

# THE SELWYN SPIRE

Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, North Carolina

February 2012

If the season of Lent crosses our minds at all, it is possibly with subdued, grayish images—not unlike the worst of February weather. Lent—forty days of reflection, repentance, and sacrifice—goes against the “live it up” grain. Lent seems like a rather unwelcome visitor between the celebrations of Christmas and Easter. Yet there is an unmistakable need within us for periods of prayer and reflection, internal struggle, external restructuring of priorities, and rededication to our faith. Without such times there is a risk of spiritual shallowness and fatigue. Lent, then instead of being a dull and somber season, at best may be approached as a time of recharging and renewal. Historically and today the Church during Lent engages in repentance and prayer and contemplation (this means corporate worship as well as personal devotions), in fasting (giving up what is not necessary in order to focus more intentionally on Christ’s gifts), and making special offerings (loving our neighbors as ourselves).

The late Presbyterian pastor W.B.J. Martin once said this about Lent: “Lent means ‘length, long’ (at this time of the year, the hours of daylight are lengthening). But it also means ‘slow’ as in the musical sign ‘lento.’ . . . Do not hang back, but go slowly and dig deeply. Take time to savor life, to roll it on the tongue, to get the most out of it. There is an old hymn that bids us ‘take time to be holy,’ and we need to learn how to sing it. Why not begin in Lent by fully occupying the spaces that are granted to us and by seeking to turn every relationship into an encounter, a meeting of mind with mind and heart with heart.” Inside this *Spire*, you will find many opportunities to be faithful during Lent, starting with Ash Wednesday worship on February 22 and continuing through Easter morning, April 8. There are also copies of the Lenten brochure available on the tables in the Spire Hall and the narthex.

As one of the favorite Lenten hymns prays, **“And through these days of penitence, And through Thy Passiontide, Yea, evermore in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.”**

## SAPC STAFF

Rush Otey, *Pastor*

Lori Raible, *Associate for Congregational Life and Adult Christian Education*

Mary Bowman, *Associate for Mission*

Emily Phillips, *Director Christian Education*

Erin Mills, *Youth Director*

Fred Spano, *Director of Music*

John Siler, *Organist*

Marsha Cooper, *Church Administrator*

Tonya Moore, *Church Accountant*

Reba Hardaway, *Administrative Assistant*

Cynthia Kara, *Director Child Development Center*

## GROUPS

*Worship*  
Joy Widener, Chair

*Christian Education*  
Kim McGirt, Chair

*Administration*  
Olen Smith, Chair

*Congregational Life*  
Susan Lohr, Chair

*Mission*  
Malyn Pratt, Chair

*Child Development Center*  
Stuart Pfeifer, Chair

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Fax: 704-372-6910  
www.selwynpres.org

# STEWARDSHIP

To pledge, simply fill out a pledge card and drop it off at the church office, pledge online at [www.selwynpres.org](http://www.selwynpres.org) or email your pledge to church accountant Tonya Moore, [tonyam@selwynpres.org](mailto:tonyam@selwynpres.org). Thank you for your support.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

### MARCH PROJECT - SUMMIT HOUSE



This program strengthens families by intervening in the lives of non-violent female offenders and their children. Comprehensive services are administered through the efforts of a public-private partnership in a structured and controlled environment. Needs are: paper products; cleaning products; coffee maker and supplies; dish drainer, cloths, towels; tools; shampoo, lotion and shaving gel; toothbrushes; toothpaste; deodorant; laundry baskets and plastic containers with lids (all sizes).

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

**In Memoriam**  
**Lonnie Ray Miller**  
May 13, 1928 - January 26, 2012

**The Annual Congregational Meeting**  
will be held on Sunday, February 26,  
following the Worship Service.  
Please make plans to attend.

### SAPC BOOK CLUB

Will meet March 20, 6:30pm at Park Place Restaurant, to discuss *Brother to a Dragonfly* by Will Campbell. Contact Eleanor Hahn at 704-554-8089 or Bettye Sue Newsom at 704-376-7902 with questions.



**Daylight Savings Time Begins!**  
**Sunday, March 11**  
Remember to turn your clock **forward**  
one hour.



**Save the Date!**  
Egg Hunt & Community Meal  
March 28 at 5pm

**Property & Maintenance Workday** on  
March 24, 9am to 1pm.  
Please contact Brian Halstead,  
[bghalstead@gmail.com](mailto:bghalstead@gmail.com) or  
704-553-2588, with questions or  
to volunteer.



Members of Boy Scout Troop 99 on their recent trip to Washington DC. The Scouts are working on their Citizenship in the Nation merit badge.

### In Nursing or Retirement Homes

Carriage Club - Roy Bradley, Margaret Cunningham, Boots McFall, Merle Miller  
Carriage Club Health Care Center - Erna Cooper  
Eden Terrace, Spartanburg - Jewel White  
Merrywood - Virginia Bratton  
Plantation Estates - Pat Adams, Dorothy Mayo, Dick & Anne McMackin, Martha St. George  
Sharon Towers - Lois Jordan  
Southminster - Robert & Bobbye Linn, Catherine Mackelfresh  
Springmoor, Raleigh - Evalyn "Pete" Purnell  
The Cypress - Bobby and Mary Davis, Jean Rea  
Twin Lakes, Burlington - Virginia Vaughan

### Deaths

Jean Baptist Shore, sister-in-law of Robert Shore, on January 23, 2012  
Kate Greer, aunt of Vince Pratt, on January 30, 2012  
Mary Shelton, mother of Maribeth Creech, on January 31, 2012

## LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

### Ash Wednesday Worship, February 22

*Enter the Lenten season...*

*From ashes to ashes*

Catered Meal: 5:30pm

A love offering will be collected to offset the cost of the meal.

Worship: 6:30pm

### Lenten Outreach, March 17, 11am – 1pm

Crisis Assistance : Sorting clothes

A traditional part of Lent is reflecting God's mercy by caring for our neighbors. All ages are welcome at the Center to help sort clothes that have been donated.

Space is limited so please reserve a space by contacting Mary Bowman, maryselwyn@gmail.com

### Lenten Lunch & Walking a Labyrinth, March 18, 11:30am



Prayer Labyrinths are experiencing a resurgence in the United States. Many European cathedrals have Labyrinths which symbolize the Christian journey and the long tradition of pilgrimage. The Labyrinth of today is appreciated as a tool for slowing down and experiencing quiet, for setting aside time for thought or prayers, for reflection on a particular aspect of our lives, for reflection on our spiritual lives, or for offering up our concerns.

We will share a basic lunch together in the Fellowship Hall or at the Labyrinth if it is sunny. Please share your questions and interest with Mary Bowman, maryselwyn@gmail.com.

### Adult Sunday Schools

Classes will study passages in John's Gospel, leading us toward the Cross.

### Maundy Thursday Worship, April 5

*Meaningful and powerful, this service centers our hearts on Christ and the Cross...*

Meal: 5:30pm

Worship and Communion: 6:30pm

### Palm Sunday, April 1, 10:30am

### Easter Worship, April 8

Worship: 8:30am

*(Dramatic and untraditional musical influences)*

Traditional Worship: 10:30am

Lenten Devotionals will be linked in weekly SAPC emails.

Registration forms for meals and programs are on the Spire hall table and on the publications page of the website:

[www.selwynpres.org](http://www.selwynpres.org)

## INTERGENERATIONAL RETREAT



### SPACE TO PRAY 2012

Intergenerational Selwyn Retreat,  
Saturday April 14- Sunday, April 15  
Kanuga Conference Center,  
Hendersonville, NC

Rev. Barbara Cawthorne Crafton is an Episcopal priest and nationally recognized author.

She heads The Geranium Farm, an institute for the promotion of spiritual growth, and has served a number of churches.

We are THRILLED to have her with us for this important weekend in the life of our church.

A weekend of family, nature, relaxation, & friends. Our retreat is well balanced with learning time, quiet space, and a full afternoon for family & friends. All meals, activities, and lodging are included.

[www.kanuga.org](http://www.kanuga.org)

### SPACE TO PRAY: Registration Form

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age/grade \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Will you need a crib? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like single occupancy? (+\$30/night) \_\_\_\_\_

Email contact for RETREAT info: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary cell for RETREAT: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: 1-Night/3 meals (Sat-Sun) 2- nights/5 meals (Fri-Sun)

Per person: \$60 \$110

FAMILY MAX \$150 \$250

Payment is due upon registration; mark RETREAT in the line item. If your reservation is CANCELLED after March 20, you are responsible for finding replacement participants, OR paying the full retreat amount, up to an additional \$100/adult & \$45/child. Accommodations are in the 'INN,' & comfortable family cottages.

Please note any specific need.

There is **NO** guarantee we can honor your request.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE  
SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2012**

## MISSION AND OUTREACH

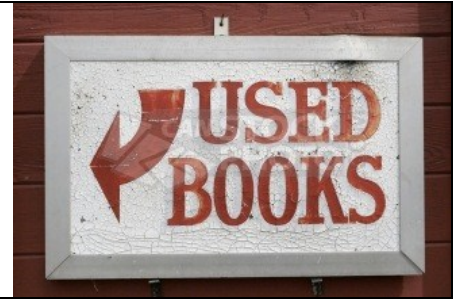


**The Souper Bowl of Caring** collection on February 5 was an enormous success. Thanks to the generosity of Selwyn members, the youth were able to collect \$1,462.34 for the Urban Ministry Center.

### SAVE USED BOOKS FOR APRIL BOOK DRIVE

Our Book Drive last year was a great success, and we would like to do it again, so please save your adult and children's books for this year's Book Drive (April 22 - May 6) for the Habitat Restore and the children of Montclair.

**We will put out collection bins in April, but wanted to give you a heads up.**



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



**PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY** continues on Wednesdays from 11-11:45am in the Parlor. All adults are welcome to any and all gatherings. We will be considering the briefer letters in the New Testament. Why are these included in the Bible, and what is their message for us? The study will end on March 21.

February 22	Titus
February 29	Philemon
March 7	James
March 14	I and II Peter
March 21	I, II, and III John

### Spring 2012 Table Time

Adult Sunday Evening Talkback

5pm: Adult Program (childcare available)

6pm: Community Meal

February 26 and March 4

Where did we go? Marriage in the midst of life. Two-part discussion on love, faith, and living.

3 years - 5th grade Children's Table Time

5pm: Choir and Story Time

6pm: Community Meal

February 26 and March 4

Now its time to learn about Elisha. Join us as we continue hearing stories and engaging these great prophets of the Old Testament.



**JOIN US AS THE JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE CONTINUES** at 5pm in the Parlor with the Book of Deuteronomy. Please contact Mary Bowman, [maryselwyn@gmail.com](mailto:maryselwyn@gmail.com) or 704-365-0871 for more information.

### DAUGHTERS OF FAITH

Young Women gather Wednesdays at 11am in the Grace Room. Childcare is provided. Please contact Lori, [lorir@selwynpres.org](mailto:lorir@selwynpres.org) or 704-372-6836 with questions.

# MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 Debbie Haruta Emily Phillips	6 Holly Goodman Kate Lowe John McCarter Cole Salton	10 Charlie Harris Helen Jones Cacky Newitt	16 Lucas Halstead Jim Williams	22 Tate DePhillips Drayton Thrasher	26 Al Faires Brian Halstead Sutton Howard
2 Susan Hoskins Abney Hudnall	7 Becky Wilson	11 Chuck Ellison Chris Seitz	17 Jack Mills	23 Sandy Burke Charles Horne Megan Kobal Maria Skibinski	27 Althea Muldrew
4 Chloe Parsons John Tibe	8 Adam Ramsey Joy Widener	13 Sam Ryburn	18 Eleanor Hahn	19 Rush Otey Lou Waple	28 Sands Hame Maeve Raible
5 Ryan Earey William Flynn John Thompson	9 Beth Long Maggie Seitz Matt Wakefield	14 Todd Muldrew	20 Katy Shoemaker	25 Amy Carroll Alice Watson	29 Faith Gibson
		15 Molly Burbank	21 Mory Lowe Erin Mills		30 Tyler Hall Shelley Waple

# CALENDAR

## Thursday, March 1

6:15 Handbells (B)  
7:30 Chancel Choir (S)

## Sunday, March 4

9:00 Chancel Choir (S)  
9:30 Sunday School  
9:30 Confirmation Class (Bates)  
10:30 Preschool 3's Choir  
10:30 Worship Service  
10:50 Preschool 4's-K Choir  
11:30 Christian Ed. Group (OS)  
11:30 Worship Group (P)  
11:30 1st -5th Grade Choir (B)  
3:00 Jr. Girl Scouts (SH)  
5:00 Middle School Youth (Bates)  
5:00 Sunday Evening Bible Study (P)  
5:00 Table Time (B)  
5:00 Adult Talkback (Chapel)  
6:00 Community Meal (FH)  
td Salt Shakers (Foard's)

## Monday, March 5

9:00 Church Notes Deadline  
12:30 Circle 1 (P)  
5:00 RITI (B)  
7:00 Boy Scouts (SH)  
7:30 Circle 4 (P)

## Tuesday, March 6

10:15 Circle 2 (P)  
10:15 Circle 3 (OS)  
7:00 Scottish Dancers (FH)  
7:00 Cub Scouts (SH)

## Wednesday, March 7

11:00 Pastor's Bible Study (P)  
11:00 Daughter's of Faith (GR)  
2:00 Faith & Film (P)

## Thursday, March 8

6:15 Handbells (B)  
6:45 Cadettes (offsite)  
7:30 Chancel Choir (Providence Pres)

## Sunday, March 11

### Daylight Saving Time Begins

9:00 Chancel Choir (S)  
9:30 Sunday School  
9:30 Confirmation Class (Bates)  
10:30 Preschool 3's Choir  
10:30 Worship Service  
Children's Chapel  
10:50 Preschool 4's-K Choir  
11:30 Congregational Life Group (P)  
11:30 1st -5th Grade Choir (B)  
2:45 Brownie Troop (SH)  
5:00 Middle School Youth (S)  
5:00 Sunday Evening Bible Study (P)

## Monday, March 12

9:00 Church Notes Deadline  
9:00 Spire Deadline  
5:00 RITI (B)  
7:00 Boy Scouts (SH)

## Tuesday, March 13

7:00 Scottish Dancers (FH)

## Wednesday, March 14

11:00 Pastor's Bible Study (P)  
11:00 Daughter's of Faith (GR)  
2:00 Faith & Film (P)

## Thursday, March 15

6:15 Handbells (B)  
7:30 Chancel Choir (S)

## Saturday, March 17

11:00 Lenten Outreach  
(Crisis Assistance Ministry)  
6:30 Just Friends (td)

## Sunday, March 18

9:00 Chancel Choir (S)  
9:30 Sunday School  
9:30 Confirmation Class (Bates)  
10:30 Preschool 3's Choir  
10:30 Worship Service  
10:45 Urban Ministries Lemonade  
(Offsite)  
10:50 Preschool 4's-K Choir  
11:30 Lenten Lunch & Labyrinth  
11:30 1st -5th Grade Choir (B)  
11:30 Prayer Shawl Meeting (P)  
3:00 Jr. Girl Scouts (SH)  
5:00 Middle School Youth (S)  
5:00 Sunday Evening Bible Study (P)

## Monday, March 19

9:00 Church Notes Deadline  
5:00 RITI  
7:00 Boy Scouts (SH)

## Tuesday, March 20

6:30 SAPC Book Club (Park Road  
Restaurant)  
7:00 Scottish Dancers (FH)  
7:00 Cub Scouts (SH)

## Wednesday, March 21

11:00 Pastor's Bible Study (P)  
11:00 Daughter's of Faith (GR)  
2:00 Faith & Film (P)

## Thursday, March 22

6:15 Handbells (B)  
6:45 Cadettes (offsite)  
7:30 Chancel Choir (S)

## Saturday, March 24

9:00 Youth—30 Hour Famine  
(Myers Park Presbyterian)  
9:00 Property Maintenance  
Workday

## Sunday, March 25

9:00 Chancel Choir (S)  
9:30 Sunday School  
9:30 Confirmation Class (Bates)  
10:30 Preschool 3's Choir  
10:30 Worship Service  
10:50 Preschool 4's-K Choir  
11:30 1st -5th Grade Choir (B)  
11:30 Session (FH)  
2:45 Brownie Troop (SH)  
5:00 Sunday Evening Bible Study (P)

## Monday, March 26

9:00 Church Notes Deadline  
5:00 RITI  
7:00 Boy Scouts (SH)

## Tuesday, March 27

5:30 Daisy Troop (SH)  
7:00 Scottish Dancers (FH)

## Wednesday, March 28

11:00 Daughter's of Faith (GR)  
2:00 Faith & Film (P)  
5:00 Egg Hunt  
5:30 Community Meal (FH)

## Thursday, March 29

6:15 Handbells (B)  
7:30 Chancel Choir  
(Providence Presbyterian)

**Church Office Hours:**  
9am-5pm Mon.-Thurs.,  
9am-1pm Fri.

# WORSHIP

**COMMUNION WILL BE SERVED**  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2012 during the 10:30am Worship Service**

If you are unable to attend the worship service and would like to receive communion at your residence, please notify the church office, 704-372-6836 or Joy Widener, 704-541-8395.

# YOUTH NEWS

In March, we will begin preparing for Youth Sunday, which will be held on May 6. Middle school youth will meet in the sanctuary on March 11 and March 18 for an hour and then have dinner in the Fellowship Hall. High school youth will meet separately, time and date to be determined.

At the end of this month, we will be making some significant changes to high school youth group in terms of activities and days and times we meet. We will be starting a regular Bible study and will meet on February 21 to determine what we want to study and plan out the schedule for the remainder of the spring.

A few reminders! If your youth plans to participate in 30 Hour Famine (and I hope they do!), please refer to the packet that was mailed out after Christmas for registration details. You can register and choose workshops online, which is new for this year, and gives youth a lot more options than they have had in the past. Also, please remember that Montreat permission forms and deposits were due February 5. Mission trip packets were mailed out last week and permission forms and deposits for that trip must be turned in by the end of February. We have a lot of exciting things ahead of us and I am really looking forward to the remainder of the spring and the summer!

Blessings, *Erin*

Date	What?	Where?	When?
<b>Tuesday, February 21st</b>	High school youth meet for conversation and Bible study	Caribou Coffee in Park Road Shopping Center	7:30pm
<b>Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Middle school youth group; Parents- Programming as part of Table Time	Youth in Bates; Parents in chapel	5-6:30 (Dinner served at 6pm)
<b>Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Middle School youth group; Parents- Programming as part of Table Time	Youth in Bates; Parents in chapel	5-6:30 (Dinner served at 6pm)
<b>Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup> (Daylight savings time)</b>	Youth Sunday Prep!	Meet in sanctuary	Middle school- 5-6pm Dinner from 6-6:30pm High school- TBD
<b>Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Youth Sunday Prep!	Meet in sanctuary	Middle school- 5-6pm Dinner from 6-6:30pm High school- TBD
<b>Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup></b>	30 Hour Famine (Details on permission form)	Myers Park Presbyterian	Saturday 9am through worship on Sunday

X

SELWYN AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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