

Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church

February 26, 2017

Congregational Meeting



2016 BIRTHS

Child	Birth Date	Parents
Dane William Franklin	August 15, 2016	Todd and Maggie Franklin
Julia Kathryn White	September 11, 2016	Jon and Katie White
Reese Isabelle Horton	November 7, 2016	Todd and Katie Horton
Banks John Ollek	November 7, 2016	Josh and Sarah Ollek
Hattie Grace Yearwood	December 5, 2016	J. D. and Jamie Yearwood

2016 CHILD/INFANT BAPTISMS

Child	Date	Parents
Parker Reid Horton	January 3, 2016	Todd and Katie Horton
Easton Thomas Wheatley	January 17, 2016	Scott and Heather Wheatley
William McCall Rossi	February 14, 2016	Joe and Elizabeth Rossi
Ann Leslie Miller	February 21, 2016	Hunter and Catherine Miller
William Timberlake Newcomb	February 28, 2016	Lake and Barbara Newcomb
Harrison Lathan Rea	March 6, 2016	Ryan and Sarah Rea
Patrick James Finein	March 13, 2016	Tim and Janice Finein
Eleanor Grace Finein	March 13, 2016	Tim and Janice Finein
Riley Ann Battle	April 24, 2016	Charles and Emily Battle
Tyler Harrison Smith	June 19, 2016	Daniel and Andi Smith
Audrey Rae McCallum	June 26, 2016	David McCallum and Jennifer Welsh
Addison Fiona Bahr	August 7, 2016	Chris and Mai-Lis Bahr
Christian Lawrence Dusky	November 13, 2016	Jim and Cameron Grist Dusky

IN MEMORIAM

Alton "Al" Marvin Faires	February 16, 2016	Elder Emeritus and Deacon
Kenneth Royster Smith, Jr.	February 21, 2016	
Mary Murray Davis	June 1, 2016	
Lois Sewell Jordan	August 2, 2016	

2016 NEW MEMBERS

Charles and Emily Battle, daughter Riley
Todd Muldrew

Jennifer Parks, husband Mason Stankovic, and daughter Mackenzie

Elizabeth Rossi, husband Joe, and son William

Daniel and Andrea Smith, son Tyler

Leigh Smith, husband Richard and son Ford

Andy and Katie Sontag, son John

Ray and Karey Tom, daughter Evie

Jennifer Welsh, daughter Audrey McCallum

Bob Yeterian and Aiping Ying, daughter Carina

2016 CONFIRMANDS

Amanda Barkley

Keller Bentley

Jackson Burbank

Jonah Cameron

Lily Cann

Alex Flowers

Emma Hatlem

Olivia Madigan

Jack Malloy

Samantha Salton

Libby Stuart

Megan Tibe

MEMBERS WHO TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER CHURCH

Jim and Betsey Macholz, Maisie and Liza to South Mecklenburg Presbyterian, Charlotte

Allison Buchy, Charlie and Gabriel to Christ Episcopal Church, Charlotte

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD

Nancy Bobbitt on April 17, 2016

WEDDINGS

Jean Martin Grist and Marion Buchanan at Selwyn on February 6, 2016

Meg Morrison and Ty Peebles on June 25, 2016

GROUPS AND COMMITTEES

2016 - 2017

ADMINISTRATION GROUP

Moderator: Bill St. George

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

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER GROUP

Moderator: Jodie Bolewitz

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FORMATION GROUP

Moderator: Todd Muldrew and Connie Gragnani

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

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE GROUP

Moderator: Peggy Hormberg and Christy Parbst

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

MISSION GROUP

Moderators: Sara Moreau and Ellen Harris

Committees: Homelessness, Hunger, Children in Need

WORSHIP GROUP

Moderators: Joy Vickers

Committees: Congregational Worship and Music

ADMINISTRATION

Planning In 2016 the personnel sub-committee of the Planning Committee successfully changed the terms of call of Lori Raible and Mary Bowman. The facilities sub-committee identified the deferred maintenance needs of the church to begin in 2017 as the 75th Anniversary Fund dollars are collected. A separate committee was formed to develop a conceptual drawing of the front entrance, chapel and office space renovation which is also part of the 75th Anniversary Fund. This was executed by Jim Williams and his team at LS3P. The committee interviewed three architecture firms and engaged McClure, Nicholson and Montgomery who began in January 2017.

Property and Maintenance 2016 was a busy year for the Property and Grounds committee. In addition to managing regular maintenance and occasional urgent repair, much time was invested with the Anniversary Fund Planning Committee. We look forward to an exciting 2017 when we expect to make long-delayed repairs to the roofs of the Fellowship Hall, Bowman Building and the Chapel, as well as improvements to the boilers and water heating systems. Property and Grounds will also be heavily involved in the implementation of the renovation plans.

Personnel Selwyn experienced key personnel changes this year. Reverend Lori Raible was moved to a full-time called Pastor and designated as Co-Pastor with Reverend Rush Otey. Reverend Mary Bowman was moved to a part-time called Associate Pastor for Mission. During 2017, the Personnel Committee will establish dedicated staff/committee relationships, update job descriptions for the entire staff, replace the Youth Director, and assist in the formation of a communications role. The goal of the Personnel Committee remains alignment with other areas of the church that ensures cohesion between congregational expectations, needs, and individual staff development.

Finance and Stewardship SAPC's financial condition improved considerably during 2016 as a result of initial receipts from the \$1.8 million Anniversary Fund, breakeven operations in the General Fund, and market appreciation on our investment accounts. A shortfall in General Fund pledge receipts of \$39,630 was offset by a \$51,698 excess in non-pledge contributions, while General Fund expenses were in line with budget. We paid down additional principal of approximately \$25,000 on the Bates House mortgage with proceeds from a generous non-pledged gift designated for that purpose. Looking ahead, the proposed General Fund budget for 2017 includes total income of \$819,000 (an 8% decrease from 2016 primarily attributable to a \$90,000 reduction in budgeted pledge receipts) and total expenses of \$862,584 (a 4% decrease from 2016, primarily attributable to anticipated pay-off of the Bates House mortgage with Anniversary Fund proceeds). The \$43,584 deficit in the General Fund will be covered by transfers from the Anniversary Fund which was included in that budget for personnel and communications matters. The proposed budget for 2017 reflects the continued investment in our personnel, our congregation, and the future growth, life, and mission of our church as set forth in the Anniversary Fund vision.

Communications Conversions to new membership database and finance software began in 2016 and are still in progress. Once this software is up and running, the Communications Committee will develop a new church website for the membership and the general public and a church mobile app to facilitate communications and knowledge of events and activities among the congregation. Over the past year, we have also increased our use of social media, especially Facebook, to share information about and photos of upcoming events. A QR code was created to make it very easy for people to follow our Facebook page.

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 5:30pm Monday through Friday with a late room for an additional fee. Beth Sharpe continues as the center's director and Kristie Hennessey, who started with the CDC in August, 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 through the NC Star Rated Licensing System.

The Selwyn CDC currently has 100 children enrolled in classes from newborn through transitional kindergarten. Twenty of these children are from sixteen families that are also members of SAPC. These families are active and supportive advocates of the CDC.

The CDC employs twenty-two full-time teachers, two 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 three staff members enrolled in this program.

The *Creative Curriculum* continues to be implemented. It 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 Miss Holly 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 CDC board includes three elders, the minister, 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. We strive to have a representative from the church 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 2016 was \$1,217,880. The newly approved budget by the CDC Board and the Session for 2017 is \$1,363,461. 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 attendance and thoughtful conversation in our four Sunday School classes, five Bible studies, and Thursday evening worship service. Our Adult Sunday School enjoyed its sixth full year of using the intergenerational adult team of teachers, who led our classes through the discussions of faith and marriage, parenting, and politics in the spring. In the fall, our congregation embarked on a reflection on "Words to Live By." Preaching and teaching were coordinated each week to allow more in-depth considerations of those topics. Other adult offerings include five pastor-led Bible studies, a weekly men's group, and several women's circles, all of which provide members the opportunity to discuss Biblical themes and their applications to everyday life. Continuing this year was "The Well," programming on Thursday evenings, which included a community dinner and a brief worship service focusing on storytelling led by diverse members of the Charlotte community.

Youth Ministries continued under the leadership of Erin Mills and the volunteer youth Sunday School teachers, parents, and youth shepherds. High school and middle school youth met for Sunday School each Sunday. Middle school youth continue to study the Bible using the Feasting on the Word curriculum, while high school youth studied current events and how those events are related to scripture and have an impact on their everyday lives. High school youth also planned and taught 5th grade Sunday School once a month in the spring. In March, our 8th grade youth were confirmed by the Session into membership following eight months of study and reflection and presentation of faith statements. The middle and high school groups (the Selwyn Sardines) met most Sundays for programs, service projects, and fellowship. The Sardines 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. During the summer, sixteen high school youth and nine chaperones traveled to Rutherford County, NC for a week, where they worked for the Appalachia Service Project making two homes drier, warmer and safer. They returned to Montreat for the High School Youth Conference in July. Youth families enjoyed a whitewater rafting trip in late summer.

Children's Christian Education Children explored Scripture using SparkHouse Curriculum, and were grouped in Nursery, K/1st grades, 2nd/3rd grades and 4th/5th grades. Families were given the opportunity to incorporate each week's scripture lesson into everyday life through the SparkHouse Family Page. We have also worked closely with parents through a series of multi-week lessons on subjects such as prayer, reading the Bible, and how to worship. In June, our VBS theme was Water All Around the World, and we met at Fellowship Point, Lake Norman. Children heard Bible stories, sang songs, played games, made crafts, and met children all around the world who have limited access to safe water. They learned we all have responsibility for the goodness of Creation and for the care of others. Our Children and Mission team held our first Camp Habitat, which had centers in which the elementary-age children did crafts and participated in activities related to Habitat for Humanity. Our Children and Fellowship team hosted our first Spring Fling in April. This event included our CDC families and involved live music, food trucks, nature crafts, planting pots, water play, giant bubbles, face painting, our very own beekeeper and a table with books on earth care. The team also hosted our Advent Workshop the first Sunday in Advent. The event included making Advent wreaths, Christmas cards, and ornaments. Our Christmas pageant featured eight readers. We continue to offer children's worship in the Chapel during worship with one small change, we now return immediately following the sermon so the children can participate in the offering.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Members: Joy Berry, Lori Burbank, Andy Burgin, Rebecca Cooper, Peggy Hornberg, Susan Lohr, Catherine Miller, Townley Moon, Sally Moore, Katy Shoemaker, Rebecca Thompson, Christy Parbst, Laura Patton, Deni Pifer, Anne Rutherford, Lou Waple, and Shelley Waple

The Congregational Life Group continues to live out and focus on our theological themes of being intentionally intergenerational, hospitable, and inclusive. It is our desire to lead and invite members and visitors into the life and community of Selwyn for a deeper sense of belonging.

Seven Care Teams of 12 members each led by Susan Lohr and Rebecca Thompson provide a meal or funeral reception for a bereaved family, a dinner for new parents, and casseroles which ministers take on home visits when appropriate. Selwyn is known for its warm and comforting receptions with delicious food. Helping Hands connects members in need of some form of assistance with members who can help with practical support such as food or carpools. Over 120 members are actively involved in congregational care. Selwyn is truly a caring congregation.

The Fellowship Committee led by Lori Burbank and Shelley Waple focused on eight 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 were the Men's Pancake Breakfast, Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday dinners, Easter Breakfast, and Christmas Breakfast. We are thankful to the adult Sunday School classes and other groups for being in charge of one event each year. The Fellowship Committee assists, advises and supports at all events as needed and hosts several smaller events.

The Membership Committee led by Laura Patton and Rebecca Cooper held orientation classes to inform newcomers about the polity and beliefs of Presbyterians and the mission of our church. New member literature has been created and is in bulletins and pews. New member dinners welcome them into a home setting to socialize with staff and the committee. Christy Parbst leads a group of 12 volunteers who are Doorstep Visitors. They are divided by zip codes to drop by visitors' homes and take cookies or a Selwyn mug, and let them know how much we appreciated their visit. This shows the welcoming nature of Selwyn. The Member Engagement team ensures that each church member is encouraged to participate in the study, fellowship and mission of the church. Each family is placed in a Spirit Group. These small groups are a way to get to know members on a more personal basis over a shared meal. They meet twice each year for fellowship and where friendships are forged. A Young Adult Council has been formed to help young adults assimilate into the life of the church. Activities and shared meals will aid these 20-40 year olds in getting to know each other and forming lasting friendships. Catherine Miller leads this group.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry led by Anne Rutherford creates shawls which are blessed by the group and distributed to those undergoing difficult times. The group has 10-12 members who share their knitting talents which have resulted in 140 prayer shawls over the years.

More than 120 members of all ages traveled to Montreat in the spring for the Churchwide Retreat.

MISSION

SAPC continued its intergenerational mission effort in the following areas:

Hunger:

- For the seventh year, Selwyn members of all ages participated in Stop Hunger Now. We raised over \$9000 to purchase meals, and 200 Selwyn members packaged approximately 30,000 meals for the ORPHANetwork in Nicaragua and Vietnam.
- In May Selwyn collected 394.6 pounds of food to be distributed to Montclair families during the summer, a time when children do not have access to free school meals.

Homelessness:

- Selwyn members installed drywall at two Habitat for Humanity houses in October. New in 2016 was Camp Habitat for kids while parents participated at the work site.
- We continued our partnership with the Urban Ministry Center by hosting Room in the Inn for 12 homeless neighbors each Monday night during the winter months. Approximately 180 members volunteered as chefs, servers, pianists, supply shoppers, lunch packers, foot washers, overnight hosts, van drivers, bed makers, clean up crew, and laundry deliverers.
- The Mission Christmas Tree gave Selwyn members opportunities to supply our Room in the Inn ministry. Members also had opportunities throughout the year to contribute to Welcome Home Kits for people moving into new housing through HousingFirst.

Children in Need:

- Selwyn has a 16-year relationship with Montclair Elementary School, a high poverty school with a mostly Latino population. In 2016 twenty of Selwyn's members volunteered as tutors (North Star Reading Partners, Augustine Literacy Project, HEART math tutoring), as teacher helpers, as book club leaders, and as volunteers with Hope4Youth afterschool program. Presbyterian Women provided teacher appreciation gift bags in November. Montclair staff called on Selwyn throughout the year for one-time needs such as book drives, school uniforms, testing proctors, etc. We are grateful for our vibrant relationship.
- For the sixth year, Selwyn hosted Freedom School at Montclair. Freedom School provides a tuition-free program of reading, enrichment, and regular meals for six weeks of the summer to combat "summer slide" and to provide a safe environment for students. Over 100 Selwyn members made Freedom School possible for 85 students as DEAR readers, field trip chaperones, snack providers, supply shoppers, activity leaders, and financial contributors.
- For the second year, Montclair teachers requested items for their classrooms, and Selwyn members provided those educational items through the Mission Christmas Tree.

Mission Education:

- The Mission Group hosted several learning opportunities in 2016. In August a four-week discussion of Robert Putnam's Our Kids culminated with Sunday worship led by Dr. Ophelia Garmon-Brown, director of Charlotte's Opportunity Task Force. In February members participated in a poverty simulation led by Crisis Assistance Ministry. In August Mission Group members learned about the work of READ Charlotte.

Benevolent Giving:

- Selwyn contributed a total of \$62,925 to denominational and community partners working in our three focus areas of hunger, homelessness, and children in need.
- Selwyn members individually gave an additional \$28,000 to our Montclair Freedom School and \$9,000 to Stop Hunger Now.

WORSHIP

Members: 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 and funeral service policies and staffing the Funeral Assistance Teams. Selwyn is looking for volunteers to expand the Funeral Assistance Teams.

We praise the work of the Communion Guild - led by Sarah Salton (chair), Emily Cox, Susan Lemmon, Townley Moon, Sally Moore, Nancy Smith, and Mary Ward. This amazing group is responsible for obtaining and maintaining communion supplies, set up and clean up.

Our committee is appreciative Eric Winkenwerder is coordinating and maintaining the weekly Usher Schedule. Eric has continued to expand ushering opportunities to include families, groups within the church, confirmands and their mentors, and others. It is exciting to see many new faces ushering.

We continue to be very grateful to Sam Ryburn's good care and talent in operating our sound system for worship services (this includes recording of the services). Under Sam's apprenticeship is Joe Raible, in addition to David Caldwell and John Barkley. This year we were able to purchase six additional assisted hearing devices to replace several older ones that no longer worked.

In April, Lisa McLennan was ordained as a minister, now serving at Union Presbyterian Seminary as well as being Parish Associate at Selwyn.

We couldn't provide the flowers as we do, if it wasn't for Willa May Young. She faithfully handles the care of the weekly sanctuary flowers, as well as special flowers for services (to include Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias). Her continued dedication is a blessing to us all. Jill Cann provided a wonderful Harvest Table for the Sunday before Thanksgiving; a bountiful reminder of all we have to be thankful for.

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 sanctuary windows. We are thankful to Julie Harris and Eric Winkenwerder for assisting with the quilts, wreaths, and the Glens for the exterior decor. A special thank you goes to the Presbyterian Women for providing the Advent Wreath. This Christmas Eve we had two services, 10am service and a 5:30pm candlelight service with Communion.

The Music Ministry continues to thrive and support worship. This year Ellen Harris augmented the participation of our youngest members by organizing a preschool choir. The Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir continue to grow in their musicianship to serve and enhance worship for all congregants. Guest musicians facilitated the annual Jazz Service for Rally Day, as well as for special services throughout the liturgical year. Many youth have shared their musical talents on piano, violin, cello, and in song. Adrian Fullerwinder continues to be our scholarship singer in the Chancel Choir's tenor section, and also presented solo music for worship, both classical and contemporary. Several members of our choir have also participated as soloists.

"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" Psalm 95:6

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 PW luncheon April 17, 2016, Nancy Bobbitt was honored as the recipient of the PW Honorary Life Member for 2016. 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.

At the luncheon, our own Mary Bowman spoke movingly using as her theme *Come to the Waters*, which is the title of our study book for the year. We left our luncheon with hopes of connecting with all women in our church family and sharing our stories, bringing us closer to each other in service to Christ.

The women and elementary aged children of the church gathered on November 6, 2016 to have lunch and to make cards, decorate gift bags and then fill them with all the items we collected for the staff at Montclair Elementary School. This gave everyone a chance to start off the holiday season with an opportunity to honor those who make such a difference in the lives of the students. The bags were delivered to an enthusiastic staff just before the holiday break, 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 for January and February we will collect items for our Room in the Inn program.

We will also continue to support the following organizations with items needed: Center of Hope - Salvation Army Women's Shelter (December), St. Luke's Center for People with Special Needs (March) and Freedom School (April).

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 collected is used to support 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.