



**CGN!**  
Caldwell Good News!  
May 2015



Church picnic photos by Sally Thomas

The Big Dance was truly big in a lot of ways.  
Page 3

The Mission & Justice committee is talking about how to keep our missional focus on a variety of service and justice opportunities.  
Page 5

Mother's Day was a good time for many of our families to come together.  
Page 6

Our youth ask: 'How do you talk about God?'  
Page 8

Something is cooking in Belk Hall - a renovated kitchen.  
Page 9

## Pastor's Column

# The South and “Loving Cunning”

*“If there is a South in the future, and if there is a civilization, it may be because we got soft enough and subtle enough and loving cunning enough ... Who knows whether the South has some special gift for the nation, a hand-me-down from a gentry or a yeomanry? If it has, the Lord was working to confound the prognosticators of Southern history, for we have seen it best personified not in a descendent of the white gentry or yeomanry we hear about, or in some wielder of established temporal powers, but in an unexpected Martin Luther King, with his capacity to combine passion for justice with a loving cunning that made some people call him soft.”*

Just as with Caldwell church itself, the South has a complicated, warts-and-all

### 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)

history. I “identify” as a Southerner, no way around it. All of my family roots are here, going back to the mid-1700s. But there are parts of the South – past and present – I don’t like. It’s the same with Caldwell church and its complicated, sometimes ugly from a modern-day perspective, history. Just as we are trying to do with Caldwell, I have to live *with* those aspects of my “native land” and live *out* of them for a better South and a better America.

At about my age, my father wrote an essay on the South that was published with others by southern writers, journalists and thinkers in 1972. Excerpted above, it speaks for that era – but it also speaks for ours, especially now in a time of palpable and heightening race relations.

This month, I preached a sermon about “Love and Justice.” I proposed that we have to live in the tension between the two, we have to balance the two, never losing sight of one or the other. Especially in the church, we have to love each other, even if, at times, we don’t like each other. That goes for our inner-denominational struggles, our inter-denominational disagreements and our efforts to bear witness as the congregation at Caldwell.

Loving cunning. That is what my father said Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave us, “a capacity to combine passion for justice with a loving cunning that made some people call him soft.”

For King and the civil rights movement, that meant protest but never riot. It meant unbending strength and enormous courage but also non-violence and self control. It meant depth of faith – and use of brains.



**Rev. John Cleghorn**

If we are looking for a model, we are blessed to have the life and the way of Jesus Christ, who also might be “accused” of demonstrating loving cunning. We have Christ, who spoke tenderly to children, wept at the death of a friend and embraced the sick and the outcast, yet spoke truth to the misdirected ways of religion and to the Empire of his day and its abuse of Christ’s own people.

What does “loving cunning” look like for our times? That’s a question for all of us as we proceed with our initiative called Discipleship of Race and Class. What does it mean to stand on principle but also demonstrate the ability to see issues through the eyes of the other? How can we summon the courage and strength to take on hurtful earthly powers and keep loving each other in the church? What does it mean to “do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God?” What do you think?

Quoting Dr. King’s last sermon, my father ended this passage of his essay with these words:

*“If the South now has something extraordinarily good to offer the world, (loving cunning) must be it, and that must be all. “Tell I tried to love somebody.” Words from the Black emancipator of enslaved Southern white folk.”*



The  
**BIG**  
dance

*Caldwell's dance combined lively music, the usual great food, an ultra-successful blind auction - and another chance for togetherness.*

More than 200 party-goers - aka dancers - made our dance the biggest and best ever. Co-organizer **Jill Flynn** said, "It was the most well attended one we've had so far. It was a nice blend of Caldwell people but also a lot of Caldwell friends," including newer members. "People had such a good time, and that creates a buzz," said Jill. "People would tell others 'Hey, you need to go because it's really, really fun.' People didn't have to do anything, they just had to show up. and relax." Attendees included "a lot of newer members of Caldwell," said Jill.

More than 30 volunteers stepped up to make the dance happen. Jill said a highlights was choir members who stepped on stage to sing popular music. "People like that when our singers come up to the stage," she said. Over \$3,500 was raised in the silent auction, The funds will go to outreach. "It's a win, win, win," said Jill. "It works for everybody." Thanks also to the **Carolina Gator Gumbo Band** and **Smitty Flynn and the Rivas** who both donated their performances. Jill also thanked the **Oakhurst Grill** who supplied delicious barbecue at the last minute.



**Rev. Evie Landrau**

**... hers is “the face of the data. No data is devoid of real people and real pain.” We see the faces of the data on our grounds, at our meetings, and in our community.**

## **The faces of the data**

### **Behind the numbers are real people, real pain**

Caldwell has been wonderful at demonstrating concern for people who are going through very specific and unique struggles. I’m including our Latino community among those experiencing such ups and downs.

That concern, as many of us find, goes beyond going to a workshop, developing some empathy - and then going home. The church goes beyond reserving their feelings for Sunday morning. Caldwell has gone well past that. In fact, our members and friends are known for their generosity, including those who aren’t in the best financial position to give yet still give. ‘I may not have a lot,’ they seem to say, ‘but I can share what I have.’

And there’s more. I feel many members have increased their desire to learn the stories from the Latino/Latina community. Caldwell goes beyond just showing up at an event, we are learning from our Latino brothers and sisters. We are showing up to hear their stories and be moved by them.

We’re also showing up with compassion, which is an attribute of God. It’s refreshing to me to share and translate and convey these stories in a genuine, Godly, Christian way. I see our community of faith respond in a like manner: ‘We are supposed to do that as servants of the Lord.’ Those stories aren’t falling on empty, unhearing ears. That’s compassion.

What this does is cause us to live in a Christian community. And sometimes, that can be uncomfortable. Recently, we heard the story of an 11-year-old girl who came here from Latin America unescorted, by herself, unaccompanied. As one local leader said, hers is “the face of the data. No data is devoid of real people and real pain.”

We see the faces of the data on our grounds, at our meetings and in our community. We see the faces of the statistics, and we hear it mentioned from our pulpit. We see, and we know, people who go well past the distant notion that ‘I can give a donation or pray but it’s not my child that is affected.’ These pioneers of compassion are entering new, uncomfortable spaces. Instead, we get closer to the proximity of those who *are* affected. As we move to this proximity, we tell ourselves we are delivered and transformed. By God’s hand, each benefits and is transformed.

Our spirituality is transformed - even as we listen to the stories - as we enter the uncomfortable spaces of oppression and pain. I’m proud of Caldwell’s ability to respond in ways that are transformational. This goes beyond the missional, too.

That spirit, as we ready ourselves to celebrate Pentecost, moves us to mission, and invites us to be transformational.

## A missional church takes a fresh look at its missional future

*Caldwell has long had outreach efforts in Charlotte and beyond. But social and justice needs change - and the church is talking about how we can serve voids 'that other churches are not involved with.'*



The church's **Mission & Justice** committee is taking a fresh look at how to continue its outreach to the community and those in need. As chair **Lisa Raymaker** said, the committee is asking Caldwell about "Where we are and what we're doing with our time, talent and treasure?"

The committee's deliberations involve the work we do now, complemented by emerging opportunities to help others. Many factors have shaped Caldwell's activism: needs among the homeless, education/advocacy for the Latino community, volunteering in schools and elsewhere, as well as the availability of our physical space (to name a few).

In part, Caldwell's enthusiasm for causes has in turn encouraged others to rally to lend support, too.

### Other social/justice issues are emerging

But as those issues gain headway, other opportunities have emerged, such as the Freedom School, new uses for Belk Hall and our Price Building or how we can support the LGBT community.

Pastor **John Cleghorn** mentioned several other issues potentially worth our attention, including the arrival of

Hagar International in office space adjacent to the Shelby Room. He called this a chance for the church to "put our toes in the water of human trafficking." He also noted the possibility of multiple not-for-profit social issue organizations using the Price Building as office space; and the potential of Belk Hall to house a day laborer center in conjunction with the Latin American Coalition. It could



also offer workers English as a second language (ESL) and computer training. Those discussions are in the very early stages and no decisions have been made. Also on the emerging issue table: environmental topics including recycling on our campus as well as energy awareness and possible energy audits for members and visitors.

There's also some concern about volunteer burnout; for example, among our earliest outreach ministries was six

years of extensive volunteerism at **Merry Oaks Elementary School**, but that relationship may come to an end for a variety of reasons, including as **Sally Thomas** said, "All of us have realized we're tired, and there's not enough people volunteering."

### Where does Caldwell put its energies?

Which raises another consideration for the M & J committee: knowing we can't be all things to all issues, where does Caldwell put its energies in terms of people-power and focus without spreading our resources too thin? Efforts where Caldwell had an early presence, such as the CROP Walk, have seen other entities step up to provide support, and our church may well look at as yet unpublicized under-the-social-radar issues that other churches are not involved with.

The committee is continuing its discussions and if you have comments, send those to Lisa at [lnr114@gmail.com](mailto:lnr114@gmail.com).

MOTHER'S DAY at Caldwell



Greg Beard escorts his mother, Betty, down the aisle.



Proud mother Myra Harrison (center) sits with her husband and their daughter Ellen Samuel of Kansas City. Her son, Richard Harrison, sings in our choir. "I'm with my two children on a happy occasion," said Myra.



Peg Robarchek and Linda Horton with the lovely flowers Linda brought for our Sunday service on Mother's Day.

**New arrangement for flowers**

After years of dedicated service to coordinate our flower arrangements for Sunday services, **Marilyn Rowland** has passed the vase of responsibility to **Jane McBride** and **Johnny Johnson**.

You can still sign up for Sundays throughout the year as usual, using a sheet on the table at the rear of the sanctuary.

If you have questions, contact Jane or Johnny directly.

If the leaders of the world's great religions were in one room

# What would you tell them?



*Probably that Jesus hung out with prostitutes and the dregs of society. Leaders should focus not on the top down but the bottom up. It is about helping your brother out.*

**Brian Cockman**



*Strive for peace.*

**Barbara Barnette**

(Barbara works in our preschool on Sundays.)



*Treat others as you want to be treated. Also that getting more 'things' is not winning.*

**Terre Winstead**



*God is one.*

**Scott Walls**



*God loves each of us the same. There is one God, and we are his children.*

**Merrilyn Gill**



*Take a week away from any other leadership and get away to know each other and listen to each other.*

**Jeanette Hickman**

## Save the DATE

- May 31 - We recognize high school and college graduates
- June 14 - Buddy Mentor Sunday
- June 25, July 9, July 23 and August 6 - Summer Nights at Caldwell

Be sure to check out Caldwell's online calendar at [www.caldwellpresby.org](http://www.caldwellpresby.org)

### Session Focuses on Best Use for Price, Fellowship Hall

What's going to happen with all that available space in the Price Building? And how can we make better use of our old Fellowship Hall as we outgrow it and complete one phase of a facelift in Belk Hall? Being good stewards of our facilities has been a significant topic of conversation for the session in 2015.

The answer to the first question may be that it could be reborn as the Justice Building. You can learn more about a redesigned Fellowship Hall at a town hall meeting on May 31.

First, the Price Building. After the Caldwell House shelter for women closed, discussion centered on how to use this space. Recently, several possibilities have come our way to use this space to serve social justice issues. and organizations.

And, we will host a Freedom School. About 50 children from Enderly Park will be here daily for six weeks. Partnering with other Elizabeth Communities of Faith churches, we will provide meals and volunteer hours. Also considered are partnerships with the Latin American Coalition for use of the space for ESL and computer-based job searching training, as well as to create a gathering spot for day laborers, which is very early in exploration.

As these opportunities have unfolded, the Price Building may become a place to live out our

commitment to social justice issues by partnering with other organizations that need cost-effective space.

Downstairs in the main building, our old Fellowship Hall has been unused a good bit of the time for the last few years. Exploration of the idea of a community gathering space/coffee shop came up during Caldwell in 3D discussions. Conversations now include a possible partnership with Novant, Community Culinary School, Queen City Family Tree's coffee cart enterprise and classes at Central Piedmont Community College.

Feedback at a May 17 congregational town hall was encouraging. A second town hall will be after worship on Sunday, May 31. You can hear a vision for turning this space into a hub for Caldwell, but others in the community.

Other issues discussed at the April session:

- A plan to incorporate third-through fifth-grade children into the worship service between June 21 and August 2. Younger children would continue in Godly Play.
- The need for volunteers to serve as one-on-one partners for new members.
- A strategic planning meeting for the session on June 5 and 6 to take stock and discuss the next 12-18 months. Watch for a brief congregational survey so your feedback can be heard and used in our strategic planning.



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

When young folks jump in on a lively conversation, you know you've hit on an interesting topic.



Our youth talked about this question. Can you?

## How do we talk about - and describe - God?

### ● So, how do we talk about God?

That was the question to our youth in a recent Sunday morning class. While it is common to describe God in the masculine sense, the scriptures describe God in varying manners including the feminine as well as in metaphorical terms. The scriptures show different portrayals of God, such as a midwife or a mother and a bird, among other images," said **Susan Pierson**, class leader (and now ending her term as an Intern in Ministry). "We each wrote down and shared some of the qualities we think of God as having."

Among the scripture passages cited during the class were ...

The group also read the poem *God is a Single Mother* by **Lucas Walker**, a friend of Susan who poses this thought:

*God is a single Mother  
 like a proverb She is standing at the gate,  
 and the keystone is trickling sand above Her  
 Ticking like a clock*

The descriptive attributes of God isn't everyday conversation for a church, let alone youth, and Susan was impressed that the kids got into the discussion. "They really seemed to be into the conversation, especially for teenage boys," she said with a smile.

Cards created during the **Women's Retreat** in April were on display for worshippers to view as they entered church on a recent Sunday.







Leroy Stinson keeps tabs on the rapid progress of renovations to our kitchen in Belk Hall.



New stainless steel sinks are among the upgrades in the updated kitchen space.

**Something is cooking in Belk Hall: A renovated kitchen**

**The adage ‘too many cooks in the kitchen’ won’t apply to the soon-to-be-completed renovation to our Belk Hall kitchen. Cooks *will want to use the space.***

The kitchen makeover is proceeding just fine, according to **Jim Curtis**, chair of Buildings & Grounds.

Now it’s down to the detail work. Jim said an electrical permit has been issued “which will allow the push to completion.” He notes that the entire Belk building needs electrical work “to bring it up to a modern standard.” The electrical work was the largest line item in the project budget which totaled \$50,000.

Here’s what Jim says are new features as part of the project:

- A buffet counter on the gym side (with electrical outlets for 10 crock pots).
- New countertops.
- Flooring.
- Stainless sinks.
- Pantry shelving.
- Lighting.
- Outlets.
- A dishwasher.
- Residential gas range.
- Commercial warming cabinet.
- Commercial refrigerator.

But the list doesn’t end there. Jim said, “We are also making room in the adjacent storage room for a freezer and ice maker.”

The project is drawing to completion at exactly the right time: Belk Hall expects a flurry of use in the very near future as the church considers various groups as potential users of our campus, and the food service offered by a new kitchen in Belk Hall will help.

Giving up a free day to help the

**Freedom School**

Friends from Hawthorne Lane United Methodist Church helped with clean up: Left to right are Carolyn Horton, Buddy Walker, Bill Horton, Russ Ford and Sylvia Walker.



Photo: Dee Rogers

Caldwell rolled up its sleeves - with a little help from our friends - on a May Saturday to tidy up Belk Hall before the Freedom School puts the space to use. “We had a great day,” said **Dee Rogers**, a service day organizers.

“We probably had 20 - 25 people help, and we accomplished everything I had hoped for and everyone went above and beyond what I expected. And at the end we enjoyed a meal together at Nothing But Noodles.”

# T.O.Y. A new touchpoint for Caldwell

On Sunday, May 17, the Missions and Justice Committee introduced a new Caldwell mission, "Touchpoint."

A short distance from our church is "Time Out Youth," a 20 year old non-profit that serves, supports and advocates for LGBTQI\* youth, ages 11-20. Touchpoint, a subcommittee of Mission & Justice, will add another layer of support to clients of T.O.Y.

Several members of our congregation have worked for or served on T.O.Y.'s Board of Directors.

In an interview with **Eloise Hicks**, who was Assistant Director from 1990-1992, we asked the following questions:

Q: What drew you to the organization?

A: I knew someone using their services.

Q: When you recall your time at Time Out Youth, what experiences stand out?

A: The lack of knowledge and understanding concerning this issue. The supposedly educated parents who would throw their children out of their homes. Rescuing one such child, finding them a place to live and raising enough money for them to pay tuition at ASU for 2 years. Running the T.O.Y. auction for 2 years! Beginning gay bingo BEFORE RAIN!! Having those who have gone through the program still contact me with their life and career successes.



Eloise Hicks

Q: What are the greatest challenges that face LGBTQI youth today?

A: Lack of self-esteem can lead to substance abuse and suicide. They are vulnerable and often targets for those who may take advantage of them or abuse them. They live in a society that doesn't understand or accept them. There is a lack of positive role models. Safe housing, transportation and ways to earn money are other needs."

Q: Recognizing the negative role churches have played in some the lives of LGBTQI, what should we be sensitive to going forward?

A: Not all youth have had a negative experience with religious groups. It's better to show your faith, not force it upon these young people. Be healers and build a foundation. Understand that many are angry.

Q: What advice would you give the Touchpoint team?

A: Pray daily for this task. Don't let yourself be manipulated (by some of the T.O.Y. clients). Remember that you cannot fix everything. Remember that you are not the parent or a friend. Be an effective mentor; set boundaries and be observant.

When Eloise left the employ of Time Out Youth for another opportunity, her husband, **Bill Hicks**, worked for T.O.Y.

Next month look for a second interview with a former member of T.O.Y.'s Board of Directors.

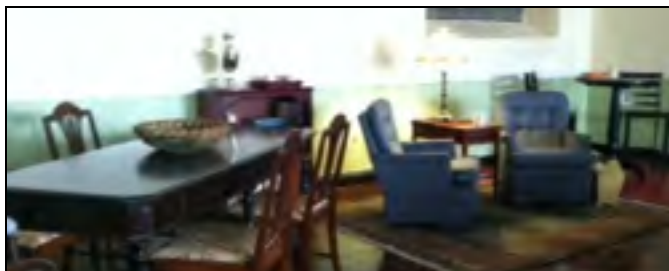
If you are interested in participating in this mission, contact **Ann Alford**, **Heath Wiggins**, **Grayson Tucker** or **Eddy Capote**. Our first outreach to T.O.Y. will be furnishing a Friday night dinner. T.O.Y. is closed on the weekends. Friday night dinners allow the youth to socialize in a safe place, partake of a hearty meal and relax.

By **Ann Alford**

\* This article uses the term LGBTQI. It adds Q for "questioning" and I for "intersex."

**Caldwell Good News!** is available online in full color. Go to [www.caldwellpresby.org](http://www.caldwellpresby.org).

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



**Coffee Shop and Community Space:  
A Concept for Ministry**

In keeping with Caldwell’s tradition of being good stewards of its abundant space, a committee has been studying a concept for using the old Fellowship Hall - a concept that has its roots in our 3D discussions in 2012.

On May 31 immediately following the service, you are invited to join in a conversation about the potential for creating a coffee shop and community space in the Fellowship Hall downstairs.

The vision that has grown out of discussion so far is a gathering place where coffee, comfort and community converge. From the beginning, the exploratory team has focused on connections with other organizations that serve the community; and the atmosphere of comfortable welcome, rather than a more commercial coffee shop that is less mission-driven. These organizations include:

- Novant/Presbyterian Hospital
- Community Culinary School of Charlotte
- Casita de Amor
- QC Family Tree
- Kinfolk Coffee
- Enderly Coffee
- Central Piedmont Community College
- Common Hope coffee growers in Guatemala

The concept calls for creating a space that could not only be used by Caldwell for meetings, personal events, and small-group fellowship and community building, but also for attracting people who do not typically engage with a church; parents from Elizabeth Traditional School; students from Kings College and Central Piedmont Community College; of Elizabeth neighborhood residents; nonprofits and solopreneurs who need wifi and meeting space; Elizabeth Avenue streetcar travelers; Musicians, poets and other creative people looking for venues that can be open to the public to showcase their talent. It might also house Caldwell Creates, a small marketplace where arts and crafts of our members and Casita members could be offered for a minimum donation.

Key elements of the business model are based on accepting donations for products instead of selling products for a fixed price. It would begin with limited but consistent hours. Join us for discussion and fellowship following the service on May 31 to ask questions and get a look at how the space could be reinvented. The information you’ll receive will also include budget projections as well as the phase one price tag for upfitting the space.

By **Peg Robarchek**

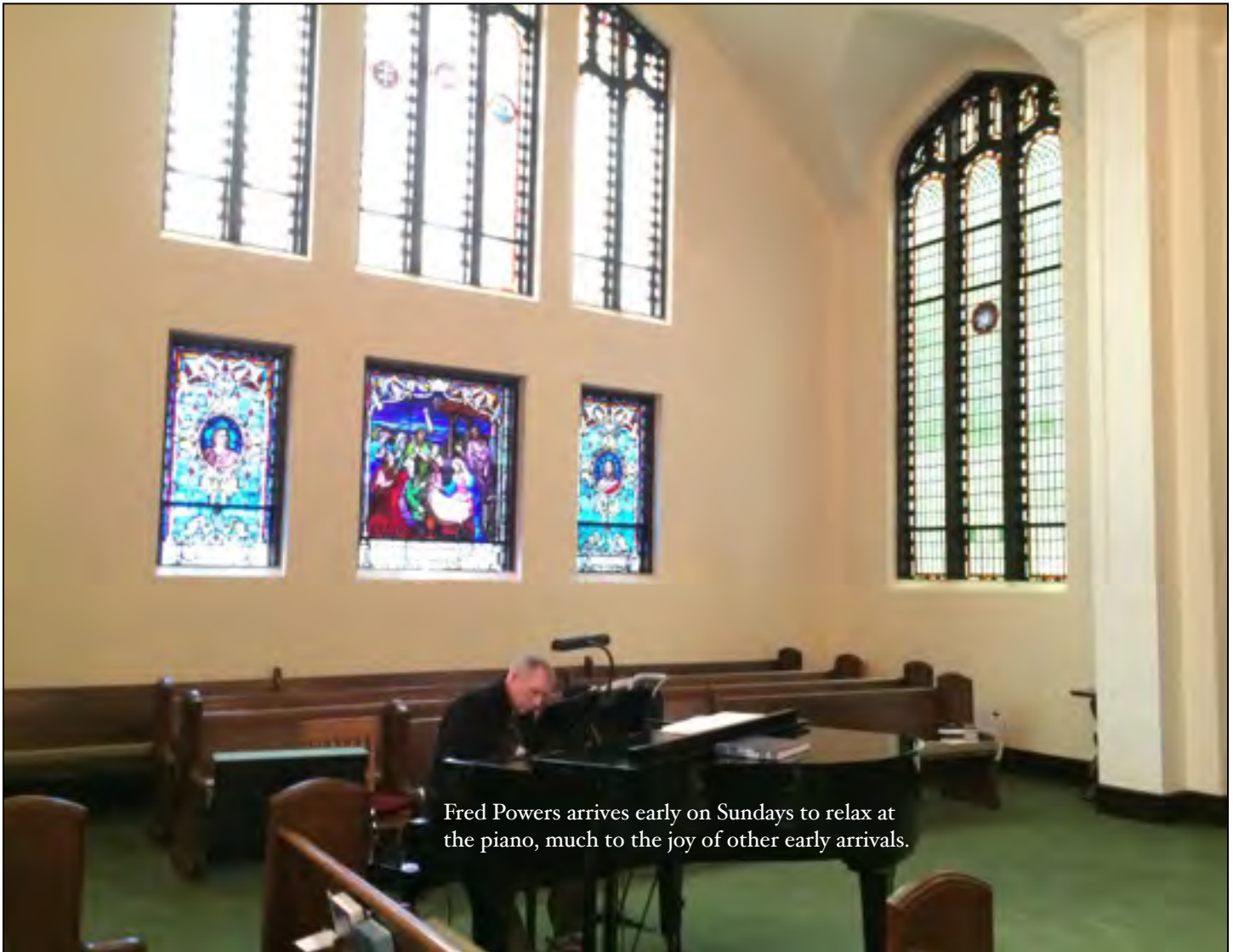
**Your calendar**

<b>May 2015</b>		
Tues., 26	Session	5:30 p.m., Shelby Room
Fri., 29	La Casita de Amor Bible study and Zumba	9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Price Bldg., second floor
Sun., 31	New member class	9:45 - 10:45 a.m., upstairs meeting room

<b>June 2015</b>		
Mon., 1	Joshua Men’s Group	6:30 - 9 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Tues., 2	Mission & Justice Committee	6:30 p.m., Shelby Room
Tues., 2	Theology on Tap	7 - 9 p.m., Leroy Fox Restaurant
Thu., 4	Worship Committee	6:15 p.m., Shelby Room
Fri., 5	La Casita de Amor Bible study and Zumba	9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Price Bldg., second floor
Fri., 5	Charlotte Compassion Action Network for Children	2 - 3:30 p.m., Price Building, Angel Room (big room in front)
Mon., 8	Youth Spiritual Formation meeting	6 p.m., upstairs meeting room
Thu., 11	Congregational Care meeting	6 - 7:30 p.m., upstairs meeting room
Sun., 14	Buddy/Mentor	1 - 3:30 p.m., Belk Hall
Mon., 15	Women’s Book Club	6 p.m., location TBA
Mon., 15	Joshua Men’s Group	6:30 - 9 p.m., Fellowship Hall

**Administrative office hours**  
 Church phone: 704-334-0825  
 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!**

Fred Powers arrives early on Sundays to relax at the piano, much to the joy of other early arrivals.

### 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.