



THE SELWYN SPIRE

September 2022

Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church
2929 Selwyn Avenue Charlotte, NC 28209, Tel: 704-372-6836, www.selwynpres.org

It's not easy to get there.

The plan was to fly (overnight) from Dulles to Heathrow to Glasgow, take a cab to the train, then up the west coast to Oban, and sleep. Wake up, ferry to the Isle of Mull, bus across the island, and then ferry to the Isle of Iona.

Things didn't go according to plan.

Flights were cancelled. Instead, I flew from Pennsylvania (near Rob's hometown) to Charlotte, then Dublin, Ireland where my bag took a long nap on a tarmac. Instead of flying to Glasgow at 8am I missed my connection and eventually landed in Edinburgh at 10:30pm that night. Promptly, I cancelled the hotel in Oban, re-routed the train tickets, shifted the ferry schedule, and hoped for the best.

Somewhere between brushing my teeth in the airport and catching the last ferry to Iona, I began to wonder if it was worth it. Why travel during a new wave of COVID-19? Why spend two and half days in understaffed terminals and crowded stations? Why leave my family behind? Why spend the money, the time, the energy?

Every seven years a pastor in the Charlotte Presbytery is required to take a sabbatical. Because of the pandemic, this summer marked my eighth year, and the one thing I felt compelled to do was travel alone, to the middle of nowhere.

Honestly when I made the plans last December, things were so busy I booked a plane ticket and a small room on the Isle of Iona and kept moving through Advent without much thought.



The island itself is tiny. While visitors come and go, Iona is a small fishing village of 150 full time residents and many sheep. The primary school hosts 17 children, and a working Abbey stands tall on the eastern face. Established in 563 by St. Columba, in many ways Iona was the cradle of Celtic Christianity and continues to be a destination for Christian pilgrims.



As much as I valued daily prayer and worship at the Abbey, I hadn't considered myself to be one of those intentional pilgrims. I just showed up, and once I got there, I wasn't sure what to do with myself.

George Macleod, founder of the ecumenical Iona Community, wrote that Iona is 'a thin place where only tissue paper separates the material from the spiritual.' I experienced it as such. As my soul began to settle, I became more comfortable with the silence, and began to notice the sacredness of God's presence both around me and within my own thoughts.

As I reflect on my days at Iona, one thing is clear: no one should have to travel halfway across the globe to experience the Divine, much less think clearly.

For three years, SAPC's staff have been *doing* a lot to keep things moving. Not unlike my travel to Iona, our plans were constantly disrupted, stalled, cancelled, and re-routed. Alongside Selwyn's Session, we have been responding to the demands of the pandemic with as much intelligence, energy, imagination, and love as possible. Together, we've come a long way and it has been worth the journey! As I return from sabbatical it seems as if we have finally arrived at our destination. Now, instead of acting *on the fly* with urgency, let's intentionally consider how to *be* together. Religion is not a task or a hobby on the list of things *to do*. Faith is a way of being and ordering our lives together. I hope we can *be* the church for one another and for those we encounter in this broken and hurting world. See you on Sunday.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



September 11 Rally Day

Join us as we kickoff our new program year.

- Sunday School for All, 9:30am
- Jazz Worship, 10:30am
- Communion will be observed during worship.
- A potluck picnic will be held on the lawn after worship. Please bring a side dish to share. Remember to bring a blanket or lawn chair.



SAPC "The Bates Society"

Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church has been a blessing to many over the years. We are pleased to introduce you to Selwyn's new Legacy Planned Giving program, appropriately named **"The Bates Society"**. This new program offers you and your family an opportunity to bless Selwyn for generations to come. [Click here to read more.](#)



BISCUITS ON THE LAWN

9:30am, September 4.
Sunday School classes
will not meet.

We welcome

Saylor Marietta Riley
daughter of
Thomson and Vanessa Riley,
born on July 29, 2022.



We welcome

Nora Michelle Piacentino
daughter of
Adam and Cindy Piacentino,
born on August 9, 2022.



We welcome

Collins Quinn Potter
daughter of
Phillip and Michelle Potter,
born on August 11, 2022.



In Nursing or Retirement Homes

Aldersgate - Dick Metzler
Asbury - Mary Faye Proctor
Carmel Hills - Marie Pressley
Carriage Club - Herman Thomas
Cypress - Bill and Nancy Budd,
Steve and Ellen Byrum, Robert Shore,
Olen and Nancy Smith
Matthews Glen - Anne McMackin,
Cara Munday, Anne Rutherford
Merrywood- Jo Caldwell, Pat Ferguson
Sharon Towers - Richard and Joan Foard
Southminster - Kathy and John Hartley,
Kay Hastings, Art Jones, Bobbye Linn,
Tom and Sally Moore



SAPC BOOK CLUB

will meet on
September 20, 6:30pm
at Sir Edmond Halley's
Restaurant to discuss
The Elephant Whisperer
by Lawrence Anthony.

Questions, contact [Nancy Bobbitt](#)

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Josh Canter	11 Lori Burbank	18 David Caldwell	23 Ellen Byrum	28 Lily Hart
Hank Hankins	David Finnie	Theo Jeffries	Richard Guinan	Rob Raible
Teddy Sutton	Julia White		Laura Widmer	Andrew Winkenwerder
Clark Walton	Kelly Wolf	19 Peaches Deal	24 Tara Cameron	29 James Cronmiller
2 Toby Arnheim	12 Darren Price	Anne Harris	Perry Liles	
3 Anna Cronmiller	Matt Roper	Lindsey Price	Michael Trotter	
John Simmons	13 Rae DePhillips	20 Mike DeAmicis	Robert Walker	
5 Suzanne Phillips	Sara Howard	21 Ollie Astroth	25 Eliza Cann	
6 Christian Pineno	Kelley Schoeneck	Andrea Barkley	Beth Carter	
William Rossi	14 Lara Nauman	Jonah Cameron	26 Addie Bahr	
7 Mattie Coble	Melanie Spencer	Janice Finein	Emma Grace Coble	
Karey Tom	15 Allison Warner	Andy Sontag	Miles Marth	
9 Sally Shoaf	17 Davis Long	Nicolas Vera	Marshall Pifer	
10 Courtney McLellan	Harry Schoeneck	Jason Young	27 Kim Claxton	
Vicky Windell	Frank Spencer	22 Christy Horne	Sebastian Hackman	
		Lucy Stark	Michael Oberg	
		Mark Swartz		



SAPC STAFF

Lori Archer Raible, *Pastor*
Margo Richardson Fraga, *Associate Pastor*
Bryan Hovey, *Parish Associate for Pastoral Care*
Hillary Cheek, *Parish Associate for Mission*
Lisa McLennan, *Parish Associate*
Nancy Nutter, *Director of Children/Family Ministries*
Fred Spano, *Director of Music*
Gay Pappin, *Organist*

Marsha Cooper, *Church Administrator*
Debbie Pott, *Administrative Assistant*
Tonya Moore, *Church Accountant*
Reba Hardaway, *Accounting Administrative Assistant*
Jennifer Dixon Remsen, *Communications*
Steve Stevenson, *Facilities Coordinator*
Beth Sharpe, *Director of Child Development Center*

GROUP CHAIRS

Administration - Lou Waple
Child Development Center - Sam Phifer
Christian Education & Formation - Charlie Harris
Congregational Life - Deni Pifer/Ginny Burgin
Mission - Susan Flynn/Chris Bahr
Worship - Suzanne Newsom

WORSHIP

Join us weekly for Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:30am.
September 11, 10:30am Communion will be served during the Rally Day Jazz service.
If you cannot attend worship in the sanctuary an email is sent at 10:15am with the [Facebook link](#).



SANCTUARY FLOWERS You are encouraged to sign up in honor or memory of people or occasions. To reserve a date contact [Marsha Cooper](#). Checks for \$65 should be made to the church indicating "sanctuary flowers."

CHILDREN'S CHOIR We invite children ages 4 through 5th grade to join us. The choir will meet September 21 and 28, October 5 and 12, 5:30 – 6pm in the Chapel. Questions contact [Nancy Nutter](#).

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FORMATION

- ❖ **SUNDAY PRESCHOOL AND NURSERY— 9:30AM, 10:30AM** Our loving nursery keepers care for the children.
- ❖ **CHILDRENS SUNDAY SCHOOL— 9:30AM** K—5th grade children will gather with Nancy Nutter in the Bowman building.
- ❖ **ATTENTION RISING KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS** Worship Readiness Classes for Kindergarten children, and first and second grade children that have not taken this class, starts September 11. Classes will meet Sundays at 9:30am through October 2 in the Bowman building to review the elements of worship, including the sacraments of baptism and communion. The children will receive communion on October 2, during 10:30am worship with the congregation. Please register your child by contacting [Nancy Nutter](#).
- ❖ **YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:30AM** Middle and High School Coffee Talks will meet in the Bates House. Seventh and eighth grade confirmation classes begin. Contact [Margo](#) for additional information.
- ❖ **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:30AM** The Christian Education and Formation (CEF) Group has decided to reorganize and consolidate all adult Sunday School classes into two classes. This reorganization is an opportunity to (a) grow our strong tradition of intergenerational interaction by further expanding it into Sunday School hour, (b) allow individual members to choose a Sunday School class to meet their needs in their faith journey and (c) and have a "fresh start" for our members, teachers and ministry team.

Faith Forward

Open to members of any age/stage of life the study will be based on the *Feasting on the Word* curriculum (Revised Common Lectionary), which includes reading scripture, poetic and responsive prayers, scriptural analysis, key "take away" items, application to current issues and optional reading at home. Intended for those seeking to fill gaps in key tenants of faith and/or further growth it will not require building on what was discussed or covered in prior classes.

Taught by Charlie Harris, Erin Mills, Elizabeth Stearns, and Casey Cothran (as well as ministry team members from time to time)

Conversations on Faith

Open to members of any age/stage of life the class will examine all aspects of Christian life, including Bible study and contemporary issues. It will be accessible, relatable and enjoyable and be discussion-based without you being "put on the spot".

No required reading outside of class time. Some of the classes will build on what was discussed and covered in prior classes. Taught by Sue Ward, Susan Lohr, Susan Lemmon, and John Lemmon.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Circle meetings resume in September. Please contact a Circle leader for more information or Pam Brownlee, PW Moderator.

Circle #1, Women of Wonder - September 12, 11:30pm - Ann Copeland, Cacky Newitt

Circle #2, Peace Seekers - Jamie Yearwood

Circle #3, Our Spiritual Journey - September 13, 10:30am - Bobbie Hankins

Circle #4, Evening Grace - September 6, 7pm - Nancy Bobbitt

Circle #5, Daughters of Faith - September 14, 11am, Weekly - Tracie Northan-Our study for the year will be the podcast series, *For the Love* with Jen Hatmaker, we will begin with *The Elephant in the Room*.



YOUTH NEWS



YOUTH GAME NIGHT

Join us Friday

September 2

6-7:30pm

RSVP to [Margo](#)



Middle School Youth Retreat August 10-12



MISSION

MONTCLAIRE KIDS AND THE GREATER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM NEED YOU!

There are a variety of commitment levels and opportunities to assist a Montclaire child or family.

Visit the [Sign Up Form](#), which is regularly updated with immediate and ongoing needs.

If you sign up, a member of the Mission team will contact you.



FIRST SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE

- Purchase requested groceries for the Montclaire Elementary School Pantry.
- Needs are bag rice, bag beans, canned meat, peanut butter, crackers, canned fruits, vegetables, soup, breakfast items, individual wrapped snacks.
- No glass items please.
- Items can be returned to the church the first Sunday of each month or during the week.

Habitat for Humanity

Selwyn's Habitat workday will be Saturday, November 19. We are scheduled to do painting on a new house on Primrose Avenue.

Make a note on your calendar and watch for more details in church publications.



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Please join us in praying for those in affected communities. To offer your financial support you may send a check to Selwyn, designating PDA and the specific area in the memo line, or send a check directly to Presbyterian Church USA, PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700, or contact PDA by phone 800- 872-3283.

For the financial and technical emergency humanitarian response through faith communities for those fleeing Ukraine, please designate your donation to PDA- Ukraine DR000156 in the memo line or text PDAUKR to 41444.

For PDA National Response Team assistance in the recent devastated flood communities of Kentucky, Virginia, and Missouri, please designate your donation to PDA- Flooding DR000191.