

# Caldwell Good News!

A Monthly Publication of Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church

June 2011

## Caldwell: where we are and where we're going

In February of this year, the Session attended a retreat to worship together and to explore the path that God has provided for our Church. Many of the topics of that day have continued to guide the ideas and decisions at the monthly session meetings, and will impact how Caldwell sets an intentional direction into the future. The Session wants to share some of its discussion points with the congregation this month and next. We'll start this month by summarizing what's happen at Caldwell the last four years. You might have heard some of this before, and it will help set the context for the second part of the discussion – understanding where we are today and what God might have in store for us in the near future. We don't have all the plans worked out, and we don't have all the answers. What we have is God's love and a strong foundation to continue this journey together.

### Part I: Caldwell's Recent History

In just 48 months, Caldwell has been blessed to experience one of the most dramatic turnaround stories in

the PCUSA. Caldwell membership has grown from 82 at the end of 2006, *after* the "resurrection," to 224, to another 40 or so people walking with the church as regular 'friends.' This is a percentage membership growth rate of 58% compared to flat-to-little growth in the Presbytery and in the PCUSA in the same time period.

But the story is about far more than just numerical growth. God has used Caldwell to weave an unusually diverse congregation with an equally rare spirit of openness, honest inquiry, energetic faith and missional generosity. In the past three years the church installed its first full-time pastor in more than two decades. With the arrival of Bread of Life earlier this year and our ongoing ministries with the Salvation Army and Bilingual Preschool, our once-empty campus is now filled with new friends and is a hub of activity.

No one could have foreseen the events of September 2006 or the Easter of 2007. Neither a committee nor a task force could "execute" the spirit that newcomers experience each Sunday. Nor could a church consultant have constructed the mutually cooperative co-existence of five such disparate entities on one campus. The few remaining long-time Caldwellians stepped out on faith in a big way a few years ago, opening their hearts and the doors to the church and giving each of us an opportunity to be in this place with God.

*Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.— Micah 6:8*

In the past four years it has been about ministry and the Gospel! The session was reconstituted and a new mission statement was created that is

*Continued...page 3*

### Inside this issue:

Pastor's Message	2
Committee news	3
A fond farewell to the Michies	4
Working out with FitClub	5
Summer vacation...continued	6
Calendar	7
Our Mission	8

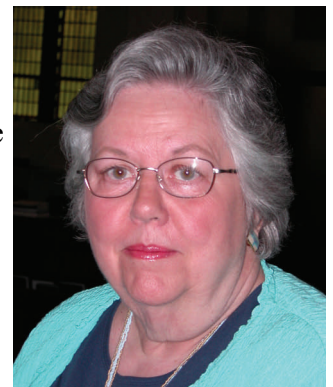
## How I'll spend my summer vacation

R&R tops the list of how some Caldwell members and guests will spend part of their summer. The church gets mentioned, too

It will be hotter before it gets cooler, so CGN! asked attendees about their plans for the sun-baked and humid months ahead.

I'm keeping my grandchildren (9 year old **Grace**, 7 year old **Quinn** and 10 month old **Mack**) and we have lots of plans. We plan to go to

the beach in August with family. I have a big garden, and I'll make 300 cans of green beans, jams and jellies.



*Eloise Hicks*

*Continued on page 6*

## Time and Place and People

### Pastor's Message

*"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven."*

All of us know that passage from Ecclesiastes 3. In *The Message*, Eugene Peterson translates the original language this way: "There is an opportune time to do things, a right time for everything on the earth." Anyone who attended the reception for George and Mary Carol Michie saw the truth of that wisdom literature. Dozens of speakers, black and white, multiple races, generations and varied circumstances, gave testament to how the Michies had touched – and most often changed - their lives. Never have I seen such a witness to the personal impact of two individuals who simply treated others as they believed Christ commands.

In many ways, I felt as if I had been transported back in time to the days when God used the servants of Seigle Avenue Presbyterian Church to reach across the street to the low-

income Piedmont Courts neighborhood. For one afternoon, time evaporated. Deeply loving relationships shone through, relationships forged in hard times and good times that spanned the 1970s through the 1990s. What a sight, what a witness, what a ministry.

About one-third of the people who are now at Caldwell were part of Seigle Avenue at one time or another, from highly involved leaders to occasional worshippers. But everyone at the event for the beloved Michies glimpsed the strands of the DNA that began at Seigle and now is part of the DNA at Caldwell.

We are, however, in a different time and place with many new people who were not part of Seigle's remarkably special ministry. Caldwell is located in a different neighborhood, with a different mission field and an expansive view of what mission means in the early part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Christianity and the Presbyterian Church are themselves at a different time in their witness and charge to proclaim the Gospel.

*"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven."*

On the cover of this month's newsletter is a "state of the church" report I drafted and the session has reviewed and edited. It's neither comprehensive nor conclusive. Its only intent is to help us take some account of what has happened here over the last four and a half years. It is just one resource the session is using in its strategic planning. Next month's newsletter will carry the second half of the report, which is more forward-looking and poses some interesting, open-ended questions that seek what God has in store for us.

We're publishing this two-part report because this is not just a session matter. Presbyterian churches are



**Rev. John Cleghorn**

headed by Jesus Christ, but they are governed by all the people. The session wants and needs your input.

*"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven."*

As we move toward our centennial year in 2012, I wrote these words in this space last month.

"My hope is ... for Caldwell to "stew" a bit. By that I mean God has given us wonderful ingredients for ministry, especially the nearby presence of the shelter for women, the Bilingual Preschool and the presence of the Bread of Life on campus. We've been growing and expanding ministries so rapidly, it's as if we've been sitting on a stove with the heat on high. I'm not much of a cook, but I do know that the best soups and stews need time on low-boil for their tastes and flavors to mix and mingle."

In the coming weeks, we will be seeking the congregation's ideas, energy and commitment to help shape a year-long centennial celebration, including mission, fellowship, educational and fund-raising components. It will be a time when we seek – and act on – our understanding of God's will for Caldwell as a people in this time and place. In particular, we will be looking for effective, passionate leaders for our centennial year. If this is something you want to be a part of, please let me or any members of the session know. Stay tuned for more dialogue on this subject.

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A monthly publication of  
Caldwell Memorial  
Presbyterian Church  
1609 East Fifth Street  
Charlotte, NC 28204  
704-334-0825  
<http://www.caldwellpresby.org>

**Rev. John M. Cleghorn**  
Pastor  
[pastor@caldwellpresby.org](mailto:pastor@caldwellpresby.org)

**Rev. Dr. J. Diane Mowrey**  
Parish Associate

**Leslie Gipple**  
Office Manager  
[admin@caldwellpresby.org](mailto:admin@caldwellpresby.org)

**Fred Hamilton**  
Sexton

**Contributing Editors**  
John Cleghorn  
Dave Bradley

## Finance and administration committee news

We've also updated office systems and processes that are sustainable, and provide transparency and predictability to financial management and membership records. Caldwell's financial and membership records were redesigned and migrated to a new database system in 2008/09. This has provided an invaluable foundation for managing and analyzing membership and financial information and is key to developing a sound and realistic budget each year.

Many of our projects and missions are conceived of, and built on faith and are our expression of the love of Christ – but they also require financial support. Thanks to our generous congregation, friends and campus partnerships, Caldwell's budget has grown from \$50,000 in 2007 to \$315,000 in 2011. Although we have many financial needs, Caldwell has not experienced the financial cuts that many houses of worship have faced during the economic downturn. Our approach to managing the budget has been careful and intentional, and the church is in good financial standing today.

Since 2006 there has been considerable focus on building a strong administrative support system and communications, which includes policies, procedures and technological support. Every staff member has a computer, requiring a bit of creative re-wiring in our old building! The church has a website and Pastor John is able to reach many in our church community on a weekly basis through the popular Pastor's Blog. Our monthly newsletter is always rich with stories, information and connections between our church, mission and community.

Administration's job is to focus on insurance renewals, copier leases, supplies, overruns and phone bills. We are preparing a update of the directory that will include information on volunteering in the church. If you can provide IT technical support for the church office, contact **Richard Bargoil** at [rbargoil@befcor.com](mailto:rbargoil@befcor.com).

### *Part 1...continued from page 1*

rooted in prayer, discernment, and collaboration with church members.

Caldwell framed its response to the gospel in deep commitment to missions, exploring the real meaning and obligations of its aspiration to be a missional church. We've had two mission trips Guatemala and serve as a key partner at Merry Oaks school. We partner regularly with Habitat for Humanity, McCreesh Place, Helping Empower Local People (HELP) and we provide food to hunger ministries from the gardens. We transformed the empty Price Building into a home for the Bilingual Preschool and Salvation Army Women's Shelter and have extended ministries of worship, study, service and fellowship to those served there.

We have established a strong core of

Christian education offerings for adult and childrens' Sunday School. Our children have been a primary focus in the development of Christian education, recently enhanced with the Godly Play curriculum.

Fellowship events are a cornerstone of our Congregational Care focus, including covered dish gatherings, talent shows, annual picnics, fish fries and other "excuses" for food. We also have smaller group functions with our ongoing men's and women's groups, a women's circle and a women's book club along with short-term discussion groups such as Caldwell's 4x4 Groups and Eyes on the Prize. A strong and well-organized congregational care ministry extends the arms of Christ to those with a variety of needs. We welcome and engage newcomers into the full life of the church.

### MISSION TEAM REFLECTS ON GUATEMALA

Mark your calendars for Wednesday evening, July 13 to attend the Guatemala **Vision Team's** presentation on its mission trip experience, hands-on work at Common Hope, and the people they met who are now linked to all of us at Caldwell. Through photos and personal stories, you will hear not only what they did, but why WE do it.

Dinner begins at 6 p.m. No need to bring anything - just a \$4 donation to cover the cost of the meal. The program will begin at 6:15, so you can listen and learn while you eat. We will end at 7 p.m. in time for choir practice. Vision Team members will be happy to stay later to answer questions.

The July 13 program on Guatemala is a preview of a monthly mid-week gathering and dinner at Caldwell that will begin in the Fall.

Over-due repairs to our campus and infrastructure are being made in a steady and affordable manner. We've invested roughly \$85,000 in buildings and grounds repairs that have achieved closer to \$230,000 in actual work. A significant portion of the dollars for improvements have been achieved through campus partner funding.

Caldwell has also become a magnet for seminary interns from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte. Danny Trapp and Veronica Rogers have served the church capably and well, leading to Veronica's extended relationship with us. Two more seminary interns will serve the church in the next 12 months, learning about what God is doing here.

*Next Month: **Where is God Leading Us?***

## Michies say goodbye - for now - to a crowd of friends

Mary Carol and George Michie lived to help people, and those people gave the couple love in return

One by one, the well wishers took the microphone to express their thanks for the decades of help, hope and humanity displayed by **Mary Carol** and **George Michie**. The Michies were fittingly honored by more than 100 acquaintances, friends and Caldwell members at a recent reception before they head to retirement this month in Black Mountain.

“We really had an amazing time, it surprised the heck out of us,” says George. “It couldn’t have been a more super sendoff. It was just an amazing expression of so many people not forgetting the relationship we had with them a long time ago. There were so many African American kids we worked with in the ‘60s and ‘70s who expressed their appreciation of what we did for them. It was heartwarming to know they hadn’t forgotten.”

“Oh my gosh, I was floored, there were so many people there I was astounded,” says Mary Carol. “To tell you the truth, I was totally overwhelmed. When our children started this, I said ‘no, no, we need to silently steal away’, and they would have none of that. When I got home that night, I realized it kind of helped bring closure to me. It’s sad leaving the church and people we’ve known 40 years. I’m still sad, but when I got home that night, I thought, ‘okay, this is going to help you’, and it really has.”

But leave it to George for the best quote: “We appreciate everyone coming to our memorial service, but I didn’t realize we had already died. When the real thing comes, you won’t have to come.”



*Marie Carol Michie welcomes some of the more than 100 well wishers at a going-away reception for she and George. The Michies have touched the lives of many, many people in and out of the Charlotte religious community. (Photo: Jim Everitt)*



*George listens to heartfelt praise from one of many who paid personal tribute to the couple. (Photo: Jim Everitt)*



*Music - and food - were also a part of the community celebration of the Michies. (Photo: Sheena Bossie)*



# There are workouts, then there's FitClub

Tuesday night class brings fitness - and the welcome byproducts of sweat and fatigue - front and center

Once **Ray Cline** cranks up the workout video, it is apparent that even on a 57°F spring evening the window air conditioner in Fellowship Hall cannot possibly offset the heat produced in Ray's **FitClub** class.

But with the sweat and exertion comes lost pounds, along with satisfaction for the 12 or so hearty souls that an hour spent with Ray is doing them a whole lot of good.

"It's a vehicle for folks who say 'I can't do this' to actually do it," says Ray. "It's a good way for people to do something healthful in an hour. I'm not a certified instructor, just a person who has lost weight."



*The larger goal of FitClub is to get smaller. **Ray Cline** says the class is for "folks who say 'I can't do this'."*

Ray embodies what he preaches: he's dropped more than 50 lbs. and slimmed from a 40 inch waist to a 34, with more to go. He had topped out at nearly 250 lbs. due to a heavy work travel schedule and knew something had to give.

"My dad died of a heart attack," says Ray. He found his physical calling in FitClub (held Tuesday evenings at 6:30 in Fellowship Hall).

Where the neophyte sees gyrations, the class knows it is an escalation of activity - all at their own speed and pace. **Gelisa Stitt** measures her hard work in increments, too. "I've gone down a pant size and my energy is up," she says. "I'm losing more inches than anything else."

You see all body types during the energetic class. "I hope what we are trying to do is for the whole spectrum (of people)," says Ray, who adds that folks can pop into the class without feeling self-conscious.

Although he's not a Caldwell member, Ray sees this as an extension of the church mission. "We all have our mission around the church," he says. "This is just my part of it."



*Come as you are - physically and mentally. FitClub fans get in their reps at a self-regulated clip. Many took short time outs, and there is no one-speed-fits-all approach.*



***Gelisa Stitt** (left) knows first-hand the pluses - in her case, minuses - of FitClub. "I've gone down a pant size and my energy is up," she says.*

*There's no right way or wrong way to the class. The one hour sessions are held Tuesday evenings at 6:30. Exercisers take self-regulated breaks depending on their level of fitness and energy. Participants follow a video regiment projected on the wall.*

*Another fitness approach worth exploring at Caldwell: **Zumba** on Wednesday evenings.*



*Vacation...continued*



I'm going hiking and camping in Wyoming. I'll go visit my daughter in Baltimore and also go to the Outer Banks with friends.

**Felicia Hobgood**

In July we're going to Myrtle Beach and spend a week having fun. I'll also be in my garden getting my cucumbers and other vegetables ready for harvest. And I'll also be here at church, too.



**Wilma Petty**

We're going to spend as much time in the mountains as we can. We'll also get together with family and friends and live gratefully and celebrate life.

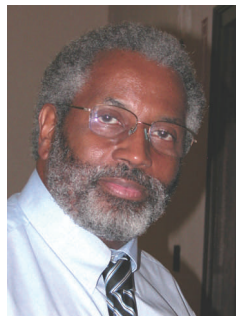


**Lina and Steve Drinkard**

I'll be working some and coming to church. I'll go to work and then back home.



**Leroy Stinson**



I'm just going to relax and ride my bike and enjoy the grandkids (ages 18, 17 and 12) as much as I can. I'm practicing for a ride to Myrtle Beach (the MS fund raiser ride from Charlotte).

**John Chandler**

We're doing a bit of traveling to several friend's weddings, and visiting family in Michigan and Pennsylvania.



**Ryan Dennison and 2 year old daughter Luca**

We just adopted our grandkids (two boys, ages 13 and 15) and I try to spend most of the time with them. I take them fishing and camping.



**James McFadgion**

I'm working to be a CNA (Certified Nurses Assistant). I'm in the orientation right now and in the summer I'll be taking classes for that. (Eds. note: Randy wants to be a CNA in part so he can help care for his grandmother. Randy's brother is also a CNA.)



**Randy Hood**



**Troy Bowles**

I'm going to the beach in August for a whole week, and I'll be working at Foster Cabinets.



**New members in June!** From left to right, **Jon and Laura Gilchrist, Marion and Stephen Idol, and Scott Creigh.**

If Caldwell appeals to you as a church home, call the office. We welcome new members the first Sunday in each month.

# Caldwell Good News!

## COMING UP SOON...

### JUNE

**Monday, June 13**

**Women's Book Club**, 6:30 - 8:30, location TBA

**Tuesday, June 14**

**FitClub**, 6: 30 - 7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday, June 15**

**Zumba**, 6 - 7 pm, Fellowship Hall

**Tuesday, June 21**

**FitClub**, 6: 30 - 7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday, June 22**

**Zumba**, 6 - 7 pm, Fellowship Hall

**Monday, June 27**

**Session**, 5: 30 - 8:30 pm, location TBA

### JULY

**Monday, July 4**

**Fellowship event** (fireworks watching), evening, church steps

**Tuesday, July 5**

**Caldwell Women**, 6:30 - 8 pm, Shelby Room

**FitClub**, 6: 30 - 7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday, July 6**

**Zumba**, 6 - 7 pm, Fellowship Hall

**Saturday, July 9**

**Habitat for Humanity**, 7 am - 12:30 pm, TBA

**Men of Caldwell**, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm, home of Jim Everitt

**Monday, July 11**

**Women's Circle**, 10:30 am, Shelby Rroom

**Women's Book Club**, 6:30 8:30 pm, TBA

## Church Calendar

**1st Monday**

6:30 pm - Men's Group

**2nd Monday**

(Women's Circle in recess until Fall)

**3rd Monday**

6:30 pm - Women's Book Club

**4th Monday**

5:30, Session, Shelby Room

**1st Tuesday**

6:30 pm - Women's Group

**2nd Tuesday**

6:30 pm - Mission & Justice Comm., Shelby

**Wednesdays**

7:00 pm - Choir practice

**3rd Thursday**

6:30 p.m. - Worship Committee, Upstairs

6:30 pm - Finance Committee, Upstairs

5:30 pm - Education Committee, Shelby

**Every Friday**

7:30 pm, AA, Shelby Room

**Sundays**

9:45 am Adult Sunday School, Upstairs

11:00 am Worship (including children's Sunday school)

1st Sunday Holy Communion

Session receives new members

All Sundays Loaves & Fishes Collection

(Non-perishables in entry basket)

**Administrative Office Hours**

Monday, 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

**Pastor's Office Hours**

Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

Reach Pastor Cleghorn on his cell phone:

704-957-4511

See calendar events online: [caldwellpresby.org](http://caldwellpresby.org)

**PLEASE!**

**REMEMBER OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND IN PERSON**

*A card, a call, a visit - please remember our longtime members & keep in touch!*

<b>Mrs. Barbara Atkinson</b>	Lake Park Nursing Center	3315 Faith Church Rd., Room 600	Indian Trail, NC 28079
Mailing address	830 Faircrest Drive		Charlotte, NC 28210
<b>Miss Toby Herring</b>	Emeritus @ Eastover	3610 Randolph Rd, Memory Care	Charlotte, NC 28211
<b>Mrs. Elise Hood</b>	Legacy Heights	11240 Ballantyne Trace Ct., F-4	Charlotte, NC 28277
<b>Mrs. Irene Kennedy</b>	419 Clement Avenue		Charlotte, NC 28204
<b>Mrs. Ann Ranson</b>	Legacy Heights	11240 Ballantyne Trace Ct.	Charlotte, NC 28277
<b>Mrs. Irene Brown</b>	Emeritus @ Eastover	3610 Randolph Rd., Room 228	Charlotte NC 28211

## 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 into 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 importantly, we seek to proclaim the Gospel in both word and deed, following the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

**God Invites. We Welcome. All.**

Sunday Services at 11:00 a.m. Nursery and children's activities available during the service.

### Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church

1609 East Fifth Street  
Charlotte, NC 28204

<http://www.caldwellpresby.org>



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