



# Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church Congregational Meeting February 3, 2019



## 2018 BIRTHS

<b>Child</b>	<b>Birth Date</b>	<b>Parents</b>
Margaret Marion Peebles	February 4, 2018	Ty and Meg Morrison Peebles
Watson Alexander Phifer	April 22, 2018	Nathan and Samantha Phifer
Samuel Hudson Zakutansky	May 21, 2018	Brian Zakutansky and Aly Spencer
Charles Bailey King, III	June 8, 2018	Bailey and Hannah King
Grant David Byers	July 17, 2018	Jon and Mandy Byers
Sims Robert Gallagher	July 24, 2018	Ryan and Meredith Gallagher
Roman Michael Piacentino	July 30, 2018	Adam and Cindy Piacentino
Annelise Stone Guffey	November 7, 2018	Josh and Brittany Guffey
Samuel Dewar Stewart	November 8, 2018	Jonathan and Jessica Stewart
Sadie Jean Smith	November 16, 2018	Daniel and Andi Smith
Madeline Michelle Lindsey	November 24, 2018	Adam and Allison Lindsey
James Dawson Battle	December 16, 2018	Charles and Emily Battle

## 2018 CHILD/INFANT BAPTISMS

<b>Child</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Parents</b>
Howard Peyton Green V	January 21, 2018	Peyton and Alissa Green
Julia Kathryn White	January 28, 2018	Jon and Katie White
Alice Margaret Rossi	February 4, 2018	Joe and Elizabeth Rossi
Margaret Marion Peebles	April 1, 2018	Ty and Meg Morrison Peebles
Mary Watterson Arnheim	April 8, 2018	Toby and Courtney Arnheim
John Matthew Sontag	April 22, 2018	Andy and Katie Sontag
Andrew Martin Sontag	April 22, 2018	Andy and Katie Sontag
Grace Harmon Walton	May 27, 2018	Clark and Julia Walton
Miller Lee Walton	May 27, 2018	Clark and Julia Walton
Mary Hunter Miller	June 17, 2018	Hunter and Catherine Miller
Genevieve Cristina Jeffries	June 24, 2018	Trey and Georgine Jeffries
Watson Alexander Phifer	July 22, 2018	Nathan and Samantha Phifer
Charles Bailey King, III	November 11, 2018	Bailey and Hannah King
Sebastian William Hackman	November 25, 2018	Brian and Tate Hackman

## IN MEMORIAM

William "Bill" R. Yarbrough, Jr.	March 23, 2018	Deacon
William Edward "Ed" Hastings	July 11, 2018	
Louise Hobson Callaghan	October 30, 2018	Elder Emeritus

## **2018 NEW MEMBERS**

Chad and Shannon Brown, son Hugh  
Tate Hackman  
Hazel Hardwick  
John and Kathleen Hartley  
Adam and Allison Lindsey  
Jay Masanotti  
Evan and Jenny Sauda, children Owen and Amelia

## **2018 CONFIRMANDS**

Andi Bentley  
Campbell Burbank  
Everett Burgin  
Mollie McGirt  
Fletcher Moore  
Anna Stuart  
Maggie Thrasher

## **MEMBERS WHO TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER CHURCH**

Ned, Amy, Noah and Annie Carroll, to Myers Park Presbyterian  
Jeff and Katherine Davis, and children Grace, Daniel, and Sara, to Westminster Presbyterian  
Lake and Barbara Newcomb, and son Lake to Hayes Barton United Methodist, Raleigh, NC  
Mary Alyce Spencer, to The First Presbyterian Church of New York City, NY  
Bill and Peggy St. George, to First Presbyterian, Gainesville, GA  
Eli Winkenwerder, to First Presbyterian, Asheville, NC

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD**

April 29, 2018  
Beth Carter and Beth Ramsey

## **WEDDINGS**

Davis Hahn and Kiri Longa in Charlotte on April 7, 2018  
Mary Virginia Hahn and Stephen Rockwell in Athens, GA on June 2, 2018  
Jessie Hahn and Steve Zande in Cashiers, NC on November 3, 2018

# **GROUPS AND COMMITTEES**

## **2018 -2019**

### **ADMINISTRATION GROUP**

Moderator: Matt Baskerville

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

### **CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER GROUP**

Moderator: Jamie Yearwood

**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: David Caldwell and Ashley Armistead

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

### **WORSHIP GROUP**

Moderators: Pam Brownlee

**Committees:** Congregational Worship and Music

## ADMINISTRATION

Planning Renovations are well underway, after working through numerous code compliance issues for the critical egress at the South Corridor. We're currently wrapping up Phase 1 which included; a new sidewalk for the CDC, custom stairwell/exit, concrete ramp and railings to the sanctuary, widened corridor and exit area, updated bathroom near the fellowship hall, fire/life-safety upgrades, storage and A/V closets in the fellowship hall, plaster ceiling work, paint, and lighting upgrades in the Narthex along with the new bathroom. We've got a head start on Phase 2 with behind the scenes work being done in the light well area and structural work downstairs in the CDC. Phases 2 and 3 are expected to be complete by the end of the year and we can begin enjoying our updated Parlor, reception area/offices, Chapel, conference room, and outdoor space.

Property and Maintenance In addition to routine maintenance and repair effort and expenditures, significant costs were incurred to correct breakages in the hot water, A/C and heating systems. Most of the repairs were prompt and hopefully unnoticed by the congregation. Unfortunately we also had a large oak tree fall on the sanctuary steps during hurricane Florence which had to be cleared. Heavy rain in July caused water to enter the lower level of the church and CDC. Remediation necessitated by this event was covered by our property insurance. The house formerly located on the recently acquired property adjoining the Bates house lot was in poor structural condition, unsafe for occupancy, and had to be demolished.

Personnel 2018 was a productive year for the Personnel Committee at Selwyn. The committee moved Selwyn employees with written employment contracts to the same annual update cycle and completed a 5-year analysis on employee compensation. We were thrilled to welcome Reba Hardaway back to Selwyn on a part-time basis to support on-site accounting activities. In June, the Committee welcomed DiAnne Cordell as a new member and continued to build dedicated relationships with pastors and staff members, as well as support the Child Development Center.

Communications Jessica Masanotti, our Communications Specialist, continues to revitalize Selwyn communications. Her redesign of the weekly Selwyn News & Notes email not only looks incredible, it significantly increased engagement. The rate at which Selwyn members open the email is now approximately 33 percent higher than the industry standard. Likewise, Jess's work on the Selwyn website and social media platforms continue to tell our story in new ways to new audiences. In 2019, the Communications Committee will be focused on streamlining communications and sharing news from Selwyn through video and social media.

Finance and Stewardship SAPC's financial condition remained comparable to 2017. We ended 2018 with an operating account cash position of \$90,000 and total receipts of \$794,000, which was slightly below a budget of \$828,000. General Fund expenses were in line with the budget. Anniversary and other fund contributions were made as planned resulting in an overall budget shortfall of \$38,000 for the year. Anniversary Fund receipts remained strong again this year. Approximately 80% of total contributions have been collected. With construction underway, the anniversary fund cash position remains strong ending the year with a net balance of \$239,000. The 2019 budget is currently being finalized and the hope is to be able to continue the investment in our personnel, congregation, and future growth, life, and mission of our church.



## **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 103 children enrolled in classes from newborn through transitional kindergarten. Twenty-three of these children are from seventeen 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, 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, Spanish 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 2018-19 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 2018 was \$1,471,462. The newly approved budget by the CDC Board and the Session for 2019 is \$1,513,932. 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 with guided discussion in our four classes of three books: *Half Truths* and *Love to Stay*, both by Adam Hamilton, and *Anxious For Nothing*, by Max Lucado. This was followed by a combined-class Lenten Series on Selwyn's mission in our community, and a spring panel series on faith and transitions in our lives. In the fall, we consolidated our classes to prepare for expected impact of construction, with two offerings on character and faith, studying *The Character of Virtue* by Stanley Hauerwas and *The Road to Character* by David Brooks. Other adult offerings include our adult Faith Lab for practical discussions on life and theology, four pastor-led Bible studies, a bi-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.

Youth Ministries High school and middle school youth met for Sunday School each week. Middle school youth studied the New Testament using SparkHouse "CoLABorate Presbyterian" Bible curriculum. The 2019 confirmation class has been using the Presbyterian Confirmation version of the same curriculum. High school youth studied "IRL: Honest Conversations About Things that Matter," exploring challenging scriptures and Presbyterian theology, with an emphasis placed on navigating the Bible to find scripture. In April, our 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth were confirmed by the Session into membership. Youth have met Sundays for programs, service projects, dinner and fellowship. The youth have participated in Bible studies, enjoyed ski, beach, and river trips, hosted Room in the Inn, led worship on Youth Sunday, organized the Souper Bowl of Caring to raise money for the Urban Ministry Center, participated in the Rise Against Hunger and Habitat Build Day events, and planned and hosted a fall festival with the Child Development Center on the front lawn. This summer, 26 high school youth and 11 chaperones traveled to Tennessee for a week to serve the Appalachia Service Project to make five homes drier, warmer and safer. They returned to Montreat for the High School Youth Conference in July. Youth families enjoyed an end-of-summer pool party, as well as a trip to Aw Shucks Farm. Youth are also coming out to monthly game and movie nights.

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 VBS theme was Hero Central Vacation Bible School. Elementary-age kids went to Fellowship Point, Lake Norman and preschool-age kids met at Selwyn. Art, music, storytelling, recreation, science and mission conveyed the message that God enables us to do good, seek peace, and go after it. For mission last year, we held our third 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, despite being pushed to Epiphany due to inclement weather. We continue to offer children's worship during worship every Sunday, and the children learned several songs that they sang in worship service during the year. We also offer children's chapel for children in our Child Development Center every Thursday.

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

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

The Fellowship Committee led by Lori Burbank and Jennifer Daily focused on seven events throughout the year. The three major events (Spring picnic, Rally Day, and Christmas lunch) each hosted around 175 people. Other events enjoyed by the congregation during the year were the Men's Pancake Breakfast and a Maundy Thursday dinner. We are thankful to the volunteers for all of their help. The Fellowship Committee assists, advises and supports at all events as needed.

The Young Adult Council, led by Emily Battle, brought together 20 - 40 year olds for fellowship and mission throughout the year. The group will continue to bring young adults together to get to know each other and form lasting friendships.

The Membership Committee continued work in welcoming new members to our church and finding talents in current members. The New Member Committee is led by Rebecca Cooper and includes Heather Risko, Alyssa Sharpe, and Kat Hoskins. Prospective members were introduced to our congregation over a series of three Sunday morning meetings which gave an opportunity to learn about Selwyn through members and clergy. Doorstep Visitors continued welcoming visitors through front porch coffee mug delivery and is led by Deni Pifer. The Lenten Discipleship Survey was distributed for a second year, completed by our members, and passed along to our church committees to be used as an insight to where each member's greatest assets fit our community.

Congregational Care, led by Rebecca Thompson and Susan Lohr continued to support our members through seven Care Teams. The teams provided meals or funeral reception for a bereaved family, dinners and a baby blanket 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 distributed to those undergoing difficult times. The group has 10-12 members who share their knitting talents.

As a committee, we are continuing to look at new, innovative ways to create and strengthen community, within our congregation, across all generations. One way we are doing this is by incorporating official and unofficial socials into our calendar. We are looking to grow as a committee and a congregation throughout 2019.



## **MISSION**

2018 was an exciting and vibrant year in Selwyn's Mission areas of Children in Need, Homelessness, and Hunger. Here is a summary of our service to our community and the world:

**Children in Need** – *Children are indeed a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.* (Psalm 127:3): The majority of our work for children takes place at Montclair Elementary School with whom we have a long-serving relationship, which deepens each year. Montclair is a high-poverty school with a mostly Latino population. We live out our mission in the world befriending and serving with their community. This year we hosted the principal, literacy coordinator, teachers and students, who participated in Sunday School and worship. In addition, we provide tutors (Augustine Literacy Project, Heart, Helps), teacher partners, teacher appreciation, classroom support (through the Mission Christmas Tree), and partnership in Read Charlotte's Transformation Network. During the summertime, a demonstrated learning slide often occurs for low poverty students, so our sponsorship of a Freedom School at Montclair is critical. This intergenerational ministry increases the literacy rates of the children, provides a safe and stimulating environment, increases the students' confidence as learners, and feeds the children two meals and a snack. This year, we hosted 90 students.

**Homelessness** – *Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?* (Isaiah 58:7): Room in the Inn remains core to our mission. This year we hosted our homeless neighbors for Christmas Eve services and Christmas Day, as well as Monday evenings between December and March. This intergenerational ministry engages the entire Selwyn community. We continued to create Welcome Home Kits for the Housing First initiative to end chronic homelessness in Charlotte. Proceeds from the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Auction funded 38 kits. We again joined the Charlotte Church Partners' Habitat for Humanity build and ReStore in October and crew work throughout the year. Our children and youth participated in Camp Habitat and made benches for the home owners. When the Men's Shelter underwent a renovation, we made sandwich and took 150 lunches to feed residents of the shelter.

**Hunger** – *In reply He said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise."* (Luke 3:11): In January, Rise Against Hunger remained a popular, intergenerational mission to pack shelf stable, nutritionally complete meals that are distributed to the world's most vulnerable. In April and May Selwyn again held a food drive but shifted its recipient to Montclair students and families, via Loaves and Fishes, during the summer, a time when children do not have access to free school meals. Simultaneously, a book drive supported Habitat ReStore with adult books and Montclair with children's books to feed the mind as well as the stomach.

**Other Mission Notes** – *And He said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.* (Mark 16:15): (1) We contributed a total of \$113,977 to denominational and community partners across our focus areas. (2) The Mission Committee initiated a period of discernment in the fall of 2018 to review each focus area and to discern where God might be calling us – specifically, how might God be calling us outside our walls into more relationships of "being with/working with" rather than primarily "giving to/working for." This discernment is also intended to direct the use of the funds graciously provided through the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund. In November, several members of the Mission Committee took an exploratory trip to Baltimore to The Center, an outreach of the Baltimore Presbytery whose mission is *to inspire and equip churches and individuals to engage boldly with their neighborhoods - to get involved where Christ's love and justice are already at work.* This visit helped frame conversations within the focus groups about what "being with/working with" could look like for our Mission. The Mission Committee looks forward to presenting the results of this discernment in 2019.

## **WORSHIP**

Members: Pam Brownlee Cooper, David Harris, Julie Harris, Sam Ryburn, Sarah Salton, Fred Spano, Joy Vickers, Jim Williams, Eric Winkenwerder, DiAnne Cordell, Lee Bobbitt and Heather Smith.

The 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 Team. In 2018 we had two funerals. Selwyn is looking for volunteers to expand the Funeral Assistance Teams. We praise the work of the Communion Guild whose members are 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 are grateful for Sam Ryburn's talent and faithfulness in operating our sound system for services, which includes recording each service. Working along with Sam are David Caldwell, John Barkley and Joe Raible. The Congregational Worship committee consists of many faithful, long term members who work behind the scenes and without whose stewardship our worship services would not flow smoothly.

The Worship Committee is responsible for setting the Usher Schedule. We are grateful for all who volunteered to usher during our Worship services in 2018. Thank you to our Youth who provided usher teams for Worship one Sunday every month. We welcome anyone who would like to assist this group in 2019.

The Blossom Shop provided our sanctuary floral arrangements in 2018. We are grateful to Willa May Young for her continued dedication and care of the flowers each week. Donating the floral arrangements for Worship is one way in which Selwyn members are able to remember and honor people important to them and enhance the Sanctuary for worship.

The Worship Committee coordinates the readings each Sunday of Advent. Our thanks to Lee Bobbitt for scheduling readers for 2018. Our Advent season is enhanced each year by our beautiful Advent quilt, Advent wreath, sanctuary decorations and wreaths on the doors. We are thankful to Julie Harris and Eric Winkenwerder who assisted with the quilt and sanctuary decorations, as well as to Jim and Terry Glen who provide the exterior wreaths for the church doors every year. 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 5:30 pm candlelight service with communion.

The Music Ministry continues to thrive. The Director of Music and Church Organist work with the ministerial team to coordinate music to underscore worship and its message. The faithful Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir provide their musicianship to serve and enhance worship. Guest musicians facilitated the special services for Rally Day, Advent, Easter, and other special services. Choir members presented solos and small ensemble works, and more efforts on intergenerational worship continued to be realized. Many youth shared their musical talents on instruments and in song, and Ellen Harris worked with the children to provide special music. Several members supported the music scholarship fund. The kindness and generosity of Selwyn members are recognized to be the main ingredient in the success of the music program.

## **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 highlight of the year for Presbyterian Woman was naming two of our long standing, hardest working members as Presbyterian Honorary Life Members for 2018. This award is conferred upon a woman, or women, 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. Beth Carter and Beth Ramsey were honored during the worship service following the spring luncheon. Both women have been past moderators of PW. Beth Carter has served as a Deacon and is an Augustine Literacy Project tutor. Beth Ramsey has served as an Elder and is a member of the handbell choir. Both women are steady members of Care Teams. Between home visits, volunteering at Montclair Elementary, giving time and talent to the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary campaign and delivering prayer shawls, both ladies still find time to attend Bible study, volunteer at Room in the Inn and anchor Circle #4 each month with grace and love.

Fall of 2019 was dedicated to a restructuring in an effort to plan methods to boost membership in PW and return to an annual retreat.

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 supports the mission work of PW throughout the world.

Selwyn PW participates 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.