

# THE SELWYN SPIRE

September 2021

Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church  
2929 Selwyn Avenue Charlotte, NC 28209, Tel: 704-372-6836, [www.selwynpres.org](http://www.selwynpres.org)

Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...  
What has come into being in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people.  
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ~ John 1*

Dear Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church,

*In the beginning...* of the pandemic, we could not have imagined the challenges we would face or loss we would endure. Over the depths of distance and breadth of time your commitment to our Selwyn community has been faithful. However, most of us are fatigued by the new threats of COVID-19, as well as the persistent, traumatic news of the day. There has been so much suffering, so much divisiveness, so much loss. Lately my morning prayer has joined the voice of the Psalmist,

*"How long, O Lord? How long will You hide Your face?  
How long must we bear pain in our souls and have sorrow in our hearts?" ~ Psalm 13*

Yet in the empty spaces, Christ's light has been shining on new pathways leading toward personal faith renewal, vibrant worship, and authentic support of one another. With hope on the horizon, the Session of SAPC unanimously committed to a comprehensive initiative to re-engage the Selwyn Spirit, and you are invited to join them. We may be weary, anxious, and forlorn but like the Psalmist, who had the courage to cry to God in despair we also move forward and pray in solidarity,

*"O Lord, we trust in Your steadfast love; our hearts shall sing in Your salvation.  
We will sing to the Lord because You have dealt bountifully with us." ~ Psalm 13.*

The COVID-19 taskforce continues to guide us with great care for the overall health of our congregation, especially those who are most vulnerable. SAPC has been united in Christ's love for one another. Like you, Rob and I continue to make personal decisions on behalf of our family according to our own health concerns and those of our children. We have intentionally navigated school, vocation, social, and extra-curricular decisions, but now we realize we must re-establish patterns of worship and faith as a priority for our family.

By God's design, living together in faith sustains us in ways we desperately need during these uncertain, isolating times. At SAPC each worship service, small group gathering, mission initiative, and Sunday School class has been carefully planned with your safety and benefit in mind. How will you and your household commit to a life of faith at SAPC this fall? I invite you to talk about it and create a plan that works for you. The pages of this newsletter will help you find many opportunities to join us virtually or in person.

*In the beginning...* of the Fall 2021 programming year at SAPC, we are remembering what it means to belong. We are re-claiming joy. Not because things are better or easier but because,

*'The light of Christ shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it'. ~ John 1*

In the Hope and Promises,



## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

### IN MEMORIAM

Helen Dempsey Whitesides

April 24, 1932– June 15, 2021

### IN MEMORIAM

Townley Spratt Moon

February 21, 1945– August 20, 2021



### RALLY DAY

September 12

Join us for Rally Day Jazz Worship at 10:30am and lunch on the lawn from 11:30 - 1pm. You are invited to BYOL (bring your own lunch) or place an order for a boxed lunch. [Click here](#). Lemonade and water will be provided. As we strive to re-engage as a community, we will gather for fellowship and learn ways to be involved in the life of SAPC.

SELWYN AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS** Individuals and families are encouraged to sign up in honor or memory of people or occasions. 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



**SAPC BOOK CLUB** on September 21, 7pm, will discuss Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell.

Questions, contact [Nancy Bobbitt](#).



**YOU ARE INVITED** to join the Selwyn community in vital ways and make authentic connections with your Selwyn family. If you are interested in serving on a Care Team, with Helping Hands, Fellowship, and/or the Membership Committee, please reach out to [Ashlee Anderson](#).

### 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

Sharon Towers - Richard and Joan Foad

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

### Birth

Damien Joseph Bell, grandson of  
Gay Pappin, on August 6

### Death

Judith Gene Weeter, former member,  
on July 22, 2021

### COVID UPDATE

As we make plans for a vibrant fall, we are guided by a task force of healthcare professionals regarding COVID-19. The recommendations are changing constantly. This summer Selwyn has safely gathered without masks because most of our adult membership is vaccinated. While those vaccinated are at much lower risk, recently members have reported 'break through' COVID infections.

Selwyn is an intergenerational community, with 535 confirmed members and over 200 children and youth, who are unable to be vaccinated. Because we cherish the diversity of our membership, we are called to transcend our weariness with masks as much as we can.

As Selwyn members come back to church, we will open our nursery and offer an array of programming for children, youth, and adults. Our togetherness is a gift. As an expression of care for children and youth, the task force suggests those in the sanctuary wear masks until they can offer better news about the D variant.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Circle meetings resume in September. Please contact a Circle leader for more information.

Circle #1, Women of Wonder - September 13, 12:30pm - Ann Copeland

Circle #2, Peace Seekers - Jamie Yearwood

Circle #3, Our Spiritual Journey - September 14, 10:30am - Bobbie Hankins

Circle #4, Evening Grace - September 7, 7pm - Nancy Bobbitt

Circle #5, Daughters of Faith - September 15, 11am, Weekly - Tracie Northan

**THE FALL WOMEN'S LUNCHEON** will be held on Sunday, October 24 in the Fellowship Hall following worship.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FORMATION



**CHILDREN'S CHOIR** for age 4 through 5th grade will be held on Wednesdays, September 22 and 29, and October 6 and 13, from 5:30-6pm in the Bowman Building.

Contact [Nancy Nutter](#) with questions.



## WEEKDAY OFFERINGS

Several Bible studies, PW Circles and small groups are re-convening this fall. Please refer to publications, the weekly email, or our website to find the one that is right for you.

## 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 will be using the book, *Healing our Broken Humanity*.
- Grace Class (Grace Room)- Bible study and practical application, focusing on the scriptures guiding our preaching series, Known By Heart: Scripture Every Christian Should Know. This class is open to all and hosts a diversity of life stages and perspectives on life.
- Peace Class (Welcome Center or Front Porch)- A new 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 for the week.

## YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:30AM

All Middle and High School youth will gather in the Bates House at 9:30am.

- Confirmation- 8<sup>th</sup> graders meet each week with Youth Director, Margo Richardson.
- Coffee Talks- Real talk about life and faith. A topic will be launched, then youth will break into age appropriate groups for mentored discussions with adult guides.

## ELEMENTARY CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:30AM

Elementary Children (K-5) will gather with Children's Director, Nancy Nutter, for storytelling in the Bowman Building, then break into age appropriate classrooms 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 will be greeted by our long-standing, loving nursery keepers. Preschoolers will enjoy a Bible lesson and activities led by member coordinator, Alex Russell. 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. They will engage in a story and have a time for singing 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.



Blessing of the Back Packs

## WORSHIP

September 12, 10:30am Communion will be served during the Jazz Sunday Rally Day service  
September 19, 10:30am Dedication of Glory to God Hymnals in Worship  
September 26, 10:30am Worship and Celebration with Rev. Dr. Rush Otey

**'MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE'** You are invited to sing with the Chancel Choir. Rehearsals are 9am Sunday mornings in the Sanctuary. Contact Fred Spano, [fspano@uncc.edu](mailto:fspano@uncc.edu) for more information.

## 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](mailto:Tonya Moore), or mailed to the church.
- Thank you for your participation, it is very important.

## MISSION

God calls us to invest our talents into each other and our neighbors near and far. 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 - Take a blue bag, purchase requested grocery items, and return to church the first Sunday of each month to help stock the Food Pantry at Montclair Elementary School.

Roof Above Lunches - Pack ten lunches for our homeless neighbors on one or all of these Saturdays – September 11, October 9, November 13, and December 11. See our website or [sign up here](#).

### HOMELESSNESS

Habitat for Humanity Day - Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 30. We will participate in working on a house, volunteering at the ReStore, and have a Camp Habitat for kids at the church.

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! 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.

### CHILDREN IN NEED

Greater Enrichment Program Afterschool Helper – Offer support with our GEP ministry partners at Montclair 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 Montclair families. [Sign up here](#) or through SAPC's website.

Tutoring at Montclair - There are a variety of commitment levels and opportunities to assist a Montclair 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 you. See our website for details.

## ASSIST PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE EFFORTS

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has established an account to speed cash aid to Haiti following the recent earthquake devastation.



- To make a donation through PDA, contribute [online](#) to Disaster Relief-Haiti, OG100000.
- To give by phone, 1-800-872-3283.
- To give by check, please mail to Presbyterian Church USA, PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 5264-3700, designating Disaster Relief - Haiti on the memo line.
- Or you can write a check to the church, designating PDA - Haiti in the memo line.

Learn more through the following [link](#).



# YOUTH NEWS



SAPC Youth CROSS Missions

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- September 12, 19, 26 – Coffee Talks and Confirmation Class, 9:30am
- September 19, 26 — 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.*



Confirmation Class

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Josh Canter  
Hank Hankins  
Teddy Sutton  
Clark Walton
- Toby Arnheim
- John Simmons  
William Trogon
- Suzanne Phillips

- Christian Pineno  
William Rossi
- Mattie Coble  
Karey Tom
- Sally Shoaf
- Courtney McLellan  
Vicky Windell

- Lori Burbank  
Julia White  
Kelly Wolf
- Darren Price  
Matt Roper
- Rae DePhillips  
Sara Howard  
Kelley Schoeneck
- Lara Nauman  
Melanie Spencer
- Allison Warner
- Davis Long  
Harry Schoeneck  
Frank Spencer
- David Caldwell  
Theo Jeffries

- Peaches Deal  
Anne Harris  
Lindsey Price
- Ollie Astroth  
Andrea Barkley  
Jonah Cameron  
Janice Finein  
Andy Sontag  
Nicolas Vera  
Jason Young
- Christy Home  
Lucy Stark  
Mark Swartz
- Ellen Byrum  
Richard Guinan  
Laura Widmer

- Tara Cameron  
Perry Liles  
Michael Trotter  
Robert Walker
- Eliza Cann  
Beth Carter  
Todd Franklin
- Addie Bahr  
Emma Grace Coble  
Miles Marth  
Marshall Pifer
- Kim Claxton  
Sebastian Hackman  
Michael Oberg
- Lily Hart  
Rob Raible  
Andrew Winkenwerder
- Doug Childs  
Kristen Sedam



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.

## 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