



THE SELWYN SPIRE

August 2020

Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church

2929 Selwyn Avenue Charlotte, NC 28209, Tel: 704-372-6836, www.selwynpres.org

Dear Selwyn Friends,

Since the pandemic began, Rob and I have been spending more time on our front porch. It is my favorite room. With nowhere else to go it is safe to say we have a deeper appreciation for the sacredness of all that surrounds us. Early morning coffee as the dog walkers and commuters' bustle by, the occasional socially distant porch meeting, late evening sunsets amongst the cicada, and nighttime thunderstorms. The willow oaks, tower over the homes in our neighborhood. It's not that we didn't spend time on our porch before the pandemic, it's just now it seems to matter so much more. It is the only place we interact with neighbors and friends. All of our other spaces have been cleared out, disoriented, emptied.

Charlotte has lost 45% of its tree canopy over the last few years. Most of the largest trees were planted eighty or even one hundred years ago. Heavy rains drench the shallow root systems to the point of upending the oldest and most majestic. Over the last several months many of our ancient trees have tipped over, wiping out homes and cars all over the city. Sometimes I worry about the old tree that shades our home and our children who sleep upstairs. We have become more familiar with grief and gratitude over these last several months.

Yet, all this space has made way for the small blessings of daily life. For me, I try to accept the daily invitation offered by a symphony of morning birds: "Look toward the sky," they sing! Even if only for a moment, with all of this space, what might God be calling us to consider? How might God be calling us to reorient our lives and our priorities?



The Sanctuary at Selwyn Avenue is empty. The classrooms are empty. Our new chapel and parlor and workroom and library are empty; but our roots are deep and strong. Our session and staff have been considering God's call for SAPC. Our perspectives and vision have been reformed by the storms around us, and there is so much room to serve, move and grow.

Last Sunday evening, Selwyn's youth who are graduating seniors from high school gathered on the front lawn with their families for worship. We wore masks and spread out. We prayed. We lit candles. We grieved hardships and losses. We laughed and gave thanks to God for their baptisms and God's many blessings in their lives. It felt good to worship together, and somehow the empty lawn was filled with God's Holy Spirit and made sacred.

Soon, we will share with you some hopeful plans for how we, Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church, will gather (safely) online and in person for worship on the lawn this fall. Our efforts will not be perfect but look for invitations to help launch new worship formats, youth and children's programming and mission partnerships. So much has changed, but I invite you to consider the empty spaces ahead of us and how God might be calling us to fill them. Our roots are strong, and our wings are rested. We will need your energy, imagination, intelligence and love as God' calls Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church toward a future of possibility and hope.

Happy are those who... delight in the law of the Lord. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper. ~ Psalm 1

SAPC STAFF

Lori Raible, *Pastor*
Lisa McLennan, *Parish Associate*
Fred Spano, *Director of Music*
Gay Pappin, *Organist*
Margo Richardson, *Director for Youth/Young Adults*
Beth Sharpe, *Director of Child Development Center*

Marsha Cooper, *Church Administrator*
Lawson Caldwell, *Administrative Assistant*
Tonya Moore, *Church Accountant*
Reba Hardaway, *Accounting Administrative Assistant*
Jessica Masanotti, *Communications Specialist*
Steve Stevenson, *Facilities Coordinator*

GROUP CHAIRS

Administration - Lou Waple
Child Development Center - Clark Walton
Christian Education & Formation- Erin Mills/Allison Tibe
Congregational Life - Emily Battle/Deni Pifer
Mission - Susan Flynn
Worship - Suzanne Newsom

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



We welcome

Thomas Alexander Zande,
son of Steve and Jessie Hahn Zande,
grandson of Rick and Eleanor Hahn
born on July 3, 2020

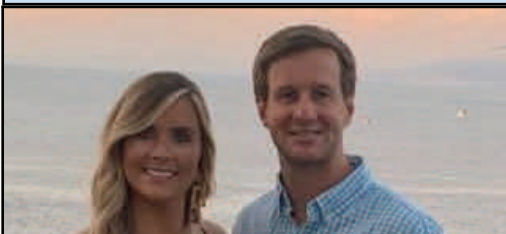


We welcome

Evelyn Nicole Guffey,
daughter of Josh and Brittany Guffey,
born on July 6, 2020

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

On July 26 we welcomed
Brandi and TJ Milewski.



YOUTH NEWS

Margo will send Zoom links via email and post to Instagram. Other small group events will be held on the front lawn with social distancing and the use of masks. Contact [Margo](#) to register or with any questions.

- Welcome 6th Grade/Middle School Picnic and Tie Dye Party, August 6, 6:30pm, front lawn.
- Virtual Game Night, August 7, 6pm.
- High School Dinner, August 10, 7pm.



Senior High Recognition Worship Service was held the evening of July 26.

BACK TO SCHOOL ALL-CHURCH TRIVIA NIGHT, AUGUST 16

A virtual "battle of the Sunday School classes" but everyone is invited to play via Zoom on Sunday, August 16, 5-6pm. [Sign-up](#) to play. Questions contact [Margo](#).

SAPC BOOK CLUB will meet
Tuesday, August 18, from 7-9pm,
on Zoom.

This month's selection is
Next Year in Havanna
by Chanel Cleeton.

Questions contact [Nancy Bobbitt](#).



WORKING TO STAY CONNECTED

If you are a Selwyn member and not receiving our weekly email, please email [Marsha Cooper](#).

With parent permission, we would also like to add email addresses of Middle and High School youth. Thank you!



In Nursing or Retirement Homes

- Aldersgate - Dick Metzler
- Asbury Health Center - Dottie Metzler
- Carriage Club - Mildred Long, Herman Thomas
- Charlotte Square - La Melle Hagerty
- Merrywood- Jo Caldwell
- Plantation Estates - Anne McMackin, Cara Munday, Anne Rutherford
- Sharon Towers - Richard and Joan Foard
- Southminster - Art Jones, Bobbye Linn
- The Cypress - Bill and Nancy Budd, Bobby Davis, Olen and Nancy Smith
- Waltonwood Cotswold - Mary Faye Proctor

Births

- Charlee Grace Dusky, granddaughter of Marion and Jean Buchanan, on July 9, 2020
- Emmett Franklin Zakutansky, grandson of Frank and Melanie Spencer, on June 29, 2020

YOUR CONTINUED STEWARDSHIP AND PLEDGES

are much needed and celebrated. Thank you to all who have embraced the new online **Text to Give platform**.

Instructions for using:

- Text 704-734-9818.
- Enter an amount.
- The first time you will be prompted to SHELBY to confirm set up.
- From then on, it is as easy as texting the amount to the number with or without a key word.
- Key words are:
 - GIVE (an offering to SAPC's general fund)
 - COVID (a special offering in response to the needs of Montclair Elementary and Roof Above)
 - 75 (a gift to the Roots and Wings fund)
- You DO NOT need a key word if giving to the 2020 annual fund.

MISSION

We continue to respond to needs related to children in need, hunger and homelessness. Please email [Lisa McLennan](#) with any questions.

- Augustine Literacy Project invites you to participate in a Virtual Information Session on July 30 at 10:30am via Zoom. [Register](#) for the session or to learn more contact [Helen Hope Kimbrough](#).
- Homelessness: We are focusing on immediate needs for Roof Above. Their requests change daily and are updated on their [website](#). If interested, please order from their Amazon list and ship directly to them.
- Hunger and Children: You may contribute funds via our website online giving portals to buy grocery store gift cards for Montclair Elementary families. Our food pantry will resume after school starts.

WORSHIP

WELCOME REV. FRANK SPENCER, AUGUST 2, 10:30AM VIRTUAL WORSHIP

Frank has been the President of the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church since July 2014. Selwyn is his home church, where he served as elder and teacher and seminary intern, and where he was ordained by the Presbytery of Charlotte on February 7, 2015.

He earned his Master of Divinity at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte. He holds a B.A. with honors in German from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and is a Baker Scholar graduate of Harvard Business School. Prior to joining the Board of Pensions, he served as President and CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Charlotte and 15 years in healthcare real estate with Cogdell Spencer Inc. He has also served as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Montreat Conference Center and as a member of the NEXT Church National Strategy Team.

Frank is married to Dr. Melanie Davis Spencer, and their adult children are Aly and Brian Zakutansky (sons Samuel and Emmett) of New York City and Clark and Jenifer Gobie Spencer of Charlotte.



Join us as the most beloved and adventurous Bible stories capture our imaginations and pierce our hearts.

[The schedule of stories are available on the website.](#)

Worship is livestreaming on Facebook and Instagram each Sunday 10:30am. A link is sent at 10:15am each Sunday via email to members and is available on our website.



Listen to past sermons, children's Chapels, community discussion, and more.
[Click to hear on Spotify](#) and [click to hear on Apple Podcast.](#)



Chapel is hosted live on Thursdays, 9:30am on the SAPC Facebook page.

Join us for songs, prayer, crafts, and creative Bible stories as we share **"The Greatest Stories Ever Told"** with the children.



COMMUNION will be served on August 23.

We invite you to check out our [children's resources.](#)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FORMATION



ADULT ONLINE BIBLE STUDIES AND CLASSES

Links to participate can be found at www.selwynpres.org.

* Selwyn Life Class, First and Third Sundays, 4pm. Contact [John Lemmon](#).

* Men's Group, Fridays, 7am

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| 1 John McCormick
Billy Wilson | 8 Raines Craig
Mary Faye Proctor
Joseph Vickers | 15 Dane Franklin
Channing Pfeifer | 24 Aidan Cameron
Raleigh Shoemaker | 29 Emily Battle
Todd Burbank
Michael Warner |
| 2 Marion Buchanan | 9 Channing Richards
Ledare Roush | 17 Jody Davison
Kim McGirt | 25 Fay Aaron
Sophia Hatlem
Trey Jeffries
Cindi Moore | 30 Olivia Madigan |
| 4 Nora Korch
Emery Korch | 10 Adam Tan | 18 Michael Bolewitz
Everett Burgin
Eleanor Finein | 26 Rick Hahn
Amelia Sauda
Owen Sauda | |
| 5 Lee Bobbitt
Polly Durham | 11 Anna Ellison | 19 Quinn Russell-Broadie | 27 Lisa Halstead
Mary Virginia Rockwell
Nelson Waple
Steve Ward | |
| 7 John Amon
Andy Johnston
Bobbie Linn
Kim Tallent | 13 Shelby Flowers
Brick McDermott
Brandon Tallent
Stuart Windell | 20 Kim Darnell
Terry Glen | | |
| | 14 Ann Miller | 21 Rudy Gagnani | | |
| | | 23 Peyton Green | | |

