

THE SEEKER FOR THE CALDWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH JANUARY 2017



Dear Caldwell Family,

Blessings for the New Year...time to turn over a new leaf!

Sometimes on a walk, when I take in the fact that the years seem to be flying by, and the year past has been filled with both joys and heartache, when I consider the world and its beauty and brokenness, life can oftentimes feel like a never-ending race. The walk helps me to quiet my thoughts, gain a perspective, and renew.

The New Year in particular is a time when the possibilities seem particularly plentiful. No matter how challenging the year past has been, the New Year comes at just the right time and offers us a chance to turn over a new leaf, clean the slate, and start again.

Ours is a God of second chances, who waits patiently for our return, or the renewal our commitment to faith needs. As you and I "turn over a new leaf" in 2017, let us remember these words from Howard Thurman, theologian, educator, and civil rights leader, who wrote about the true work of Christmas:

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.



No matter where you are, how you are feeling, or what your New Year prospects hold, I wish you God's peace and comfort in 2017. Please stop by, call, or email. I would love to hear from you.

Faithfully,

Ali

Steeple Project Update

As you surely have noticed, the Steeple project is underway! Our contractor, Sean Fitzpatrick, has moved onsite, (gotten married!), had materials delivered and established a work area. Field measurements have been taken, plan details finalized, building permit obtained and framing is well on its way. Progress has been steady, although somewhat slow with the holidays and the weather. Getting the hip rafters square and plumb is one of the biggest hurdles. Thankfully this part is almost complete. Next up is secondary framing, sheathing and shingle installation. Once the new steeple is complete, Sean will prepare the existing steeple for removal. He will be hiring a crane company to remove the existing steeple, and will then prepare the bell tower to receive the new steeple. A crane will be used again to set the new steeple in place.

Stay tuned for further updates and for information about dedicating our new steeple!

A Message From the Deacons:

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

The deacons would like to thank you for making our work possible.

With your help we played Santa for 5 families. It was heartwarming to see the smiles and tears and feel the hugs of those who picked up the box loads of gifts. You did good.....

Through out the year we have had the opportunity to be the hands and heart of God in our community through the food pantry, holiday baskets, gas cards, rent deposits, prayer shawls, and many other quiet ways. We have been diligent in our prayers for others as we hope you have been also. We also thank you for sharing with us others needs.

We look forward to the new year and again with your help serving others.

Mid Winter Retreat on Spiritual Disciplines with Adele Calhoun!

Please Save the Date of Friday of February 17th – Saturday, Feb 18th

In partnership with our sister churches in Lake George.

More details to come!

About Adele Calhoun:

Adele delights in the “hats” she has worn throughout her life. She has worked as a missionary, InterVarsity staff member, wife, mother, basket maker, quilt maker, spiritual director, college professor, author, jewelry maker, retreat speaker, icon writer, healing prayer minister, board member, pilgrimage leader, and pastor. Adele’s passion is for people to move beyond religion to a connection with Jesus that unites both their head and their heart in service and love of others. Adele and her husband Doug have two children. Nathaniel and his wife Elie live and work abroad. Annaliese lives and works in Boston

Adele is a graduate of the University of Colorado (B.S.) and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (M.A.). Adele is adjunct faculty for The Transforming Center and Selah (a Spiritual Direction Training program). She co-authored *Opening Our Hearts and Home* with Karen Mains. Her own recent books are *The Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us, Revised and Expanded (2105)*, *True You* (co-authored with Tracey Bianchi), *Women & Identity* (IVP Lifeguide Bible Studies co-authored with Tracey Bianchi), and *Invitations From God* (all from IVP). She regularly speaks at retreats and conferences on these topics. Doug and Adele are certified Enneagram trainers and enjoy presenting workshops and seminars together.

Fellowship and Hospitality

This committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 8:30am in the middle room at Caldwell Church. We encourage anyone who would like to be a part of this committee to join us. Perhaps you would just like to help at some of the events we sponsor. If that is your choice please contact one of our committee members.

Our committee arranges for Coffee hour hosts. Please check the bulletin board in the coffee room to see when your name appears. If you find the date you have been assigned is not good for you, we ask that you find someone to take your place. It is possible to just switch dates with someone else who is listed with their permission. **PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHANGE ON THE CHART AND NOTIFY TOM JENNE OF YOUR ACTION (cell-#716-870-0013).**



We celebrate the first Sunday of each month as Birthday Sunday for all people who have birthdays in the current month. A cake is provided which will be found in the refrigerator in the church kitchen. You may choose to serve just cake and coffee or if you prefer you may add other snacks as you see fit. There is a list of instructions to follow on the cupboard door near the sink describing how to make the coffee etc.

Coffee Hour Hosts:

January

- 1 Green Family
- 8 Sarah King & Mary Beth Tenne
- 15 Al & Dottie Kopf
- 22 Patti & Jeff Brozyna
- 29 Joni Steiner & Gladys Tasker

February

- 5 Amrock Family
- 12 Pat Carpenter & Lesley Clemons
- 19 Helene Horn & Judy Dewey
- 26 Darlene & Bob Gunther



Chad & Natalie Jone's new address:

21400 Church Ave.
Rogers, MN 55374

Kids Corner

On behalf of the Christian Education Committee we hope your Christmas season was full of family, love and remembering the special gift Christ gave all of us, when he gave us his Son. Our prayers extend to your friends and families for a happy and healthy New Year!

Thanks to everyone for making our annual Christmas pageant happen again this year! Many thanks to Sofia Amrock and Madeline Gorey for writing the pageant. Many people contributed to this effort by helping with costumes, sets, props, readings and instrumentals. Job well done!

Our next teaching block will begin January 8 and run through January 22. The following people will be teaching.

Sarah King/ Yvonne Fuller/ The Mannix Family-Preschool

Lynda Glenn- grades 1-6

Jeb Trowbridge/Howard Nichols- Jr./Sr. High

Please consider sharing your time and talents with our youth and you can see your name here too! It's not a big time commitment and you might learn something new about your faith by sharing it with others.

Blessings,

Sarah, Judy and Dana



A Message From the Deacons:

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

The deacons would like to thank you for making our work possible.

With your help we played Santa for 5 families. It was heartwarming to see the smiles and tears and feel the hugs of those who picked up the box loads of gifts. You did good.....

Through out the year we have had the opportunity to be the hands and heart of God in our community through the food pantry, holiday baskets, gas cards, rent deposits, prayer shawls, and many other quiet ways. We have been diligent in our prayers for others as we hope you have been also. We also thank you for sharing with us others needs.

We look forward to the new year and again with your help serving others.

News from the Haiti Mission School January 2017

Haiti Mission School co-founder JoEllen Parsons says, "I grew up on a farm about 100 miles south of Chicago, IL. Our farm is still an operating farm. Some years there was too much rain, others, not enough. Then there were the years of the locust or grasshoppers, etc. I think you get the picture. During those years, the crops didn't look so good. My mom would sometimes worry about whether we would have enough to live on for the year. Each time when this would happen, my dad would say to her, 'Don't worry. There has never been a year when the good Lord has not given us something.' It was true. Sometimes not a lot, but always enough. I have lived my life on this premise.

That is until October of this year when I visited the Labastille area of Haiti, after Hurricane Matthew, where most every tree, plant, and much of their livestock were destroyed. The situation for rural peasant farmers and their families in Haiti is dire."



The following article comes from the December *World Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations* and spells out the most pressing needs of the Grand Anse area and the region around Labastille.

Family farming – a primary food source for most Haitians – took an especially heavy blow in the hurricane that wiped-out 90 percent of the country's harvest. "Hurricane Matthew not only eliminated the last harvest - it also compromised the upcoming planting season and the country's ability to feed itself. That's why it's so important we act now and in a robust way," said Nathanael Hishamunda, FAO Representative in Haiti. "These communities need urgent support to prevent them from adapting survival strategies that put them into a vicious cycle of dependence, including eating seeds meant for producing food in future harvests," he added. (our underline)

The Haiti Mission School's response to this has been to support seed banks. Working together with our missionary friend, Lindsay Anderson, (seen in the picture handing seed packets to a farmer) we have distributed thousands of dollars of seeds to area farmers with an agreement that they will return a portion to a seed bank when they harvest their crops in the spring. (We are also hoping to purchase some goats and chickens using a similar payback plan.) If this plan is successful, area farmers will be able to draw on the seed bank when necessary and be self-sustaining in good times and bad. Meanwhile, we will continue to provide food assistance until the crops are harvested.

Currently all donations to the Haiti Mission School are being applied to hurricane relief efforts-- addressing the five basics: food, shelter, pure water, prayer and hope (not necessarily in that order). We hope to have a plan in place for the continuing education of our students by the beginning of 2017. There is great need and we appreciate any assistance you can offer and thank you in advance. We join our Haitian brothers and sisters in thanking each of you for your continuing prayers and support.



January Mission of the Month:

Glens Falls Code Blue

The Open Door started a Code Blue shelter in January of 2014. This shelter provides food and a warm bed on winter nights that are forecast to go below 32* or 12" of precipitation. They average 13-15 people per night. The staff and volunteers offer grace and a listening ear to each guest. Many guests have received help finding housing and jobs through Code Blue.

The Open Door is a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization. The Mission's legal, tax-exempt name is Servants of the Word; it legally does business as The Open Door.

Joe's Testimony:

Joe had a pretty good life. He grew up with good parents, had a wife and son and had a construction job doing steel work. He was a hard worker and thought that he would always be able to provide for himself and his family. In 1985 Joe was working on a warehouse when he realized he needed a safety strap for the area he was working. Before he could get it, Joe fell 20 ft., breaking his neck and fracturing his skull. "Coming close to death, made me realize how vulnerable we all are. It could all be gone in a second," he recalls. Recovery took 2 years and put Joe's family in massive debt; the strain was too much for their 8-year marriage. Joe tried to go back to construction, but a fear of heights made that impossible. He worked a succession of restaurant jobs and even had a landscaping business for awhile, but pain from his injuries kept interfering. "I never imagined I wouldn't be able to work," Joe says.

Finally, in March of 2013 Joe lost his job and his apartment. He didn't want to bother family so he found himself lying on the streets. The camping equipment that used to be used for fun family trips was now vital to his survival. "Don't ever say you'll never be homeless. It could happen to anybody," Joe warns. He had no idea how many homeless there were in the area until he was one of them. "At first, it's very humbling. You're trying to find places to sleep... hiding out so you don't get in trouble. Sometimes you feel like a criminal." Joe came to The Open Door because he knew he would get a hot meal. He knew he couldn't be too proud to ask for help. In addition to the hot meals, he liked the people and the devotionals helped him through a very difficult time. In August, after 5 months of homelessness, Joe realized he needed to accept help from his sister. He knew he couldn't live on the streets over the winter. He's using this time to get back on his feet, but looks at life much differently than he ever did before.

The Mission Committee

January 2017

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Communion	2	3 Supervisory Mtg. 12:15	4 Mission Committee Mtg. 2:00	5 Choir	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Choir	13 Food Pantry 9:30- 11:30	14
15	16	17 Session Mtg. 7	18	19 Choir	20	21
22 Annual Congrega- tional Meeting	23	24	25	26 Choir	27 Food Pantry 9:30- 11:30	28
29	30	31				

Happy Birthday

Bev Roach	Grace Moody	Helene Horn
Anke Jenne	Judy Dewey	Lynda Glenn
Chloe Monroe	Nathan Fuller	Oscar Blanco
Clay Moody	Ross McIntyre	Sarah King
Christine Cooper	Shane Lenihan	
David King	Stuart Chapman	
Garret Jackson	Tim Hunsicker	



Caldwell Presbyterian Church
71 Montcalm St.
Lake George, NY 12845

All are welcomed into The Caldwell Church Family.

We would love to see you in church on

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10AM!

Contact Information:

Office Number—(518) 668-2613

Secretary Email—secretary@caldwellpres.org

Pastor's Email— pastor@caldwellpres.org

Website— www.caldwellpres.org