

Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church Annual Congregational Report for 2020



2020 BIRTHS

| Child | Birth Date | Parents |
|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Reid Wilson McCorduck | January 22, 2020 | Jason and Britta McCorduck |
| Quinn Abigail Black | March 11, 2020 | Jeremy and Allison Black |
| Vincent Eli Piacentino | April 15, 2020 | Adam and Cindy Piacentino |
| Caroline Phipps Bourg | April 16, 2020 | Max and Katie Bourg |
| William Wooten Peebles | April 23, 2020 | Ty and Meg Peebles |
| Wyatt Flynn Sharpe | June 12, 2020 | Grant and Alyssa Sharpe |
| Collin Edward Black | June 23, 2020 | Will and Jenny Black |
| William Henry King | June 30, 2020 | Bailey and Hannah King |
| Thomas Alexander Zande | July 03, 2020 | Steve and Jessie Zande |
| Evelyn Nicole Guffey | July 06, 2020 | Josh and Brittany Guffey |
| Theodore Phillip Sutton | September 1, 2020 | Drew and Fran Sutton |
| Serena Laura Spencer | October 20, 2020 | Clark and Jenifer Spencer |
| William Nissim Phifer | December 21, 2020 | Nathan and Samantha Phifer |

2020 CHILD/INFANT BAPTISMS

| Child | Date | Parents |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Perry Jane Liles | February 2, 2020 | Welch and Morgan Liles |
| Henry James Widmer | March 8, 2020 | Seth and Laura Widmer |
| Frances Winscott Arnheim | October 18, 2020 | Toby and Courtney Arnheim |
| Annie James Yearwood | October 18, 2020 | J.D. and Jamie Yearwood |
| Ethan Austin Young | October 25, 2020 | Jason and Eliza Young |
| William Henry King | November 8, 2020 | Bailey and Hannah King |
| Wyatt Flynn Sharpe | November 15, 2020 | Grant and Alyssa Sharpe |
| Evelyn Nicole Guffey | November 22, 2020 | Josh and Brittany Guffey |

IN MEMORIAM

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------|
| Hiram Stanton Greene | January 14, 2020 | |
| Margaret Black Cunningham | June 15, 2020 | |
| Angie Williams Madigan | October 3, 2020 | |
| Donna Marie Todd | October 18, 2020 | |
| Channing Orr Richards | November 14, 2020 | |
| Dottie Dosse Metzler | November 22, 2020 | Elder |
| Kenneth Wellons Winston Jr. | November 23, 2020 | |

2020 NEW MEMBERS

John Amon
Jeremy and Allison Black
Max and Katie Bourg
Matt Claxton
Jonathan and Loren Korch, daughters Nora and Emery
Sebastian and Sally Marth, children Miles and Milly
TJ and Brandi Milewski
Jason and Eliza Young, son Ethan
Bobby and Barbara Yurkutat, daughters Anna Grace and Caroline

2020 CONFIRMANDS

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Addie Bahr | Marshall Pifer |
| Kaitlin Hall | Joe Raible |
| Margaret Harris | Ethan Randall |
| Lily Hart | Ledare Roush |
| Sophia Hatlem | Connor Simmons |
| Coleman Kiger | Lucy Stark |
| Patrick Madigan | Traver Stuart |
| Bea McLellan | Kacie Tibe |
| Emma Northan | Nicolas Vera |

Emma Hinson Waple

MEMBERS WHO TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER CHURCH

Whitney Greene Loder, husband Nick, son Mason, to Myers Park Presbyterian, Charlotte
Jonathan and Jessica Stewart, children Gray and Samuel, to University Presbyterian, Chapel Hill
Tony and Jane Windell, to Westminster Presbyterian, Charlotte

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD

September 20, 2020
Pat Wheatley

WEDDINGS

Matt Tugwell and Jacquelyn Buckner on May 16, 2020
Beth Long and Mark Swartz on May 21, 2020
Earl Oberbauer and Pamela Verrone on August 22, 2020
Mary Skibinski and Tony Spires on December 19, 2020
Tara Cameron and Paul Sanford on December 20, 2020

GROUPS AND COMMITTEES

2020 - 2021

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: Erin Mills and Allison Tibe

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

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE GROUP

Moderator: Emily Battle and Deni Pifer

Committees: Congregational Care, Care Teams, Fellowship, Membership

MISSION GROUP

Moderator: Susan Flynn

Committees: Homelessness, Hunger, Children in Need

WORSHIP GROUP

Moderator: Suzanne Newsom

Committees: Congregational Worship, Sacraments, Music, Host Elders

ADMINISTRATION

Finance SAPC's finances remained stable despite the challenges of the year. SAPC ended 2020 with an operating cash position of \$151,000. Pledge receipts for 2020 were 98% of the total amount pledged for the year and, along with generous non-pledge giving and receipt of PPP funding, allowed us to finish the year within \$10,000 of the budgeted annual income of \$921,000. Expenses were well below the 2020 budget, resulting in income exceeding expenses by approximately \$114,000. Anniversary Fund construction is complete. We are in the process of finalizing construction costs. The Anniversary Fund cash position ended the year with a net balance of \$29,000 and approximately \$950,000 drawn on the line of credit. The 2021 operating budget is being developed with a commitment to make wise financial decisions during a time of great change, while also remaining faithful to Selwyn's congregational life and mission.

Stewardship 2020 saw an impressive commitment from the congregation in fulfilling essentially all of their 2020 pledges. With the backdrop of a high degree of economic uncertainty, the 2021 Stewardship campaign kicked off with a message of hope and love, with an emphasis on how the church is supporting our members and our community while being unable to gather in person. The campaign included communications through email, social media and one on one outreach to individuals and small groups. As of January, the 2021 campaign has gathered \$626,342 in commitments from 108 households (18 net new). We are optimistic that we can exceed 2020's total pledge amount of \$689,540 with approximately 15 more pledges expected to be submitted from historically active givers.

Personnel With Rush's retirement in March 2020, we worked to honor him appropriately while also transitioning to a new head of staff in Lori. For Rush, we recommended to Session and Session approved several honorarium gifts, including the naming of the Chapel as the "Otey Chapel". We also recommended new terms of call for Lori as senior pastor to the congregation, which were also approved. We are excited for the future of Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian under her leadership. In addition, we were excited to hire and welcome Nancy Nutter as our new Director of Christian Education and Formation for Children and Families and Ashlee Anderson as an intern and our Christian Education and Formation Specialist. We have looked closely and carefully at our staffing needs in order to ensure that we have a long-term plan that serves the congregation in a financially responsible manner and intend to continue this work going forward.

Property and Maintenance Repair and maintenance of HVAC, landscaping, and grounds were largely routine and funded within the annual budget. We collaborated with the Mission team to finalize a project in early January to provide a reliable source of hot water for showers for our Room in the Inn guests. Several large trees were removed due to severe storms. We continue to work with the program staff to develop landscaping solutions for the front area of the church. In early November we replaced the HVAC servicing program staff offices.

Planning The interior and exterior renovation work were completed in early 2020! The beautiful new and improved facilities will support the mission and programming of SAPC for many years to come. In parallel with the delivery of the facility renovations, the Planning Committee finalized strategic recommendations centered around People, Place, and Programming. The recommendations were the result of a year-long effort to solicit extensive feedback and input from the congregation, staff, and church partners, and were presented to and adopted by the Session in early 2020. The feedback gathered during the listening campaign and the related recommendations have proven invaluable in informing church decisions throughout this time of change.

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 6 weeks to 6 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 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 (highest rating) through the NC Star Rated Licensing System.

The Selwyn CDC currently has 101 children enrolled in classes from newborn through transitional kindergarten. Twenty-six of these children are from 18 families that are also members of SAPC. These families are active and supportive advocates of the CDC.

The CDC employs 27 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 six 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. We look to resume offering music, Spanish, and Soccer Shots once it is safe to do so.

The 2020-21 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 2020 was \$ 1,530,015.96. The newly approved budget by the CDC Board and the Session for 2021 is \$1,670,665.00. The budget for the CDC stands on its own but requires Session approval.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FORMATION

Adult Ministries Our membership displayed active commitment, shifting to online models due to the pandemic. The Sunday School year began with a focus on cultivating community, exploring Jesus's vision of what life together is meant to embody. Covenant Class gathered for traditional, Biblically-based discussions of the Sermon on the Mount, the Life Class did a self-guided study using *Slow Church: Cultivating Community in the Patient Way of Jesus*, and Grace Class launched "From Words to Action: Living Faithfully in a Chaotic World", a study of forgiveness. Grace used the book *Grateful* by Diana Butler Bass in the spring. Kim Lee led a weekly evening study of Exodus early in the year. Rush Otey led a Bible study on the Book of Job and the Gospel According to Mark. We celebrated "Building Dedication Day" on February 2, with adults gathering for a conversation led by Reverend Frank Spencer on "The Church and Transitions". In-person Sunday School, studies, and Circles continued until March. Christian Education activities were temporarily suspended. Several groups moved to Zoom for study and fellowship in April. A new study, "Encounters With Jesus: A Study on the Gospel of John" began, using the book of the same name by Frances Taylor Gench. In the summer, members were invited to join Book Discussions where most were part of a larger commitment to anti-racism work within the congregation ("The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness", "I'm Still Here-Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness", "White Fragility", "The Water Dancer", "Still Life", "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane). The Men's Group has continued to meet for study, prayer and fellowship every Friday morning by Zoom. In the Fall other Zoom gatherings for fellowship and studies resumed.

Youth Ministries The youth enjoyed a High School ski trip and learning together during Sunday School and youth group. Middle School Sunday School explored the Old Testament using Spark House Bible curriculum. High School gathered for honest conversations about faith, sometimes joining adults for intergenerational discussions. In February, we welcomed a new Director for Youth and Young Adults, Margo Richardson. A successful Youth Sunday was held in February. Over 35 youth led worship by ushering, liturgy, preaching, and sharing their artistic and musical gifts. After an in-depth year of study, fellowship, mission, and discernment, nineteen confirmands were welcomed into membership. All summer trips were canceled due to COVID. Youth continued to connect virtually and socially distanced over the summer. Seniors were celebrated in an outdoor baccalaureate service. Youth continued to authentically commit throughout the pandemic, encouraging new and creative programming via virtual Bible studies, and socially distanced small groups, picnics, dinners, mission projects, intergenerational and Friday game nights, outdoor worship, liturgical art, and more! Some exceptional youth leaders helped keep us connected in our virtual world. Zachary Pineno (6th grader) created and gifted the church a stewardship video of Selwyn photos taken during this historical year. Andy Bentley (11th grade) spent weekly hours in the summer, creating and performing for the virtual children's chapel with Eric Winkenwerder, bringing Bible stories to life in creative ways. Maggie Thrasher (11th grade) faithfully served as Youth Elder, helping to plan and lead during this difficult time.

Children and Families Using a rotation model in Sunday School, the children explored Jesus and John the Baptist through March, then explored Jesus's disciples. Sunday School did not meet after March due to COVID. Weekly Chapel shifted to Zoom and then Facebook over the summer. Children's Choir, ages 3 - 2nd grade, met at the first of the year. Children and families hosted Room in the Inn on March 9. Due to COVID, Selwyn's Vacation Bible School was cancelled. We welcomed a new Director of Education for Children and Families, Nancy Nutter, on August 30 and she spent the next months getting to know the families. A drive-through "Blessing of the Backpacks" was held before school started. In November, sixty Advent Boxes were distributed to preschool and elementary families with devotionals, crafts and activities. A socially distanced Advent wreath workshop was held on the lawn November 29. In December, Advent stories were read and made available via podcast.

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. Instead, 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 led by Chris Bahr and Shannon Brown assessed the current membership process from first time visitors through joining, addressing how members are introduced to the church, ushered through the membership process and then integrated into fellowship. Clear action steps will be developed and volunteers recruited to implement proposed changes in 2021. Despite the pandemic, families have continued to seek membership at Selwyn and are attending virtual orientation discussions to get to know church life.
- The Fellowship Committee was unable to host its annual seven events, including the three major events (Spring picnic, Rally Day, and Christmas lunch).
- The Peace Class led by Emily Battle and Alyssa Sharpe kicked off what was intended to be a busy year of events with a different target audience each month. Starting with an all-women's dinner in January, followed by a couples night in February, the group then intended to have a March Madness men's event and a family Easter gathering. Over the past few months, the women of the Peace Class formed a new PW Circle focusing on fellowship and service. Socially distanced and/or virtual events were held in September, October, and November and included a SAPC Mission overview, an outdoor yoga class, and coordinating the holiday mission tree. Once in-person gatherings can resume, the PW Peace Circle and the Peace Class intend to pick up its events and gatherings to bring together those members roughly ages 28-40 and/or with young children.
- Congregational Care, led by Heather Smith and Emily Cox 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. This year the Care Teams also helped to coordinate outreach at Easter and Christmas, delivering bread, Easter lilies and poinsettias to members who were isolated or home-bound during COVID.
- The Prayer Shawl Ministry led by Anne Rutherford 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

In 2020 we began the year with business as usual.

Room in the Inn was happening and we were hosting twelve homeless neighbors each Monday night.

The Greater Enrichment Program (GEP) was in its first year at Montclair Elementary School and we were offering after school care and enrichment to 50 students there, with plans to increase to 100 for the summer full day program.

We were regulars at the school, offering multiple types of tutoring each week (Augustine Literacy Project, HELPS Reading, Heart Math) and seeking additional ways to support teachers and families.

Our food pantry for Montclair was up and running and we were sending food home each Friday with 35 children.

We were excitedly investigating ways to deepen our relationships with our ministry partners in areas related to homelessness, hunger and children in need.

In March, the pandemic hit.

Room in the Inn was postponed and still remains postponed and we have a tent city uptown. Schools closed and have barely returned to in person learning.

But our ministry partners have needed us more than ever. You have responded generously and quickly to emerging needs and opportunities.

Here is how we responded in 2020:

- We delivered 300 lunches to Roof Above every two weeks through the summer and 200 lunches once a month through the fall.

- We served meals once a week at an emergency COVID shelter for our homeless neighbors through the summer.

- We distributed \$100 grocery gift cards and two bags of food from our pantry to 40 Montclair families on three different occasions (March, August, and December).

- We applied for and received \$4500 in grant monies to supplement our food pantry distributions.

- We worked with Greater Enrichment Program (GEP), Montclair staff, our Session and Child Development Center to open our Fellowship Hall two to three days per week to be a site for remote learning and enrichment for Montclair families (up to 25 children). GEP also offered online support to students. This is still in effect and a huge gift to our Montclair families.

- Our Mission Christmas Tree yielded a Welcome Center full of gifts for our neighbors at Roof Above (gloves, hats, sleeping bags, blankets), Welcome Home items for those moving out of homelessness into a home, and classroom items for each teacher at Montclair.

- We participated in a Habitat for Humanity build in November.

- We fulfilled all of our budgeted and planned mission financial gifts to our ministry partners! This is a huge accomplishment in a pandemic, allowing our partners to provide ongoing support to those they serve.

WORSHIP – Congregational Worship and Music Groups

Members: Pam Brownlee, Lee Bobbitt, DiAnne Cordell, Julie Harris, Suzanne Newsom, Sam Ryburn, Fred Spano, Maggie Thrasher, 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. In 2020 we had three memorial services. We praise the work of the Communion Guild. Before the COVID shutdown members were Sarah Salton (Chair), Emily Cox, Susan Lemmon, Heather Smith, Nancy Smith, and Mary Ward. After March 8, our pastors served the Lord's Supper with prefilled communion cups.

Following the recommendations of the COVID Task Force, our worship services went online on March 15. Selwyn borrowed sound equipment to facilitate this experience and purchased a camera. Ten members learned how to mix sound and use the camera making online worship possible. Sam Ryburn and Joe Raible continue to support this effort on a regular basis, and we look forward to the newly trained tech crew's support in 2021. Selwyn began offering outdoor worship on the lawn when the weather permitted it in 2020. We welcomed guest musicians Kevin Brawley, Adrian Fullerwinder, and Josh Woodall to our new porch and patio that was an outdoor chancel for our worship. Eric Winkenwerder provided lighting and sound support.

We are grateful for all who volunteered to usher during our in person Worship services. For anyone attending a service in the sanctuary during the pandemic, information was available in the narthex for a screening. Selwyn provided thermometers and wipes for the required temperature check. Worship participants completed a form as a potential COVID-Tracing tool.

The Advent Season was a busy one. Julie Harris coordinated the readings for each Sunday of Advent. Pam Brownlee, Julie Harris, and Eric Winkenwerder decorated the sanctuary with the Advent quilt, candles, and greenery. Selwyn had two Christmas Eve Services indoors and online, one at 10:30am with a family and child focus, and a more traditional one at 5:30pm with candles and communion. The Blossom Shop provided our sanctuary floral arrangements. We are grateful to Willa May Young for her care of the flowers each week in early 2020. Barbara Yurkutat and Courtney McLellan created a festive cornucopia display for Thanksgiving.

Music Director Dr. Fred Spano and Organist Dr. Gay Pappin coordinate music that underscores the message of our worship. The faithful Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir provided their musicianship along with guest musicians who supported us in our Easter and Advent services, as well as our Jazz service. Willa May Young organized the music for the choirs. Several members support the music scholarship fund, which sponsored the talents of Ivey Cherry in our choir. Many youth shared their musical talents on instruments and in song. Ellen Harris was working with the younger children to provide choir until the COVID closure.

The Worship Group consists of many faithful members working behind the scenes and without whose stewardship our worship services would not flow smoothly. The 2020 Worship year was unlike any other. We enjoyed one guest preacher, Selwyn's own Frank Spencer, and missed a time to worship and express gratitude for the work of Dr. Rush Otey. This committee welcomes future support from anyone who feels led to serve as an Usher, a Communion Guild member, a Technology Team member, a Choir member, a Funeral Assistance Team member, or an Advent Decorator. We express thanksgiving to our Selwyn Staff in their worship planning and leadership.

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 are happy to report that we have added two groups to the roster bringing to a total of five groups in order to offer choices of times of meetings, study materials and common interests. All women are encouraged to be a member of one of the groups. During much of 2020 the Presbyterian Women Circles met the challenge of gathering by meeting via Zoom or outside using Covid precautions.

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 Urban Ministry meals, Montclair food pantry and the Christmas Mission Tree.

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.

During the worship service in September, Pat Wheatley was honored as the recipient of the PW Honorary Life Member for 2020. 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 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.

Selwyn PW's Circles meet monthly or weekly, 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.