

# Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church Annual Congregational Report for 2021



## 2021 BIRTHS

Child	Birth Date	Parents
Campbell Theodore Milewski	January 26, 2021	T.J. and Brandi Milewski
Elizabeth Anne Hassey	February 25, 2021	Laura Hassey
Bennett Alexander Hackman	April 11, 2021	Brian and Tate Hackman
Phillips Wells Trotter	July 8, 2021	Michael and Caroline Trotter
Whitley Harris Pruitt	July 12, 2021	Jay and Margaret Pruitt

## 2021 CHILD/INFANT BAPTISMS

Child	Date	Parents
Nora Henning Korch	January 31, 2021	Jonathan and Loren Korch
Emery Hazel Korch	January 31, 2021	Jonathan and Loren Korch
Reid Wilson McCorduck	March 7, 2021	Jason and Britta McCorduck
Quinn Abigail Black	March 21, 2021	Jeremy and Allison Black
William Wooten Peebles	May 2, 2021	Ty and Meg Peebles
Thomas Alexander Zande	May 16, 2021	Steve and Jessie Hahn Zande
Campbell Theodore Milewski	August 15, 2021	T.J. and Brandi Milewski
Bennett Alexander Hackman	September 19, 2021	Brian and Tate Hackman
Elizabeth Anne Hassey	September 26, 2021	Laura Hassey
William Nissim Phifer	October 10, 2021	Nathan and Samantha Phifer
James Calhoun Pruitt IV	November 14, 2021	Jay and Margaret Pruitt
Whitley Harris Pruitt	November 14, 2021	Jay and Margaret Pruitt
Phillips Wells Trotter	December 19, 2021	Michael and Caroline Trotter

## 2021 YOUTH/ADULT BAPTISMS

	Date	Parents
Eva Murphy Tom	May 9, 2021	Ray and Karey Tom

## IN MEMORIAM

Marjorie Jones Schmidt	February 11, 2021	
Bobby Frank Davis	February 24, 2021	
Merle Gooden Miller	March 1, 2021	
Eric Frederick Winkenwerder	May 12, 2021	Deacon, Elder
Helen Dempsey Whitesides	June 15, 2021	
Mildred Smith Long	July 22, 2021	
Townley Spratt Moon	August 20, 2021	Deacon, Elder

## 2021 NEW MEMBERS

Aaron and Marion Arant (son Mac)  
Anna Cronmiller (son James)  
Tina Dietrich  
Patricia Ferguson  
David Finnie and Geraldine Anastasio  
Laura Hassey (daughter Elle)  
Roy and Katie Koppelman (daughters Casey, Caroline, and Carter)  
Jay and Margaret Pruitt (son Calhoun, daughter Whitley)  
Vanessa Riley (son Asher)  
Michael and Caroline Trotter (son Phillips)

## 2021 CONFIRMANDS

Sara Howard  
Maddie Parbst  
Sydney Pifer  
Maeve Raible  
Hank Thrasher  
Evie Tom  
Nelson Waple  
Anna Grace Yurkutat  
Caroline Yurkutat

## MEMBERS WHO TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER CHURCH

Jeremy and Allison Black, daughter Quinn, to First Presbyterian, Belmont, NC

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD

April 18, 2021  
Townley Moon

## **GROUPS AND COMMITTEES 2021 - 2022**

### **ADMINISTRATION GROUP**

Moderator: Lou Waple

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

### **CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER GROUP**

Moderator: Clark Walton

**Committees:** Building and Grounds, Communications, Events, Finance, Personnel, Policy and Program

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FORMATION GROUP**

Moderator: Allison Tibe

**Committees:** Nursery, Children, Youth, Young Adults, Adults, Men's Group

### **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE GROUP**

Moderator: Deni Pifer and Ginny Burgin

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

### **MISSION GROUP**

Moderator: Susan Flynn and Chris Bahr

**Committees:** Homelessness, Hunger, Children in Need

### **WORSHIP GROUP**

Moderator: Suzanne Newsom

**Committees:** Congregational Worship, Sacraments, Music, Host Elders

## ADMINISTRATION

**2022 Stewardship Report** The 2022 Stewardship effort has been very successful. Current giving totals:

- 115 pledging households - versus 114 in 2021
- \$770,212 in pledges thus far - versus \$670,000 in 2021
- \$100,212 in pledge growth over 2021

That's good news, but we are still seeking additional pledges! The team is reaching out to those who have pledged in prior years in hope we can reach our 2022 goal of \$780,000 - we need only \$10,000! These results allow SAPC to stabilize our staff and meet our mission commitments. Thanks to all who have pledged. For any questions please reach out to J.D. Yearwood or Ed Thomas.

**Finance** Finances continued to stabilize in 2021. We ended 2021 with an operating cash position of \$252,000. Pledge receipts were 95% of the total amount pledged for the year and, along with generous non-pledge giving, allowed us to finish the year \$15,000 above our budgeted giving income. Annual expenses were \$4,000 under what was planned, resulting in a balanced budget. The 2022 operating budget is being developed with continued commitment to make wise and thoughtful financial decisions, while also remaining faithful to the congregational life and mission of Selwyn.

**Planning 2021** Member engagement and connection were the primary goals. Due to COVID setbacks, our leadership made a conscious effort to become congregationally focused. Our summer theme, "Coming Home," intended to simply and safely bring people back to Selwyn for worship, learning and fellowship. Elders conducted one-on-one outreaches to build relationships within the congregation. The 2022 "To Belove and Belong" Stewardship Campaign sought to establish financial health while re-cultivating a place where people know they matter. Recapturing a sense of community after time apart is crucial to the sustainability of our Church. In 2022, we hope to build on these initiatives, while expanding our reach toward our neighbors.

**Personnel** The 2021 goal for the committee was to stabilize our staff while moving through many transitions and uncertainties. There have been shifts, however our committed staff has maintained a steady course. After a long delay we welcomed Rev. Rush Otey to celebrate his long pastorate on September 26, 2021. Solidifying Selwyn's relationship with Margo Richardson, SAPC celebrated her ordination and installation on November 9, 2021. This solidifies her as our Associate Pastor for Christian Education, Youth and their Families. In December, Parrish Associate, Rev. Lisa McLennan, was called to serve as the VP and Dean of Students at Union Presbyterian Seminary at Charlotte. Relinquishing her paid responsibilities, Lisa will continue to affiliate with SAPC. Ashlee Anderson will also step away from SAPC this spring. Upon retirement, we gave thanks to Lawson Caldwell, Selwyn's longstanding Administrative Assistant. Steve Stevenson continues to faithfully serve SAPC on Sunday mornings, after accepting a full-time position at his home church. In 2022 we will assess facility needs and welcome new pastoral leadership to provide SAPC with pastoral care, mission and congregational life leadership. We are grateful to have finished 2021 with a committed, core staff and remain well-positioned for the future.

**Property and Maintenance** Property and Maintenance had a productive year. Member Colleen Williams, a landscape architect, developed and gifted a long term master plan for Selwyn's landscaping. This plan allows a coordinated effort toward a common goal as funding becomes available (budgeted or gifted). We removed a tree near the front parking lot due to a safety issue and planted four new trees thanks to gracious memorial gifts in honor of Ed Hastings and Eric Winkenwerder. A prospective Eagle Scout of Troop 99 presented plans to clean and plant two beds. We performed general lawn maintenance, traced sprinkler pipes for future use, and removed the PVC pipe stands in the lawn. While completing our normal repairs and annual maintenance, we maintained a very tight budget. While the annual budget covers expected maintenance expenses, it does not allow surplus for larger or unforeseen items. We fine-tuned our priority list for larger items, which includes outside painting and driveway work near the Scout Hut. Funding sources will need to be secured to address these larger items as they become more pressing.

## CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The mission of the SAPC Child Development Center is to:

1. Provide developmentally appropriate high-quality childcare in a caring Christian environment.
2. Serve church membership and surrounding community children aged six weeks to six years.
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 5:30pm Monday through Friday (the hours have been temporarily reduced by 30 minutes due to COVID-19). Beth Sharpe continues as the center's director and Kristie Hennessey 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 104 children enrolled in classes from newborn through transitional kindergarten. Thirty of these children are from 21 families that are also members of SAPC. These families are active and supportive advocates of the CDC.

The CDC employs 25 full-time teachers, four 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 four 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. Nancy Nutter works closely to provide resources and experiences for the children to learn the Christian faith. Due to restrictions resulting from COVID-19, the CDC is only offering Science/Math class for Threes to TK at no additional cost. Soccer Shots resumed in September. We look to resume offering music and Spanish once it is safe to do so.

The 2021-22 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.

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 2021 was \$ \$1,670,665.00. The newly approved budget by the CDC Board and the Session for 2022 is \$1,741,458. The budget for the CDC stands on its own but requires Session approval.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FORMATION (CEF)

The fall of 2021 saw renewed energy around Christian Education in the following capacities:

**Adult:** The Covenant Class gathered each Sunday to engage in a traditional, Biblically-based study of the Prophets of the Old Testament using *"Being Reformed: The Prophets Still Speak."* The Selwyn Life Class continued its discussion-based and topical format. The first study this fall centered around the book, *"Healing Our Broken Humanity: Practices for Revitalizing the Church and Renewing the World."* Currently, this class is studying Exodus. The Grace and Peace Class combined to discuss the sermon series, *"Known by Heart: Scripture Every Christian Should Know"* with Erin Mills as moderator. In early Winter, Adult Sunday School classes combined for a short Advent series followed by a lectionary study on the Book of Luke led by Lori Raible, which has continued into early 2022.

**Youth:** The youth theme for the year was "to be known and to belong." 2021 started with lots of reevaluation, rebuilding, and reconnecting. Margo Richardson held three Zoom listening sessions to hear from parents about CE and Youth programming as COVID receded to allow in-person gathering. The listening sessions and surveys led to development of a new programming schedule. Sunday School for 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade was renamed "coffee talks." The goal was to spend this new season of "in-person gathering" focusing on rebuilding connections and how we live out our faith in a messy world. The curriculum was selected based on youth interest; exploring faith and science, women in the Bible; TED Talks about justice, and a video series produced by A Sanctified Art addressing Curiosity, Courage, & Connection. February kicked off with a successful Virtual Youth Sunday with participation from over 30 youth. Youth helped lead the church with bulletin artwork, preaching, leading and writing liturgy, and sharing their musical gifts. SAPC welcomed nine confirmands into membership and celebrated High School Seniors in an outdoor service. All three summer trips HAPPENED! Selwyn took ten adults and eleven High School youth to Charleston, West Virginia to serve with Appalachia Service Project, five adults and seven High School youth to Montreat Youth Conference, and five adults and eight Middle School youth to Cross Missions. On November 7, SAPC's Youth Director Margo Richardson was ordained and installed as Selwyn's new Associate Pastor for Christian Education and Youth.

**Nursery:** We were able to hire our Nursery Workers to take care of our youngest children. Two rooms are set up for care from 9:15 to 11:45am each Sunday - the Crib/Toddlers Room and the Three and Four Years Old Room. We have added extra cleaning duties during the COVID pandemic.

**Children:** Our Elementary School aged children have 9:30am Sunday School with Mrs. Nutter, our DCE as the opening leader and Bible storyteller, as well as an energized teaching team. We add in fun games and art projects to reinforce the lesson. Preschool and Elementary children are encouraged to join their families in worship and after the Children's Message, attend Chapel with Mrs. Nutter for age-appropriate activities and story time. We held Worship Readiness class for five-year-olds and third grade Bible class on Zoom in the spring and did in person classes in the fall. Mrs. Nutter taught both classes. We were able to have Vacation Bible School for the Elementary children the last week of June 2021. Counselors from Bethelwoods Camp in Rock Hill, SC led the week at Selwyn. Each day we had volunteers to help. The children performed a Christmas Pageant on December 12. Twenty-seven children participated with 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders reading scripture and others acting out the nativity. Children's Choir, for 4 years old and up, resumed. They sang in worship on October 17 and during the Christmas pageant. Fred Spano led the group, on Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm for 30 minutes, with Nancy Nutter assisting.

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

The Congregational Life team had many of its annual events and activities interrupted or cancelled due to COVID and the congregation's inability to gather in-person. The group sought ways to connect through smaller initiatives to ensure those who most need connection and care receive that from the church.

- The Membership Committee continued to offer online membership Orientation Classes at the beginning of the year. In the fall we offered two in person sessions. Despite the pandemic, families have continued to seek membership at Selwyn and are attending orientation discussions to get to know church life. We added an extra point of connection by following up with members after they joined and intentionally invited all new members from the last year to gather with us for various events throughout the year.
- The Fellowship Committee was able to host its annual Spring Picnic, Rally Day, and Christmas lunch. We did so using outside catering and boxed lunches for food options as an extra measure of safety. We also hosted an outdoor Biscuit Breakfast in lieu of the annual Pancake Breakfast that was well attended. The Fellowship Committee will continue to assess the needs of the congregation while remaining safe during the ongoing pandemic in 2022.
- The Peace Class led by Sam Phifer and J.D. Yearwood planned small group events. The men planned social outings during the year. The women of the PW Peace Circle focused on fellowship and service throughout the year. Socially distanced and/or virtual events were held and included a night at a member's home, a speaker before the holidays, and coordinating the holiday mission tree. In the fall the group attempted to launch a Peace Circle Sunday School but given the rising concern of COVID the low attendance encouraged us to combine Peace and Grace Sunday School classes.
- Congregational Care, led by Emily Cox and Heather Risko continued to support our members through seven Care Teams. The teams provided meals or funeral reception support for a bereaved family, baby blankets for new parents, and casseroles to those in need. Given the conditions with COVID we increased focus on our casserole team and delivering meals to folks under quarantine and those needing pastoral care. Helping Hands led by Shannon Brown set up and provided meal trains for members needing extended care and support.
- The Prayer Shawl Ministry led by Anne Rutherford and Susan Lohr continued to knit and bless shawls, which are distributed to those undergoing difficult times. The group has 10-12 members who share their knitting talents.

As we look to the year ahead, we hope to start planning outside, church-wide events when we can safely gather again.



## MISSION

Room in the Inn restarted in the fall after a hiatus in the spring. We have limited our homeless neighbors to eight people each Monday night. We are trying to provide more social distance and implemented other precautions to provide an additional layer of precautions while providing a warm meal and safe housing for our neighbors.

The Greater Enrichment Program (GEP) has thrived with flexibility and adaptability. We had students from Montclair Elementary in the Fellowship Hall in the spring and summer and now they are back at school with 50 students receiving support services and a diverse amount of enrichment programming. We continue to support them financially and through additional volunteer hours by church members.

We continue to have members at Montclair Elementary offering tutoring each week with Augustine Literacy Project, HELPS and HEART programs.

Our food pantry for Montclair has provided backpacks of food and groceries to many families in need throughout the year.

Our mission Christmas Tree provided many classroom items to the Montclair staff, gifts to our neighbors at Roof Above and additional items for the Welcome Home Kits for those moving out of homelessness into stable housing.

We participated in Habitat for Humanity and supported the Charlotte Church partners in the completion of a home.

We provided sandwiches to Roof Above once a month for most of 2021.

We were blessed to fulfill all of our budgeted and planned mission financial gifts to our ministry partners.

## WORSHIP

### Congregational Worship and Music Groups

Members: Andy Bentley, Pam Brownlee, DiAnne Cordell, Ed Flynn, David Harris, Julie Harris, Dick Metzler, Suzanne Newsom, Sam Ryburn, Fred Spano, Maggie Thrasher, Andy Wertz, and Eric Winkenwerder

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 Team. People supporting the Communion Guild in 2021 included Tracie Northan, Joy Vickers, Jenny Sauda, Emily Cox, Karey Tom, Bettye Sue Newsom, and Pat Wheatley. Nancy Smith shared her knowledge with new preparers of communion. Worship at Selwyn in 2021 was a hybrid of both online and in person services. Ed Flynn, David Harris, and Sam Ryburn faithfully provided A/V support. Outdoor services were offered in the Spring and Summer. Social distancing was practiced, and masks were required for all who chose to worship in person. Barbara Yurkutat coordinated the Thanksgiving display. The Advent Season of 2021 was a busy one. Suzanne Newsom coordinated the readings for each Sunday of Advent. Pam Brownlee and Julie Harris decorated the sanctuary. Nancy Nutter, Fred Spano, and Selwyn Sunday School teachers guided the children through the Christmas pageant. On Christmas Eve, a third service was added to accommodate the requirement of social distancing, with communion offered at the 5:30pm service. Andy Wertz has been coordinating ushers and Ashlee Anderson made sure that Host Elders were lined up to greet our worshipers in person.

Music Director Dr. Fred Spano and Organist Dr. Gay Pappin coordinated music that underscored the message of our worship. The Chancel and Handbell Choirs provided their musicianship along with guest musicians rounding out the sound. We continued to welcome regular paid singers such as Ivey Cherry and Eddie Kennedy. The Children's Choir began to meet again and sing in worship services. Two different Harris families (Charles and Ellen, David and Julie) hosted social events for potential choir members in the Summer of 2021. Dick Metzler led the charge for the purchase of new hymnals through the generous donations from SAPC members. Old hymnals were offered to church members to take home for their personal use.

Selwyn hosted various preachers and guests in 2021: We welcomed the return of Dr. Rush Otey to our pulpit as we were able to celebrate his retirement and hear him preach in person once again. Other guests included, Rev. Frank Spencer, Dr. Lee Hinson Hasty, Dr. Steve Eason, and Dr. Bob Dunham. The Worship Group looks forward to adding new members who feel led to serve as ushers, communion preparers, on the technology team or as choir members.

## 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.

The Presbyterian Women organization is comprised of five circles which meet to explore issues of faith and to enjoy fellowship. Women choose which Circle they want to join depending on times of meetings, study materials and common interests. Currently we have circles meeting on the first Monday afternoon, the first Tuesday morning, the first Tuesday evening, the second Tuesday evening of the month and one every Wednesday morning. 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.

Monetarily the PW contributes to: A Child's Place, Alexander Youth Network, Charlotte Family Housing, Communities in Schools, Crisis Assistance Ministries, Lakewood Preschool, Loaves and Fishes, Dove's Nest and the Mary Bowman Mission Fund. Circles may choose to support these organizations with projects and collections. During this difficult time members have reached out to support the Roof Above meals, Montclair food pantry and the Christmas Mission Tree.

As a part of the Presbyterian Church USA, 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 used to support the mission work of Presbyterian Women around the world.

We 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. Women from all around the world participate by donating their "least coin". This money is used to support PW projects benefiting women and children around the world.

The PW Honorary Life Membership was awarded to Townley Moon in 2021. This award is conferred upon a woman for recognition of faithful service in the work of Presbyterian Women and Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church. Women who receive this award inspire us to go beyond ourselves to serve others.

The 2021 year brought challenges which did not allow us to have the luncheons and general meetings which we usually enjoy. We look forward to the time when we will be able to share a meal and have interesting speakers again.