



SELWYN AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2016

The Gift of Gratitude

Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church began with a small group and an organizing pastor in 1941. A worship service was held in the Queens College Chapel in November, and in January of 1942, the congregation was chartered by Mecklenburg Presbytery with 42 members. By the end of that year, a white frame building was constructed on the foundation of the present Chapel. Soon after the Great Depression and World War II, and in the midst of the Korean War, the more than 300 members raised the equivalent in today's dollars of \$1.25 million, and the sanctuary was completed in 1955. Subsequent designated offerings retired this debt. Additional special funds campaigns provided for:

- the Bowman Building (1965),
- Scout Hut (1980s),
- Columbarium and garden (1988),
- refurbishment of the Bowman Building and Fellowship Hall with additional bathrooms (1990s),
- the new kitchen, enhanced chancel area and rebuilt pipe organ, addition of the Bates House property, and expanded and updated playgrounds and parking areas (2005).

All that we now enjoy is our inheritance from previous generations of generous stewards. It is our privilege and joy to extend this process of Christian life for our children and future members.

By now you know the ambitious but attainable goals of our 75th Anniversary Fund. It is part of our generational legacy. One of my friends once said that if he could ask God to provide one gift for their children, it would be the gift of gratitude. We learn gratitude from one another, and our children never learn it unless they see and experience it in us.

I have a Bible which was presented to my father in 1928 by his very small church in southwestern Virginia. It was a confirmation gift when he was 12 years old, and back then, part of confirmation was learning the Westminster Catechism from the 17th century. The first question of the Catechism has to do with our chief purpose on Earth, and the answer is, *"To glorify God and to enjoy Him forever."* In 2008, the last words I heard my father speak, a few weeks prior to his death (he had been mostly unable to communicate for years because of dementia), included his repeating that to me. *"To glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever."*

Gratitude is the best gift of all. We learn it from one another, and future generations never learn it unless they see and experience it in us. I look forward with thanksgiving to our Dedication Sunday, for the 75th Anniversary Fund and 2017 Stewardship, on November 20!

In Christ's promises,

Rush

**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 Gragnani 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 Hormberg, and Olen &
Nancy Smith

Building The Legacy Of Our Faith

by Catherine Miller

Five years ago, my husband, Hunter, and I were in the first years of our marriage and looking for a church home when we moved into a little house across the street from Selwyn. After weeks of hearing hymns coming from our bells in the spire, we thought we would try this neighborhood church.

We were welcomed with such genuine kindness that we kept coming back and joined later that year. During the membership process, I lost my grandfather, and a community that barely knew me opened their arms with condolences and hugs. We were looking for a church home, and boy did we find it.

As with most things, the spiritual home we found would not be here without the foresight and dedicated work of Selwyn's founding generation. The people who envisioned this place must have relished the rich church home they created for themselves and their community, but I wonder if they had any idea how this place would serve the generations to come.

Seventy-five years later, Selwyn is growing and thriving. Intergenerational, full of fellowship, and in constant outreach to the community around us. We challenge ourselves through Christian Education and seek to know one another in an authentic way so we can support each other through life's joys and sorrows.

The Selwyn spirit is alive and well, but we are at an important crossroads. There are over 250 children in this congregation. Including our two little girls. It seems that more Sundays than not include baptisms, and our confirmation classes are the largest they have been in our history. What a joy this is!

Bearing in mind all that our predecessors built for us in this place, we must ensure that this next generation can enjoy the fruit of our labor by participating as we are able in the 75th Anniversary Fund. This fund will allow us to renovate and reinvigorate our spaces and our programming. We will be able to secure property for future development and recommit our congregation to serving the community around us.

Like the members of the greatest generation who founded this place, our grandparents and parents have instilled in Hunter and me a commitment to generosity. We both grew up in church-going families, but as children perhaps did not know the extent of the sacrificial giving to which our parents were so dedicated. We always had what we needed, but when it was time for stewardship or deeper giving for church growth, they were always there. In turn, we always had the strength of an entire community around us. There to celebrate our marriage and the birth of our children, and sorrow with us in the loss of family members or other tribulations. Of course, this is not a quid pro quo relationship. Not at all; we simply give what we can for the glory of God's work.

The legacy of their faith and duty to their community is one of their greatest gifts to us, and we hope to implement those values in our lives, and instill them in our daughters.

In Ephesians, chapter 2, Paul reminds his church: *"You are members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole building being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord."*

The cornerstone of Christ is certainly the foundation of this place, and it is bonded by the faith and sacrifice of those who have come before us. We hope you will join us in strengthening our walls through this campaign celebration, for when we do, Selwyn will continue to shine the light of God for so many, for years and years to come.



How Selwyn's 75th Anniversary Fund Will Be Invested

Chapel/Front Entry Renovation: \$400,000

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.

Land Acquisition: \$450,000

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.

Facility Revitalization: \$362,000

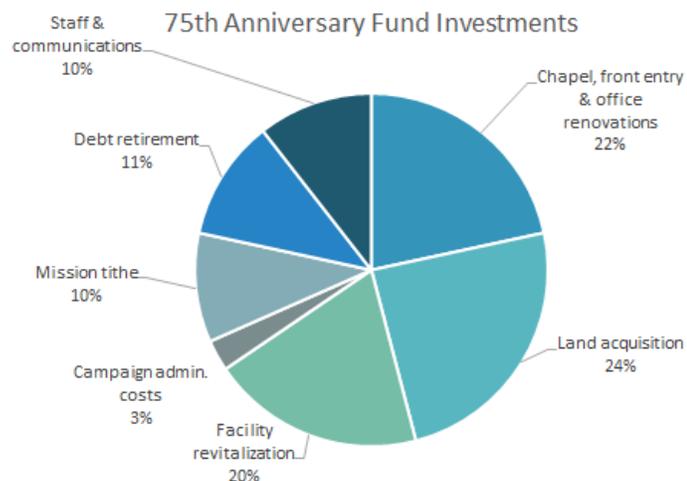
Comprehensively update the facilities including, but not limited to, renovating restrooms, replacing roofs, upgrading HVAC systems, replacing worn carpet, painting interiors and exteriors, repairing the Spire, updating technology in the Fellowship Hall, repairing pews in the Sanctuary, and adding new furnishings where necessary.

Mission Tithe: \$185,000 (10% of Fund)

Fund specific local mission projects that fall into our Mission Group's Hunger, Homelessness, and Children focus.

Debt Retirement: \$205,000

Retire the mortgage loan balance on the Bates House.



Staff & Communications: \$195,000

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).

Campaign Administration: \$53,000

Pay for professional development counsel, hospitality, and administrative costs associated with the Anniversary Fund campaign.

How You Can Learn More

A project this big 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:

- Download the Frequently Asked Questions and other Anniversary Fund documents at www.selwynpres.org/publications.php
- Watch the 75th Anniversary video, also linked from that web page
- Visit church to see the architectural concept drawings designed by Elder Jim Williams and his staff at LS3P Associates

Talk with Rush, Lori, Mary, Erin, Kim, or any member of the Anniversary Fund Leadership Team (listed on the previous page)

Achieving Our Vision

Raising \$1.8 million over the next three years is an ambitious undertaking, but after much prayer and study, our church leadership has determined that the projects that will be supported by the 75th Anniversary Fund — outlined on the previous page — are necessary to enable our congregation to better do the work of God in the world.

We ask you to pray carefully over the chart below, which outlines the various levels of commitment needed to achieve the campaign goal, to see how your family can contribute.

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			
TOTAL: 140 Gifts = \$1,800,000			

Should you choose to give, please note these dates:

- **Commitment Sunday:** During Worship on November 20, we are invited to make our pledges for 2017 Stewardship and the three-year 75th Anniversary Fund. Please see the commitment cards included in this mailing to learn how you can make your gifts.
- **First Fruits Sunday:** During Worship on December 4, we are invited to make our first contributions to the 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.



In Deep Gratitude

The 75th Anniversary Fund campaign has been a labor of love for many, many people, and we wanted to pay special thanks to the following people and organizations:

- Our wonderful church staff — Rush, Lori, Mary, Erin, Kim, Tonya, and especially Marsha and Lawson
- The Leadership Team for their hours of dedication and commitment to their tasks
- Picnic Table Productions, who produced our stunning Anniversary Fund video—please make sure to watch it if you haven't yet!
- Christy Parbst and Malyn Pratt for creating the gorgeous, hand-stitched banners at the back of the sanctuary
- LS3P Associates for creating the conceptual drawings of our chapel and front entry renovation
- Everyone who has taken the time to learn about the 75th Anniversary Fund and its vision for our congregation

