

Caldwell hosted Ash Wednesday, and we will be home to all Lenten worship services to be lead by other Elizabeth neighborhood churches. Read more about our role, the Lenten series and a schedule of services on page 3.



CGN!
Caldwell Good News!
February 2015

The Session is already in action in the new year.
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Elders are installed ... and calling all green thumbs.
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Pastor's Column

A Lenten Spiritual Discipline of Historic Proportions

This issue of CGN! comes out on the first Sunday of Lent. We are now in a time of reflection, confession, repentance and rededication. As one author put it:

Lent announces the supreme action of God, God's victory over the death and sin and challenges us to transform our meditation and prayers into actions and decisions. Introspection has no meaning when it's not accompanied by "re-dedication." Our personal introspection needs to move us into a new level of communion with God in which we re-dedicate ourselves to our Lord and Savior. Re-dedication works in the spiritual level of each individual.

Each of us may have already taken up some sort of Lenten discipline – something to set aside these 40 (week)days that lead us to the new life we celebrate on Easter morning, when we open the tomb and find it empty.

Whatever you may have already begun, here's a new opportunity in which we are all invited to engage: As part of our ongoing Discipleship of Race and Class Initiative (remember, "disciple" means "learner"), **Beth Van Gorp** hatched the idea that we might take time in this season to write a reflection on how our journey (so far!) has affected our faith.

As you recall, we took time last fall to "claim" Caldwell's past – specifically the fact that our sanctuary was built largely with funds that were donated from the estate of a family whose wealth had been created through a slave-owning plantation in northern Mecklenburg County. We revisited that chapter just last week, when **Dr. Edward**

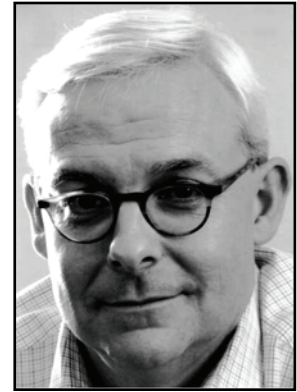
Newberry reviewed the history of the old Catawba Presbytery, which established most of the African-American Presbyterian churches in our region. You may also recall that last fall we removed the cornerstone of the original 1914 building.

Beth thought it would be great if all who are interested wrote some reflections on their journey at Caldwell, especially on what we have learned about our church and how it affects our faith and action in the world in advancing the Kingdom of God. These writings would be assembled and placed in a time capsule to be placed in the cornerstone when it is put back in place. In this way, the next generation would "hear" the voices of today's Caldwell as we reflect on the past and live into the future.

Beth thought it would be great to generate these written reflections in March, so that the cornerstone (with the time capsule containing them) could be put back in place on Easter Day. That means we need to get busy thinking, praying, reflecting and writing! I'll let Beth "speak up" here. Here's what she wrote:

As part of looking at the history of the Caldwell family, for which Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church was named, we decided to open up a time capsule dated 1914. This was found inside a cornerstone on the oldest part of the church, placed there in 1922. All we found inside were some business papers.

As talk turned to what we should put back in the cavity in the marble block, we thought about what we wished we had found. Without a doubt we would have loved to have



Rev. John Cleghorn

encountered first person narratives as so often we've asked ourselves "I wonder what they were thinking and feeling." So, I invite you to help fill the time capsule. We're looking for your written story (one paragraph to one page). We will not be publishing these now and so feel free to write with that in mind. Here are some questions to get you started. Feel free to just pick one, reflect on several or chose your own. Include details that folks 100 years from now will find enlightening. Please start your writing with a few basic facts about yourself: name, age, occupation, family situation, etc.

- *The process of understanding the history of Caldwell has included looking at institutional and personal views of race in light of living out a Christian faith. What are your understanding of where we are now and how does this manifest itself in your live and faith.*
- *There are many current issues that weigh heavily on Christians and all who share our world. Share something about yourself and why you think a particular issue is important.*
- *Tell a bit about your experience here at Caldwell. What has made you a person of faith who worships here?*

Finally, to help us get started, writer and editor **Dave Bradley** will host a writing workshop, where we can exchange ideas and map out what we might want to say in our message to the future. It will be held Saturday, March 14 is at 9 a.m. in the Shelby Room. Now, let us glorify God this Lent with our own honest, faithful and inspiring letters to the next generation!

Caldwell Good News!

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The service

Ash Wednesday "... begins the season of Lent with a public act of confession and contrition," according to the Presbyterian Church USA.

Of note to the service is the imposition of ashes to each person's forehead in the form of a cross.

The *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* says ashes are "... a sign of our humanity and a reminder of our mortality."

The series

Each **Lenten Worship Service & Soup Series** service will be held at Caldwell every Wednesday at noon leading to Easter. Leading worship will rotate among several churches and two hospitals in our Elizabeth neighborhood.

Here is the schedule (followed by lunch):

February 25
St. Martin's Episcopal Church

March 4
Hawthorne Lane United Methodist Church

March 11
CMC Mercy Department of Pastoral Care

March 18
Center City Church

March 25
Novant Presbyterian Health Chaplaincy Service

April 1
St. John's Baptist Church

Caldwell will host the worship service each Wednesday during Lent

The Lenten Series

Caldwell welcomed nearly 70 worshippers to the first of seven weeks of Wednesday Lenten worship services to be held leading up to Easter as part of a joint effort among the **Elizabeth Communities of Faith**.

"I thought it went really well given the weather (cold and blustery)" said **Susan Pierson**, Caldwell's Intern in Ministry, who led planning for series. Caldwell will host the entire series although services will be led by neighboring churches and hospitals. (That our Ash Wednesday service drew nearly 70 was surprising in that some other churches call off activities if the Charlotte/Mecklenburg Schools are closed.) After the service most stayed for a simple lunch of soup and bread donated by **Hawthorne's Pizza** and the **Community Culinary School of Charlotte**.

Attendees heard that the services continue a shared neighborhood history. Susan said, "We've been in this neighborhood together and we care about each other's congregations." In what may bode well for continued partnership on activities and events, Susan said the women of St. John's Baptist are considering a weeknight gathering of women from across the differing congregations at **Kickstand** restaurant, although a schedule has yet to be set. "The hope from the Caldwell clergy is that we do more" such joint efforts, said Susan.

In fact, there is a website devoted to the Elizabeth Communities of Faith: elizabethfaith.org.

A new Facebook page is also online at [Facebook.com/ecfCharlotte](https://www.facebook.com/ecfCharlotte).

Each service will also feature *Leave a Prayer ... Take a Prayer*. Worshippers write a prayer to place in a basket. Those prayers to be picked up by others to consider in their own daily devotions.

Caldwell will also make our Prayer Room available for those who wish to continue their Wednesday Lenten worship in a solemn setting.

Our volunteers

Caldwell volunteers turned out in force (15 of you) to both ready our church and welcome visitors to the Ash Wednesday service.

"We had amazing volunteers," said Susan Pierson. "Caldwell showed up and worked really hard to host visitors and show hospitality."

The group did yeoman's work to ready Fellowship Hall and dining area, with overflow, if necessary, set up in the Shelby Room. Volunteers also assisted with Ash Wednesday ushering and parking.



On the front cover of CGN!: clockwise from top left:

Lee Gray, Minister of Youth and Young Adults at St. John's Baptist Church

Charles Jackson, First United Presbyterian Church

Linda Dowd, Covenant Presbyterian Church and **Cindy LaBrosse**, Hawthorne Lane United Methodist Church

Sands Harne, Caldwell Presbyterian Church



Rev. Evie Landrau

Quality time with the Lord is not about the perfect or ideal moment of prayer or scripture reading or worship.

Lent: It's not what you give up, it's what you gain

In the season of Lent, many Christians worry about what they can do without.

But I'd like to suggest another approach. Don't concern yourself with what you might give up. Instead, look at what you can gain.

Lent is a good entry point for our congregation to slow down and create some intentional time to be with themselves and with God.

What I mean by that is, really look at your day with a new purpose - the purpose of setting aside for yourself whatever amount of time you need to nurture your spiritual soul. Tell yourself *'I'm going to take some time for whatever spiritual practice fills me.'* That could be quiet prayer, visiting a nursing home, walking or any other way you decide to spend part of your busy day.

'This is important to me'

Intentions are fine and can be powerful, but you need to put some space aside for yourself and your spiritual needs. We know what to do; it is all in the doing it. We must give ourselves permission by saying *'This is important to me.'* In my case, I've added time for swimming each morning. A lot of you might remind me I already work out, but for me, swimming is a time to actually slow down and meet God in this space - the pool. Knowing I've intentionally set this time aside really helps to calm me and puts me in the present.

These are the practices that change our lives. By setting spiritual time aside for ourselves - and not the typical act of giving something up for Lent - it puts light onto whatever situations we are going through. This can comfort us, and it is part of taking care of ourselves and truly developing that time with our Lord however we see fit. It means adding something meaningful each day.

Finding a seat in the middle of chaos is meaningful

I judge the quality of that time (be it 5 minutes or 10 minutes or 30 minutes) by the simple act of entering it. There should not be the expectation that this time has to be this or that. Just the fact that you're showing up makes it an act of quality. That quality has other definitions. Quality time with the Lord is not about the perfect or ideal moment of prayer or scripture reading or worship. If you couldn't focus because you were worried about something, just the fact that you sat down in middle of chaos is meaningful. Rather, the quality is that you said, *'Here I am Lord.'*

It's not a matter of giving something up

All of this is very different from the theology we're accustomed to. This is about just sitting down in a way that is comfortable to you to find the God that is inside you. So it's not a matter of giving something up for Lent, it is about adding something meaningful between you and your Lord.

Go find that time today.

Session meets: Elders elected, 2015 church budget and Pastoral duties

Caldwell's **Session** focused on three big issues in its first meeting for 2015: Examining the five Elders-elect before their installation, a final look at the budget to be presented to the congregation at its annual meeting on February 1, and a report from the Pastoral Duties Committee.

The report from the Pastoral Duties Committee, made up of **Eddy Capote, Kitty Bohr, Reid Griffin, Jeannette Hickman, Arthur Pulley** and **Lisa Raymaker**, is the first step in determining whether to call a second full-time pastor. Currently, **Pastor Evie Landrau** serves as a part-time, temporary pastor on a contract basis. Her

contract has been extended for a second year. If the Session decides the time is right to call a second full-time pastor, the Presbytery would require a multi-candidate search.

The Pastoral Duties Committee examined what the church's needs would be in a second installed position; it was not defining a role specific to Pastor Evie. The committee's report:

- Documented current duties performed by **Pastor John Cleghorn** and Evie;
- Identified current and future needs at Caldwell;
- Examined competencies identified by the Presbytery based on Caldwell present and future needs.

Based on its report, members of the Pastoral Duties Committee feel there is enough work at Caldwell now and over the next five years to justify a second called position. The Session will discuss next steps based on this report at its meeting on February 24.

In addition to studying this report during its January meeting:

- Finance Committee outgoing chair **Molly Griffin** and incoming chair **Ivan Marcotte** presented the final 2015 Budget report, which was approved by the Session at a meeting on 1-10-15. General operating income for 2015 is estimated to be \$455,138.00, including \$442,000 in tithes and offerings based on 374 pledges, plus projected rental income of \$17,000. Expenses for 2015 are projected to be \$486,738.00. The budget and the proposed Terms of Call for Reverend Cleghorn were presented to the congregation during its annual meeting following the service on Sunday, February 1. The congregation approved the Terms of Call.
- Elders-elect are Kitty Bohr, Reid Griffin, Ivan Marcotte, Arthur Pulley and Lisa Raymaker provided a statement about their call to serve, as well as a paper about their understanding of some of the tenets of the Reformed faith. They were installed during the service on Sunday, February 1.
- Intern **Susan Pierson** reported on plans for the Elizabeth Communities of Faith Lenten series, which Caldwell will host weekly through Easter.
- A planning retreat for the Session this spring was discussed, but a date was not identified.

By **Peg Robarchek**, Clerk of Session



Caldwell welcomed five new Elders who have joined the Session of your church.

Ordained and installed were **Reid Griffin, Ivan Marcotte, Lisa Raymaker** and **Arthur Pulley**. **Kitty Bohr**, previously ordained, was also installed.

As is our tradition as the new Elders knelt, all former and current Elders were invited to come forward to take part in the Laying On of Hands that accompanied the Ordination Prayer.

Calling all green thumbs ... and novice gardeners

Do you like gardening - or think you might?

There will be a garden workday on Saturday, March 7, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Any help is much appreciated as we till the fallow beds in preparation for spring planting. You may even decide to take on a plot of your own and smaller plots will be available to make the commitment more manageable! The Caldwell Garden is a mission of the church which puts our "backyard" to good use. A portion of our bounty is shared with Friendship Gardens, a network of more than 70 independently



run community gardens in the Charlotte area.

Does it make a difference? In 2014, this committed network donated a

whopping 17,000 pounds of fresh produce to Friendship Trays, which delivers 750 healthy meals five days a week. Last year, Caldwell Garden contributed over 140 pounds - we hope to increase that amount in 2015!
By **Katy Hill**



What does God have in store for you **in this Lenten season?**



New beginnings and great opportunities and more service to others. That's my goal for this year.

Jeff Best



I think personally what He has in store for me is to lift the veil from my eyes to see with the spiritual eye. I hope to be a better spiritual example by walking the righteous path.

Lynda Byrd



Hopefully good things. I will have to wait and see what He blesses me with.

Carl Tasker



I just simply anticipate a lot of good things. We're continuously being reborn in our knowledge and abilities to embrace and enjoy life. Part of my faith is we are always on the verge of better things.

Don Cowan



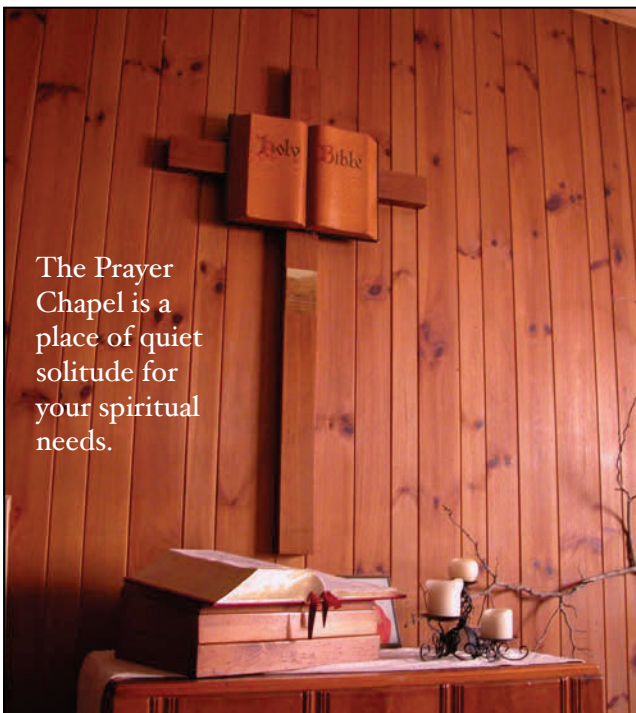
I'm hopeful He'll show me what He'd like me to do in this church and in my work.

Robbi Walls



I am hoping for a time of quiet reflection and time to focus on gratitude. For me, Lent will be a time to serve our community and time to spend with my family.

Sheena Bossie



The Prayer Chapel is a place of quiet solitude for your spiritual needs.

CORRECTION

The editor misidentified Joyce and Eddy and Eddy's quote (contrary to our published report he *did not* have a baby) in January's 'What are you praying for?' section. Joyce and Eddy were both gracious in accepting our apologies.



Close friends and closer community throughout the world.

Joyce Deaton



I'm praying for discernment in my life, and for strength. I just want to understand what God wants in my life.

Eddy Capote



Making Connections in the Prayer Room

Each Wednesday,
4 - 6 p.m.

The Big Game wasn't the only game on a recent Sunday.

Caldwell youth staged their own **Souper Bowl of Caring** to help those who all too often go hungry in Charlotte.

All tolled, our youth - MVPs! MVPs! - raised \$300 in donations and prepared soup for 40 hungry parishioners during a post-Sunday service meal in Belk Hall.

The Souper Bowl is only one of the activities our youth will take part in this year.



No one went hungry in an effort to end hunger among those who do.



Gabe and Jermaine welcomed donations.

No name tag?

No problem.



We'd love to know who you are, and vice versa.

If you are a member or a regular guest and don't have a name tag, talk to one of the ushers or call the church office at 704-334-0825.

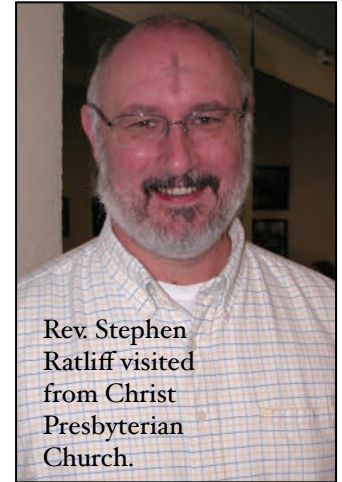
Behind the scenes on Ash Wednesday

Months of planning went into Caldwell's hosting of the Ash Wednesday service.

Although we can't show all the volunteers who prepped the dining areas, set up tables, greeted guests, readied the sanctuary and provided other sorts of valuable assistance, we can show a few of them here.

Thanks to everyone who made the service a success for our guests, visitors and members.

Thank you.



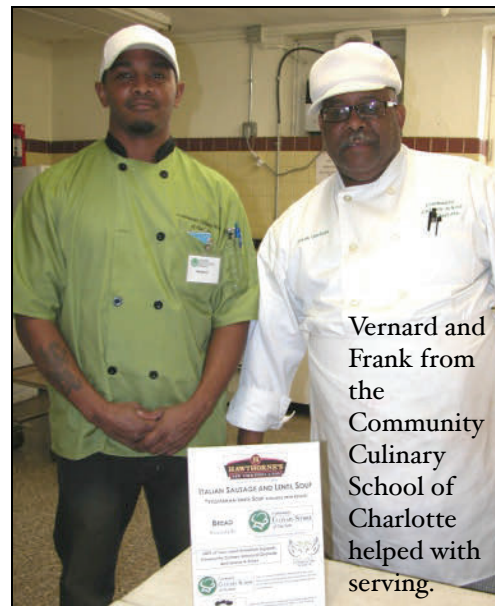
Rev. Stephen Ratliff visited from Christ Presbyterian Church.



Rachel Eldridge puts final touches on the serving table in the Shelby Room.



Not shown in a photo but highly instrumental in kitchen preparations: **Marilyn Rowland.**



Vernard and Frank from the Community Culinary School of Charlotte helped with serving.



Kitty Bohr and Sally Herlong pause before they rush to finish final details.

Do you need room for cream?

Exploration of the idea of Caldwell opening a “coffee house” ministry continues to advance.



A team of interested folks has met three times since the beginning of the year. Initial questions have focused on the following “guiding principles” of ministry:

- Reaching out to the “nones” – those who may not be inclined to come to church on Sunday morning or who consider themselves otherwise religiously unaffiliated.
- Ministry of hospitality to the surrounding neighborhood – including **Elizabeth Traditional Elementary School**, **CPCC**, **Kings College** and the families of patients at **Novant-Presbyterian Hospital**, among other neighbors.
- Exploration of “enterprise” ministry – ministry that teaches people important job-readiness and life skills
- Deeper partnership with **Casita de Amor**, whose members might help “host” the coffee house as well as prepare light foods to be offered there.

The exploratory team has looked into a number of other church coffee house models in the U.S., learning some important lessons but also finding that each is unique to its location, city and context. The team has also researched any requirements and limitations presented by code enforcement, food service guidelines, liability, legalities, etc. Now, the team is breaking up into sub-groups to look more deeply into specific aspects of what the idea would require. These include:

1. Coffee and Food Service/Enterprise – What kinds of partnerships with local coffee roasters or international “fair trade” coffee are possible? Could Caldwell and/or Casita look into use of a commercial kitchen to prepare more than very basic offerings (limited because ours is not a commercial kitchen)? What kinds of job training partnerships might this ministry include? Coordinator: **Marilyn Marks**.
2. Décor/Atmosphere – Vital to the idea is creation of space that is warm, comfortable, inviting, attractive, nurturing. How can we convert the Fellowship Hall into such a space that people want to come to for a range of activities, as well as just hanging out. Coordinator: **Peg Robarchek**.
3. Buildings and Grounds Prep – What’s involved in converting this space cost-efficiently to ensure safety, access, etc. Coordinator: **Jim Curtis**.
4. Community Engagement/Marketing – How do we gather input from some of our neighbors as we imagine what this space might look and feel like? How do we market it in the neighborhood to ensure that the space is visible and used? Coordinator: **John Cleghorn**.
5. Staffing – What would be our hours of operation? How do we manage the space using high standards of quality and financial management? What partnerships might be struck to help us “staff” the space for whatever hours we choose to open? Coordinator: John Cleghorn, for now.

If you are interested in helping shape this idea by joining any of these work groups, please contact the coordinators noted. The next overall team meeting is March 12 at 1 pm in the Shelby Room. Come one and all.

Caldwell Good News! is available online in full color. Go to www.caldwellpresby.org.

Click on ‘Connect.’ Drop down to ‘Newsletter.’ You can read editions of of past months in PDF format.

Caldwell Good News! Bulletin Board

February 2015		
Sun. - Fri., 22 - 27	We host a Habitat for Humanity group from Siena College	Fellowship Hall and our classrooms
Sun., 22	Casita movie night	4 - 7 p.m., Price Building, second floor, back room and living room
Sun., 22	Music Making with Children	5 - 6 p.m. Choir Room
Mon., 23	Youth Spiritual Development Committee	6 - 8 p.m., Upstairs Room
Tue., 24	Session	5:30 p.m., Shelby Room
Wed., 25	Contemplative Prayer Lenten Contemplative Prayer	1 - 2 p.m., Prayer Room 6 - 7 p.m., Prayer Room
Fri., 27	La Casita de Amor Bible study and Zumba	9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Price Bldg., second floor
Fri., 27	Charlotte Compassion Action Network for Children	2 - 3:30 p.m., Price Building, Angel Room (big room in front)

March 2015		
Sun. - Fri., 1 - 6	We host a Habitat for Humanity group from Boston College	Fellowship Hall and our classrooms
Sun., 1	Youth Group	12:15 - 2:15 p.m. Price Building, 1st floor Youth Room
Sun., 1	Music Making with Children	5 - 6 p.m. Choir Room
Tue., 3	Theology on Tap	7 - 9 p.m., Leroy Fox restaurant
Wed., 4	Contemplative Prayer Lenten Contemplative Prayer	1 - 2 p.m., Prayer Room 6 - 7 p.m., Prayer Room

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

And lastly ... Amen!

There are only a few friendly steps to climb to join a congregation that is glad to see you.



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.