



Dear Selwyn Members,

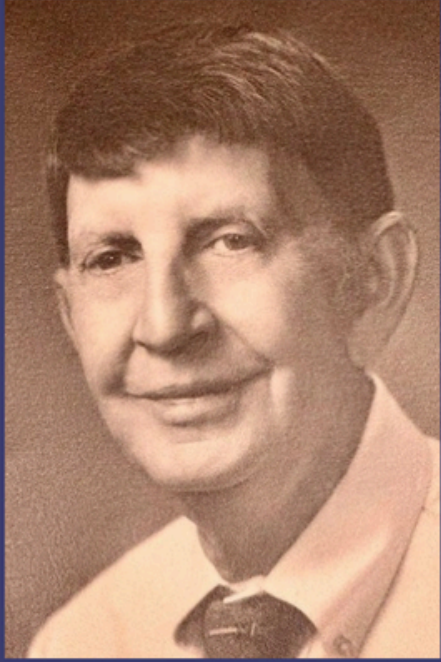
Over 60 years ago Dean Ferguson joined Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church as a young adult. While Dean's quiet faithfulness to God in Christ was rooted in his steady presence among us in worship and fellowship, and expressed in his leadership as an Elder, his discipleship was often intentionally inconspicuous. In Dean's later years, he quietly included Selwyn Avenue in his estate plan. In doing so, he ensured his legacy gift would maintain the church he loved, impact Selwyn's congregation, and expand SAPC's mission for decades to come. With clarity of purpose, parameters and vision, SAPC is now ready to re-launch the Bates Society for Planned Giving.

Thanks to the dynamic leadership of Selwyn's finance and endowment committees, Selwyn has updated and streamlined four designated endowment funds in keeping with their original intent, added the Ferguson Music Endowment Fund, and an undesignated Selwyn Fund. Furthermore, the Session has reconstituted the oversight of an endowment committee, and realigned SAPC's investment strategy with New Covenant Trust of the Presbyterian Foundation. Those of us who feel called to be a part of the Bates Society through planned giving can be confident our gifts will be responsibly managed and honored with integrity.

The timing of Dean's gift of more than \$560,000 was providential. Through careful discernment, Dean stipulated how his financial gift should support the ministries and mission of SAPC. While a majority of Dean's legacy gift will root SAPC's general endowment fund, his love for SAPC impacts all of us right now. As you approach Selwyn's campus, lift your eyes to the steeple. The Spire's rotted wood, peeling paint, and nest of angry hornets were removed with tender loving care!

While Dean was fiercely private, we cannot help but shine a light on how God's faithfulness is magnified through one who bears witness to God's grace with gratitude and generosity. For this reason, estate planning forces us to shout Alleluia, even as we consider our own deaths! This takes courage, doesn't it? In this way, our legacy gifts, no matter how large or small, proclaim the resurrection on earth as it is in heaven.

Dean's favorite scripture is a prayer for the church found in Paul's letter to the Ephesians. If Paul's entire letter was an opera, this prayer would be the aria. An aria cuts to the heart of the matter. Music was the language of Dean's heart, as it reveals the work of God's Holy Spirit in the same way the leaves of an oak tree bear witness to the wind. As Hans Christian Anderson once wrote, "where words fail, music speaks."



Dean Ferguson

I pray that, according to the riches of His glory, God may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. ~Ephesians 3:16-21~

As an expression of Dean’s legacy, we are thrilled to announce an endowed special music series entitled, “The Dean Ferguson Sacred Music Series.” Six times a year Selwyn will host an array of esteemed musicians to enhance Selwyn’s worship beyond our usual scope. The inaugural sacred music service will be February 2nd. Subsequent sacred music services will be April 20th (Easter), June 8th, September 7th, November 2nd, and December (TBD).

The Communion of Saints of which Dean and so many others are a part, root and ground our new initiative of the Bates Society. Together, we can ensure Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church will continue to bless those we seek to welcome and serve for generations to come. In the coming weeks look for an invitation to learn more about Selwyn’s endowment programs and how to join the Bates Society.

With Hope and Gratitude,

Mrs. Deni Pifer, Mr. Ed Thomas (Co-Chairs of the Bates Society), and Rev. Lori Raible

To read more about our February 2nd Guest Artists, [click here](#).