

Caldwell members and guests rose out of the pews to see how the church uses our facilities to bring our ministry to many people. It showed we are, indeed, a church on the move. Page 3.

CGN!

Caldwell Good News!

October 2014

There's room for you if you want to help at Room in the Inn.

Page 4

Our church finances show upward movement but there's still a long way to go.

Page 5

Can you see yourself on the 2015 Guatemala Vision Team? You should take a look at this trip.

Page 6

A short 10 minutes in our Prayer Room is akin to a spa - but only better.

Page 8

What are you praying for? Find out what's on the minds of others.

Page 9

Pastor's Column

Understanding the "Nones"

There is a story about two shoe salesmen who go into a village where no one wears shoes. After sizing up the village, the two came away with very different perspectives.

"Nobody there wears shoes," said one. "I'll never be able to sell any shoes there."

Said the other one: "Not one person in that town wears shoes. What an opportunity for a shoe salesman!"

The same may well go for the church and those whom researchers call the "Nones." They are, as we have talked about here on Sundays and at other times, the 20% of Americans who check the "none" box when asked to list their religious affiliation.

About 300 people gathered in Montreat this month to study and discuss this phenomenon. To be sure, none of us (I hope) think of ourselves as sales people. The Gospel is not a product to be "sold." But we did have to come to grips with which reaction of the two salesmen in the story we will have in light of the Nones reality.

Are we going to write off the Nones? Or are we going to see them as the church's next great opportunity, adjusting our own attitudes and questions as we go? Here is some of what we learned about this growing group of "religiously unaffiliated" from the researchers and church leaders who spoke at the conference.

Fewer and fewer people identify themselves as Christians, whichever study you want to examine. In general, in the last ten years or so, the percentage of people who marked "Christian" in religious preference surveys has declined from the 86%-range to the 72%-range.

Gabe Lyons, a nationally followed writer and researcher, points to four driving trends:

- Fewer and fewer people, especially younger Americans, don't want to be labeled as Christian because of the negative baggage associated with that term. For them, organized religion has turned the word "Christian" into meaning homophobic, closed-minded, rules-bound, judgmental and hypocritical.
- More and more people are waiting to get married at an older age. Research shows that people who marry earlier also get involved in houses of faith earlier.
- The growing secularization of America has provided so many other demands on peoples' time and interest. We are increasingly a self-focused society, Lyons points out, interested in our pleasure and comfort rather than the "other-focused" life and promises of the Gospel.
- A growing percentage of Americans, especially the Millennial Generation born since 1985, tend to avoid "joining" organizations. At the same time, trust in institutions, from government to business to the



Rev. John Cleghorn

church, has been on the decline for years, compounding the aversion to demonstrative loyalty that past generations have shown.

As for those who DO identify as Christians, Lyons told the conference, a closer look reveals even more texture.

- About one-third can be called "Census Christians," those who identify as Christian because all they really know is that they are *not* another religion, such as Muslim, Jewish or Buddhist (so they might as well *say* they are Christian) even if they never go to church.
- About one-third are "Nominal Christians," those who go to church 3 or 4 times a year or so, mostly around Christmas and Easter, but for whom church life is not at all central to life.
- About one-third are what might be called "Intentional Christians" (Lyons uses the term "Born Again Christians," which I think is limiting.) These are people of faith who *have* shaped their life based on their faith and the teaching, values and expectations of the faith.

There is more – and it's not all pretty. Another study, which Lyons mentioned is embargoed until its public release, shows that 46% of Americans think "religion is a part of the problem in America." Ugh.

Pastor's Column ... page 9

Caldwell Good News!

A monthly publication of Caldwell
Presbyterian Church
1609 East Fifth Street
Charlotte, NC 28204
704-334-0825

Rev. John M. Cleghorn, Pastor
pastor@caldwellpresby.org

Rev. Evie Landrau, Assoc. Pastor

Anne Hunter Eidson, Music Director

Sally Herlong, Bus. & Oper. Mgr.
admin@caldwellpresby.org

Contributing editors: John Cleghorn, Dave
Bradley (david.bradley@yahoo.com)

It's standard fare for Caldwell parishioners to stand during portions of a Sunday service.

But to get up, leave the sanctuary and walk around our buildings during worship?

Yes, and it was for a novel reason at a recent service: **A Church on the Move.**

It was part of a 'get acquainted' element of our annual Discipleship Campaign. It allowed members and guests to get a first-hand look at our facilities - and all the possibilities and potential our church holds to serve the wider community with our ever-expanding mission.

The unique approach to unseat worshippers was the brainchild of the Discipleship Committee and

was carried out by a core of volunteers who prepped signage and served as guides as congregants went

to and from various portions of the church property.



**Move Up
Move On
Move Out**

From our church and the people who rely on us for faith, service and hope, a big

Thank you

How does Caldwell help others?

- Through our weekly services
- Our support of our LGBT sisters and brothers
- Our support of the Latino community
- Our outreach to the homeless
- Near countless volunteer hours at Merry Oaks Elementary, McCreesh Place, etc.
- Our expanding ministry
- Creation of a welcoming environment for all

Thank you to all the disciples who have already pledged their time, talent and treasure during our discipleship campaign.

Your commitment to support Caldwell will surely help us continue to be a church on the move as we collectively work to be the hands and feet of Christ in Charlotte and the around world.

Almost half of those who pledged this year have not yet pledged for 2015. If you haven't pledged, it is not too late. Visit the church website or contact the church office to complete your forms.

Sharon Harmon - Robison, Discipleship chair

Room in the Inn needs volunteers.

Can you help us to:

- Prepare meals
- Serve as a host
- Stay the night
- Clean

Caldwell will again step up for the homeless

There's room for you at Room in the Inn

Caldwell, long known for our help for the homeless, will renew our commitment to those in need for five Friday nights this winter.

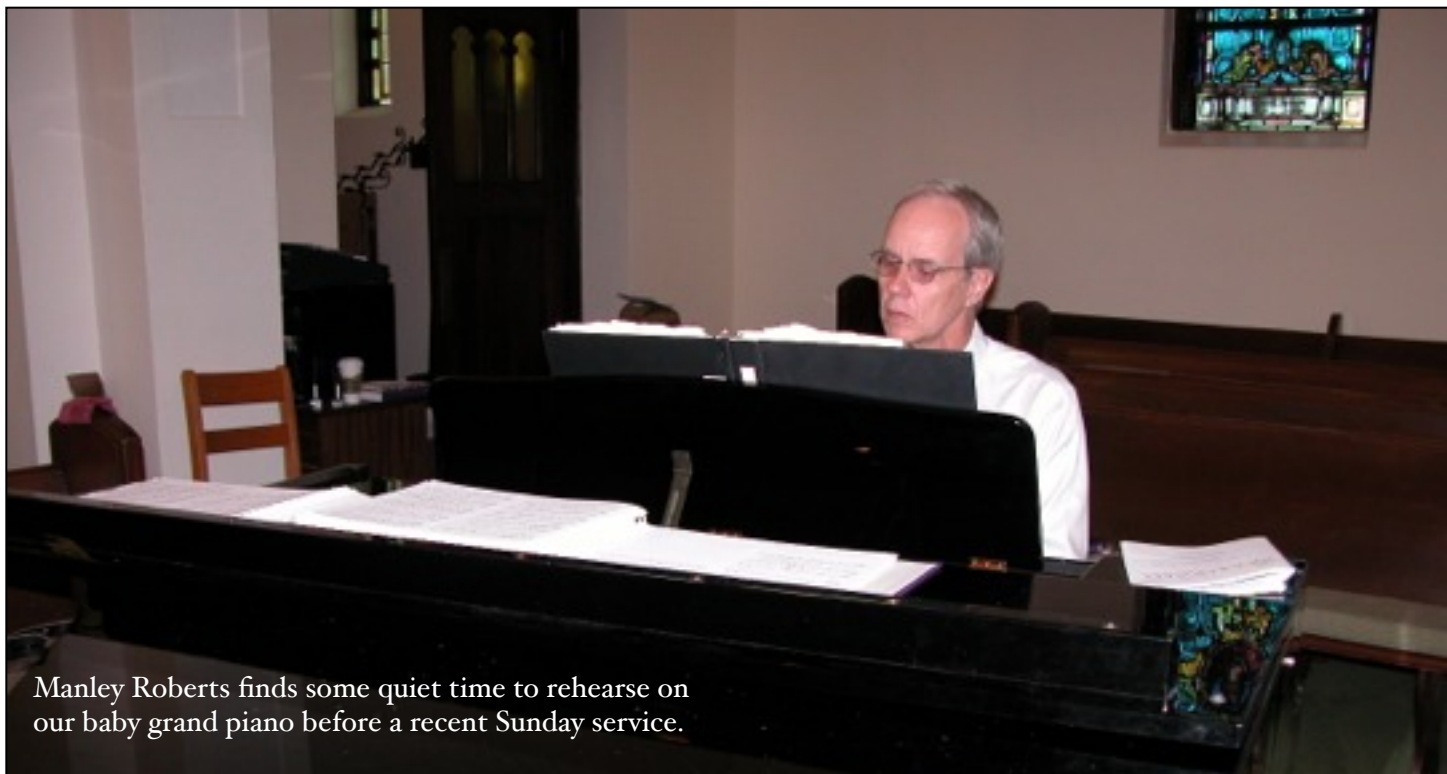
We will again partner with **St. John's Baptist Church** to care for 12 homeless men. And your volunteer help will be needed.

Heading our effort will be **Mary Ann** and **Craig Ogle** and **Lynn** and **Mike Watson**. According to Mike, winter months put an added burden not only on the homeless but those who serve them. "What happens is, the homeless shelters overflow in the winter time," said Mike. "Homeless people from all over come to Charlotte because Charlotte has services" the homeless need, notably a warm place to sleep as shelters are all too frequently overcrowded.

While St. John's transports these guests to and from Uptown and provides the housing, as we have done in the past, it's Caldwell's role to serve as the host for five of the cold winter nights. Caldwell volunteers will prepare a Friday night meal and Saturday morning breakfast and a sack lunch. Some volunteers will spend the night. Others will perform clean up (**Holiday Cleaners** has graciously agreed to clean linens and towels at no charge).

Lynn said sign up sheets will be available next month but you can call Mike now at 704-400-6365 or call Mary Ann at 704-280-7956.

Room in the Inn is a significant way our church extends its mission to those in need. "We want to really treat them as guests," said Lynn. "We want to get a lot of people involved in it. It's gone pretty well with volunteers for five nights" in the past.



Manley Roberts finds some quiet time to rehearse on our baby grand piano before a recent Sunday service.

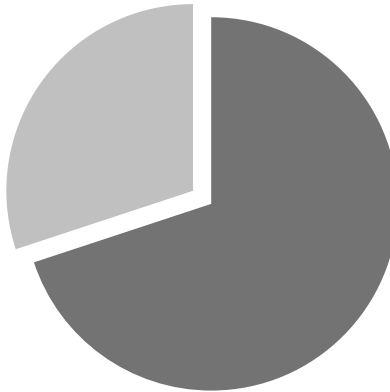
43% of Members & Friends Have Pledged To Date – Have You?

By **Sally Herlong**

I am delighted to have been given the task of talking finances with you! Or not! No, really, it is a pleasure to have the opportunity to inform you of the financial health of the congregation. Discipleship and an update on your pledges are discussed in separate articles – please do look for and read those as well. They are equally or even more important!

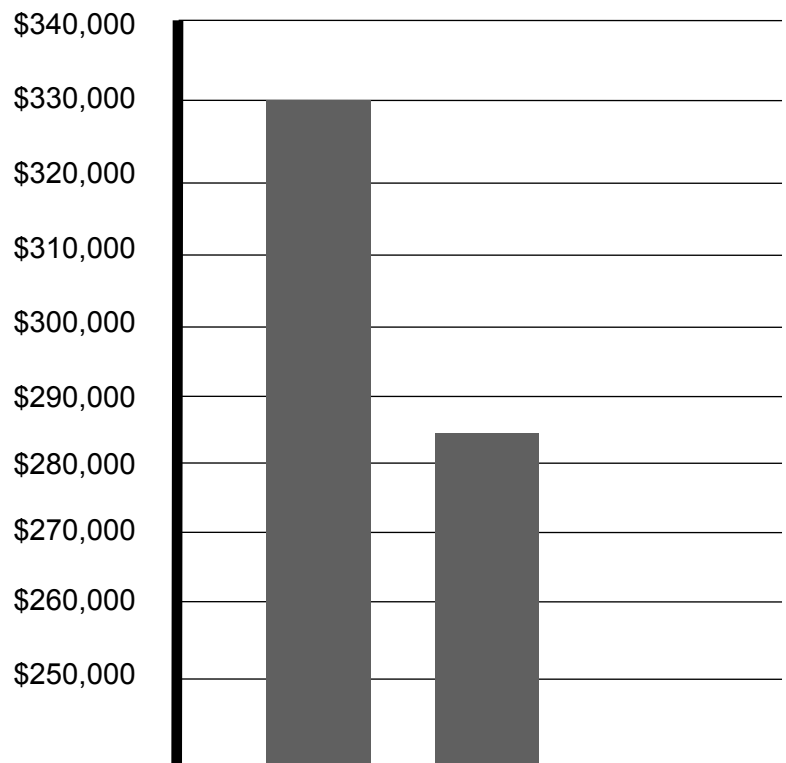
This year, 2014, Caldwell has an operating budget of \$427,600. Detailed information about where these dollars are allocated may be found in the 2014-15 Discipleship Narrative Budget booklet which can be found on the website (www.caldwellpresby.org > **Pledge Today** button on right > **2015 Narrative Budget Description** link in gray box) or you may contact me in the church office (704-344-0825) and I can get you a copy. While we are not in a land flowing with milk and honey concerning our church finances, neither are we in a drought. Through September, pledged income is 15.6% less than projected (we should have received 75% of pledged income and only 68% has been submitted to date). Conversely, *UNpledged* income is slightly higher than anticipated, which helps to offset the pledged income deficit. The Finance Committee is forever diligent in keeping a close eye on the church’s income and expenses and has communicated to Session members (committee chairs) that we need to be running a tight ship.

The last-minute decision to cancel a planned fall dance and silent auction left a “hole” in our anticipated income. Expenses year-to-date (through September) are also less than projected, which helps prevent us from being in that “drought” mode mentioned earlier. As we grow, so does income – as well as expenses. It is a blessing to be located on such a beautiful campus and in buildings rich with history that are used for ministry in so many ways. However, this involves a heavier financial responsibility for upkeep.



Every one of us can assist by volunteering time, however limited, to assist in the maintenance and care of this sacred space – and of course by your generous monetary pledges! On behalf of the staff and the Finance Committee, thank you for your continued and much-needed support that allows us to persist in our mission of serving God and neighbor. If you would like more detailed information, please feel free to contact **Molly Griffin**, Finance Committee Chair, or me, and we will try to give respond as appropriately and as best we can.

Moving toward our 2015 budget



The 2014 Pledge Total (this year) is \$330,000. We need to surpass that to deepen our ministries for next year.

Are you part of the solution? Join the Guatemala Vision Team

Unaccompanied children from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador are seeking refuge in the U.S. at crisis levels, including many who fled dangerous conditions and now face deportation.

- Almost 500 of these children have been placed with sponsors in the Charlotte area. Multiple organizations, churches, and individuals are meeting weekly at Caldwell as part of the Charlotte Compassion Action Network (CAN), which seeks to facilitate access to resources that will meet the many needs of the sponsor families and these vulnerable children.
- Common Hope, the organization we partner with in Guatemala, seeks a different solution - promoting hope and opportunity in the children's home country through its programs of education, health care, and housing. **You can be part of this solution by joining Caldwell's Vision Team that will travel to Antigua, Guatemala July 19-26, 2015.**
- Guatemala suffers from a level of inequality and widespread poverty that is extreme even within Latin America, with more than half of Guatemalans living below the national poverty line and 15 percent in extreme poverty. In addition, political corruption, alcoholism, abuse, gang violence, and unemployment continue to have destructive effects on families and communities. Common Hope social workers develop personal relationships with the families in their program and link them to comprehensive and integrated services beyond providing for the children's education.
- Play a personal part in the long-term change in Guatemala that Common Hope strives to bring about through education. Be present with God's beloved in Guatemala so you can be a witness to their struggles and bring that knowledge back. Serve our brothers and sisters first-hand through the work and leadership of Common Hope.
- If you want to sign up for the mission trip or just need more information, contact **Cathy Lum** (catbivsl@aol.com), 704-237-3731 or **Kitty Bohr** (kswbohr@carolina.rr.com), 704-552-9474. You can also add your name to the sheet on the table in the back of the sanctuary and we'll contact you.

Mecklenburg Ministry Events Calendar

Racial equity for students, The Tent of Abraham

Register for all sessions at www.meckmin.org.

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Student Racial Equity Training Nov. 9, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.</p> | <p>Youth of color in our community are arrested, charged as delinquents, incarcerated, suspended from school, removed from their families and placed in foster care at significantly higher rates than their white peers. These striking disparities beg the question: Why? Open to high school students. Session held at 3815 No. Tryon St.</p> |
| <p>Bridge Builder Book Study - The Tent of Abraham Nov. 13, 6:45 - 8 p.m. at Caldwell</p> | <p>Mecklenburg Ministries & NC Peace Action invite you to a 6-month exploration of the Abrahamic traditions using the book <i>The Tent of Abraham: Stories of Hope & Peace for Jews, Christians and Muslims</i>. A collaboration of three authors, Rabbi Arthur Waskow, Sister Joan Chittister, and Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti, <i>The Tent of Abraham</i> tells the entire story of Abraham and reenergizes it as a basis for peace. The book explores in accessible language the mythic quality and the teachings of reconciliation that are embedded in the Torah, the Qur'an, and the Bible.</p> |
| <p>Food for Thought: A conversation with the U.S. attorney Nov. 20, 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m., Covenant Presbyterian Church</p> | <p>From sentencing disparities to civil rights to human trafficking to domestic violence, U.S. Attorney Anne Thompkins (Western District of North Carolina) will share stories of how the Office of the U.S. Attorney is working to build greater equity in our justice system. Ms. Thompkins will present data and insights that are both provocative and productive as she engages the interfaith community in solution focused conversation.</p> |
| <p>Citywide Interfaith Thanksgiving service Nov. 25, 7 p.m., The Park Church Beatties Ford Road</p> | <p>This interfaith service begins at 7 p.m. (You do not need to register for this service.) The church address is 6029 Beatties Ford Road. Preaching will be Rabbi Judy Schindler, Rev. Dr. Ophelia Garmon-Brown and Rev. Christy Snow. Please bring canned goods to benefit Loaves & Fishes.</p> |



Apparently our Crop Walkers couldn't wait to get going.

Caldwell goes the extra mile

Crop Walk

There's good news and then more good news about this year's Crop Walk, always well supported by Caldwell.

The first good news: there were no reports of blisters or aching muscles among our 30-some walkers.

The second - and most important - bit of good news: Caldwell helped raise a lot of money to alleviate hunger here and elsewhere.

As of Friday, Caldwell walkers had raised at least \$3,300. "I'm hoping we'll raise more

money" than last year, said Caldwell Crop Walk coordinator Marion Idol. "At Caldwell, we've had exponential growth in the number of walkers and donations. Marion said most of the money raised in pledges will "stay in Charlotte"

Marion says Caldwell's growth in walkers and donations is nothing short of "exponential."



although other funds will be earmarked for relief in war-ravaged Syria and to counter hunger in Africa "and other trouble area around the world." More photos can be seen at www.charlotteobserver.com.

Much of the money raised during the walk will stay in Charlotte but is destined for hunger relief elsewhere, too.



Smitty Flynn signals the choir it's time get down the aisle to start a Sunday service.

It's back! **WIFI**

Never fear, techies: WIFI is back and available at the church. The router is located in the Parlor (which has up to 5G capability if your device has 5G) and sends a pretty good signal beyond (even into the sanctuary according to onlookers!). But you know the rule: once Sunday service starts, your mobile device should be turned off or on silent mode.



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

The Prayer Room schedule may show 2 - 4 p.m. on Wednesdays, but that doesn't mean you have to attend from 2 - 4 p.m.

People can "drop by for 10 minutes on the way home from work during the week. They see it open from 4 to 6 p.m. and think they have to be there for the whole two hours," said **Peg Robarchek**.

Peg noted that during the 'Church on the Move' service, visitors "said 'This is wonderful' and they loved being in the Prayer Room and loved the sense of quiet and reverence."

Got 10 minutes? A short but highly worthwhile visit to the Prayer Room may be the spiritual refreshment your soul needs.

She dispelled any notion that the commitment needed to be any longer than the visitor had time for.

Rather, the intent for visitors is to pray in their own style for however long they choose to visit. People pray for a variety of reasons and the visit "is a good way to turn off

the day and shut off the noise and business," said Peg.

It's not the length of the visit that matters but the quality therein.

"The 10 minutes in that room is like an hour in a spa but instead feeds your connection to God," said Peg.

Visitors, members and friends in our **midst**



"It's nice here, it's a good church with friendly people."
 Vicky Hampton



Carl Tasker, Alonzo Jones, Mark McCauley and Ben Bryant on a recent Sunday.

What are you **Praying** for?



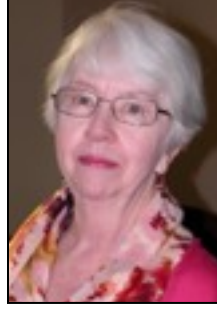
I am praying particularly for two people who two people who attempted to take their lives and for Jackie Abernathy who has pneumonia.

Elaine Hultman



Well, I'm praying for a little unity in our nation.

Manley Roberts



Those people in Africa affected by Ebola, and in the U.S. our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters.

Linda Pugh
(Nancy's mother)



I'm praying for health and wellness all over the world and for family and friends having some personal struggles.

Nancy Pugh



I'm praying for the health of my one month old newborn and the strength to be a really good mother.

Noelle Johnson



Marriage equality and my daughter's wedding this week. And the health care people and the whole Ebola situation.

Katy Hill

Pastor's column ...

But it's not all so daunting. The church can still reach out to the Census and Nominal Christians, who may be sitting on the fence of faith, and engage them ... IF we can abandon the negative, divisive ways that have marked too much of Christianity, if we can extend the Gospel and the love and hospitality of God in Christ in ways that are authentically inviting and intriguing to those fence-sitting Christians who may – or may not - still walk away from “religion.”

So that is the question for us at Caldwell: Which of the two shoe salesmen do we want to embody here? And how do we do that?

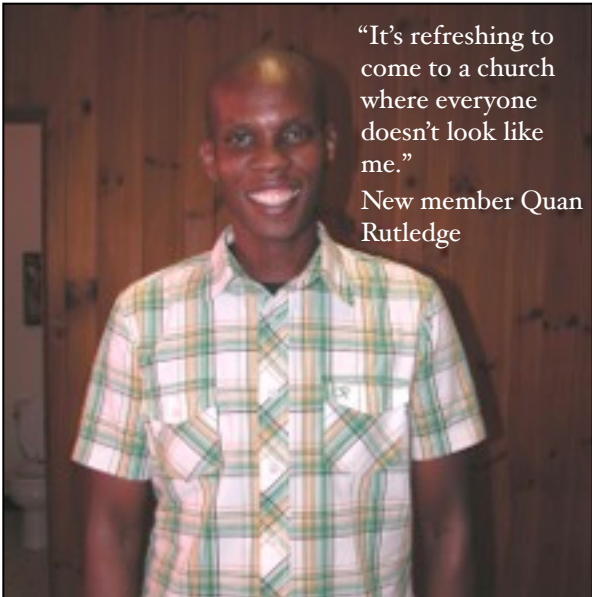
What do you think?



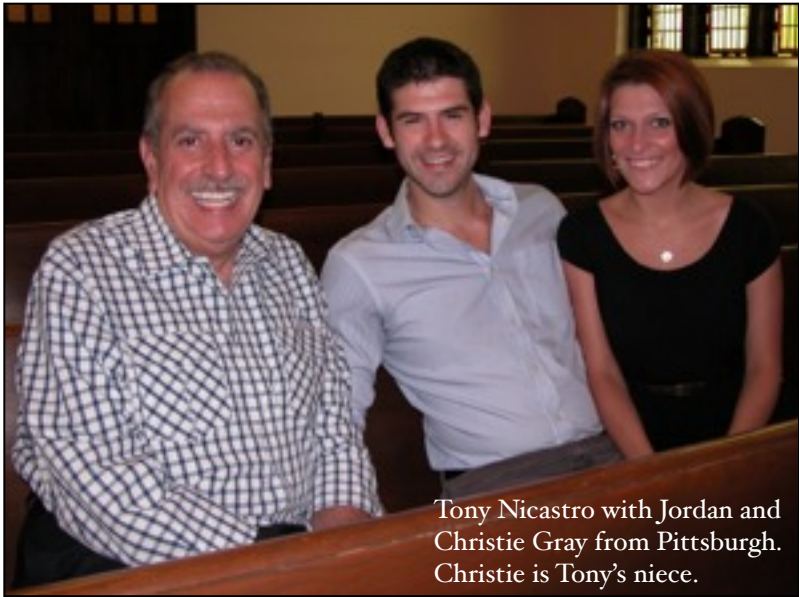
North Carolina is far from the only state wrestling with the environmental impacts of hydraulic fracking. Our own **Nancy Nance** joined 150 concerned citizens at a Global Frackdown Rally in Oakland, California. She said the effort is to get “Governments to stop fracking and poisoning our air and water.”

Californians - and Nancy - say 'no' to fracking during rally sponsored by Food and Water Watch

Caldwell in photos ...



“It’s refreshing to come to a church where everyone doesn’t look like me.”
New member Quan Rutledge



Tony Nicastro with Jordan and Christie Gray from Pittsburgh. Christie is Tony’s niece.



Our Godly Play room was on the route followed group by group during our ‘A Church on the Move’ service.

Caldwell Good News! Bulletin Board

October

| | | |
|----------|--|--|
| Sun., 26 | Guatemala Mission Trip Music Making With Children | 12:30 - 2 p.m., Shelby Room 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., Choir Room |
| Mon., 27 | Latino Ministries Committee | 6 p.m., Shelby Room |
| Tue., 28 | Session | 5:30 - 7:30 a.m., Shelby Room |
| Wed., 29 | CMA Disciple Bible Study | 6 - 7 p.m., Price Bldg., front parlor, first floor 6:30 - 8 p.m., Upstairs Room |
| Fri., 31 | La Casita de Amor Bible Study and Zumba | 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Price Building |

November

| | | |
|---------|---|--|
| Sat., 1 | Caldwell Domestic Mission Trip to Koinonea Farms, Georgia | Through Saturday, Nov. 8 |
| Sun., 2 | Youth Group Music Making With Children | 12:15 - 2:15 p.m., Price Bldg. 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., Choir Room |
| Tue., 4 | Theology on Tap | 7 - 9 p.m., Leroy Fox Restaurant |
| Wed., 5 | CMA Disciple Bible Study | 6 - 7 p.m., Price Bldg., front parlor, first floor 6:30 - 8 p.m., Upstairs Room |
| Fri., 6 | La Casita de Amor Bible Study and Zumba | 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Price Building |
| Sun., 9 | New Comers Lunch Buddy/Mentors Music Making With Children | 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. TBD 1 - 3:30 p.m., Belk Hall 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., Choir 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

And lastly ... Amen!

Flowers in our community garden make a valiant - if not beautiful - last stand against colder temperatures.

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.