



# Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church

## Congregational Meeting-February 23, 2020



## **2019 BIRTHS**

### **Child**

Frances Winscott Arnheim  
Annie James Yearwood  
Cameron Cole Tan  
Perry Jane Liles  
Mason James Loder  
Henry Conrad Hahn

### **Birth Date**

July 7, 2019  
July 9, 2019  
July 30, 2019  
September 24, 2019  
September 28, 2019  
December 17, 2019

### **Parents**

Toby and Courtney Arnheim  
J.D. and Jamie Yearwood  
Adam and Kristen Tan  
Welch and Morgan Liles  
Nick and Whitney Loder  
Davis and Kiri Hahn

## **2019 CHILD/INFANT BAPTISMS**

### **Child**

Grant David Byers  
Annelise Stone Guffey  
Roman Michael Piacentino  
Samuel Dewar Stewart  
Madeline Michelle Lindsey  
Sadie Jean Smith  
James Dawson Battle

### **Date**

January 20, 2019  
February 17, 2019  
February 24, 2019  
March 3, 2019  
March 31, 2019  
April 28, 2019  
May 19, 2019

### **Parents**

Jon and Mandy Byers  
Josh and Brittany Guffey  
Adam and Cindy Piacentino  
Jonathan and Jessica Stewart  
Adam and Allison Lindsey  
Daniel and Andi Smith  
Charles and Emily Battle

## **IN MEMORIAM**

Val Jean Parks  
Ann Venable  
Jean Rea

March 5, 2019  
March 10, 2019  
May 16, 2019

## **2019 NEW MEMBERS**

Charles Jackson Harris  
Welch and Morgan Liles, daughters Harrison and Perry  
Seth and Laura Widmer, son Henry  
Justin and Kelly Wolf, daughters Cassidy and Stella

## **2019 CONFIRMANDS**

Camden Baskerville  
Anna Ellison  
Alex Johnston  
Cason Kiger  
Elizabeth Long  
Grant Malloy  
Althea Muldrew  
Reagan Patterson  
Annie Thompson  
Drayton Thrasher  
Jake Walker

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

Matt, Meredith, Davis, and Molly Burbank, to First Presbyterian, Charlotte  
Stuart, Kristin, and Walker Darnell, to Covenant Presbyterian, Charlotte  
John, Melanie, Shelby, and Joshua Duncan, to First Presbyterian, Gastonia  
Abong Fankam, and Mongai, to Caldwell Presbyterian, Charlotte  
Stephen, Laura, Hattie, Ellis and Louise Patton, to Myers Park United Methodist, Charlotte  
Chris, Dina, Lucy, and Maggie Seitz to Covenant Presbyterian, Charlotte

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

September 22, 2019  
Ann Copeland

## **GROUPS AND COMMITTEES**

### **2019 - 2020**

#### **ADMINISTRATION GROUP**

Moderator: Matt Baskerville

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

#### **CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER GROUP**

Moderator: Jamie Yearwood

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

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

Moderator: Erin Mills

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

#### **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE GROUP**

Moderator: Emily Battle

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

#### **MISSION GROUP**

Moderator: Ashley Armistead, Meg Dewey, Allison Tibe

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

#### **WORSHIP GROUP**

Moderator: Pam Brownlee

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

## **ADMINISTRATION**

**Planning** We've completed the interior work on our renovations! Phase 1 wrapped up the South corridor renovation with custom stairwell/exit, concrete ramp to the sanctuary, updated fellowship hall bathroom, storage A/V closets, fire/life-safety upgrades, paint, lighting, and a new bathroom in the Narthex. Phases 2-3 included a beautiful covered patio leading to a welcoming reception area, renovated Chapel, offices, library-conference room with skylight. We're expecting to complete the final phase of work on outdoor spaces in early 2020. The Planning committee regrouped to continue guiding our path forward. They reached out to the congregation for extensive feedback and input through a survey, one-on-one interviews, and group discussions. Recommendations focusing on the People, Place, and Programming have been passed along to session for review and will be presented to the congregation in 2020.

**Property and Maintenance** Repair and maintenance of Church HVAC, landscaping, and grounds were largely routine and funded within the annual budget. We collaborated with the CDC to install artificial turf and new playground equipment to provide a more usable recreation area for CDC and Church youth. We also began a project, on behalf of our Mission team, to provide a reliable source of hot water for showers for our Room in the Inn guests.

**Personnel** The committee had a busy year addressing departures of Mary Bowman, Associate Pastor for Mission, and Jay Masanotti, Youth Director. With heavy hearts and hopeful spirit we worked to ensure staffing needs of the church were met for the rest of the year and beyond. To that end, we were thrilled to welcome long-time member Lisa McLennan as a part-time Parish Associate after Mary's departure. We are also extremely excited to welcome Margo Richardson as Director for Youth and Young Adults this month. Margo, a recent Seminary graduate, is employed in a non-ordained, full time position while she pursues ordination.

**Communications** Communications Specialist Jessica Masanotti continues to give Selwyn's digital and print publications incredible polish and impact. Graphic design, just one of her many skills, has helped Selwyn reach new audiences and reinforced communication among the SAPC community. The Communications Committee will work closely with Selwyn leadership and the Personnel Committee to make sure that SAPC's communications retain the vibrancy Jess brought after her planned departure later this year. She will be dearly missed.

**Finance and Stewardship** SAPC's remains comparable to prior years. We ended 2019 with an operating account cash position of \$90,000 and receipts of \$895,000, below budget by \$44,000. General Fund expenses lower than budget by \$20,000. Planned Anniversary and Other Fund contributions resulted in an overall budget shortfall of \$24,000 for the year. Anniversary Fund receipts remained strong with over 90% of total contributions collected. With construction almost complete, the anniversary fund cash position ended the year with a net balance of \$90,000 and approximately \$900,000 drawn on the line of credit. The 2020 budget is being finalized with hope to be able to continue investments in the future growth, life, and mission of Selwyn. The congregations' response to the 2020 Stewardship was strong with the average pledge +17% over last year and a total commitment equal to 2019 with more pledges still expected.

## **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 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-two of these children are from 16 families that are also members of SAPC. These families are active and supportive advocates of the CDC.

The CDC employs 27 full-time teachers, three part-time teachers and one full-time cook. The CDC maintains a lower child-teacher ratio than required by the state (i.e., four children to one teacher in the infant room, rather than the state's six to one ratio). The CDC supports and encourages staff members to continue their education through the NC T.E.A.C.H. program, and we currently have four staff members enrolled in this program.

The CDC continues to implement the *Creative Curriculum*, which utilizes supportive curriculum solutions for early childhood educators, providing developmentally appropriate learning experiences for the children. As a result, this curriculum supports active learning while promoting children's progress in all developmental areas. 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 2019-2020 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 2019 was \$1,513,932. The newly approved budget by the CDC Board and the Session for 2020 is \$1,530,015.96. 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 two classes (Study of *The Christian Art of Dying: Learning from Jesus* by Alan Verhey and comprehensive study of the Gospel of Luke). The Lenten Sunday School series kicked off in March and all adult classes came together for "Understanding & Loving our Neighbors on the Journey". Following Lent, two adult classes were offered: *Wired for Worship*, which explored questions about Presbyterian worship and *White Fragility*, in which participants discussed and reflected on the book by the same name by Robin DiAngelo. Adult classes then combined for the summer for a teaching and preaching series entitled "Scriptures to Live By". In the fall, Adult Sunday school resumed following with two series: *The Many Faces of Jesus*, which explored who Jesus is through art, theology, culture and history, and *Living Faith Together: Face to Face*, a series rooted in and explored through the lens of scripture and theology. Other adult offerings included our adult Faith Lab for practical discussions on life and theology, pastor-led Bible studies, a bi-weekly men's group, and several women's circles, all of which provided members the opportunity to discuss Biblical themes and their applications to everyday life.

**Youth Ministries** Our learning together during Sunday School has included the exploration of the Old Testament using Spark House Bible curriculum for middle school. High School students gathered for honest conversations about faith with adult leaders, and sometimes joined adult learners for intergenerational discussions. Supported by their mentors, confirmands presented their faith statements to the session after an in-depth year of study, fellowship, mission, and discernment. A new highlight of the confirmation process was the middle school fall retreat. In April, eleven confirmands joined SAPC. Youth lead our congregation in worship on youth Sunday. Also, by ushering, leading liturgy, and sharing their musical gifts our youth lead worship throughout the year. Selwyn youth are authentically committed to the mission of our church. Sunday youth programming, service projects, ski and river trips, hosting Room in the Inn, organizing the Souper Bowl of Caring for Urban Ministries, hosting the Fall Festival in partnership with the CDC, monthly game nights, and fellowship dinners are examples of how our youth express and explore their faith in Christ. Last summer, twenty high school youth and six chaperones traveled to Tennessee for a week of service with Appalachia Service Project, and they returned to the Montreat High School Youth Conference in July. Both of these trips have almost doubled in size. In December youth director, Jay Masanotti, discerned a call to return to classroom teaching. Over the last three years, the youth program of SAPC has strengthened our network of dedicated youth advisors, mentors, parents, and advisors. Together with youth leaders, like elder Jonah Cameron, Selwyn has tended the soil well, and is ready to blossom.

**Children and Families Christian Education** In Sunday School, our children explored scripture through a rotation model. For a five-week period, the children gathered for a Bible story and then participated in hands-on activities that both related to our Bible story and supported the missional life of Selwyn. We also designed and taught a series of parenting studies—parenting with spirituality for parents of preschoolers, worship readiness for parents of Ks, reading the Bible with children for parents of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, and talking about sex with children for parents of 5<sup>th</sup> graders. In June, our VBS theme was Mars and Beyond, where children learned God is able to do far and beyond all that we could ask or imagine by His power at work within us. Using art, music, storytelling, recreation, science, and mission, our children explored how God worked wonders through our ancestors in faith—Daniel, Queen Esther, the Good Samaritan, and Jesus. Elementary-age children went to the Quarry in Mooresville and our preschool-age children met at Selwyn in the Fellowship Hall and the Bowman building. Throughout the year, our children and their families engaged in mission (Camp Habitat, Room in the Inn, Advent workshop), participated and helped with worship (Christmas pageant, children's worship), and learned and performed music (new children's choir).

## **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

The Congregational Life team implemented a new Congregational Survey to support the church's larger planning team's efforts. This survey focused on engagement and service to the church and was a replacement for the previous Lenten Discipleship Survey. Responses and findings were shared with the Planning Committee and volunteers interested in serving the church were shared with committee and groups leads.

The Membership Committee led by Alyssa Sharpe and Clark Walton continued work to welcome visitors and new members to our church. 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. Additionally, Selwyn continued to welcome visitors to our Sunday worship. Deni Pifer led the outreach to these visitors by coordinating delivery of a coffee mug and note to the visitors' front porch.

The Fellowship Committee led by Christy Parbst, 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 as well as more informal opportunities for fellowship like a social night at Legion Brewing. 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 and Alyssa Sharpe took a bit of a break this year to regroup and reassess the best way to engage in fellowship and bring people of this demographic together. By the end of the year, the group was renamed to the "Peace Class" for those members age 28-40 and a schedule of gatherings for the first half of 2020 was announced. The group looks forward to new energy and new beginnings this next year.

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 for a bereaved family, dinners and a baby blanket for new parents, and casseroles which ministers take on home visits when appropriate. Toward the second half of the year the structure and process for Care Team was reevaluated to make sure Care Teams can continue to be there as needed for all church members. 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 2020.



## **MISSION**

Mission 2019 proved to be a 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** As in years past, the majority of our work for children takes place at Montclair Elementary School, with whom we have a long-serving relationship that continues to deepen and grow. In 2019 we provided tutors (Augustine Literacy Project, Heart Math Tutoring, HELPS), teacher partners, teacher appreciation, and classroom support (through the Mission Christmas Tree). We helped organize Montclair's Literacy Night, partnered with Read Charlotte's Transformation Network, hosted Montclair staff at adult Sunday School, and sponsored a Freedom School. An exciting transition in our service to Montclair this year has been establishing a new partnership with GEP (the Greater Enrichment Program) after dreaming with Montclair's principal about a year-round after school program. This fall GEP at Montclair is serving approximately 50 students. After construction of Montclair's new building is complete, GEP will host 100 Montclair students. In addition to providing the vast majority of the funding for this program, Selwyn is now looking to add enrichment for the children through off campus experiences and volunteer-run activity clubs for the participants.

**Homelessness** Room in the Inn remains core to our work. We continue to host our homeless neighbors each Monday night between December 1 and March 31. This intergenerational ministry engages the entire Selwyn community. Proceeds from the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mission Tithe are enabling us to install a new water heater for the Bowman Building showers so that all RITI guests will have a hot shower. We were also able to pay for engineering drawings for the future purchase and installation of a set or two of washers and dryers for our Room in the Inn guests and general church use. In October 2019 we joined the Charlotte Church Partners' Habitat for Humanity build and at the ReStore. Our children and youth participated in Camp Habitat. The house was dedicated on December 7, 2019. The Urban Ministry Center/Men's Shelter of Charlotte hosts an informational, fundraising lunch each year in November called True Blessings Luncheon. Selwyn hosted two tables at the event.

**Hunger** Rise Against Hunger took place in February and is an intergenerational mission activity which packs nutritionally complete meals that are distributed to the world's most vulnerable people. In August, a new program was started called Food First Sundays to target hunger specifically in our Montclair Elementary families. Blue collection bags were purchased and made available to the congregation to pick up in the Narthex after worship. Members fill a bag with food on the first Sunday of the month. This food is used to stock a food pantry at Montclair Elementary School. In addition to the pantry, approximately 34 Montclair children receive a bag of food in their backpack on Fridays to take home for use over the weekend. Additional hunger activities include sandwiches for The Men's Shelter during their kitchen renovation. We continue to discern additional opportunities to address issues of hunger in our community and the world.

**Other Mission Notes** (1) We contributed a total of \$94,618 in mission giving to denominational and community partners across our focus areas. (2) The Mission Committee continues to discern ways in which we might go deeper in each of these mission areas and with current partners, while also being open to discerning new possibilities that might present. (3) This discernment is also intended to direct the use of the remaining funds graciously provided through the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund, much of which has gone to make GEP possible as well as the new water heater for Room in the Inn and other uses.

## **WORSHIP**

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

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 2019 we had three 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, 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 and recording system for services. 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. Guest preachers included Josh Milton, seminary intern from The Church of Scotland, and Dr. Rodney Sadler of Union Presbyterian Seminary.

The Worship Committee is responsible for setting the Usher Schedule. We are grateful for all who volunteered to usher during our Worship services in 2019. 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 2020.

The Blossom Shop provided our sanctuary floral arrangements. 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 Heather Smith for scheduling 2019 readers. 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 sanctuary decorations, as well as to Jim and Terry Glen who provide the exterior wreaths for the 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 5:30pm 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 (jazz service), 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. Willa May Young worked behind the scenes to organize and coordinate the music for the choirs, as she does faithfully every year. Several members supported the music scholarship fund. This year's scholar and soloist from UNC Charlotte was Ivey Cherry. 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.

This past year, we continued our efforts to align our monthly gifts of time and treasure with the core focuses of hunger, homelessness, and children in need. We continue to support the following organizations with items needed:

- Montclair Elementary Health Room and Freedom School
- Center of Hope - Salvation Army Women's Shelter
- St. Luke's Center for People with Special Needs
- Selwyn's Room in the Inn

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, and Room in the Inn.

The women and elementary aged children of the church gathered in April 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. The bags were delivered during Teacher Appreciation Week and gave us an opportunity to honor those who make such a difference in the lives of the students.

During the worship service and PW luncheon in September, Ann Copeland was honored as the recipient of the PW Honorary Life Member for 2019. 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.

Selwyn has three 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.