



Two men - related to each other through a shared history involving slavery - give Caldwell a lesson in diversity, tolerance and forgiveness. Page 3

CGN!

Caldwell Good News!

August 2014

Caldwell turns out big for the big Pride parade.

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An evening at a nearby restaurant features good food - and equally good conversation about faith issues.

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Caldwell has many missions - and we're exploring how we can help members and guests cope with grief.

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A beautiful baby grand piano adds to our musical ensemble.

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The finale of Summer Nights at Caldwell draws yet another huge crowd.

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Pastor's Column**A Christian Response to Poverty: Empathy or Apathy?**

For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and walk among them, and I will be their God."

2 Corinthians 6:16

Empathy - noun: the intellectual identification with or vicarious experiencing of the feelings, thoughts, or attitudes of another.

What does it mean to have empathy for another person? As the dictionary definition above explains, it means, in plain English, to try to walk in another person's shoes, to try to understand their experience, especially if it is different from our own.

That is the invitation behind Caldwell's "Discipleship of Race and Class" initiative. We seek to understand each other's lives – and the lives of others across our city – by suspending our own worldview long enough to gain a real appreciation for the trials and triumphs of people who are different from us.

At Caldwell, God has blessed us with a rich diversity of people. As our Mission Statement says, we seek to be in community with people who are rich and poor, urban and suburban,

churched and unchurched, seekers and devout believers, gay and straight and of all ethnicities.

On Saturday, Sept. 13, we are all invited to spend a few hours taking another step in our journey. From 9 a.m. to noon, we have the chance to participate in a powerful poverty simulation conducted by our friends at Crisis Assistance Ministry. This experience is designed to put us in touch with the harsh realities of those who live in poverty, facing the kind of daily, heart-rending trade-offs when there is not enough money to go around.



Rev. John Cleghorn

needs, everything from an unexpected trip to the hospital to facing homelessness, paying rent/the mortgage and deciding whether the only way to make things work is to go to a pawn shop or a quick-cash, pay-day lending store.

I strongly encourage you all to set aside a few hours for this transformative experience in understanding the plight of the poor. It sheds new light on issues we find in the daily media concerning government support, public policy, the work of non-profits and, of course, the church.

You should have received an email Thursday (Aug. 28) inviting you to sign up. We will have limited spots and would like to fill up this experience and, if needed, schedule another one for any who cannot make it this time.

In 2 Corinthians, the apostle Paul writes that God came to "walk with" us in Christ, to gain empathy with humankind. He uses the Greek word *empátheia*, which means to "walk with" and from which we get our modern English word "empathy." Everything we do at Caldwell is about developing empathy for others, rather than dwelling in apathy that prevents us from acting in the world as the body of Christ.

I hope as many as possible will take this chance to broaden our experience as we seek to "walk with" our every-day neighbors who live in poverty.

See you there.

A Transformative 2-Hour Experience

Think you know what it's really like to be poor? Want to deepen empathy and understanding with those who are?

Poverty Simulation

Saturday, Sept. 13

9 a.m. – Noon

Belk Hall

Register at the address below

<http://cam-ps-09132014.eventbrite.com>

or call Yvette Wilson at

704-604-4851

In the simulation, up to 80 participants assume the role of 26 different families facing poverty. The task of these "families" is to provide for basic necessities and shelter during the course of four 15-minute "weeks." We will meet in Belk Hall, which will be set up like a small city. We will encounter various daily routines and special

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With a shared legacy born of slavery, two men put aside the past to embrace reconciliation and tolerance

'How do you suspend empathy for someone else?'

Jimmie Lee Kirkpatrick and De Kirkpatrick - one black, one white - share much more than a last name. Unbeknownst to either until recently, the two men trace their relationship back more than 150 years to the days of slavery in Mecklenburg County - and the liaison between a slave master and a slave.

And as Caldwell parishioners learned earlier in August during a church service followed by a discussion at a luncheon, rather than turn away from their past, Jimmie Lee and De have embraced their past along with the lessons it provides in reconciliation, tolerance and race relations.

His family "didn't want to talk about it," said Jimmie Lee, the black man, but "I needed to listen to those voices. This is part of who I am."

To Jimmie Lee, the situation forced him "to ask basic questions. Who am

I? Who have I become as a result of this journey? What have I learned?" What he learned was to take "a leap of faith into the world of reconciliation. There is no hope until we see where we are." Where others might turn to bitterness, Jimmie Lee instead "chose to not stand on the first page of despair but the first page of hope. We find our way forward together."

De, who heard of their common ancestry from Jimmie Lee, said that beyond his relief that his newly discovered relation "did not hold a grudge against me and my family." The news had another immediate effect on him. It "changed my life. It has pushed me down a path" to learn about his slaveholding forebearers (as well as "the family I didn't know about") but he also learned from Jimmie Lee's "compassion and grace."

Like Jimmie Lee, De chose "not to run and hide from what Jimmie Lee brought me. It's a subject that causes most of us discomfort. But it had a

certain momentum to it." The upshot, he said, is "we must have a dialogue about a terrible injustice." Among the questions to be answered includes the basic inhumanity that slavery caused in and around Charlotte all those years ago. "How do you suspend empathy for someone else?" asked De.

The joint appearance of the Kirkpatricks at a Caldwell worship service dovetailed with a series of Biblical lessons around Jacob and Esau, two brothers who reconciled even though Esau could have turned a blind eye to Jacob, his scheming brother.

The presence of the Kirkpatricks, said **Pastor John Cleghorn**, is part of an "honest conversation about race and class and the other things that divide us." Just as Jacob did in his life, "we walk with a limp when it comes to race and reconciliation," said pastor Cleghorn.

Parishioners spent time during the service to talk about their early memories of racial awareness - and if they had any unfinished business relating to race in their lives.





Rev. Evie Landrau

Jesus was all about adventure as he journeyed from town to town proclaiming the good news of the gospel.

Pastor Evie's adventures

Who said a pastor cannot have adventures? Jesus was all about adventure as he journeyed from town to town proclaiming the good news of the gospel. The gospel of Matthew 9:35 says, "Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness." Could you imagine all the adventurous moments he encountered during his journey in ministry? I cannot help but to think of Jesus' life in light of my recent international experiences. In the midst of great diversity, differences of opinion, worship styles, preaching styles and beyond, unity prevailed through Christian love. What better way to share parts of these stories than through pictures of brothers and sisters with a brief explanation on how they impacted my life and ministry. My goal along the journey with Caldwell is to share their stories and influence:



Meet Bishop **Dr. Chibuzo Raphael Opoko** from the Methodist Church of Nigeria, who taught me about perseverance in the midst of persecution. As a strong leader in his country, he has been advocating for justice on behalf of the girls that were abducted by the militant group Boko Haram. He also reminded me of the power of extemporaneous prayer, as he gently placed his hand on my head prayed for me and Caldwell with passion and conviction.



Here we see **H.E. Metropolitan Eustathuis Matta Roham**, Syrian Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East and me holding hands as we took this picture. He taught me the importance of facing issues of violence and conflict that affect our community and world as Church. He reminds us that the church needs to use its voice and has the power to interrupt the "circle of crime." In the case of the Syrian conflict, H.E. Roham is grateful for the ecumenical support and responsibility with regard to peace. However, "He wishes that these unified efforts of peace had been stronger near the beginning of the Syrian conflict."



I introduce you to (from the right) **Rev. Dr. Micheline Kamba Kasongo** from the Presbyterian Community of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo, her beloved sister and me at a women's dinner. Dr. Kamba is an avid advocate and prophetic voice on behalf of peoples with disabilities and different abilities. She taught me that we are ALL created in the image of God and that peoples with disabilities are not a result of God's punishment or a mistake from God as some may think. Scripture supports and affirms everyone's full humanity and belovedness in Christ Jesus. She also taught me that, as Church, we must continue to work toward gender equality in all spheres of life. The plight of women must continue to be heard, especially the one of women with different abilities.

Caldwell is proud of **PRIDE**



More than 100 Caldwell members and friends stepped up in an overwhelming display of support for the LGBT community by marching in the Charlotte Pride parade.

Such a display was “really overwhelming, especially when we’re looking at almost one half of the church coming out” to show solidarity, said **Johnny Johnson**, one of the organizers of Caldwell’s participation. “It reaffirms why I love my Caldwell family so much.”

That point wasn’t lost on the many straight members who took part. “I am proud to be part of a church that has a place for and welcomes all. So many of my LGBT friends have been rejected by churches and other groups and I appreciate that we have opened our doors and arms to this community,” said

Sharon Harmon. “The year I was born, couples like David and me wouldn’t have been legally allowed to marry. This is no different than discriminating against people because they love someone who is the same sex.”

The view of our church from non-Caldwell members has changed, too. As recently as last year at our booth “It seemed like people would ask ‘Who is Caldwell?’ They’d never heard of us,” said Johnny. “But this year, more and more people have heard our story and people of all types would come up to thank us for all that we’re doing. A lot of us got choked up and emotional ... that there was that much love and support for us. We never thought it would happen in our lifetimes.”



A lot of prep work went on behind the scenes to get Caldwell ready for the Pride weekend festivities. As with many things, Caldwell paid attention to the details. (Photos: Ann Alford)

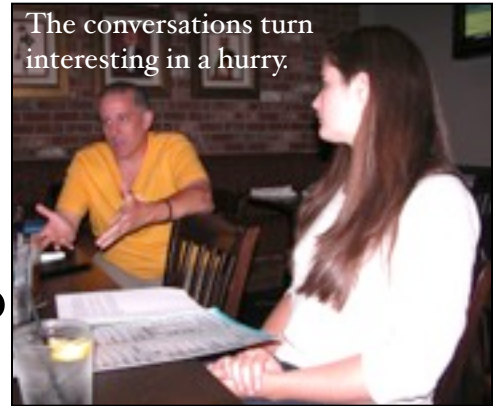




Lucy Barber

An evening of very stimulating conversation

An unusual setting? Perhaps. But Theology on Tap really dives into some weighty issues.



The conversations turn interesting in a hurry.

“It’s become one of my favorite things.”

■ If lively conversation about a host of topics near-and-dear to Presbyterians is your thing, you ought to look into joining the energetic dialogue at Theology on Tap.

The gatherings convene at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the Leroy Fox Restaurant (705 So. Sharon Amity Road). No RSVP required. The food is good - and the discussion even better.

The intent, according to de facto moderator **Lucy Barber**: “We have questions every night and discuss those. It’s become one of my favorite things.” Attendees are free to suggest books as subject matter and the book de jour is *Discover the Power Within You* by Eric Butterworth. Having read the book is helpful but not an absolute requirement. “It’s a pretty organic discussion,” said Lucy. “You don’t have to read the book to answer the questions.”

On a recent evening, the discussion started with this premise from the book and a question posed by Lucy: *It seems to me that people of faith need to be more open minded about science as it is an important discussion to have in determining society’s morality. How can we serve to bridge the gap?* The group took things from there and even veered off on a few tangents that participants gladly weighed in on. The session is held in a private room that can accommodate roughly 20 - and there is plenty of room for you.



There was an endless line of well wishers for Leslie Gipple at a reception in her honor. Leslie was the long time office manager for the church.

Grief ministry: 'It's time to start talking about this'

Grief is 'so dark and raw' - and while Caldwell has helped our members and others cope with it, we are taking more steps toward a formalized grief care process



How Caldwell helps its parishioners during times of grief is drawing new attention.

A subcommittee of Congregational Care - named the Sojourners - has formed to look at how we handle grief and what might be done to improve steps we take now for the bereaved.

Not unlike the ministries the church already practices - for Latinos, the LGBT community, the homeless and our expanded youth efforts - grief may become a ministry of its own.

And the need is there. Grief is "so dark and raw," said **Kim Bohannon**, who chairs Congregational Care.

Grief manifests itself in many ways within our congregation: mourning a death, divorce or the end of a relationship, loss of a job, financial difficulties, disability or major problems with a child or parent.

Pastor **John Cleghorn** said grief is "a part of the life of this church. As a pastor I'm always struck by what a privilege it is to be called to that space." Times of grief "are a

meaningful one, always," he said, "in the moments you are there for the grieving. To hold that in our hand is precious and fragile but it can be transformative." So strong is grief it can impact a person's faith - for good or not so good.

Encouraging Caldwell to take a fresh look at grief is member **John Crowell**. "We are starting the ball tonight and taking it forward," John told the group. "It's time to start talking about this and make it happen. This is not just something that happens overnight."

What this may lead to could include support groups, hands-on counseling, classes or expansion of official contact by the church months after a life event.

Right now, the church does good things for the grieving said several members. Pastor Cleghorn said "We rally members and resources around a family based on what they need." Still, as the church grows, so should expanded assistance during difficult times.

What people should expect, said Crowell, "is an anchor in the storm of grief. There are needs presently at Caldwell."

Mecklenburg Ministry Events Calendar

Artists spin the parables and a Day of Peace

<p>Some Fridays in Sept.; check the website for details</p>	<p>Charlotte Spins the Parables of Jesus Friday's from Sept. 12 - 27 (galleries also open by appointment) First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Wedgewood Church invite you to celebrate the creativity of Charlotte (Metro) artists and poets as they "spin" the parables of Jesus, enabling us to see the world, others, ourselves, and the parables of Jesus from angles heretofore missed or underemphasized. Both churches will open galleries to onlookers. Event website: www.charlottespinstheparablesofjesus.com</p>
<p>Saturday, Sept. 30 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.</p>	<p>International Day of Peace The 30th anniversary of the United Nation's International Day of Peace will be observed in Charlotte on Sept. 30. The <i>Right of Peoples to Peace</i> reaffirms the UN commitment to promotion of peace as vital for the full enjoyment of all human rights. Neighborhood Theatre, 511 E 36th Street. Event website: www.charlotteunpeaceday.org</p>



Making Connections in the Prayer Room

Each Wednesday,
4 - 6 p.m.

JOIN US IN GUATEMALA NEXT SUMMER

Dates for Caldwell's next mission experience in Guatemala are set for **July 19–26, 2015**. It's not too early to start thinking about joining our Vision Team that will partner with Common Hope to promote hope and opportunity in Guatemala. In this time of deep concern for the numerous Central American children seeking sanctuary in the U.S., working to improve their lives through education, health care, and housing in their home country is something you can do.

Information sessions and registration for the mission trip will begin in October. In the meantime, please contact Cathy Lum (catbivslp@aol.com) or Kitty Bohr (kswbohr@carolina.rr.com) if you have questions or would like to be a Vision Team leader.

I just feel this is exactly what it should be ... just the openness and acceptance.

Beth Poux, with daughter Rosalie and husband Mel. The family is our newest members.



For the second straight year Caldwell hosted a Davidson College "Service Odyssey" group for incoming Davidson freshmen. The group spent Monday, Aug. 4 through Sunday, Aug. 10. and participated in service projects around Charlotte including one at our church. The group cooked a spaghetti supper for 4 - 5 Davidson alums from Caldwell. They also joined our yoga group and the festivities for the closing night of Summer Nights at Caldwell and Bible Study and Zumba with La Casita on a Friday morning.

What are you **Praying for?**



I am praying for my son in law's fourth tour of duty in the Middle East, along with all the people who are going with him.

Ann Alford



... for family members, for peace for them and God's continued calling. It's so cliché, but for world peace, too.

Kim Bohannon



World peace, peace and inclusion. I think if we acted with more grace to people who are different from us, grace would follow more naturally.

Lisa Raymaker



I think clearly some common sense in the world. Some of these countries have to figure out a better way to sort things out than blowing themselves up.

Lin Thompson



Mostly myself. I have breast cancer. I have no real fears and am comfortable and the Lord is watching out for me.

Jennie Torgler



To get through the day.

Grayson Tucker

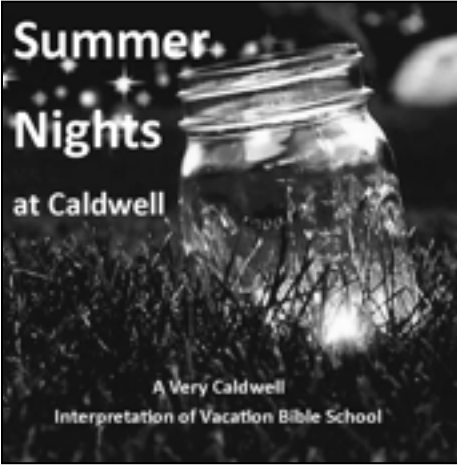


Music to our ears

A baby grand piano now graces our beautiful sanctuary

No doubt you've already heard the glorious new sounds that fill our sanctuary.

The music emanates from a Kawai baby grand piano that now commands the space next to the choir. Music Director **Anne Hunter Eidson** said anonymous donors offered funds earlier this year for a baby grand or new upright piano. At the same time, **Donna** and **Ivan Marcotte** were about to move - and wanted to donate instruments. They also had a gently used baby grand. A deal was struck for the same amount offered by the donors - and we got a new piano.



What a finale!

The final Thursday of Summer Nights at Caldwell wasn't short on anything; food, fun and faith.

This was Caldwell's brand of church school - something for everyone of any age. Judging by the spectacular attendance, this is a winning formula about how to spend gorgeous summer evenings.



Caldwell Good News! Bulletin Board

September		
Tue., 2	Yoga Theology on Tap	6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Price Bldg. 7 - 9 p.m., Leroy Fox Restaurant
Wed., 3	CMA	6 - 7 p.m., Belk Hall, Shelby Room, Price Bldg.
Fri., 5	La Casita de Amor Bible Study and Zumba	9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Price Building
Sun., 7	Pastoral Relations Committee Youth Group	12:30 - 3 p.m., Shelby Room 12:30 - 3 p.m., Price Building Youth Room
Tue., 9	Women's Circle Yoga	10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Shelby Room 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Price Bldg.
Wed., 10	Living the Sermon discussion CMA Mission & Justice Committee	6 - 9 p.m., Prayer Room 6 - 7 p.m., Price Bldg., Parlor 6 - 7:30 p.m., Shelby Room
Thu., 11	Congregational Care Committee	6 - 7:30 p.m., Shelby Room
Fri., 12	La Casita de Amor Bible Study and Zumba	9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Price Building
Sat., 13	Caldwell Poverty Simulation	9 a.m. - noon, Belk Hall

We have a new WiFi hotspot that should service the Shelby Room. To access the hotspot:

- Choose **CableWiFi**
- Choose **Time Warner Cable**
- Username: **caldwellpresby** (*not* case sensitive) Password: **Pride2014** (case sensitive); alt: **7033340825** is *supposed* to work

NOTE: If you are a TWC customer, it is best if you use your home username and password (set them up if you don't already have them); by using your own, you have unlimited access. Using caldwellpresby may limit you to 1 hour. If you need longer than that, you can try to log out and log back in .

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, Belk Hall

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!

New carpet, new pew cushions, a new sound system, a good-as-new baby grand piano and new cloth covering for the communion table all help Caldwell get ready to receive the sacraments on the first Sunday in August.

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.