly)

3rd Monday

6:30 p.m. - Women’s Book Club

Tuesdays

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

7:00 Theology on Tap (biweekly)

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 - 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

9:30-11:30 Casita de Amor Bible Study & Zumba,

Third Presbyterian Church

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

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

And lastly ... Amen!



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.