



Caldwell members and friends went all out to make homeless men feel at home - for at least one Friday night - at Room in the Inn. Read the story on page 5.

# CGN!

Caldwell Good News!  
December 2014

Our Adult Christian Education (ACE) class studies what we can learn from other religions.  
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The church hopes to reclaim some long-forgotten space in Belk Hall.  
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The Women's Circle and Women's Book Club both held festive events.  
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Our Mission Trip to Guatemala can be a life changer. There's still room for you to go, too.  
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A 'Ministry of ice cream' sounds like a sweet volunteer opportunity. Here's how you can sign up.  
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**Pastor's Column**

# Life Abounding

**As we prepare to receive Emanuel, God with us, we are reminded of God's gift of new life in Christ in so many ways. At Caldwell, signs of new life are abundant. This column captures a few reflections of that new life at the corner of Park and Fifth.**

**New Ministries**

Caldwell in 3D is happening, all in God's good time. Our process of **Discernment-Discussion-Dreaming** is bearing fruit. The new **Buddy/Mentor** ministry, spearheaded by volunteer head and elder **Kim Bohannon**, reflects the congregation's expressed desire to work more deeply in the lives of diverse, at-risk youth. Now, only three months after its launch, Buddy/Mentor is thriving. Many new members and friends have answered a call to this ministry, finding their place in service at Caldwell alongside more long-standing members. On a recent Sunday, the adults and children stormed a nearby Target store to shop for Christmas, enabling the kids to be able to have something for a loved-one at Christmas. More important, bonds are being created between adults, students and their families and trust is being built as a

foundation for long-term supportive relationships. As evidenced in this



picture, it's difficult to tell whose smiles are bigger - the Mentors' or the Buddies'. Thanks be to God for this new expression of the love of Christ.

Another new ministry idea that is gaining interest is a "coffee-shop" that might occupy the empty space in the **Fellowship Hall** and kitchen beneath the sanctuary. This concept flows from the 3D idea we called "Caldwell Enterprises." Imagine:

- A warm, welcoming, hospitable hang-out, comfortably decorated with couches, tables, easy chairs and seating groupings that invite community and respite, where people can feel God's love without feeling as if they are getting hit over the head with it.
- A regular flow of those who are currently not coming to our campus - parents from **Elizabeth Traditional Elementary** next door, families of patients at Presbyterian/Novant hospital, any of the 5,000-plus students from nearby **CPCC** and **Kings College** and more, our homeless neighbors seeking warmth and safety.
- A bakery/catering enterprise hosted and brought to life by the ladies of Casita De Amor, offering fresh baked goods or maybe light lunches.
- A place others can learn real job-skills, including service and business management.

**Rev. John Cleghorn**

- A space where people can come to learn and grow, taking classes taught by Caldwell members and friends in anything from financial literacy to quilting to ESL.
- A place where local coffee roasters – along with roasters and socially responsible “just” coffee providers in developing nation’s such as Guatemala – can reach customers and develop self-sustaining lives and businesses.

The Session has endorsed the deep exploration of this novel ministry and a range of needed partners has also expressed interest. Watch for notice of a meeting for those interested in deeper planning to be scheduled the first week in January.

Together with our ongoing exploration of Discipleship of Race and Class, these three areas reflect the inspired passion and creativity of the Caldwell family. Thanks be to God for these, Thy Gifts.

**Membership**

A frequent question I hear is: How many members does Caldwell now have? A year-end snapshot of membership shows that we have 268 active adult members, the category that is the "official measurement" of membership in our denomination.

We welcomed 32 new members in 2014, including five youth who became "adult" members through confirmation. Caldwell is always church home to about another

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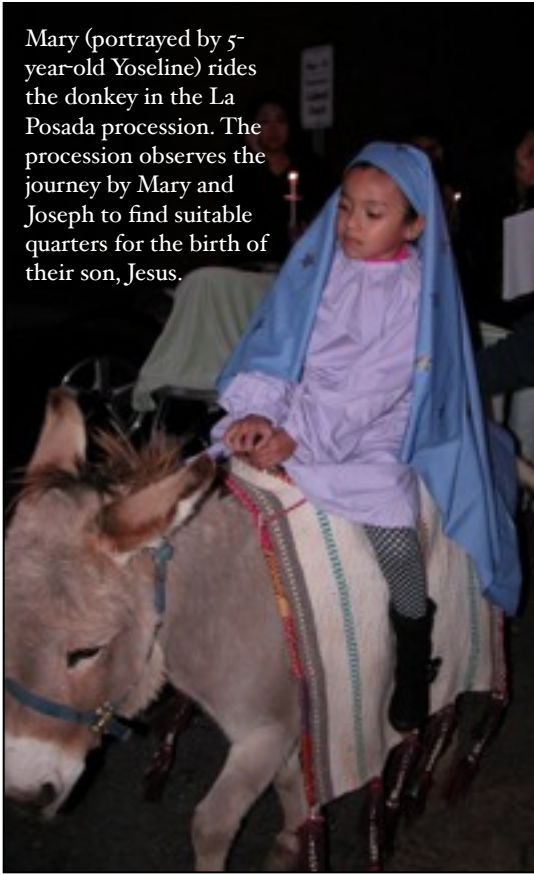
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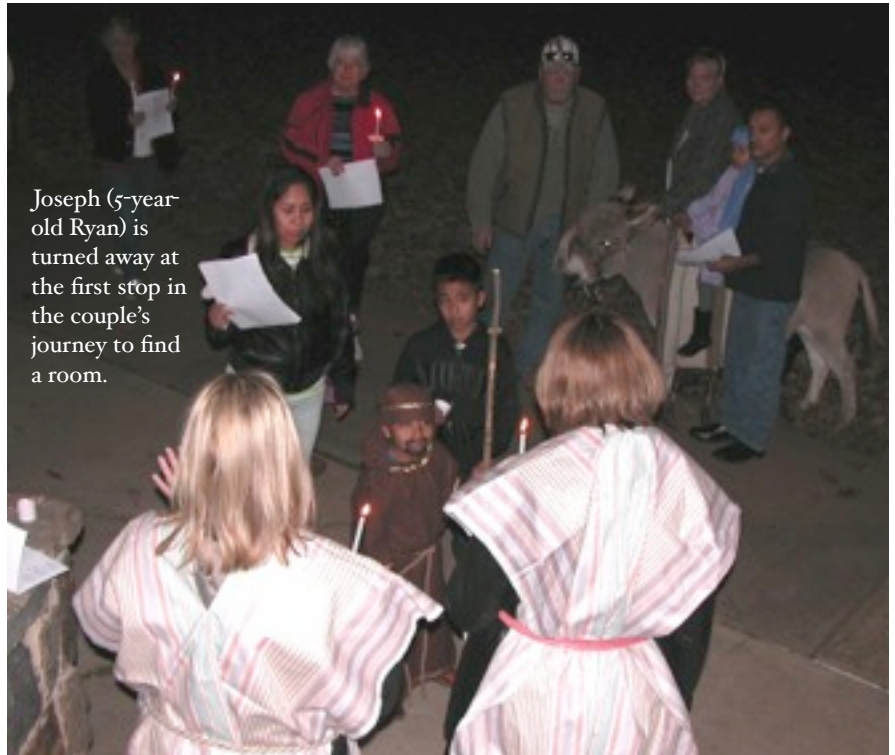
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*Pastor's Column ... page 9*

Mary (portrayed by 5-year-old Yoseline) rides the donkey in the La Posada procession. The procession observes the journey by Mary and Joseph to find suitable quarters for the birth of their son, Jesus.

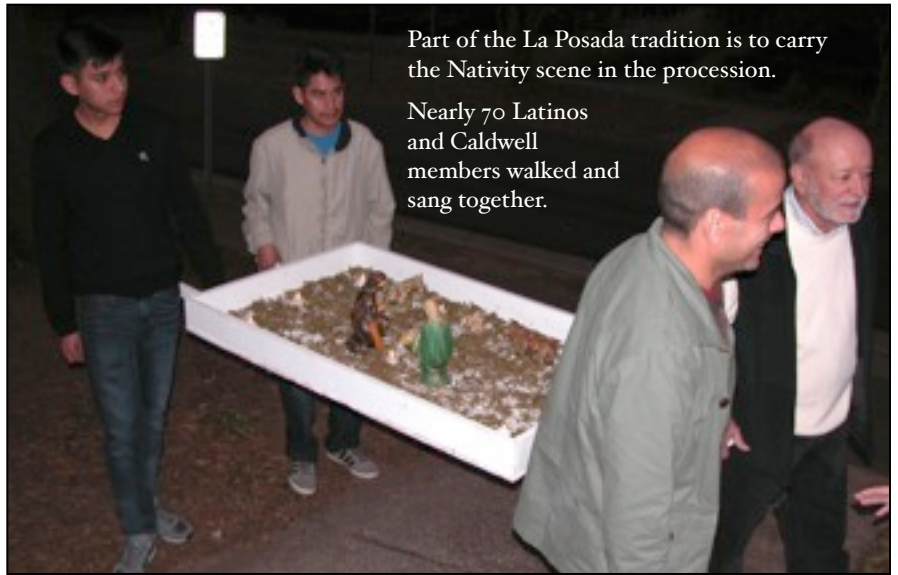


Joseph (5-year-old Ryan) is turned away at the first stop in the couple's journey to find a room.



Part of the La Posada tradition is to carry the Nativity scene in the procession.

Nearly 70 Latinos and Caldwell members walked and sang together.



Celebrants carried candles and sang in the procession.



## The story behind our white ornaments

The beautiful white ornaments on Caldwell's Christmas tree are Chrismons, and each has a long history with Christianity and with Caldwell.

The ornaments are traditionally white with gold trim and according to *Presbyterian Worship: A Guide for Clergy*, "are ancient symbols for Christ or some part of Christ's ministry: the crown, descending dove, fish, Celtic cross, Jerusalem Cross, shepherd's crook, chalice, shell, and others."

Most of our Chrismons are hand-made, as this article from **Marilyn Rowland** shows and has been a Christmas practice for many years at Caldwell.

The lights circling our tree are white, also in keeping with tradition.

Yet the notion of Chrismons during the time of advent is widespread. Many Presbyterian churches, and other denominations, too, also decorate their Christmas trees in this same fashion.

### The Chrismon Tree and How It Came to Be!

Last December (2008) a group of Caldwellians met on a Saturday morning to cut, glue, and sprinkle magic dust on our Christian symbols, called *Chrismons*. How pleased we were when our work was done and our artistic creations would decorate the Caldwell Christmas tree.

*When what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
but an old brown box filled with chrismons and cheers  
From Fred our custodian of so many years  
Who saved the old box for others to share.  
Our hearts filled with joy when we opened the box,  
to see they had survived these past 30 years.  
They are studded with pearls, stars and glitter  
and we knew that they were created with hands of care!*

Many thanks to Fred as steward of the box!  
So, as you view our chrismon tree, in a small way, it  
represents how we at Caldwell have embraced the old,  
while we create the new.  
So do we have an old new tree or a new old tree?  
Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!



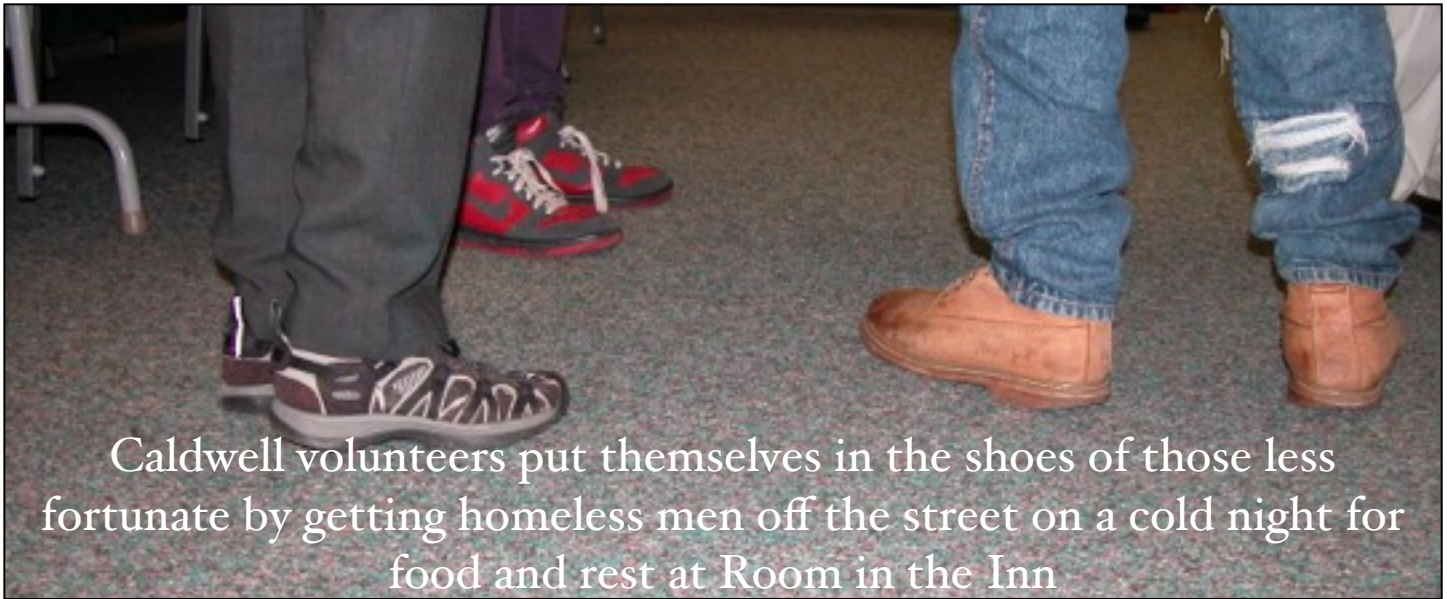
There is always great music from our choir - and the addition of small singers just sweetens the tone.



Don't forget the gift of learning (school supplies) for Merry Oaks.

*Caldwell Good News!* is always on the lookout for your photos and news items.

If you've got anything to share, email your suggestions to the editor, [david.bradley@yahoo.com](mailto:david.bradley@yahoo.com). The deadline is typically the 10th of each month.



Caldwell volunteers put themselves in the shoes of those less fortunate by getting homeless men off the street on a cold night for food and rest at Room in the Inn

**Caldwell’s involvement in the first of several Friday nights to feed and house homeless men went according to plan this month at St. John’s Baptist Church.**

Bedding was set up for eight men in the church gym, followed by a fabulous meal and other activities. It was an opportunity for Caldwell volunteers to get to know the men as individuals and get a sense of what the homeless face every day.

Room in the Inn is a multi-church effort during the coldest months of the year to offer the homeless a warm place to stay, a good dinner and breakfast. Caldwell will staff the Room in the Inn on several more Friday nights: Jan. 2 and 23, Feb. 13 and March 6.

**Are you able to volunteer at Room in the Inn?**

Our needs vary widely; you can welcome guests, set up bedding, cook, clean up, and spend the night.

Contact **Mary Ann Ogle** (704-280-7956) or **Lynn Watson** (704-819-9795).



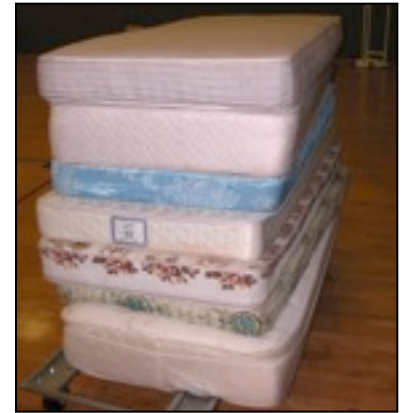
**Mary Ann Ogle** (along with **Mike Watson**) handled much of the cooking with 12-15 Caldwell volunteers helping with other various chores. Our visitors dined on beef tenderloin. Mary Ann said older men get first priority as guests on chilly Friday nights.



**Dale Johnson** of St. John’s is on hand to help with preparations and said “I find it rewarding to work with the homeless community. But I don’t even know all the reasons why that is. I just do.”



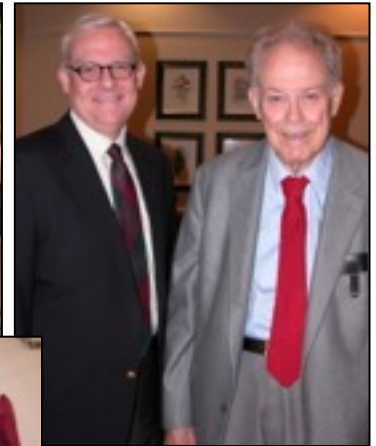
**Kathy Martin**, a friend of Caldwell, prepares bedding for the men. “I feel bad when people don’t have any place to sleep at night,” she said. “I feel like I’m helping with the homeless problem a little bit.”



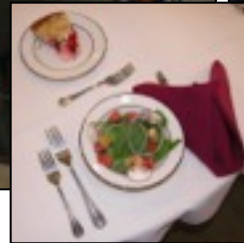
Attendance was sparse on this Friday night, largely because the forecast low would be in the 40s, tolerable by the standard of many homeless men who can only attend a set number of times and hedge their bets for a truly frigid night. For William, a first time guest, “It’s nice. I like it here.”



The Christmas luncheon was a chance for Jackie Abernathy to pay a visit to friends.



Rev. Charlie McDonald and Pastor Cleghorn caught up before the festivities began. The luncheon drew a crowd of 23 Circle members and guests.



The Women's Circle Christmas luncheon at Sharon Towers is a much-anticipated, always festive holiday occasion for Circle members and church staff and guests.



Our Women's Book Club again marked the Christmas holiday with a special luncheon. **Sally Thomas** reports that it's "A nice tradition for the Caldwell Women's Book Club ... **Marilyn Rowland** has been having us over to her very beautiful and art-filled home every Christmas serving us a meal around the table. And we DO discuss a book — and this year it was Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*."

At the table, left to right, are: **Marilyn Marks, Susan Pierson, Marilyn Rowland, Kitty Bohr, Lynn Watson, Veronica Rogers, Nancy Pugh, Beth Van Gorp, and Cindi Haden. Sally Thomas** took the photo.

**What was forgotten is now remembered: A sizable vacant space above the kitchen in Belk Hall that could be reclaimed for use sooner than later.**

According to **Jim Curtis** of our Buildings & Grounds Committee, the nearly 650 sq. ft. space holds promise as a room for our burgeoning ministry for teenagers or as a classroom.

“We want to see how this space can be used,” said Jim. “I like this building a lot and this new loft is a new spot” for the church to use. The room, accessible by stairs, once had a balcony overlooking the gymnasium but at some time in the past that view was walled off.

The space was relegated to storage over the years. Much of the contents were holdovers from Scout Troop 11, once hosted by Caldwell. The intent is to give stored Scouting gear, including flags, to the troop.

More updates to our facilities are in the offing for Buildings & Grounds.

Jim said the Shelby Room kitchen is in need of wall painting and organizing. “We have people who are talented” in organization, he said. The choir’s bathroom also is



**Space to be reclaimed in Belk Hall**

in need of paint. Contact Jim directly (704-622-2506) if you’re interested.

Also to be hauled off the property and sold as scrap: six old steam radiators weighing a hefty 300 to 600 lbs. with the proceeds of \$700 to \$1,000 going to the church. These became obsolete earlier this year when a new HVAC system was installed in the administration portion of our building. If your muscle power can help, call Jim.



Scouts from Troop 11 - who’ve done a number of projects around Caldwell - also refurbished cabinets in the Belk Hall kitchen.



The contents of a time capsule will remain secret a while longer as the condition of artifacts was affected after years of being tucked away inside a capstone.



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

## Our Mission Trip to Guatemala will be filled with wonder and learning - we need people just like you

Hi! My name is Ellissa Hunt and I am lucky enough to be leading the Mission Trip to Guatemala this coming summer. I had one of the best times of my life when I went last time and I hope some of you will consider going this coming summer.

First, a little bit about Common Hope. Common Hope believes that education is the key to unwinding the cycle of poverty. They provide the necessary resources for thousands of impoverished children to attend school each year. Common Hope understands, however, that education is about more than books and uniforms – a child's success in school depends on the quality of the education he or she receives. For this reason, partnerships are made with local schools to support and enhance the education they provide. They help teachers implement more interactive, engaging curriculum, and they foster more individualized support for students at-risk of dropping out of school.

### I know this mission trip changed my life

Further, to help make sure children are prepared to learn, Common Hope provides health care, housing programs, and family development programs, all to help foster a good learning environment for each child.

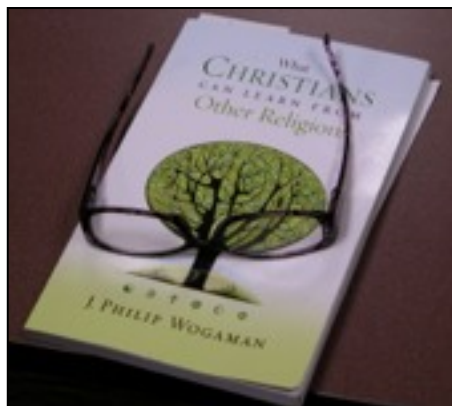
As a Vision Team member, you will experience the people, culture, and beauty of Guatemala first-hand. You will participate in Common Hope's work alongside the Guatemalan staff and meet the families whose lives have been changed by their partnership with Common Hope. During an eight-day trip, you will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities that will enhance your understanding of Common Hope's programs. Your activities may include visiting families with a social worker, attending informal talks with staff members, sorting supplies in the warehouse, and building a home for a Guatemalan family. You will also have the opportunity to interact with the children who are attending school with the help of Common Hope. You may volunteer during library tutoring sessions, assist in preschool activities, share arts and crafts or games with youth groups, or teach lessons in a public school classroom.

I know that this mission trip changed my life. During the trip I met a wonderful little girl named Paola, and I decided to sponsor her after a few days of getting to know her and her family. They are truly special people and I am grateful that I had an opportunity to get to know them. I am also excited to see Paola again this coming summer! This is the great thing about sponsorship - you get to meet your sponsor during your trip and foster a relationship with them.

**In the end however, this trip is just plain fun.** Our team chose to tour a coffee farm! It was so cool to see how coffee is made and even how it looks on the coffee plant. There are, however, a variety of activities to pick from and the team will have a chance to decide on one activity to participate in. All in all, the places you get to see and the people you get to meet are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. If you are ready for an adventure, you are ready to go to Guatemala!

Please call or email me if you have any interest and I can give you more information.

**Ellissa Hunt**, ehunt03@gmail.com, 704-996-2362



Helen Hull leads an Adult Christian Education Class in a discussion of what Christians can learn from other religions.





# What are you **Praying** for?



*I'm praying for my health, a new beginning and a strong future.*

**Marc Hunt**



*I'm praying that I still have all my family members and that my guinea pig (Webster) stays alive.*

**Kalaura Jones,**  
age 11



*What I pray for mostly is patience with my 11 year old and for the world they are going to inherit.*

**Beverly Bryan-Nance**



*I guess I pray for family and friends and guidances with the holidays coming up.*

**Chris Pistole**



*I just had a baby (James, 7 months) so I'm praying for him and praying for immigration in Charlotte. Your church is so welcoming.*

**Katie Burns**



*My family first, and various illnesses that people I know have, and this church and the people in it that we'll all be protected from Satan.*

**Sands Harn**

## 'A ministry of ice cream'

Here's a sweet volunteer opportunity: Serving ice cream once a month to men at **McCreesh Place**.

The ice cream extravaganza (along with cake) is part of a monthly birthday celebration for men who deserve some birthday cheer.

"I think it's important for these folks who generally don't get a lot of attention," said **Tracy Hewett**. "They're people too and have birthdays too." Tracy is a volunteer coordinator along with **Marilyn Marks**.

McCreesh is a facility for men in recovery, and these ice cream socials take very little time on the part of volunteers. The party is held the first Wednesday of each month (the next scheduled event is Jan. 7 at 4:45 p.m.) and the volunteer role is to serve ice

cream purchased by the church along with a cake baked by a McCreesh staff person.

According to Marilyn, "These men have come such a long way, and it's a time for us to serve them with a ministry of ice cream and cake. It makes them happy and makes us happy."

Moreover, it's an all-around nice experience.

"It's fun and it doesn't take hardly any time and there's minimal effort," said Tracy. "There's a huge payoff because you're right there with the people you're serving, they're smiling at you and they're thanking you and are just super appreciative, nice men."

It's a real treat for them and neat for us," said Marilyn. "You get to know a few people and it's a real joy."



*Pastor's Column ...*

50 'friends' who walk with us in ways that reflect regular commitment but have not joined. There are also about 40 children and youth among us.

We said goodbye to three members in death in 2014 - **Irene Kennedy, Rose Greenfield** and **Thomas Lyall**. We removed 19 members, who no longer attend or participate in the life of the church, from the rolls. It is the church's practice and responsibility to review and adjust the roll annually to reflect the current life of the church.

The Presbytery no longer shares comparative church data. However, as most churches are working hard to keep membership even or are suffering declines, it is safe to say that Caldwell continues to be extraordinarily blessed by our Creator with life abundant in terms of new additions to our church family.

Thanks be to God for new members who choose to join all those who are already serving Christ here.

**New Training for Your Pastors**

Both Rev. Evie and I need all the extra help we can get to keep up with you all. So we both are pursuing additional education in ways that won't interfere with our daily duties.

In January, I will begin work toward a Doctorate in Ministry degree through **Pittsburgh Theological Seminary**.

My work will focus on the "parish" setting - relevant and applicable ideas that are born out of the life of a congregation in a particular setting. At Caldwell, as we all see, there is no dearth of opportunity to try new things and to experiment in new ways of "being

church" amidst this time of re-formation of religion.

My work will also focus on something called "pastoral identity." This is a chance to reflect on my abilities and growth opportunities as a pastor after seven years of active ministry. This, too, should benefit Caldwell, as I refine my understanding of my role in service to God and the church, which inevitably helps the church maximize my strengths and complement me in areas where needed.

I will be away in intensive class work for two weeks in January and two weeks in June for the next three years. This work, will involve Caldwell intimately and I am grateful for the Session's support. Separately, Evie was sought out by Asbury Theological Seminary and has received a full-scholarship into a doctorate program for Latino-American pastors. Evie is among a small number of Presbyterian pastors nationwide with the education, calling and abilities to practice multi-cultural ministry, as she is doing in our midst. This program will help her deepen and refine her skills, bringing benefits to Caldwell as well as enhancing her own growth and development. Her program, also supported by the Session, will take about three years to complete.

And, don't worry, we won't insist on being called Dr. Cleghorn or Dr. Landrau when we are done!

**Discipleship of Time, Talent and Treasure**

"Thank you" to all of those who bring life to Caldwell's many ministries through your time, talent and treasure. A few snapshots of our near-final results for this year's Discipleship Campaign:

- Pledges for 2015 total \$374,440, up 13.4% from a pledged total of \$330,000 last year.
- 37 people and/or families became new pledgers, helping the church by giving in predictable ways.
- 55 people/families responded to our "move-up" theme by increasing their financial pledge. Thirty-five people/families pledged the same amount as last year and 10 declined.
- The number of pledging families/individuals totaled 137, a new high for the resurrected Caldwell.
- Omitting the highest and lowest individual pledges, the average annual pledge increased to \$2,451.
- To date, 26 individuals/families who pledged last year have not pledged for 2015, due to various circumstances.
- As for Time and Talent, many individuals/families completed pledge cards indicating their area of interest in hands-on service. These pledges are equally important to God's church! Session leaders will be reaching out to everyone who pledged time/talent in the new year.
- Of 227 members and friends contacted through the campaign, 60% have pledged time and talent or treasure or both.

What abundant life we enjoy as our Lord gives us a new year in which we can bear witness to the Kingdom of God in Charlotte and around the world!

To you and yours, the Merriest of Christmases as we all respond to God's presence among us.



Voices rose as one during the singing of carols at La Posada.

# Caldwell Good News! Bulletin Board

December		
Sun., 21	Youth Group	12:15 - 2:15 p.m., Price Bldg., Youth Room, kitchen
Tue., 23	Staff meeting	10:30 a.m. - noon, Upstairs
Wed., 24	Church office open until noon Christmas Eve Candlelight Service CMA	5:30, sanctuary 6 - 7 p.m., Price Bldg., First floor parlor
Fri., 26	Church office closed	
Sun., 28	Youth Sunday School	9:45 - 10:45 a.m., Price Bldg., First floor parlor
Tue., 30	Staff meeting	10:30 a.m. - noon, Upstairs
Wed., 31	Contemplative Prayer CMA	4 - 6 p.m., Prayer Chapel 6 - 7 p.m., Price Bldg., First floor parlor

January 2015		
Fri., 2	Caldwell hosts Room in the Inn at St. John's Baptist La Casita de Amor Bible Study and Zumba Charlotte Compassion Network for Children meeting	5:30 p.m. 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Price Bldg., Second floor, back room 2 - 3:30 p.m. Belk Hall
Sun., 4	Youth Sunday School	9:45 - 10:45 a.m., Price Bldg., First floor parlor
Tue., 6	Theology on Tap	7 - 9 p.m., Leroy Fox Restaurant
Thu., 8	MeckMin and NC Peace Action Book Study	6:30 - 8 p.m., Upstairs

Church Calendar
<b>Sundays</b>
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)
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday</b>
Communion Session receives new members
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</b>
Ten Cents a Meal Offering
<b>All Sundays</b>
Loaves & Fishes Collection (non-perishables in entry basket)
<b>Mondays</b>
6:30 p.m. Mustard Seed Men's Group (biweekly)
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Monday</b>
6:30 p.m. - Women's Book Club
<b>Tuesdays</b>
6:30 p.m. - Yoga, Fellowship Hall 7:00 Theology on Tap (biweekly)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday</b>
10:30 a.m. - Women's Circle
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday</b>
6:30 p.m. - Building and Grounds, Shelby Room
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday</b>
5:30 p.m. - Session, Shelby Room
<b>Wednesdays</b>
3:45-6:45 - Contemplative Prayer, Prayer Room 7:00 p.m. - Choir Practice, Choir Room
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday</b>
6:00 p.m. - Mission & Justice, Shelby Room
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday</b>
6:00 p.m. - Congregational Care, Shelby
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday</b>
6:30 p.m. - Worship Committee, Shelby 6:30 p.m. - Education Committee, Upstairs Meeting Room
<b>Fridays</b>
9:30-11:30 Casita de Amor Bible Study & Zumba, Belk Hall 7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous, Shelby Room
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Friday</b>
6:00 p.m. - Young Adult Fellowship 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday 12:15 p.m. - Finance Committee, Upstairs Meeting Room
<b>Administrative office hours</b>
Monday, 2:30 - 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 - 5 p.m.
<b>Pastor's office hours</b>
Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Reach Pastor Cleghorn on his cell: 704-957-4511

**And lastly ... Amen!**

Our youngest singers raise their voices to lead the congregation in song at a recent service.

### 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.