

THE SELWYN SPIRE

October 2021

Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church

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

Dear Members of Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church,

Has your faith been tested or re-affirmed over this persistent season of isolation and pandemic? For many, this past year has led to a shift in priorities, vocations, living situations, and even relationships. What does it mean to be 'The Church' during this chaotic time? The Preacher of Hebrews said, "faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." COVID-19 has challenged SAPC in every way possible. For all that has changed, for all we've lost, for all we love, and for all we hope; there is plenty we cannot see. Yet, as the gospel hymn suggests, Selwyn has 'Come this Far by Faith.'

Selwyn Avenue continues to be an intergenerational, inclusive community of Christian faith. With creativity, resiliency, and compassion we have endured. Thank you for your steadfast commitment to one another and to Christ. As a witness to countless acts of generosity, expressions of faithfulness, and sacrifices of time, I am both humbled and excited to journey with you, the Saints of Selwyn Avenue. Please receive this overview as an expression of my gratitude and commitment to sharing the details of how we support our mission while striving toward a shared vision. May it provide insight and encouragement as we re-engage and re-commit to a life of meaningful worship, transformative mission, and authentic community together.

Selwyn's Elders met during a two-day leadership retreat last June for group discernment and strategic planning. Collectively, we realized how much we have missed worshipping and living together with Christ as our unifying force. We agreed it was time to focus on what matters most, by re-prioritizing and ordering our lives according to God's love and grace. Therefore, the Session adopted an action plan to jumpstart every ministry within the church by focusing on four key initiatives:

- *Welcoming members and visitors back to worship in ways that are safe, flexible, and engaging.*
- *Re-claiming joy in community, reminding folks what it means to belong and to be loved.*
- *Personally committing to weekly worship while relaunching all groups and programs by September 12th.*
- *Re-kindling relationships by intentionally reaching out, listening, and inviting folks into community.*

The Session also adopted five guideposts for our leadership and decision making.

Selwyn is hospitable, intergenerational, authentic, mission-oriented, and supportive.

With graciousness and compassion for one another, we hope to provide various access points for every member and visitor to participate in ways that feel personally meaningful and safe through the ebb and flow of the pandemic. Having led our congregation through many snares and toils, the Session has been collaborative and faithful in their work together. Our Elders have served with energy, imagination, intelligence, and love. This groundwork continues to guide Selwyn Avenue as we move into 2022 with enthusiasm and confidence.

Soon you should receive a full version of this letter from me, and information from the 2022 Stewardship Team inviting you into a prayerful time of commitment and giving. After almost two years of forced disconnection and austerity, Selwyn is re-gathering and moving ahead with full force! As always, I am ready to listen and learn from you. What are your hopes or concerns for Selwyn Avenue? How can I pray for you? How can we, together, extend the love to Christ to all those we meet in the world?

In the Hope and Promises,

Rev. Jeri A. Laible

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

On September 26 we welcomed



Tina Dietrich

Patricia Ferguson



David Finnie and
Geraldine Anastasio

Vanessa Riley

JOIN US FOR BISCUITS

on the lawn at 9:30am,
October 3.

Sunday School classes
will not meet.

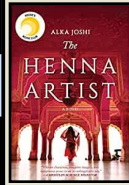


Prayer Shawl Ministry



The next meeting will
be in the Parlor
on October 17
after worship.

Contact [Susan Lohr](#).



SAPC BOOK CLUB on
October 19, 7pm, will discuss
The Henna Artist by Alka Joshi.

Questions, contact
[Nancy Bobbitt](#).

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

Names of church members and relatives
of members who died since
November 1, 2020

will be read during the service
and are printed on a bulletin insert.

The church office compiles the list
based on church records.

If you have a friend or relative
you would like listed,
please contact [Marsha](#), or 704-372-6836,
by 9am on October 22.

In Nursing or Retirement Homes

Aldersgate - Dick Metzler

Asbury- Mary Faye Proctor

Carmel Hills—Marie Pressley

Carriage Club - Herman Thomas

Charlotte Square - La Melle Hagerty

Cypress - Bill and Nancy Budd,
Robert Shore, Olen and Nancy Smith

Matthews Glen - Anne McMackin,
Cara Munday, Anne Rutherford

Merrywood- Jo Caldwell, Pat Ferguson

Sharon Towers - Richard and Joan Foard

Southminster - Kathy and John Hartley,
Kay Hastings, Art Jones, Bobbye Linn

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Individuals and families are encouraged
to sign up in honor or memory of people.

We have a commitment with a florist for
one standard arrangement for \$65.
Additional charges may apply for specific
flower varieties. Checks should be made
to the church with "sanctuary flowers"
in the memo line.

To reserve a date contact
[Marsha](#), or 704-372-6836.



We have new
name tags for the
congregation.



**SELWYN
NAME TAGS**

Please remember to wear your name tag
during worship, classes, and meetings.

Please note, replacements are \$5 each.

COVID TASK FORCE UPDATE

We are required by the County to wear masks in the building even if fully vaccinated. Ages 4 and above, thank you for being vigilant in your expression of care to all by wearing your mask inside. Please wear a mask outside as necessitates. Our togetherness is a gift. We will continue to be guided by a task force of healthcare professionals regarding COVID-19 and the variants.

The best way to contact staff is via email. To reach out by phone call the church, 704-372-6836 and follow the prompts for leaving a message on the appropriate staff person's extension. For pastoral care emergencies, please leave a message on Reverend Raible's extension or contact the Church Office.

STEWARDSHIP

TEXT TO GIVE Thank you to all who have embraced the online giving 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, it is as easy as texting the amount to the number. You DO NOT need a key word if you are giving to the 2021 annual fund. Key word COVID is a special offering for Montclair Elementary and Roof Above needs.
- Pledges can be submitted through the website, emailed to [Tonya Moore](#), or mailed to the church.
- Thank you for your participation, it is very important.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FORMATION



CHILDREN'S CHOIR for age 4 through 5th grade will be held on Wednesdays, October 6 and 13, from 5:30-6pm in the Bowman Building. Contact [Nancy Nutter](#) with questions.



Please refer to publications, the weekly email, or our [website](#) to find the Bible study that is right for you.

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

with Lori Raible meets on Wednesdays, 11am, in the Parlor. All are invited to participate.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:30AM

SAPC offers four classes, each distinct in their style and content. Our spaces are updated, and big enough for small groups to gather (with masks on), until we hear otherwise from the COVID task force.

- Covenant Class (Parlor)- Lecture based, traditional learning with discussion. This class is open to all, while a majority of the participants are over 65 years of age. Biblically based curriculum will be used.
- Selwyn Life Class (Library)- Discussion based, group learning. This class is a hybrid of in person and ZOOM learners. They are self-taught and coordinated, and are using the book, *Healing our Broken Humanity*.
- Grace Class (Outside or Fellowship Hall)- Bible study and practical application, focusing on the scriptures guiding our preaching series, Known By Heart: Scripture Every Christian Should Know. The class is open to all, and hosts a diversity of life stages and perspectives.
- Peace Class (Outside or Fellowship Hall)- A gathering space for young adults and other members to connect and reflect upon the big questions of faith through *Foundations and Fellowship*. Come for coffee, fellowship, and a spiritual centering.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:30AM

- Confirmation- 8th graders meet each week with Youth Director, Margo Richardson in the Grace room.
- Coffee Talks- Real talk about life and faith. A topic will be launched, then youth break into age appropriate groups for mentored discussions with adult guides. The class meets in the Bates House.

ELEMENTARY CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:30AM

Elementary Children (K-5) gather with Children's Director, Nancy Nutter, for storytelling in the Bowman Building, then break into age appropriate classes for crafts and games led by a dedicated team of teachers.

PRESCHOOL AND NURSERY—SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:30AM AND WORSHIP AT 10:30AM

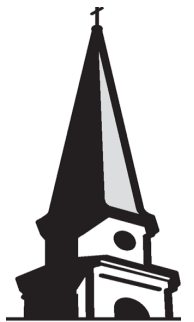
Infants and preschoolers are greeted by our long-standing, loving nursery keepers. Preschoolers enjoy a Bible lesson and activities. As an expression of our baptismal vows, member volunteers can support the children by volunteering in the classrooms. Parents of children under the age of four are strongly encouraged to volunteer at least once a semester.

A note about the care and safety of our children: All volunteers and adults teaching and caring for our children will be required to wear masks at all times, as well as children over the age of three.

ELEMENTARY CHILDREN'S WORSHIP AT 10:30AM

All Elementary children are invited to worship in the sanctuary. After the Children's Message they are invited to join Nancy Nutter for Children's Chapel, engage in a story, and crafts before returning to the Sanctuary during the Doxology.

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADERSHIP and their families are invited to lead in worship throughout the year by ushering and leading prayers. Please contact [Nancy](#) if you would like to sign up for a Sunday.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



THE FALL WOMEN'S LUNCHEON will be held on Sunday, October 24 in the Fellowship Hall following worship. Please contact a Circle leader or moderator Peggy Hornberg for more information.

- Circle #1, Women of Wonder – First Monday of the month, 12:30pm - Ann Copeland
- Circle #2, Peace Seekers - Jamie Yearwood
- Circle #3, Our Spiritual Journey – First Tuesday of the month, 10:30am - Bobbie Hankins
- Circle #4, Evening Grace – First Tuesday of the month, 7pm - Nancy Bobbitt
- Circle #5, Daughters of Faith – Weekly on Wednesdays, 11am - Tracie Northan

WORSHIP



COMMUNION WILL BE SERVED on October 3, World Communion Sunday and on October 31 during the All Saints Sunday 10:30am Worship Service.

If you are unable to attend the worship service and would like to receive communion at your residence, please notify Suzanne Newsom, 704-999-1016 or the church office, 704-372-6836.

DR. STEVEN P. EASON TO PREACH ON OCTOBER 17

Dr. Eason is a retired Presbyterian (USA) pastor, author, pastoral counselor, teacher and consultant. A graduate of Duke Divinity School ('79), Steve served churches of all sizes over his 40 years of ministry. From 2002 to 2015 he was the Senior Pastor of Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte. His book, Making Disciples, Making Leaders (Geneva Press, 2016) is used by many Presbyterian churches for officer training and leadership development. Steve and wife Catherine were married in 1977. They have three grown children and five grandchildren. Their home is in the beautiful hill country of Brevard, NC.



MISSION

Mission at Selwyn is more than just doing for others. It's about engaging in deep relationships and forming ministry partnerships.

Our ministry is focused to three areas: Children in Need, Homelessness, and Hunger.

We hope you will discern how God may be calling you to get involved and join us as we serve God by serving our neighbors!

Check our [website](#) for information or to sign up.

HUNGER

First Sunday Food Drive - Help stock the shelves by purchasing requested grocery items and return to church on the first Sunday of each month for Montclaire Elementary School. Bag rice, bag beans, canned meat, peanut butter, crackers, canned fruits, vegetables, soup, breakfast items, individual wrapped snacks. No glass items.

Roof Above Lunches - are needed for Saturday, October 9. Pack ten lunches for our homeless neighbors. [Sign up here](#). Lunches are also needed November 13 and December 11.

HOMELESSNESS

Selwyn's Habitat day is October 30 - Come help provide homes for needy families. There are opportunities to build a house or work at ReStore (whose profits all go toward building houses). Volunteers are also needed to make lunches and provide help at Camp Habitat for kids. Sign up at this [link](#).

Mission Film Screening - Mark your calendar for Sunday, November 14, 5-7pm when we will have an event to learn more about homelessness and offer sign up opportunities for Room in the Inn.

Room in the Inn - In partnership with Roof Above, beginning December 1 through March 31 each Monday night we will feed and host some of our homeless neighbors. We need many helpers - church bus drivers for pick up and return, three meals (dinner upon arrival, breakfast and bag lunches), set up and clean up crews, and overnight hosts. Help one time or every week!

CHILDREN IN NEED

Greater Enrichment Program Afterschool Helper - Offer support with our GEP ministry partners at Montclaire Elementary School on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 3:30 to 5:30pm. They have planned activities and you just show up to assist. This is a great way to help once or weekly, while getting to know our ministry partners and the Montclaire families. [Sign up here](#) or through SAPC's website.

Tutoring at Montclaire - There are a variety of commitment levels and opportunities to assist a Montclaire child with their learning while deepening a relationship with the child. Heart Math, HELPS tutoring, and Augustine Literacy Project are all structured programs to guide

YOUTH NEWS



- October 10, 17, 24, 31 – Coffee Talks and Confirmation Class, 9:30am
- October 10 - 2nd Sunday Service following Worship. We will meet on the lawn to pack lunches for Roof Above. RSVP to [Margo](#).
- October 17, 24 — Youth Group, 6pm

Please see Margo's email with the full schedule for this programming year or [contact her](#) with questions.

A note about COVID and youth: Until further instruction from the SAPC task force, all youth events will be held outside when possible, and masks must be worn when we gather inside.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Keller Bentley
Davis Hahn
Hadley Smith | 8 Mary Watterson Arnheim
Kimber Arrington
Nancy Cooke
Bettye Sue Newsom | 15 Melanie Vise | 20 Serena Spencer | 25 Heather Oberg
Sarah Salton |
| 2 Burt Arrington
Caroline Green | 9 Rebecca Cann
Emily Kincaide
Morgan Liles
Anne McMackin | 16 Luke Martin
Mary Reynolds | 21 Grant Armistead
Patrick Madigan | 26 Lori Raible |
| 3 Karen Price
Stuart Thomas | 10 Ashley Armistead
Bea McLellan
Heather Risko | 17 Cooper Cumbus | 22 Ellen Harris
Rick Kobal | 27 Simon Cann
Maren Deal |
| 5 Mary Carver Deal
Ben Ellis
Johnny Vera
Mary Ward
Anna Warner
Jamie Yearwood | 11 Joy Vickers | 18 Katie Horton | 23 Matt Claxton | 28 Campbell Burbank |
| 6 Jim Cooper
Alissa Green
Jordan Tallent | 12 Matthew Darsey
Kurt Parbst | 19 Jackson Burbank | | 29 Nathan Phifer |
| 7 Allison Malloy
Ann Royal McLennan
Kristen Tan
Frances Walker | 13 Stevanna Baskerville
Karen Edinger | | | 30 Henry Parbst
Tyler Smith |
| | 14 Pete Halstead
Milly Marth
Aaron Roper
Joe Rossi | | | 31 Braxton McLennan
Sarah Ollek
Alyssa Sharpe
Grace Walton
Miller Walton |



SAPC STAFF

Lori Raible, Pastor
Lisa McLennan, Parish Associate
Margo Richardson, Director for Youth/Young Adults
Nancy Nutter, Director of Children/Family Ministries
Ashlee Anderson, Congregational Life Coordinator
Fred Spano, Director of Music
Gay Pappin, Organist

Marsha Cooper, Church Administrator
Lawson Caldwell, Administrative Assistant
Tonya Moore, Church Accountant
Reba Hardaway, Accounting Administrative Assistant
Jennifer Dixon, Communications
Steve Stevenson, Facilities Coordinator
Beth Sharpe, Director of Child Development Center

GROUP CHAIRS

Administration - Lou Waple
Child Development Center - Clark Walton
Christian Education & Formation - Allison Tibe
Congregational Life - Deni Pifer/Ginny Burgin
Mission - Susan Flynn/Chris Bahr
Worship - Suzanne Newsom