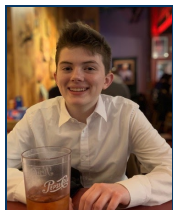


Meet Our New Elders



Andy Bentley is a rising senior at Northwest School of the Arts. He's the son of Michelle and Joe Bentley and the proud owner of a stuffed beaver named Daphne. Andy has been a member of Selwyn since he was born. He loves writing, playing guitar and making theatre.



Kurt Parbst, along with his wife Christy, after moving to the neighborhood in 2006, ended their search for a church home after one visit to Selwyn. Kurt and Christy both grew up in North Carolina and enjoy exploring the region with their two children, Maddie (14) and Henry (12). A graduate of NC State, Kurt is a consulting engineer working on resource efficiency challenges in agriculture. Kurt is an aspiring Christian, parent, and backgammon player. While he is not a golfer, he's been unable to quit the game, and advises youth to consider tennis. Being a member of the Selwyn Church family has been a blessing and he looks forward to giving back.



Ginny Burgin is a real estate broker with Helen Adams Realty, wife of Andy, and mother to Alex (20), Walker (20), and Everett (17). Members since 1998, Ginny and Andy were married at SAPC, and she was baptized here along with their sons. She has served as an Elder, confirmation mentor, as well as volunteering for Habitat for Humanity & ASP.



Samantha 'Sam' Phifer, a native of North Carolina, grew up in Pinehurst, NC. She attended St. Catherine's High School in Richmond, VA and graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2007. Prior to moving to Charlotte in 2012, Sam lived in Atlanta and Washington, DC. Sam is an award-winning marketer – she spent 11 years in cable before moving to Discovery Education in 2018. She currently serves as Vice President, Global Marketing. She loves her current role in education as she helps to prepare learners for tomorrow. She and husband, Nathan, are the proud parents to two boys, William (11 weeks) and Watson (2). Watson attends the CDC, as will William. The Phifers joined Selwyn in 2017. They consider Charlotte home, and look forward to getting more involved at Selwyn.



Charlie Harris and his spouse, Ellen, have been members at Selwyn Presbyterian for more than 10 years. They have three children (Jackson, Margaret and Anne). Charlie has degrees from UNC-CH and the UVA- School of Law. He is a finance attorney, and over the years Charlie has been a part of the Selwyn Christian Education adult teaching team.



Heather Risko and her husband James, are longtime members of SAPC. Their daughter Kyla lives in Austin, Texas. Kyla was in the CDC starting at 8 weeks old until she entered Kindergarten. A graduate of the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, Heather has been working as a Realtor with the Allen Tate Company for 29 years. Selwyn is just like the church she grew up with in Ohio: full of friendly people with a caring, loving atmosphere. It continues to help her to grow emotionally and spiritually.



Morgan Liles and her husband, Welch have two girls, Harrison (4) and Perry (1 ½). She works as the Marketing & Development Manager at HopeWay, a local non-profit mental health treatment center. Morgan and Welch attended SAPC for several years and officially joined in 2019. Morgan is a graduate of NC State and Virginia Commonwealth University, where she received her Masters in Social Work. Native Charlotteans, she and Welch returned home about six years ago. Morgan loves running, being outside and reading.



Ed Thomas is the son of long-time Selwyn Presbyterian (and Choir) members Jeanne and Herman Thomas. Ed and his wife Mary Ann have three children (Marie, Stuart and Ann Carmen). He is currently Director/Premier Technology Partnerships for Aflac US. He has been a member of Selwyn's Chancel Choir since he was 13 (*which is a LONG time ago*). The Selwyn Community has always been a source of strength and security for the Thomas family. "There's been a Thomas around here since they opened wide the doors here and I feel that I have a responsibility to do my part to help sustain our rich heritage. It's a gift to be part of the church and I'm looking forward to my time on Session with some great folks!"



Dick Metzler has been a member of Selwyn for over 25 years. He has been a member of the choir, served on both the Worship and Mission Committees, and spear-headed Selwyn's Habitat for Humanity initiative for 10 years. Dick has served as an Elder at Selwyn and his previous church in New York. He has degrees from three colleges, a consequence of a career change. Dick was a scientist in his "first life," and a church choir director after moving to Charlotte in 1993. Dick retired to help care for his wife, Dottie, after she endured a stroke. Besides Habitat, Dick enjoys tennis and travel. He is looking forward to visiting his two sons and families soon. Meanwhile, Selwyn is his "family", even if it is a "Zoom family" (for now)!



Andy Wertz is a high school English Teacher at Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology. He graduated from Queens University of Charlotte. He enjoys baking, photography, writing, camping, and traveling. He has been involved at Selwyn for seven years - first with the K-5 Sunday School and now as a member. He loves the sincere warmth and welcome at Selwyn.