

CHURCH NOTES - December 22, 2024

Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, North Carolina

(Tel) 704-372-6836

(Website) www.selwynpres.org

FAREWELL Debbie Pott, our part-time Administrative Assistant has decided to leave us. She will be missed, and we wish her well upon this second retirement at the end of the month.

SAPC IS SEEKING a part-time Administrative and Publications Assistant to work 9am – 1pm, Monday through Friday. The non-Selwyn member candidate should be friendly, organized, detail-oriented, and able to work independently and with a team. Responsibilities include bulletin and newsletter preparation, reception and telephone duties, and ongoing office needs. If you know of someone, please have them reach out to Marsha Cooper.

ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 everyone is invited to fellowship and bring a bread or treat to share at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Sunday School Classes will not meet. The worship service will be held in the sanctuary at 10:30am.

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES Join us on Sundays at 9:30am for the two new studies beginning January 5.

- Conversations on Faith Class (Parlor) will explore *The Relationship Principles of Jesus* by Tom Holladay. What would you give to radically improve, even transform, what matters most in your relationships? You can thrive in your career, acquire wealth, or build a great reputation. But if your relationships aren't thriving, nothing else matters. Holladay helps give foundational principles, including how to give relationships the highest value, communicate from the heart, love as Jesus loves you, and provides a practical path for fulfilling God's intention for your relationships--even difficult ones.
- Faith Forward Class (Chapel) The intergenerational class will study Ephesians and Luke using the Feasting on the Word curriculum. Following the Revised Common Lectionary, it allows everyone to explore the same Bible passage weekly. This makes it easy for families to live out their faith together, and invites all learners into the rhythm of the church year. This class will not gather on January 19 or February 16.

VISITOR ORIENTATION CLASSES Welcome to Selwyn Avenue! We are glad you are worshipping with us this morning. If you are interested in learning more about Selwyn and its ministries, we invite you to complete the visitor's card in your pew rack and mark your calendar to explore what it means to belong on January 5, 12 and 19, 2025 at 9:30am in the library.

ROOM IN THE INN Selwyn will host Roof Above homeless neighbors on Mondays through March 31, 2025, providing three meals and a warm, safe place to sleep. There are opportunities to help with set up, food, overnight hosting, and driving the church van. Please sign up through the weekly email link.

MONTCLAIRE FOOD PACKING AND DELIVERY Join us on January 9 at 9am in the Fellowship Hall to pack and deliver pantry items for Montclair Elementary School families.

STEWARDSHIP Our community of faith affords us the opportunity to engage with the spirit and unite with Christ. If you have returned your commitment card, thank you. If you have not, we hope you will turn to Acts 4:31-35 in the spirit of faithfulness and generosity as you consider filling out your 2025 estimate of giving. You can return your commitment card to the church office, email church accountant Tonya Moore, or enter your commitment via the church website.

BUDGET UPDATE We ask members to please consider keeping your pledge commitments up to date as we near the end of 2024. Selwyn member Pledges total \$766,600. Actual Pledge receipts YTD are \$730,361. Total deficit is \$36,239.

- Text to Give: 704-734-9818 Enter an amount. The first time you will be prompted to SHELBY to confirm set up. You do not need a key word if giving to the annual fund. You may also give by scanning the Giving QR code.
- Giving Stock: Our account is with Charles Schwab & Co, Inc. When giving stock, please sign a letter of instruction for your broker: Please accept this letter of instruction to transfer __ shares of _____ securities as a gift to Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian, account #6598-4201, DTC Clearing 0164, Code 40. When calling your broker, also contact church accountant Tonya Moore, or 704-996-5504, so she is aware and can credit the proper amount to the correct member.
- End-of-Year Giving reminder: The IRS requires the church receive checks/stocks in 2024 to be counted as a 2024 contribution. If delivered in person, the check must be received in the office by 1pm, December 31, 2024, or in 10:30am worship on December 29. If mailed, your check must be dated 2024, and your envelope postmarked by December 31, 2024. Checks dated in 2024, but postmarked in 2025 must be credited, for IRS purposes in 2025.

GUEST MUSICIANS




Rebecca Ray (violin) developed a love for music when she was introduced to the violin at age nine. She was raised on the Suzuki method and continues to promote this method in her teaching. Rebecca received her Bachelor's of Music in Violin Performance from the University of North Carolina, Charlotte where she studied with Anne R. Belk distinguished Professor David Russell. She teaches students of all ages on violin and viola both privately and in group class settings. In addition to teaching, she is an active performer with various ensembles such as 7 String Theory and CPCC Opera Theater.


Vasily Gorkovoy (violin) teaches violin and viola at the Southern Park Music School. He has an Artist's Certificate from Southern Methodist University; MM from Texas Christian University; BMus from Rostov on Don State Conservatory (Don, Russia). Vasily performs regularly with the Hilton Head and Charlotte Symphonies, and is a member of the Bechtler Ensemble. Vasily particularly enjoys chamber music, as well.

Courtney Guthrie (viola) is a strings teacher at Community House Middle School in Charlotte. As a North Carolina native, Ms. Guthrie began her orchestral career in her public-school orchestra and performed with the Charlotte Symphony Youth Orchestras under the direction of Dr. Pereira. She received a Bachelor's of Music degree from UNC Greensboro. Many of her students are often selected to represent Community House Middle School in honor and youth orchestras in the region. Ms. Guthrie is the Co-Director of the Youth Orchestras of Charlotte's Sinfonia Strings, the viola sectional coach for the Union Symphony Youth Orchestra, and an active freelance violist performing with regional symphonies and locally. Courtney resides in Charlotte, NC with her husband Brian Booth and their dog, Connor.

Liz Burns (cello) received her undergraduate degree from UNC Charlotte and a Masters in Cello Performance from Winthrop University. She is adjunct professor of Cello at Winthrop where she also teaches Strings Methods and coaches the Cello Ensemble. In addition to acting as cello coach for the Youth Orchestras of Charlotte Preparatory, she serves as Assistant Principal of the Salisbury Symphony and regularly subs with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra. She performs frequently at area churches and in chamber music recitals in North and South Carolina.

THE CHRISTMAS QUILT in the sanctuary is a special kind of wrapping paper for the greatest gift of all, the undeserved and incredibly generous involvement of God in our lives and dreams. The simple manger scene is captured in the rich and brilliant colors of celebration, with the infant Jesus demonstrating the peace He offers humanity, a devoted Mary glowing with love, and a vigilant Joseph protecting them both. An elaborate border symbolizes a world rich in complexity and need that awaits a Savior's leadership. The Christmas Quilt is a challenge in that the gift of salvation is presented to us through the love of church and family; we are invited to open it for ourselves and be transformed by that acceptance. This quilt was hand made for SAPC by Sue McCarter, Jeanne Faires, Jean Holliday and Susan Lemmon in November 1990.

THIS WEEK AT SELWYN		
<p>Sunday, December 22 9:30 Chancel Choir 9:30 Sunday School for All 10:30 Combined Worship with Special Music (S)</p> <p>Monday, December 23 5:00 Room in the Inn 7:30 Monday Men's Group (P)</p> <p>Church Notes deadline is Monday by 9am Spire deadline is Monday, December 30, 9am</p>	<p>Tuesday, December 24 Church Office and Child Development Center Closed 10:30 Christmas Eve Worship @ QHPC 4:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S) 5:30 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship @SAPC</p> <p>December 25 and December 26 Church Office and Child Development Center Closed</p>	<p>Friday, December 27 Child Development Center Closed 7:00 Morning Men's Group (BH)</p> <p>Sunday, December 29 9:30 Bring a Bread or Treat Fellowship No Sunday School 10:30 Worship</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Usher </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Montclair Elementary </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Give </div> </div>

 Hearing assistance directions are available in the narthex. Download the app for use with earbuds or to connect a hearing aid to your cell phone.

DECEMBER 24, CHRISTMAS EVE
 10:30 Worship Service at Quail Hollow Presbyterian, 8801 Park Road
 A time for families, especially for those with younger children, to worship together.
 5:30 Traditional Candlelight Service with Communion at Selwyn Avenue
 Joy Gift Offering collected.

The Church Office will be open from 9am- 1pm on December 23, 26, 27, 30, 31.
 The Office will be closed December 24 and 25, and January 1, 2025.