



SELWYN AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2016

## Selwyn's 75th Anniversary: Honoring Our Roots & Wings

**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***

As Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church approaches our 75th anniversary, it is natural to reflect on the past while also questioning what our future might hold. In looking ahead, our church's leadership has established a vision for our congregation that is aligned with our values. Our aim is to continue in our unpretentious yet resolute community outreach, mission work, and commitment to Christ in a way that reflects Paul's hope for Christ's church so long ago.

Selwyn is a strong, vibrant, welcoming community that is drawing more and more people of all ages from neighborhoods across south Charlotte. As we have grown from a church built 75 years ago to serve its neighbors within walking distance, we've seen the continuity of our ministry threatened by the limitations of our physical space. Ironically, the walls that have provided shelter and offered the comfort of “a covenant of continuous care for each other” are the very walls which are straining our ministry's ability to serve.

The theme of our 75th Anniversary Fund campaign, **Roots and Wings**, symbolizes the heart of the campaign and reflects the images in the beautiful stained glass window in our chapel, which will be the spiritual focus of the Anniversary Fund. The window and this cam-

paign represent both our heritage and our hope as a community as we continue to grow, seeking God's will for His church.

The chapel is a place where some of you were baptized or married, made your first public statement of faith, and found solace or inspiration in the Word of God. The gifts of the 75th Anniversary Fund will enable us to protect the integrity and sacredness of our Chapel for generations to come. As the centerpiece of a more open, inviting, and accessible Church entry, the Chapel will invite us to worship and to do the work of Christ. Soon we will be sharing details of these and many other projects including the revitalization of our entire facility, securing adjacent properties, investing in a personnel structure that supports our growing congregation, improved database, communications, and website operations, and a focused mission offering.

Our campus is more than a place for Sunday worship; it is a tool critical to discipleship and our ability to continue and expand the work of Christ here on Earth. Selwyn is growing because of our committed Christian community, and we hope that you will be inspired to respond to the call you will soon receive to support Selwyn's 75th Anniversary Fund.

## The 75th Anniversary Fund Leadership Team

### Directors

Grant & Ashley Armistead, Bill & Peggy St. George, and Hunter & Catherine Miller

### Coordinator

Shelley Waple

### Vision Awareness Directors

Andy & Ginny Burgin, Charlie & Ellen Harris, and Raleigh & Katy Shoemaker

### Leader Cultivation Directors

Ned & Amy Carroll, Bob & Joe Anne Cole, and Tony & Jane Windell

### Spiritual Life Directors

Lisa McLennan and Suzanne Newsom

### Alumni & Friends Directors

Cacky Newitt and Bobby & Deni Pifer

### Ministry Celebration Directors

Chris Adams and Stephen Patton

### Children & Youth Directors

Michael & Jodie Bolewitz and Elizabeth Stearns

### Communications Directors

Connie Gagnani and Vicki Walker

### Mailing Director

Townley Moon

### Hospitality Directors

Lori & Todd Burbank, Kim & John McGirt, and Beth & Dale Ramsey

### Commitment Directors

Kevin & Katie Cumbus and Rick & Eleanor Hahn

### Follow-Up Directors

Lee & Nancy Bobbitt, Bob & Peggy Hormburg, and Olen & Nancy Smith

## Our Anniversary Fund Directors



### Grant & Ashley Armistead

"Since we came to Selwyn 18 years ago, it has always been a place where we are enough, where discussions of faith and serving one another inspire us to face life's challenges with peace and hope. We are excited about this time, as we reflecting on our rooted congregation and look ahead to our future. A place of inviting hospitality will allow us to better love and serve one another. We cannot wait to see the possibilities born of faith."



### Bill & Peggy St. George

"Selwyn is such a caring congregation. Growing and vibrant. We are excited about making changes to improve our facilities to make them more welcoming and cheerful. Please join us in making this happen in celebration of Selwyn's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary."



### Hunter & Catherine Miller

"After visiting several churches, immediately Selwyn felt like home; everyone was so warm and welcoming. We have learned through the last five years that this warmth is not something that resides on the surface of our community, but it is deep. We are so thrilled to be a part of the 75th Anniversary Campaign. Our church is a vibrant, caring, and growing community. This successful raising of this fund will ensure that our physical campus will be a reflection of the very special community that fills it."

## Our Consultant



### Rev. Dr. John H. Hewett

While we as Christians look to Jesus foremost for guidance, many times a human guiding hand is also instrumental in helping us achieve our goals quicker and more efficiently. We at Selwyn are fortunate to have such a hand in the Rev. Dr. John H. Hewett, who has been consulting with Selwyn's Session and Anniversary Fund leaders throughout 2016.

John is founder and president of Hewett Consulting LLC, a Charlotte firm guiding churches and nonprofits nationwide in strategic planning, fundraising, leadership development, conflict resolution, and executive search. Hewett Consulting has helped nonprofit clients raise more than \$45 million since its founding in 2000.

For more information about John, please visit his website at [hewettconsulting.com](http://hewettconsulting.com) or contact him at [jhewett@hewettconsulting.com](mailto:jhewett@hewettconsulting.com)

# A Promise of Faithfulness from Generation to Generation

*"He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him." Genesis 8:10-12*

When Noah sent a dove from the ark, he was hopeful. With the dove's return came a sign of God's covenant and promise of faithfulness. Noah and his people had waited a long time for evidence of a bright future. Can you imagine how Noah must have felt upon seeing the olive branch dangling from the beak of that bird? The plans, the hopes, and the dreams that Noah held deeply through the years would finally be possible. He waited another seven days before he sent the dove out again, never to return. Then he knew, it was time.

For 75 years, Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church has been defined by the spirit of our people: authentic, hospitable, and committed to the work of Christ. As we continue to grow, our congregation is evidence of God's faithfulness from generation to generation.

Selwyn's founding church members purchased land and a new church building was occupied on October 4, 1942. Sunday School attendance was 128, with about 160 present for worship. The "Selwyn Spirit" was born!

War-time restrictions created the necessity for improvisations, and an old chicken coop was purchased, moved, cleansed, renovated, and used for more than 50 years by the Weekday School, Men's Bible Class, and Boy Scouts. A basement was dug under the chapel to help relieve the space shortage. Eventually these spaces were replaced with more permanent structures as our membership and their needs grew.

Today the beauty and integrity of our worship and gathering spaces reflect the trust and generosity of members who have answered God's call toward the future. Selwyn has always been a community of heritage and hope.

## Our vision for our future

For several years now the leadership of Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church has been listening, planning, praying, and working to establish a vision that will engage and enable the discipleship of our current members while preparing and planning for those who will come after us. Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church is comprised of over 700 people of

all ages. Almost 250 are children under the age of 18, and we host an additional 100 children and their families in our Child Development Center. At the same time, about 200 of our members are over the age of 50. Selwyn truly is an intergenerational community of hospitality and compassion. We seek to know one another and our neighbors in genuine and lasting ways.



The celebration of our 75<sup>th</sup> year marks a time of both grateful reflection and hopeful action toward the future. We hope to revitalize our facility and communication tools in a way that reflects our identity as a people: engaging, warm, authentic, and invitational.

Soon, the Anniversary Fund leadership team will be sharing these exciting plans, and inviting you into a season of shared service, commitment, and prayer. This effort will require everyone, young and old, to be involved. Each member will have the chance to embrace and engage the vision set before us.

Our consultant, John Hewett, has asked us to personally consider three questions.

Where is God in this? (Have I prayed for our church and my call as a disciple?)

Where am I in this? (Have I left room for faith?)

How will my engagement in the Anniversary Fund be holy? (Is my gift an act of faith and generosity?)

For now we are like Noah, we have seen the olive branch, and very soon, the dove will take flight. During this time of anticipation and hope, we ask you to help us prepare. Soon, it will be time to fly.

In the Hope and Promises,  
Lori, Rush, and Mary

**Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church**  
**Upcoming Mission & Spiritual Life Activities**

Stop Hunger Now - October 9

Habitat for Humanity - October 22

Vision Awareness Events—October 23, 25 & 28

Fall Children's Festival - October 27

Spiritual Life Weekend - November 4-6

Commitment Sunday - November 20

First Fruits Sunday - December 4