



THE VOICE

May/June 2023

Dear Friends,

It is with mixed emotions that I write my final newsletter article to you, my beloved Caldwell United Methodist Church. Little could Robb and I have imagined how much we would be blessed by you all through **so many different ways...**

Sunday worship, prayer group, shared confirmation with three local churches, new member classes, Team Vital Training, baptisms and weddings, funerals and repasts, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, the Golf Outing, Messy Church, Fish 'N Chip and Pulled Pork dinners, church conferences, Battle of the Bells, Choir anthems, Egg Hunts, Pentecost red geraniums, Hanging of the Greens, Boy Scout Sundays and Eagle projects, visits, counseling, defibrillator training, Lenten Soup Suppers, A Pleasant Day children's garden, Community Thanksgiving Service, feeding the workers during the street fair, restroom ministry, Choir, Hammering for Habitat and Habitat for Humanity, serving meals in NYC with Bridges, providing support for the homeless in Family Promise [IHN] and much, more!

No task was beyond my "job description." I have weeded, planted flowers in the big pots beside the front doors, picked up trash in the church yard, roasted four turkeys at once in the church kitchen, caused a mini flood in the nursery school with an overwater, survived pastoring during a three year pandemic, pushed the heavy laden trash cans up the hill to the curb, sawed off a fallen tree limb over the church sidewalk and much, more. I treasure every memory!

Robb and I thank every one of you from the bottom of our hearts! And pray that in the future we and you will continue **"to love and serve with joy and humility"**!

See you around town! Pastor Viv



May Birthdays

May 4	Robert Schaedler
May 4	Evan Totka
May 5	Robb McCombe
May 10	Doreen Boyer
May 13	Kelly Mitstifer
May 13	Paige Mitstifer
May 15	Nicole Pierce
May 20	John Taylor
May 22	Ashley Tomich

June Birthdays

June 2	Amy Hansen
June 3	Kathy Zajac
June 5	Amanda Turton
June 6	Catherine Wallace
June 7	Donna Salese Pierce
June 8	Tracy Voca
June 11	Andrew Wallace
June 12	Bill Ebbinghouser
June 21	Jenna Rose Dolce
June 22	Kelly Winkler
June 29	Barbara Ingra
June 29	Zorina d'Emilio
June 30	Joyce Francavilla

May Anniversaries

May 20, 1972	Doug & Cathy Wallace
May 20, 1973	Pastor Viv Rodeffer & Robb McCombe
May 20, 1989	Brett & Marybeth Mitstifer



June Anniversaries

June 9, 1990	David & Christine Knight
June 14, 2008	Danielle & Angelo Pezzino
June 17, 1978	Donald & Stephanie DeBruyne
June 17, 1978	George & Joan Carrick, Jr.

Parish Notice-George Pierce -1930—2023



George A. Pierce, 93, of Fairfield, New Jersey passed away on Thursday, March 23, 2023. Beloved husband of the late Noreen (nee Myers) Pierce. Loving father of Gail Plumstead & her husband Glenn, Alan Pierce & his wife Leslie, and Eric Pierce & his wife Donna. Cherished grandfather of Tracy, Kelly, Jill, Kate, Scott, Alissa, Sarah, Nicole, Timothy, Taylor, Kevin, and Abbey. Adored great-grandfather of Bailey, Owen, Cooper, Kylie, Henry, Giuliana, George, Joseph, Norah, Madison, Jaxon, Jack, Olivia, Ben, Tyler, Mackenzie, Hayden, Vincent, Duke, Harrison, Cameron, Grace, William, Ryan, Matthew, and Griffin.

Parish Notice-Nancy Lee Mudd



Nancy Lee (Dentel) Mudd, 79, of Bethlehem, PA and formerly of West Caldwell, NJ, passed away peacefully on Monday, March 27, 2023 at St. Luke's Hospital, Fountain Hill, PA. She was the loving wife of Richard E. Mudd with whom she shared over 56 years of marriage. Nancy Lee was a devoted member of Caldwell United Methodist Church. She will be remembered by her loving husband Richard, her son Richard E. Mudd II and his wife Lisa of Pinehurst, NC, her daughter Alicia Lee Sands and her husband James of Nazareth, PA and her grandchildren, Samantha Lee Sands and James Richard Sands.

Pastor Viv: Winner of the 2023 Caldwell Women's Community Impact Award

Our very own Pastor Viv was just recognized for her positive impact on the Caldwell community by the Caldwell Borough Council, along with several other nominees. Church members showed up to cheer her on at the Council meeting March 21st.

An excerpt from one of the eleven nominations Pastor Viv received:

Vivian Rodeffer has served for ten years as pastor of the Caldwell United Methodist Church, is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Caldwell-West Essex, volunteers as chaplain of the West Essex First Aid Squad and is co-convenor of the West Essex Ministerial Association. She is also a trained mediator who steps up to help individuals and groups overcome differences.

Pastor Viv recently announced her retirement after a long and fruitful career with the Methodist church, effective July 1st this summer. Now is the perfect time to recognize her for her outstanding contributions to our community. Ever cheerful and supportive, Viv endeavors to unite and enrich those around her. In all capacities, she shines as a bridge builder dedicated to social justice and the general welfare of others. You've seen her leading prayer at Council meetings, at 9/11 ceremonies and Pride events in town, and selling tickets at our annual street fair. What does not always reach the public eye is the many ways Viv extends a helping hand to others, sometimes in her role as church leader, often simply as a kind, generous woman who cares deeply about her neighbors.

Pastor Viv is highly creative, always open to new ideas. She has repeatedly shown herself to be an engaged community member. In fact, she and husband Robb recently purchased a home here so they may enjoy retirement in the borough they have come to love. Vivian won't be sitting idle in retirement. She is training to become a Hospice chaplain at Crane's Mill and will no doubt do good in Caldwell in countless other ways.



An Upcoming Event You Won't Want to Miss!



June 4th, 2023

**Spring Celebration
Covered Dish and Plant Sale**

Thanks to Joyce and Fairfield Farms, you'll be able to pre-purchase outdoor spring plants and herbs and raise some funds for our church, too.

Come to church with a favorite dish, stay for some friendly fellowship and good food, and leave with your beautiful plants!

Stay tuned for more info and a plant pre-order form.

A Note from Garrett Jones—Easter 2023

Fellow sojourners in Christ,

What joy fills my heart every Lenten season when I am blessed to have the opportunity to deliver palms to your church. This simple task prepares my heart for Holy Week and the joy of Easter. It's hard to believe that this is the 35th year filling the back of my truck with palms. I hope to continue this ministry until the day I am called home to be with our savior Jesus Christ. I hope to continue to be in your service until that day comes and I look forward to seeing friends past and present, pastors and parishioners of your church of your church and now the church triumphant.

Happy Easter! Christ is Risen!

In Christ's Love,
Garret C. Jones



Financial Report through February 2023

Through our first two months of 2023 our expenses exceeded our income versus our projected budget by \$6,833. This is a slight improvement over last month's figure.

Our expenses were \$7,800 less than expected. This is mainly due to Gas and Electric, Buildings and Grounds, and our Ministries running under budget.

On the income side our overall giving was \$6,149 less than our goal to date. Our Faithful Givers were \$1,270 less than expected and our Pledgers were \$4,879 less than anticipated. Our miscellaneous income was also less than expected.

We will provide a status of the Stewardship Program in our next report. We will continue to provide updates regarding our financial health throughout 2023.

Thank you for your continued support of our ministries through your pledges and faithful giving.

Sincerely,

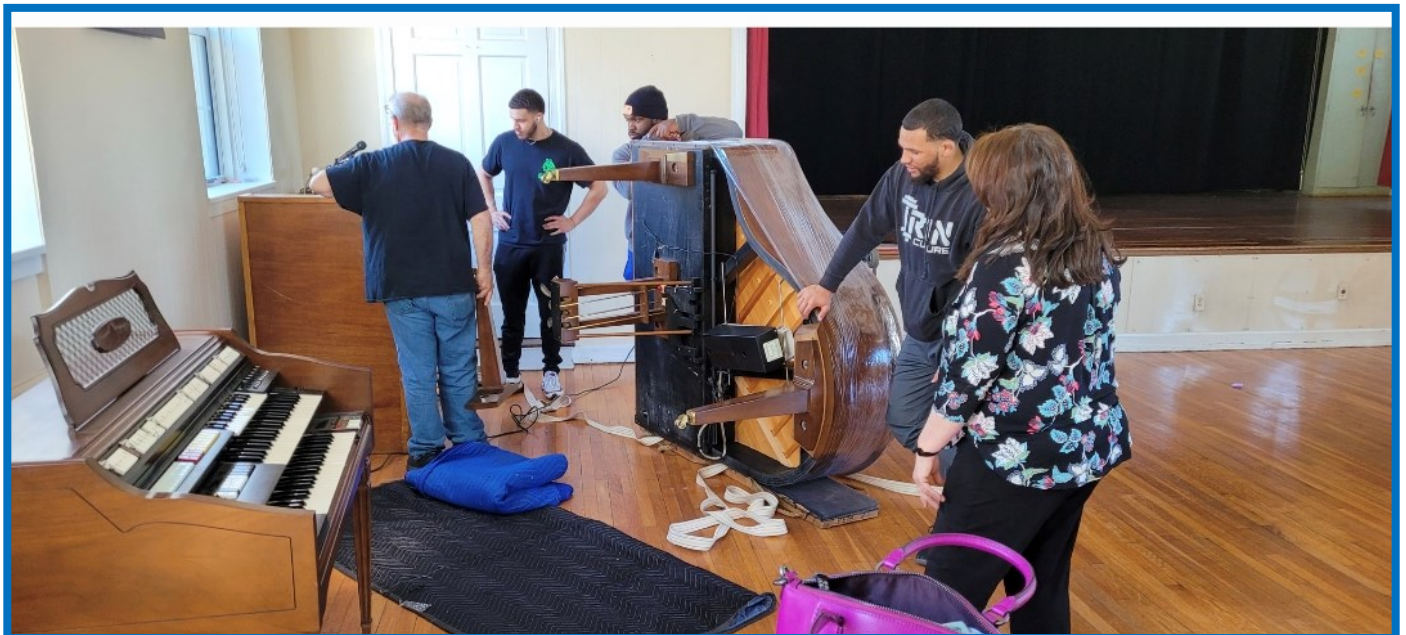
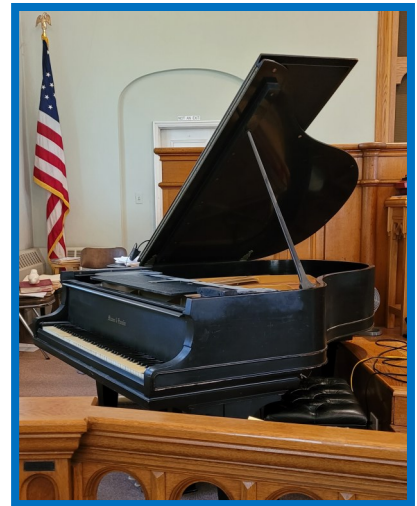
Your Finance Committee





Mason & Hamlin Grand Piano Donated to Church

In April the church received the generous donation of a piano owned by the late George Stanton's son, David. The sanctuary piano was given new life in Winan Auditorium where it will be used on many occasions and the "new" piano was moved into the sanctuary the same day. Ed and Maxine Alstrom had inspected the piano at it's former home in Scotch Plains before it was transported here. In addition a very generous gift by a church member covered all moving costs for both pianos! Already the resonant tones of the piano are gracing our worship.





Parsonage Visit by the Park Family

On Saturday, April 23, Rev. Kil Jae Park, his wife and mother visited the parsonage and toured the church. Transition Team Members Christine Waddington and John Taylor, and Pastor Viv and Robb helped make them feel welcome .



[LEFT]

Ruth Carrara accompanies Sunday afternoon worship at Crane's Mill.

[RIGHT and BELOW]

Coffee Hour volunteers help **Paige Moeller**, Chief Bunny, fill eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt with delicious chocolate candies.





Easter Egg Hunt





Spring Fling at Hanover Manor

On April 4th church members and friends gathered for a fun afternoon of dining, dancing and conversation! There was a great big band and singers. Thank you Myrtle Connell for planning this wonderful time for all!





THE VOICE

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SAFE SANCTUARY CERTIFIED CHURCH

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE-LIFT at Academy Road Entrance

FRIEND US ON 

**Caldwell United Methodist Church
wishes you and your loved ones
a blessed and joyful Easter season!**

