



Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church Congregational Meeting February 11, 2018



2017 BIRTHS

Child	Birth Date	Parents
Charles Glenn Trogdon	February 2, 2017	William and Mallory Trogdon
John Andrew Sutton	April 7, 2017	Drew and Fran Sutton
Alice Margaret Rossi	June 11, 2017	Joe and Elizabeth Rossi
Gray Anderson Stewart	June 13, 2017	Jonathan and Jessica Stewart
Genevieve Cristina Jeffries	June 15, 2017	Trey and Georgine Jeffries
John Joseph McCallum	July 21, 2017	David McCallum and Jennifer Welsh
Virginia Lee Sharpe	July 26, 2017	Grant and Alyssa Sharpe
Howard Peyton Green V	August 23, 2017	Peyton and Alissa Green
Mary Watterson Arnheim	October 8, 2017	Toby and Courtney Arnheim
Grace Harmon Walton	October 31, 2017	Clark and Julia Walton
Miller Lee Walton	October 31, 2017	Clark and Julia Walton
Andrew Martin Sontag	November 17, 2017	Andy and Katie Sontag
Mary Hunter Miller	December 27, 2017	Hunter and Catherine Miller

2017 CHILD/INFANT BAPTISMS

Child	Date	Parents
Quinn Austen Russell-Broadie	March 12, 2017	Alexandra Russell
Reese Isabelle Horton	March 19, 2017	Todd and Katie Horton
Dane William Franklin	April 16, 2017	Todd and Maggie Franklin
Banks John Ollek	April 23, 2017	Josh and Sarah Ollek
Foard Alexander Lavery	May 21, 2017	Will and Christine Lavery
Charles Glenn Trogdon	June 18, 2017	William and Mallory Trogdon
Luke Sutton Wheatley	June 25, 2017	Scott and Heather Wheatley
Hattie Grace Yearwood	October 15, 2017	J. D. and Jamie Yearwood
Virginia Lee Sharpe	November 12, 2017	Grant and Alyssa Sharpe
Gray Anderson Stewart	November 19, 2017	Jonathan and Jessica Stewart
John Joseph McCallum	November 26, 2017	David McCallum and Jennifer Welsh

IN MEMORIAM

Brenda Pickler Casteen	June 20, 2017	Deacon
Virginia Elizabeth Bratton	August 19, 2017	
Sandra Stroupe Mooney	October 1, 2017	

2017 NEW MEMBERS

Toby and Courtney Arnheim
Jon and Mandy Byers, son Dean
Josh Guffey and Brittany Bagnato
Bailey and Hannah King
Erin Mills
Nathan and Sam Phifer
Adam and Cindy Piacentino
Alexandra Russell, daughter Quinn
Grant Sharpe and Alyssa Sharpe
Adam and Kristen Tan, daughter Monroe
Donna Todd
Andy Wertz

2017 CONFIRMANDS

Carson Bahr
Annie Carroll
Kit Daily
Steele Dewey V
Shelby Duncan
Jonathan Haruta
Liza Horne
Henry Hoskins
Sam Howard
Grey McLennan
Cameron Nauman
Maria Skibinski
John Tibe

MEMBERS WHO TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER CHURCH

Ruth Roper, to Fourth Presbyterian, Greenville, SC
Mark and Wendy Cantey, to Christ Episcopal, Charlotte

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD

Michelle Bentley on April 30, 2017

WEDDINGS

Tate Hatcher and Brian Hackman at Selwyn on May 6, 2017
Clark Spencer and Jenifer Gobie on May 6, 2017
Whitney Greene and Nick Loder at Selwyn on September 16, 2017
Brittany Bagnato and Josh Guffey at Selwyn on October 14, 2017
Will Cooke and Hali Langdon at Selwyn on October 21, 2017
Martin Grist and Brandi Whaley at Selwyn on October 28, 2017
Britta Perkio and Jason McCorduck at Selwyn on November 24, 2017

GROUPS AND COMMITTEES

2017 -2018

ADMINISTRATION GROUP

Moderator: Bill St. George

Committees: Coordinating, Communications, Finance and Stewardship, Personnel, Planning, and Property and Maintenance

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER GROUP

Moderator: Vicki Walker

Committees: Building and Grounds, Communications, Finance, Personnel, Policy and Program, and Volunteer Coordination

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FORMATION GROUP

Moderator: Todd Muldrew

Committees: Nursery, Children, Youth, Young Adults, Adults, Table Time, Men's Group, and Library

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE GROUP

Moderator: Christy Parbst

Committees: Congregational Care, Care Teams, Fellowship, and Membership

MISSION GROUP

Moderators: Ellen Harris and David Caldwell

Committees: Homelessness, Hunger, Children in Need

WORSHIP GROUP

Moderators: Joy Vickers

Committees: Congregational Worship and Music

ADMINISTRATION

Planning Engaged architect Charles McClure of McClure, Nicholson and Montgomery to define the scope and details of our renovation project and we have been working diligently to complete this. Our plans were submitted for review late December 2017. Several subgroups have been identified to support the project going forward. Brett Taylor of Hopedale Builders will do the construction once a cost estimate has been approved by the Session. The process has taken longer than expected due to many unforeseen construction issues such as wiring, and other code requirements.

Property and Maintenance Alongside normal maintenance and repair items, we had our share of emergency service items, including several frozen pipes that came along with the abnormally cold weather at the end of the year. We saw to the removal of the diseased dogwood trees out in the front lawn, and have stored the Emily Phillips tree marker for future use. Major HVAC repairs were made which, combined with the tree work, caused our expenses to exceed budget by almost \$40K. We have begun working to assist with the transition of current spaces during the Anniversary Fund renovations. The 3019 Selwyn Avenue property (next to the Bates House) was acquired as budgeted under the 75th Anniversary Fund.

Personnel Selwyn experienced several personnel changes. In collaboration with the Communications committee, a communications specialist role was formalized, and Jessica Masanotti was engaged part-time. Following the resignation of Erin Mills to return to school to work on her PhD, Jay Masanotti was hired as the full-time Youth Director to lead our ever-growing youth program. John Siler resigned and we were delighted to find Gay Pappin to replace John as organist. During the year, the Personnel Committee continued to build on their dedicated relationships with pastors and staff members, as well as support the Child Development Center.

Communications The Communications Committee rolled out two new platforms for communication and information-sharing in late 2017. ShelbyNext consolidates member information into a next-generation database; facilitating stewardship, fellowship and the church's mission work. Our partnership with Shelby allowed Jessica Masanotti, the new part-time Communications Specialist, to lead a complete re-design of selwynpres.org. The Communications Committee recently renewed Jessica's contract; she will turn her attention to social media and other forms of recurring digital communication in 2018. The committee looks forward to supporting the church through its upcoming renovation.

Finance and Stewardship SAPC's financial condition remained comparable to 2016. We ended 2017 with an operating account cash position of \$126,000 and total receipts of \$822,000, which was in line with the budget. General Fund expenses were in line with budget as well; however, property and maintenance repairs caused expenses to exceed budget by \$43,000 for the year. Anniversary Fund receipts remained strong again this year enabling the retirement of the Bates House mortgage and the most of the funds for the purchase of the 3019 Selwyn Avenue property. We are currently finalizing the 2018 budget and hope to be able to continue the investment in our personnel, our congregation, and the future growth, life, and mission of our church; however, it should be noted that pledge receipts have declined for several years from \$780,000 in 2015 to \$740,000 in 2016 to \$721,000 in 2017, obviously a trend that we need to turn around to enable us to meet our objectives for 2018 and going forward. The Anniversary Fund pledges and gifts for three years total \$1.85 million and gifts are ahead of schedule.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The mission of the SAPC Child Development Center is to:

1. Provide developmentally appropriate high-quality child care in a caring Christian environment;
2. Serve church membership and surrounding community children six weeks to six years of age;
3. Strive to develop a partnership with the family by providing parenting educational opportunities and open communication to encourage parent participation in the program;
4. Provide a safe, happy place where all races, genders, creeds and abilities are recognized, valued and celebrated; and
5. Nurture all children committed to our care in a manner reflecting God's love.

Our CDC provides services from 7:30am to 6:00pm Monday through Friday. Beth Sharpe continues as the center's director and Kristie Hennessy is the assistant director. The leadership team participates locally in directors' leadership groups and is actively involved in the early childhood community. The CDC holds a five-star rating (the highest rating) through the NC Star Rated Licensing System.

The Selwyn CDC currently has 102 children enrolled in classes from newborn through transitional kindergarten. Twenty of these children are from 14 families that are also members of SAPC. These families are active and supportive advocates of the CDC.

The CDC employs 22 full-time teachers, seven part-time teachers and one full-time cook. The CDC maintains a lower child-teacher ratio than required by the state (i.e., four children to one teacher in the infant room, rather than the state's six to one ratio). The CDC supports and encourages staff members to continue their education through the NC T.E.A.C.H. program, and we currently have five staff members enrolled in this program.

The CDC continues to implement the *Creative Curriculum*, which utilizes supportive curriculum solutions for early childhood educators, providing developmentally appropriate learning experiences for the children. As a result, this curriculum supports active learning while promoting children's progress in all developmental areas. Kim Lee works closely to provide resources and experiences for the children to learn the Christian faith. The CDC offers Music with Ms. Robyn Fant, PlaySpanish and a Science/Math class for Threes to TK at no additional cost. Soccer Shots is available for children, age two to five, at an additional fee.

The 2017-18 CDC board includes five church elders, a pastor (represented by the Director of Children's and Family Ministries), a minimum of four parent representatives who have children enrolled, and three members from the congregation or community at-large. From the full group, there must be representation with knowledge in areas of medicine and health issues, legal matters, and child development. One of our elders is also a representative from the church's Building/Grounds committee.

The Center has very active parent participation in the overall program with committees for staff appreciation, event planning and parent communication.

The budget for the CDC in 2017 was \$1,363,459. The newly approved budget by the CDC Board and the Session for 2018 is \$1,471,462, which includes additional funding for extending the center's operating hours from 5:50 to 6pm (which began January 2, 2018). The budget for the CDC stands on its own but requires Session approval.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FORMATION

Adult Christian Education Selwyn's membership continued to display active commitment to Christian education through thoughtful conversation in several Sunday School classes, and Bible studies. Our adult Sunday School began the year using our intergenerational team of teachers, who led our classes in the spring. In the fall, we offered a new model for classes: Faith Lab, which provided "hands on" discussions of faith in our daily lives, and Big Questions, which provided a setting for pastoral teaching on major theological issues, followed by group discussion in our traditional class groups. Other adult offerings include five pastor-led Bible studies, a men's group that meets every other week, and four monthly women's circles, all of which provide members the opportunity to discuss Biblical themes and their applications to everyday life. In the spring of 2017, we hosted "The Well" on Thursday evenings, which included a community dinner and a brief worship service focusing on storytelling and dialogue led by diverse members of the Charlotte community.

Youth Ministries saw a transition in leadership, from Erin Mills to a full time youth director, Jay Masanotti. High school and middle School youth met for Sunday School each week. Middle school youth studied the Old Testament using SparkHouse "CoLABorate Presbyterian" Bible curriculum. The 2018 confirmation class has been using the Presbyterian Confirmation version of the same curriculum. High school youth studied "Big Questions" related to scripture and Presbyterian faith, with emphasis placed on navigating the Bible to find scripture. In March, our 8th grade youth were confirmed by the Session into membership following seven months of study and reflection and presentation of faith statements. Both groups have met every Sunday since September for programs, service projects, dinner and fellowship. The youth have participated in Bible studies, enjoyed a ski trip, hosted Room in the Inn, completed service projects as part of Service Sunday, led worship on Youth Sunday, organized the Souper Bowl of Caring to raise money for the Urban Ministry Center, participated in the Stop Hunger Now event, planned and hosted a fall festival with the CDC on the front lawn, and visited members in nursing homes. This summer, twenty-one high school youth and nine chaperones traveled to Cocke County, TN for a week, to serve the Appalachia Service Project making five homes drier, warmer and safer. They returned to Montreat for the High School Youth Conference in July. Youth families enjoyed a visit to the U.S. National Whitewater Center for a rafting event in late summer, as well as a Charlotte Knights game.

Children's Christian Education Children explored scripture through a rotation model over a period of five weeks, gathering for a Bible story, then related hands-on activities. We also offered parenting studies, including spirituality, worship readiness, reading the Bible, and talking about sex. Our June Vacation Bible School theme was God's all-encompassing love. Elementary-age kids went to Fellowship Point at Lake Norman and preschool-age kids met at Selwyn. Stories, art, song, games and crafts conveyed the message that God creates, helps, loves, calms and sends. For mission last year, we held our second annual Camp Habitat, in which the children help with activities related to Habitat for Humanity. Our children also helped host Room in the Inn. We also hosted our Advent Workshop for families and our very full Christmas Pageant was a big success. We continue to offer children's worship in the Chapel during worship every Sunday.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Throughout the year the Congregational Life Committee has continued its work in uniting and growing our community through its work in Fellowship, Membership and Hospitality.

Congregational Life hosted a 75th Anniversary Celebration for the Selwyn community. It was an evening of fellowship, entertainment, fun and food. Through a silent auction, \$5500 was raised to be allocated toward Mission. Many thanks go to all of those that worked so diligently to make this a special Selwyn event. The committee was led by Peggy Hornberg, and included Eric Winkenwerder, Jennifer Daily, Mai-Lis Bahr, and many others.

The Fellowship Committee led by Lori Burbank and Jennifer Daily continued their focus on eight primary events throughout the year. The three major events (Spring picnic, Rally Day, and Christmas lunch) each hosted around 200 people. Other events enjoyed by the congregation during the year were the Men's Pancake Breakfast, Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday dinners, Easter Breakfast and Christmas Breakfast. We are thankful to the members who signed up and supported each event. Steve Stevenson is also a valuable part of the team and makes each event considerably less stressful and labor intensive. The Fellowship Committee assists, advises and supports at all events as needed.

The Young Adult Council, led by Catherine Miller, consists of 20-40 year old members of the church. Its focus has been to grow their community through bimonthly socials and meetings on the first Wednesday of each month.

The Membership Committee continued work in welcoming new members to our church and finding talents in current members. The New Member Committee, which is led by Rebecca Cooper and includes Kat Hoskins and Heather Risko, introduced new members to our congregation through a three part series of meetings. The first Sunday was coffee with clergy and the Membership Committee to learn about the Selwyn Community, the second Sunday consisted of coffee with a pastor for information on theology, and the third Sunday a tour of the church was given and new members joined. Doorstep Visitors continued welcoming visitors through front porch coffee mug delivery and is now led by Deni Pifer. A Lenten Discipleship Survey was developed by Joy Berry and proved to be of value as it was distributed and then completed by church members. It showed each member's individual talents and interests and helped to provide insight as to where each member's greatest assets fit our community.

Congregational Care, led by Rebecca Thompson and Susan Lohr continued to support our memberships through seven Care Teams. The teams provided meals or funeral reception for a bereaved family, dinners for new parents, and casseroles which ministers take on home visits when appropriate. Helping Hands continues to connect church members in need of some form of assistance with members who can help with practical support such as food or carpools. The Prayer Shawl Ministry led by Anne Rutherford continued to knit and bless shawls which are to be distributed to those undergoing difficult times. The group has 10-12 members who share their knitting talents.

MISSION

SAPC continued its intergenerational mission effort in the following areas:

Homelessness:

- Selwyn members again joined the Charlotte Church Partners' build in October in the Smallwood neighborhood. We applied siding to two Habitat for Humanity houses. We served at Habitat's ReStore. In a continuing effort to create intergenerational mission experiences, we again offered Camp Habitat, an experiential mission event for our children.
- Our Congregational Survey revealed that Room in the Inn is the mission outreach most beloved within our congregation. It is in this communion with our neighbor that we grow in the commandment to "love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34). We had the privilege of hosting our homeless neighbors on Christmas Day, as well as Monday evenings between December and March. From our children and youth to our circles and Sunday School classes, we offered our gifts in various ways to caring for others.
- The Mission Christmas Tree gave Selwyn members opportunities to supply our Room in the Inn ministry and to contribute to Welcome Home Kits for HousingFirst residents (Urban Ministry Center's effort to end chronic homelessness in Charlotte).

Children in Need:

- One of the ways we live out our mission in the world is to befriend and serve the Montclair Elementary School Community. Selwyn has a 16-year relationship with Montclair Elementary School, a high poverty school with a mostly Latino population. In 2017 about 20 Selwyn members volunteered on a regular basis as tutors (Augustine Literacy Project, HEART math tutoring, North Star Reading Partners), as music helpers with Project Harmony, as teacher helpers, and as book club leaders. Montclair staff called on Selwyn throughout the year for one-time needs such as Career Day presenters, book drives, faculty snacks, testing proctors, etc. Presbyterian Women provided teacher appreciation gift bags in November. We are grateful for our vibrant relationship.
- Our Freedom School at Montclair is one of the most impactful outreach efforts. Through this ministry, we help stop the summer learning slide, increase the literacy rates of the children, provide a safe and stimulating environment, increase the students' confidence as learners, and feed the children two meals and a snack. For the seventh year, Selwyn hosted Freedom School at Montclair; this year, we hosted 100 students.
- For the third year, Montclair teachers requested items for their classrooms, and Selwyn members provided those educational items through the Mission Christmas Tree.

Hunger:

- Because of construction possibilities, our food packing event for Rise Against Hunger (formerly Stop Hunger Now) was shifted to January 2018.
- In May Selwyn again collected food for distribution to Montclair families -- via Loaves and Fishes -- during the summer, a time when children do not have access to free school meals.

Benevolent Giving:

Selwyn contributed a total of \$61,250 to denominational and community partners working in our three focus areas of hunger, homelessness, and children in need. In addition to the annual budget allocations to benevolences (through annual pledges), Selwyn members also generously gave over \$37,000 to the Souper Bowl of Caring, Rise Against Hunger, the Joy Offering, the One Great Hour of Sharing, Welcome Home Kits for HousingFirst, and the Montclair Freedom School.

WORSHIP

Members: Pam Brownlee Cooper, Jean Buchanan, Jill Cann, David Harris, Julie Harris, Sam Ryburn, Sarah Salton, Fred Spano, Ed Thomas, Rebecca Thompson, Joy Vickers, Sue Ward, Jim Williams, Eric Winkenwerder

Worship Group includes Congregational Worship and Music. Congregational Worship is responsible for communion preparation and supplies; as well as sound enhancement for all services. It is responsible for wedding, baptism, and funeral service policies and staffing the Funeral Assistance Teams. In 2017 we had five funerals and six weddings. Selwyn is looking for volunteers to expand the Funeral Assistance Teams.

We praise the work of the Communion Guild - Sarah Salton (chair), Emily Cox, Susan Lemmon, Townley Moon, Sally Moore, Heather Smith, Nancy Smith, and Mary Ward. This faithful group is responsible for managing communion supplies, set up and clean up. We were pleased to purchase new communion bread serving trays this year. Our thanks to Eric Winkenwerder for coordinating and maintaining the weekly 2017 Usher Schedule. We welcome anyone that would like to assist with this important role. We are grateful for Sam Ryburn's good care and talent in operating our sound system for services (including recording the services). Working along with Same are David Caldwell, John Barkley, and Joe Raible. In early 2017 the Blossom Shop started to provide our sanctuary floral arrangements and we have been pleased. We continue to be thankful for Willa May Young for her continued dedication and care of the flowers. Jill Cann and Jennifer Daily provided a wonderful Harvest Table the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

The Congregation celebrated 75 years in a festive worship service on October 22. Dr. Susan DeWyngaert, former associate pastor and now pastor of Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church, returned to preach. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was led by the Rev. Lisa McLennan (director of admissions for Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte) and the Rev. Frank Spencer (President of PCUSA Board of Pensions), both of whom were candidates for ministry from SAPC and who were ordained at SAPC.

The Worship Committee coordinates the readings each Sunday of Advent. Our Advent season was enhanced by our beautiful Advent quilt, Advent wreath, and wreaths on the doors and decorations in the sanctuary windows. We are thankful to Julie Harris, Pam Brownlee, and Eric Winkenwerder for assisting with the quilts, wreaths; and the Glens for the exterior decor. A special thank you to the Presbyterian Women for providing the Advent wreath. This Christmas Eve we had two services, a 10am service and a 5:30pm candlelight service with Communion. Much appreciation goes to Jean Buchanan for preparing all candles for the evening service.

The Music Ministry continues to thrive. The Director of Music works with the ministerial team to coordinate music to underscore worship and its message. The Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir continue to grow in their musicianship to serve and enhance worship. Guest musicians facilitated the annual Jazz Service for Rally Day, the 75th Anniversary, Advent, and for other special services. Choir members presented solos and small ensemble works, and more efforts on intergenerational worship have been realized. Many youth shared their musical talents on instruments and in song, and Ellen Harris worked with the children to provide special music. Phillip Hill, who sings countertenor and baritone, has been our scholarship singer and he has also presented solo music for worship. Several members contributed to the purchase of the upper-octave of handbells or supported the music scholarship fund. The kindness and generosity of the Selwyn members are recognized to be the main ingredient in the music program's success.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

As Presbyterian Women, we commit ourselves: To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

During the worship service and spring PW luncheon Michelle Bentley was honored as the recipient of the PW Honorary Life Member for 2017. This award is conferred upon a woman for recognition of faithful service in the work of PW and Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church. Women who receive this award inspire us to go beyond ourselves to serve others. Michelle's ongoing work with Room in the Inn and other areas of the church make us proud to honor her. Kristen Seaford was the keynote speaker at the luncheon. She told of her illness and survival which included the resultant amputations that saved her life. Her words were a strong reminder of how comfortable we can get in life and how, with God's grace and strength, we are all stronger than we think we are.

The women and elementary aged children of the church gathered in November to have lunch and to make cards, decorate gift bags and fill them with the items we collected for the staff at Montclair Elementary School. We had a fabulous lunch and the multigenerational gathering worked quickly to complete the projects, kicking off the holiday season with an opportunity to honor those who make such a difference in the lives of students. The bags were delivered to an enthusiastic staff before the holiday, along with the best wishes of Presbyterian Women.

We continued our efforts to align our monthly gifts of time and treasure with the core focuses of hunger, homelessness, and children in need. Our projects for the Fall were Montclair Elementary School (health room supplies, nutrition backpacks and the staff) and in January and February we collected items for our Room in the Inn program. We will also continue to support the following organizations with needed items: Center of Hope - Salvation Army Women's Shelter, St. Luke's Center for People with Special Needs, and Freedom School.

A Birthday Offering is collected in May. Women give one penny for each year of their lives or \$1.00 as a "birthday gift". The money is supports the mission work of PW throughout the world.

Selwyn PW participate in the Fellowship of the Least Coin which links prayer and "least coins" in a very significant way. The least coin in our possession is given as we pray for peace, justice and reconciliation. This money is used to support PW projects benefiting women and children around the world.

In addition, the PW budget includes monetary donations to: A Child's Place, Alexander Youth Network, Charlotte Family Housing, Communities in Schools, Crisis Assistance Ministries, Lakewood Preschool, Loaves and Fishes, Montclair Freedom School, Habitat for Humanity, Room in the Inn, Selwyn's Youth Missions and the Selwyn S.T.E.P. Fund.

Selwyn has four women's circles which meet monthly, September through May, to explore issues of faith and to enjoy fellowship. All women are invited and encouraged to participate in these events as the women of Selwyn continue to support various mission projects locally and internationally, focusing on helping women, children and families in need.