



Caldwell readies itself to go into the world.

CGN!

Caldwell Good News!
September 2014

More than 20 Caldwell members and friends will mentor youth in need. Page 5

The prodigal daughter returns home as an intern. Page 6

Our Discipleship Campaign gets underway; you can also see the state of our church budget. Page 7

Our volunteers will return to Guatemala and you can learn more about it at a meeting. Page 8

Take a hike. It's nearly time to lace up your walking shoes to help put an end to hunger. Page 9

Pastor's Column

Desperate lives, desperate measures

For a few hours on a recent Saturday, about 60 Caldwell members and friends felt a little of what it is like to be poor – to have the odds stacked against us. Even in our “simulated” poverty, we felt a range of unexpected emotions – desperation, stress, sadness, anger. We knew, of course, that it was just a couple of hours in a simulation. But that didn’t stop the feelings from coming. The experience changed us, our outlook, our perspective on class ... and, hopefully, our faith journey. Below is a snapshot of my experience in – and reflection on – the role I was assigned for the simulation

My name is Opal and I am 13. My twin sister and I, along with our 3-year old brother, live with our 21-year old brother. He makes all the decisions, at least since our mom left us and our father went to jail.

People say we are poor. Whatever you want to call it, I call it impossible. Take this month for example. We paid our rent and something toward the cost of child care for my little brother while my sister and I go to school and my big brother looks for a part-time job. Every

month, we have only about a third of the money we need to pay our bills. (she doesn't pay any child support)

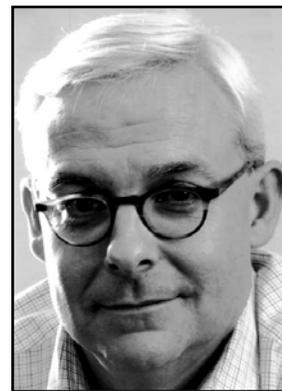
It's hard to concentrate in school, especially when I'm hungry. There are lots of kids in my classes and our teacher doesn't seem to try very hard. Seems like all we do is take tests. The community service agency gave us some help with our utility bills and some food vouchers for \$50 in groceries. But the food didn't last long. We pawned some things, too.

Some of our neighbors have it as tough as we do. Some not as bad, but not easy. Everyone has something to deal with, something that holds them back, gets in their way. Some people are sick. Some are disabled. Some work but don't get paid much.

My brother told me I needed to try to find a job for after school. There's not much a 13-year old girl can do. I went to every house in the neighborhood, asking, "Can I clean your house?" "Can I babysit?" They all said, "No." Some were pretty nasty about it. Mostly because they don't have any more money than we do.

I told my brother, but he said I need to keep looking because we need the money. So, I did. At one house, a man asked me if I wanted to make some money doing something different – selling drugs. I know it's wrong, but I said "Yes" before I even knew it. All I could think about was that we didn't have enough money to eat or to feed my baby brother.

I didn't really know what I was doing. I tried to be cool about it, asking only the people in the neighborhood that I thought might really buy. Another kid in

**Rev. John Cleghorn**

the neighborhood wanted to buy but she didn't have the right money. Then I asked a lady in regular clothes. I'd seen her around. But she was a cop and she took me to jail.

My brother got me out, somehow. I didn't understand how it worked. I said I wanted to go back to school the next day. But he said I needed to try to sell a camera he had, to make money. I hadn't been out of the house long before the cops picked me up again – this time on truancy. I don't ever want to see that jail again.

They say once you're poor that you'll always be poor. But that's only part of it. I never see my friends anymore or get to play with my baby brother or my sister because we're always hustling, always looking for a way to pay the bills. I don't really feel like a kid anymore. Or a teenager. Just another grown-up.

I don't have a role model, nobody to show me right from wrong. All I think about is how I can help pay the bills, help put food on the table. I hear people say, "Poor people just need to get a job! They have no clue."

My teacher told me I was smart and that he missed me in school. All I know is that I wished I had someone else's life.

Caldwell Good News!

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‘Walk a mile in someone else’s shoes’

When faced with desperate poverty, some people may do unexpected things.



60+ role players got a glimpse into the life of the poor

Poverty simulation all too real

We all know poverty when we see it, but what’s it like to live it?

More than 60 Caldwell members and friends put themselves in the shoes of the poor for a morning of Poverty Simulation role play that was part experiential - and an emotional eye opener for many.

Participants in Belk Hall were assigned various low-income jobs or other poverty-influenced roles (i.e. school dropout, drug dealer, etc.) while others were family members left to cope with the prospects of little money and even less hope. Role players used scripts to bring home the futility and endless cycle of despair of those relegated to the lowest rung on society’s economic ladder.

The morning was the brainchild of **Yvette Wilson** and **Jill Flynn** of our committee, Discipleship on Race and Class, which is a direct offshoot of

congregational conversations from last year’s Caldwell in 3D process.

Their focus on poverty was intentional. “We decided one thing to focus on was how do we help people understand others, because that’s part of being a diverse church,” said Yvette. “But there are barriers. We don’t walk in each other’s shoes.”

But on this Saturday they did. Yvette said the several hour session showed “the resilience of people who are in that lower economic class. When we see them, they’re smiling and they walk amongst us but we have no idea what they go through.”

Yet the gut-wrenching choices borne of scarce resources - deciding between paying bills for food or utilities, riding the bus vs. being able to afford a car - came home to those seldom in that precarious fiscal position.

“When you are worried about getting

your bills paid or feeding your family, the slightest little thing can matter. It didn’t take long (for participants) to get into the role. I guess one of the magic things about it was, it personalized it so everybody there had a unique experience.”

Yet there was no escaping the tenuous circumstances the poor face on a daily basis. Of all the things that confront those in poverty, said Jill, the “biggest was pressure, financial and time pressure” which in turn leads to discouragement and hopelessness.

When the role play finished, the group assembled for a mass debriefing. The role play was a gut-check for many who came out with a new empathy and understanding for those who have less than they do - as well as a realization of the “Things we take for granted,” said Yvette. “We make assumptions about that people can do better than they do, and we sometimes question why they can’t make it from month to month. What I found at the end of the simulation was, it’s very difficult.”

Both Yvette and Jill see similar exercises in Caldwell’s future as 3D participants often mentioned race and class as a subject worth more exploration by the church. But this day was reserved for the poorest among us, and the response was telling, said Jill. “After it was over, a number people said ‘I thought I knew about this but I just didn’t have an idea.’”

Families often had to make difficult choices about what they could afford to pay, an all-too-frequent situation facing those with little money and even fewer prospects for real hope.





Rev. Evie Landrau

... a new worshipping community Caldwell started is making a difference ...

Casita de Amor is on the move

Casita de Amor (little House of Love), a new worshipping community Caldwell started is making a difference in the Latino/a community and beyond! We are grateful for the opportunity to open Caldwell spaces such as Belk Hall and the Price Building as sacred meeting places for Bible Study, prayer, devotion, education and exercise **every Friday from 9:30 a.m - noon**. In the summer, we hosted more than 20 children and their parents every Friday morning. There we practiced Zumba for kids and adults. We also offered a space for sisters to gather in unity and pray. Today, while the children have returned to school, *Casita* continues to gather at Caldwell with Pastor Evie. What is more awesome is that fellowship is happening organically while the women gather to simply be with each other after scheduled events. Isn't this the nature of fellowship?

What better way to share the stories of Casita, then by letting one of our faithful participants tell you herself about her experience with this new worshipping community, which seeks to proclaim the gospel in practical creative ways:

Meet Candelaria Granado (shown in photo)

Country of Origin: *Cecoman Colima*, Mexico - we call this the city of the lemon because we produce much lemon. It is a small town; it is beautiful. We are also known because of the variety of vegetation and fruits we produce.

What has Casita helped you accomplish in the area of personal growth?

- "Casita has helped me believe in myself and become a leader so that I can teach my daughters the same qualities."
- "Our Bible studies and discussions have helped me confront theological beliefs that were not good for me; such as some of my understanding of the role of women in Mexican culture."
- "I thought I was being selfish for thinking that I wanted to follow my dreams. I have always wanted to develop myself to give a better future to my daughters. When I started coming to Casita, I learned that God cared about my dreams and that it was all right to pursue my dreams. I realized that if I do not develop myself, it will probably be challenging to help develop my daughters to their full potential."



In the area of discipleship?

- "I learned through Casita to express the love of God toward other people. I have learned to be positive toward others."
- "Jesus died for us and the example of Christ is one to learn and to teach. We learn and teach to pray from our heart. Through prayer, I have learned to give my burdens to Christ."

In the area of community?

- "Being in the community of Casita has given me peace. Sometimes, I get there sad and I leave happy. We talk about hope, peace, love and health."

In the area of health and wellness?

- "The health aspect of the ministry has impacted me in a very positive way. I have learned many things and I have been able to apply them in my life and teach them to others. For instance, I have learned how to eat in more nutritious ways; we can create patterns to eat less fat and more vegetables. It's important to learn and teach myself better nutritious lifestyles."

Why is Casita important in the community?

- "They give us hope to keep fighting for justice. I hope that our situation as immigrants will change one day for the better and will continue to heal."
- "We simply have fun with one another and develop genuine relationships. For a moment we forget about our problems."
- "We are inspired by leaders like Evie. I thank God for my little Pastor Evie. I have learned so much from her. She is *Chido* (slang for awesome and cool)!"

Thanks be to God!

Please join Casita in our next multicultural and multi-Latino/a worship service, **Saturday, October 11 from 4:30 to 7 p.m.** It will be a joint World Communion Service with the presbytery's other two Spanish-speaking churches, pastored by **Rafael Hernandez** and **Sergio Schmidt**. It will be hosted by Casita in Belk Hall. Bring your family and do not let the language barrier be a problem. The service will have bilingual parts to be inclusive and welcoming to all!

Caldwell is ready to | Mentor

Caldwell's mission is set to expand. The church is set to adopt the **Buddy/Mentor Initiative**, where church members mentor young children from a local schools.

It effectively broadens our church mission in new and unexpected - but not unknown - ways and has its roots here in our recently concluded *Caldwell in 3D* process.

Behind the initiative is our own **Kim Bohannon**, an elder who founded the Buddy/Mentor Initiative as a teacher in Connecticut. What began as an effort to get her friends to mentor eight "marginalized, impoverished" children nearly 20 years ago blossomed into a full-blown, foundation-backed mentoring program reaching well over 100 elementary through high school age students.

And that is the model Kim imported to Caldwell to help more than 20 church members prepare to mentor a like number of elementary students.

For Kim, the decision to approach Caldwell about the concept was long in the making. "I sat here silently trying to figure out what I was needed to do," she said. After several months, "I couldn't deny any longer than this is what I'm passionate about. I really couldn't deny that piece of myself, so I met with John (**Pastor John Cleghorn**)."

In fact, Kim also approached her board of directors in Connecticut, and the group voted to establish a second chapter in Charlotte - with Caldwell at the epicenter of the effort.

Our initial focus will be on fourth and fifth graders from Merry Oaks Elementary and Elizabeth Traditional School. As Kim found in Connecticut, many children "grow with us in the program" by staying through high school and many even became mentors themselves.

The Caldwell program will start in October and run through the end of the school year next June. Already, 22 Caldwellians have signed on, and training will be held very soon (contact Kim if you're interested).

A volunteer's mentoring commitment, said Kim, is 2.5 hours one Sunday per month from 1 to 3:30 p.m. in Belk Hall. The volunteer will also provide a lunch for themselves and their assigned 'Buddy.' The first portion of each Sunday will be devoted to mentoring while the last 45 minutes will be on team building/group activities.

The goal remains the same as it was in Connecticut: help "underserved and marginalized children who are on the fringe," according to Kim. "For a mentor, it can be as simple as being there for that child." She said while many adults grumble about kids these days, "The kids have not changed. Their just being raised in a world that's vastly different. What matters to them is they feel they are cared for. It's important that someone has expectations for them." The Buddy/Mentor Initiative doesn't supplant the child's parents, but rather, "We're a team in cooperation with them," noted Kim.



One of Caldwell's goals for mentoring is to help kids get their feet on the ground.

The prodigal daughter comes home

When **Susan Pierson** moved to California to attend seminary, she might have thought her time at Caldwell and Charlotte was at an end. Far from it.

Our prodigal daughter has returned, this time to serve as an Intern in Ministry, much to her delight - and ours.

The idea of an internship at Caldwell “just sort of fell together,” said Susan. “I was talking to John (**Pastor John Cleghorn**) over the summer. The church didn’t have another



Susan Pierson

intern and he knew I was looking. It came together organically, naturally.”

Susan is with us through Christmas. She has four main duties; worship planning by writing much of the liturgy in the Sunday bulletin, serving on the Mission & Justice Committee, assisting with adult education and involvement with La Casita de Amor. After December she’ll return to study at San Francisco Theological Seminary.

A Caldwell member since 2007, and an elder, Susan was pleasantly surprised at the growth of her church. “I was happy to see it was still a vital, thriving congregation with good energy” and a wonderful worship service, she said. “It is nice to see old friends, but there are so many new people. The church has definitely grown since I left. This has always felt like home to me.”

Meeting those new members and guests is a priority for Susan. “I definitely look forward to meeting new members and regular visitors and I’d love to hear their ideas.”



Mecklenburg Ministry Events Calendar

An unconditional look at forgiveness

A Faithful Look at Unconditional Forgiveness
Oct. 16

A person finds forgiveness

Thursday, Oct. 16, 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. Covenant Presbyterian Church

After her brother Steve was shot and killed in 2003, Therese Bartholomew worked through her grief the only way she knew how: by setting out to meet the person behind Steve’s untimely death. Therese will guide in a discussion on forgiveness using stories and clips from her documentary, “The Final Gift”, which chronicles her journey to “[find] faith and humanity in dark and unexpected places and then being willing to see possibilities.” Register at www.meckmin.org.

The Discipleship Campaign kicks off

Caldwell is a church on the move!

Thanks be to God, we continue to grow in both members and ministries. Discipleship season is a time when we can intentionally give back just a portion of the blessings God has provided.

- Our annual discipleship campaign begins Sept. 28. If you didn't pick up your packet at the fall festival/time and talent fair that day, you should receive one at home.
- Your contributions of time, talent and treasure will help us grow our ministries to make even greater strides in creating God's kingdom. Please prayerfully consider how you can help through your contributions.



• This year's campaign theme is aptly named *A Church on the Move* and we are calling on you to do these three things:

- 1) **MOVE UP** your giving,
- 2) **MOVE ON** to online pledging, and
- 3) **MOVE OUT** with us in the community to be God's hands and feet in the world.

Oct. 12 is commitment Sunday. On that day we ask that you bring forward your pledges for giving to the Lord in thanksgiving for the many blessings in our lives and to reflect our thankful commitment to our Him.

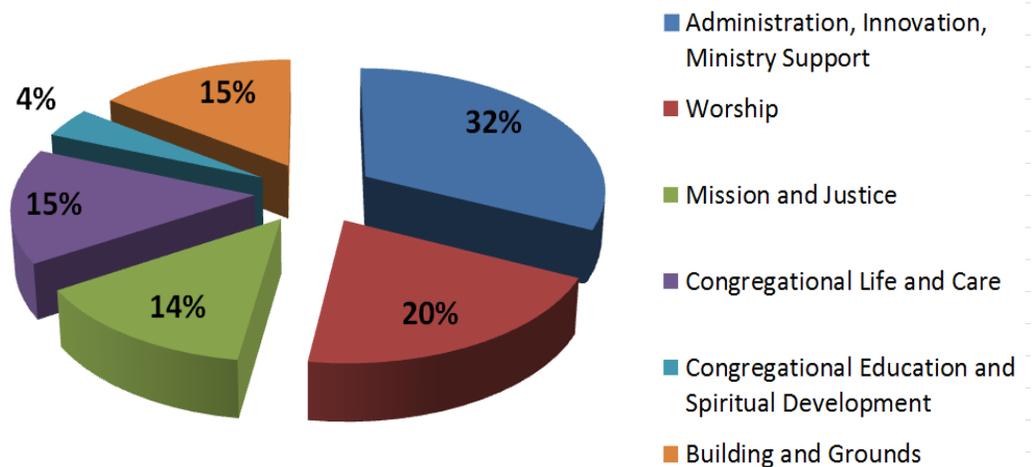
The Biblical concept of first fruits calls on us to give the first and best of the harvest—our resources—to the Lord. Let us honor Christ by giving our first fruits.

Caldwell's budget picture at a glance

Below is a pie chart showing Caldwell's 2014 annual budget of \$432,884 in our six areas of ministry. The budget includes our actual **"hard" expenses**, which range from necessary campus upkeep to Mission and Justice grants to Education, Congregational Care, and Fellowship expenses. It also includes our **"soft" expenses** for our ministry team and staff. Each staff member has done a careful analysis of how he or she spends time and we have allocated the costs (compensation and benefits) to each of the six (6) areas explained in this booklet.

This chart gives you a sense of how we balance the multiple aspects of life in ministry together, our outward-facing ministries, and our care, nurture and education of each other.

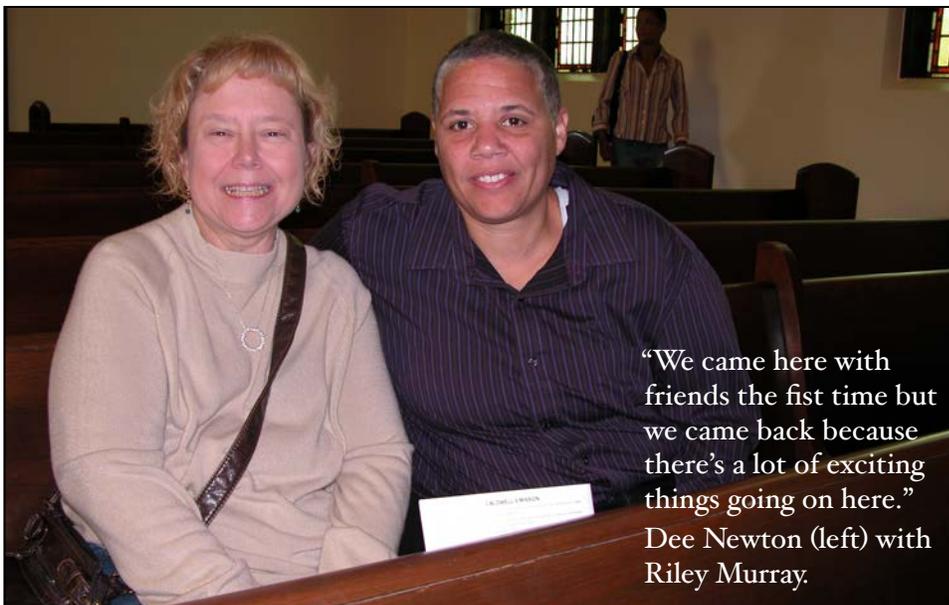
Our budget is tied very closely to our Discipleship Campaign and impacts how we extend our mission to the community and beyond





Making Connections in the Prayer Room

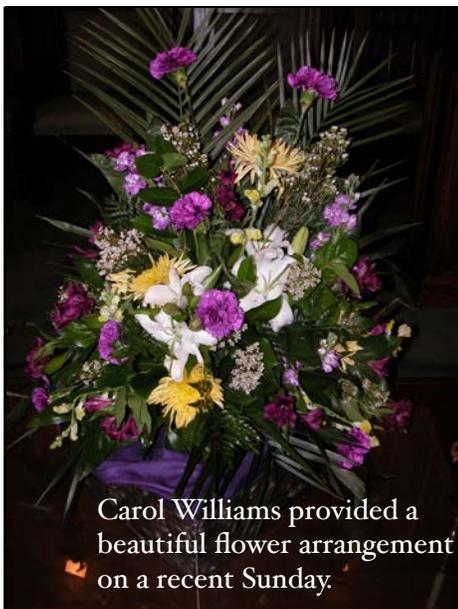
Each Wednesday,
4 - 6 p.m.



“We came here with friends the first time but we came back because there’s a lot of exciting things going on here.”
Dee Newton (left) with Riley Murray.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN GUATEMALA

- Experience first-hand the difference that opportunity and education are making in the lives of thousands of people in Guatemala by joining Caldwell’s Vision Team next summer. A Mission Trip Information Meeting will be Sunday, October 26 immediately after worship in the Shelby Room. If you have any interest in being part of the mission team, please join us for a light lunch so we can answer your questions and share our excitement about an experience that is sure to change and enrich you in unexpected ways.
- Our Vision Team will travel to Antigua, Guatemala July 19-26, 2015 to work with Common Hope’s programs of education, health care, and housing. You will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities, including visiting families with a social worker, learning more about the difficult lives of Guatemalans and what is being done to break the poverty cycle, working with children in a school setting, connecting with your own or Caldwell members’ sponsored children, and building a home for a Guatemalan family.
- Contact **Cathy Lum** (catbivslp@aol.com; 704-237-3731) or **Kitty Bohr** (kswbohr@carolina.rr.com; 704-552-9474) if you have any questions or if you would like to be a Vision Team member or trip leader but can’t join us on October 26. By the way, attending the meeting is not a commitment to join the team, but we hope you will!



Carol Williams provided a beautiful flower arrangement on a recent Sunday.



Our sanctuary is more than just our home for worship.

Tatyanna Montgomery finds it works as a nice spot for early Sunday homework, too.

What are you **Praying for?**



For patience and understanding.

Beth van Gorp



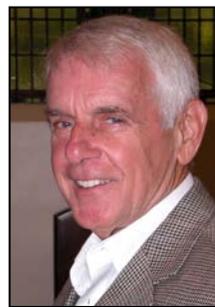
The same thing everybody else is praying for - peace in the world. It sounds so flippant. And for children coming over (from South America) that they are cared for and safe.

Jane Wallwork



Peace in the world and to stop the wars in our world and in our hearts.

Ruth King



The world. Peace. Our ability to relate to one another. Asking God to help us relate nation to nation.

Charles Elligson



For my father who is very ill right now (William Checket in Hershey, PA.).

B.J. Checket (shown with daughter **Lily**)



I'm praying for peace, praying for love and understanding, and praying for the health of everyone in mind, body and spirit.

Leslie Turner

Your news can go here

If you've got news for Caldwell Good News!, the editors would like to know about it.

Send photos, stories, news tips, committee news (please!), volunteer and education items, and other suggestions by the 10th of each month to david.bradley@yahoo.com.

Or, call Dave at 704-989-8407.

Take a hike - to end hunger: Crop Walk

Team Caldwell has raised thousands of dollars to end hunger during recent **Crop Walks**.

It's time to hoof it again for this good cause. The Crop Walk is Sunday, Oct. 19 at 2 p.m.

To sign up to walk or support Team Caldwell, go to <http://hunger.cwsglobal.org/goto/TeamCaldwell2014> or email Marion Idol at cmmsidol@carolina.rr.com or call

704-849-2002.

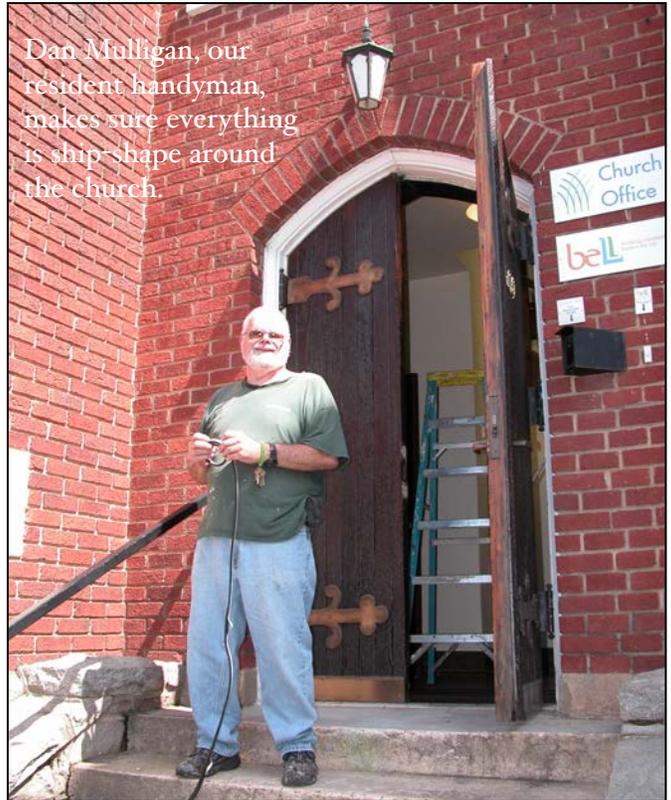
It's almost time to lace 'em up to help alleviate hunger. Mark October 19 on your calendar.



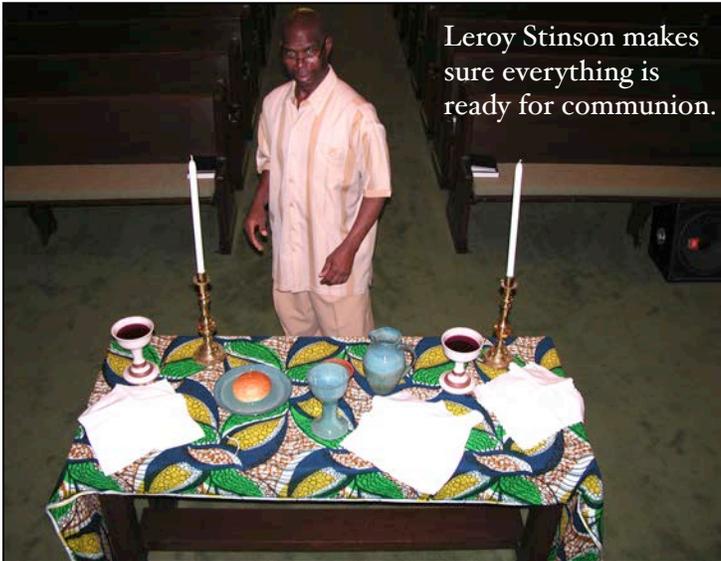
Caldwell in photos ...



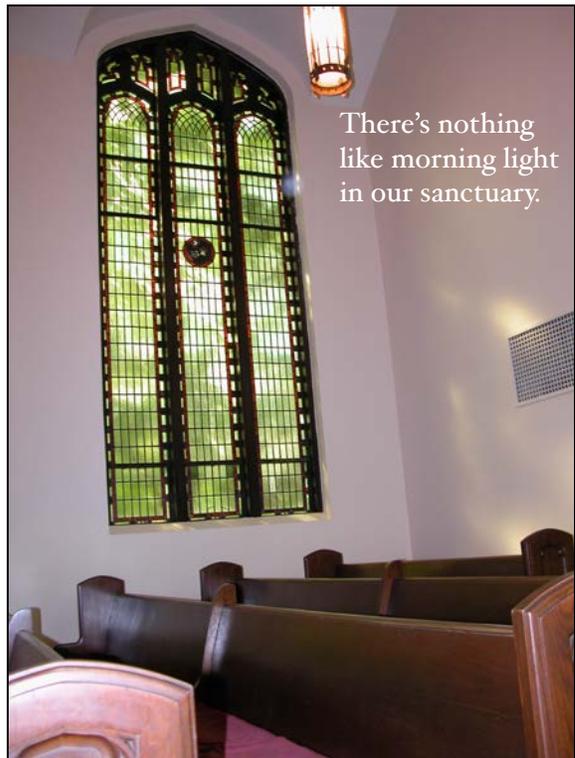
Jackie Abernathy and Kevin Martin catch up before a recent Sunday service.



Dan Mulligan, our resident handyman, makes sure everything is ship-shape around the church.



Leroy Stinson makes sure everything is ready for communion.



There's nothing like morning light in our sanctuary.

There's always room for more in the Loaves & Fishes basket.



Caldwell Good News! Bulletin Board

October

Wed., 1	CMA	6 - 7 p.m., Belk Hall, Shelby Room, Price Bldg.
Fri., 3	La Casita de Amor Bible Study and Zumba	9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Price Building
Sun., 5	Youth Sunday School	9:45 - 10:45 a.m., Price Building, Youth Room
Tue., 7	Theology on Tap	7 - 9 p.m., Leroy Fox Restaurant
Wed., 8	CMA Mission & Justice Committee	6 - 7 p.m., Belk Hall, Shelby Room, Price Bldg. 6 - 7:30 p.m., Shelby Room
Thu., 9	Congregational Care Committee	6 - 7:30 p.m., Shelby Room
Fri., 10	La Casita de Amor Bible Study and Zumba	9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Price Building
Sun., 12	Youth Sunday School Newcomers lunch	9:45 - 10:45 a.m., Price Building, Youth Room 12:30 - 1:30, Hawthorne's Pizza
Tue., 14	Women's Circle	10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Shelby Room
Thu., 16	Worship Committee Youth Spiritual Development Committee	6 - 8 p.m., Shelby Room 6 - 7 p.m., upstairs meeting room

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

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 .

And lastly ... Amen!



Her roar is worse than her bite.

Cameron Tracy, age 8, shows off her creativity from the morning's Sunday school for children.

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.