



SELWYN AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2016

## Investing in our Future: Selwyn's 75th Anniversary Fund

The Apostle Paul shared his hope for the church in Ephesus by writing, *"May [Christ] dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."*  
**Ephesians 3:17-19**

The seeds of today's vibrant Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church were planted in January 1942, when the congregation was chartered with 42 members; by the end of that year a white frame building was constructed on the foundation of the present Chapel. In the 1950s, we had grown to more than 300 members who raised today's equivalent of \$1.25 million to build the sanctuary, completed in 1955.

To honor the 75th anniversary of our church and those who came before us, we have embarked upon an ambitious plan to raise \$1.8 million over three years to revitalize our church campus and continue our community outreach, mission work, and commitment to Christ. While the 75th Anniversary Fund may feel like a large undertaking, our congregation has shown it has the will, the power, and the love to make the sacrificial gifts necessary to achieve it.

In the Hebrew scriptures, people came to worship with a sacrifice in hand. Sacrificial giving is the act of making sacred or setting apart our financial



resources for God, who provides the resources for our life, and through us, for godly work and for the church. Jesus chose as models for giving those who gave sacrificially. The widow who gave two mites, the boy who gave his lunch, and the woman who gave her alabaster box of perfume are prime examples.

The Scriptures make clear that God measures the gift not in relationship to others, but in relationship to one's own resources. As Jesus said, "from everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required" (Luke 12:48).

We are excited to share news within these pages about how the fruits of the Anniversary Fund will be invested. This newsletter is only a "sneak peak"; we hope you'll attend one of the three upcoming **Vision Awareness Events** to learn more, discuss the plans, and see the renderings in person.

***Please turn the page for more information about the plans and how you can learn even more.***



## Chapel/Front Entry Renovation

Our spiritual focus of the 75th Anniversary Fund will protect the integrity and sacredness of our Chapel for generations to come, create a more open, inviting, and accessible Church entry, and build more functional office and meeting space for our staff and congregation.

We plan to replace the older chapel pews with moveable, traditional wooden pews or pew chairs and make technology upgrades in the Chapel while retaining worship integrity. The front entrance, Spire Hall, and front office wing will be redesigned to provide a warm and expansive Welcome Center with better accessibility, space for hospitality and fellowship, and more functional office and programming spaces. Approach to the church will be enhanced with landscaping that functions both to activate the front lawn for fellowship and to complement the entry procession. (\$400,000)

## Land Acquisition

Selwyn's facilities no longer accommodate our current congregational needs and the range of activities for which our space is used, and these needs and activities will only continue to grow. We plan to acquire additional property for future growth and expanded ministry. Given the continued growth of the church's immediate neighborhood and escalating property values, it seems not only wise but also strategic to secure contiguous property whenever possible. (\$450,000)

## Facility Revitalization

Selwyn's physical plant is aging and many areas are in dire need of revitalization or replacement to maintain structural integrity and our ability to serve the congregation and our wider community. We plan to comprehensively update the facilities including, but not limited to, renovating restrooms, replacing roofs, upgrading HVAC systems, replacing worn carpet, painting interiors and exteriors, repairing the Spire, updating technology in the Fellowship Hall, repairing pews in the Sanctuary, and adding new furnishings where necessary. (\$362,000)

## Debt Retirement

The remaining loan on the Bates House will mature in early January 2017 and must be urgently addressed. We plan to retire the mortgage loan balance on the Bates House. (\$205,000)





## Mission Tithe

The church is called to care, both to “love one another” within the church community and to “love our neighbor (i.e., outside our community) as ourselves.” A mission tithe is included in the Anniversary Fund as an expression of our care for our neighbor and of our commitment to the kingdom of God beyond our church walls. We plan to fund specific local mission projects that fall into our Mission Group’s Hunger, Homelessness, and Children focus. (\$185,000; 10% of the Fund)



## Investment in Staff & Communications Platform

Within three years, the number of middle schoolers and high schoolers in our youth program is projected to grow by at least one-third, stretching the limits of our current half-time youth director position’s ability to engage youth in the church. Second, just as we depend on mobile and web-based communication in our daily lives, the church must also adopt new ways of reaching our members through apps and the Internet. We plan to increase the youth ministry position to a full-time equivalent, add a part-time communications director, and continue to invest in our expanded personnel. Funding also includes implementing a modern communications platform (website, social media, membership communication, and financial management). (\$195,000)

## Campaign Administration Costs

We plan to pay for professional development counsel, hospitality, and administrative costs associated with the Anniversary Fund campaign. (\$53,000)

## How We’ll Get There

In today’s data-driven world, it’s not enough to set a goal, we need a plan to achieve it. The table at right is the data, the business plan if you will, to support our goal of raising \$1.8 million over the next three years to enable our congregation to do the work of God in the world.

We ask you to pray carefully over this chart to see how your family can support Selwyn’s 75th Anniversary Fund. There are many ways you can give, including cash, but also investments such as stocks or bonds, real estate, life insurance, antiques, works of art, jewelry, coin or stamp collections, income tax refunds, and revocable or irrevocable trusts. If you would like more information about making a gift of non-cash assets or including Selwyn Presbyterian in your will, please contact the church office for more information.

Three-Year Pledge Levels			
# of Gifts at Level	Gift Level	Total at Level	Cumulative Total
2	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
3	\$75,000	\$225,000	\$425,000
5	\$50,000	\$250,000	\$675,000
10	\$25,000	\$250,000	\$925,000
20 Gifts = \$925,000, or 51% of the total			
20	\$15,000	\$300,000	\$1,225,000
30	\$10,000	\$300,000	\$1,525,000
50 Gifts - \$600,000 or 33% of the total			
40	\$5,000	\$200,000	\$1,725,000
20	\$3,000	\$60,000	\$1,785,000
10	\$1,500	\$15,000	\$1,800,000
70 Gifts - \$275,000 or 16% of the total			
<b>TOTAL: 140 Gifts = \$1,800,000</b>			

## How You Can Learn More

A project like this generates excitement, questions, and concerns, and we welcome the opportunity to share more with you. Here are some of the ways you can gain more information about the Anniversary Fund:

- Attend one of the **Vision Awareness Events**: Sunday, October 23 following worship, Tuesday, October 25 at 5:30 p.m., or Friday, October 28 at 6:30 p.m., all in the Fellowship Hall.
- Download the **Frequently Asked Questions** at [www.selwynpres.org/publications.php](http://www.selwynpres.org/publications.php)
- Participate in the **Spiritual Life Event**, November 4 at 5:30 p.m.

Please see the next page for more information about upcoming events.

## 75th Anniversary Mission & Spiritual Life Activities

- **Vision Awareness Gatherings:** Learn more about the 75th Anniversary Fund and the projects that will be supported with our pledges, enjoy a good meal, and share in the vision. Three gatherings will be held: Sunday, October 23 following worship, Tuesday, October 25 at 5:30 p.m., or Friday, October 28 at 6:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Childcare will be available.
- **Ministry Celebration:** On October 30 immediately after worship, come to the Fellowship Hall to enjoy lunch and learn how our operating budget is invested and how your 2017 Stewardship Pledge will support the church's work. Childcare will be available.
- **Spiritual Life Event:** On Friday, November 4 at 5:30 p.m., the Spiritual Life committee will host an intergenerational prayer walk/run followed by dinner. Stations along the route will feature self-guided activities helping us pray for our church, our life together, the community outside our church, and the ministries we participate in. Community dinner will begin at 6:15 p.m.
- **Commitment Sunday:** During Worship on November 20, we are invited to make our pledges for 2017 Stewardship and the three-year 75th Anniversary Fund.
- **First Fruits Sunday:** During Worship on December 4, we are invited to make our first contributions to the 75th Anniversary Fund.

For more information, please check the Worship Bulletin, read the weekly emails from the Church Office, and stay tuned to our Facebook page. ("Like" us by using this QR code with your smartphone or searching for "Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church" on Facebook.)

