



God's People in Bayonnais Embody Endurance and Beauty

Charter members David and Judy Nichols are the face of OFCB Ministries in Bayonnais, Haiti at SMPC. Since retiring from banking in 2003, David has made 18 trips to the poorest country in the Western hemisphere; Judy has gone 10 times. Together, David and

Judy have logged nearly 80,000 miles to love and serve our neighbors in Bayonnais.

"I feel like it was my calling to do something for the world in the name of Christ," David recalled. "That feeling was something I'd never had before." The Nichols' interest in making a difference in Haiti began when they met a student from Bayonnais, Actionnel Fleurisma. He was living with fellow charter members Ernest and Helen Hunter and attending classes at Central Piedmont Community College. A year after returning to Bayonnais, Actionnel and four friends decided to start a Christian school there. SMPC formed a Missions Committee to support their new venture. In 1994, the school opened with 105 students and operated on a shoestring budget. Today, there are 2,500 Haitians enrolled in the school and 14 U.S. churches of various denominations have joined in support of OFCB Ministries. Actionnel is the lead pastor of their 500-member church.

Judy deems OFCB Ministries a long-term success, though this relationship is not always easy. "We can't save the world, but we can improve the lives of people in Bayonnais," she said. "That's why we've made a commitment to focus our energies and resources there." Ever-passionate missionaries, David and Judy are constantly recruiting others to join them on their next journey. "It is very exciting for us to see other people experiencing Bayonnais for the first time. Most visitors are inspired by the hope, faith, endurance and beauty of those they meet."

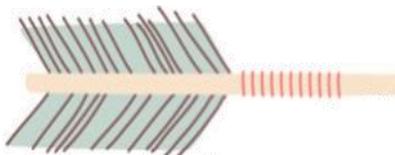
One of the most exciting changes the Nichols have witnessed in Bayonnais has been the addition of a second school building with 14 new classrooms. Benevolence funds set aside from SMPC's previous capital campaigns helped fund this project. Nursing students sponsored by SMPC, along with Dr. Faustin Charles, now provide medical care at Bethesda Health Center of Bayonnais – completed in 2013. Dr. Charles was in OFCB High School's first graduating class in 2003. David and Judy now dream of raising enough funds to expand the five-year-old clinic and purchase a much-needed x-ray machine.

As members of SMPC for 26 years, the Nichols have experienced many exciting changes as well. They are especially grateful for the way our permanent Sanctuary has enhanced their worship experience. "I find the stained glass windows to be very meaningful," said Judy. "The Sanctuary's design makes it easy for me to look around and see my SMPC family during worship." One constant for which David is grateful is "Surely the Presence" being sung every Sunday. "It reminds me of our days at McAlpine Elementary. My dad was dying of cancer at the time, and he came to worship with us. This is always a special memory for me."

The Nichols have long loved and served our SMPC family and the beautiful people of Bayonnais. Their spirit of generosity is contagious! When we support our Room to Dream capital campaign, we not only ensure that we can continue to offer quality ministries and programs in this corner of South Charlotte, but we give hope and life to the resilient people of Haiti.



Judy and David Nichols



South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church
Capital Campaign News: April 2017



Serving up Hope to Charlotte's Homeless

When South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church volunteer cooks began dishing up spaghetti at Salvation Army's Center of Hope more than 16 years ago, recent new members Kim and Tyler Overcash were still in high school. Kim was a newly minted teen driver in Kings Mountain. Tyler was a senior at Charlotte Country Day School and peddled popcorn at Stonecrest's Regal Cinema. Kim and Tyler met while students at UNC Chapel Hill, and in 2009 they were married at Myers Park United Methodist Church, Tyler's home church.

In January 2016, Kim and Tyler joined SMPC along with their daughters, Claire (age 4) and Olivia (18 months). At the invitation of Missions-Outreach co-chair Tom Strohl, the Overcashes donned hair nets and food service gloves and went to work in the Center of Hope kitchen. It wasn't long before the couple was fully engaged in this important ministry, committing to be trained as team leaders. In this role they help direct SMPC's spaghetti dinner efforts in the Center of Hope's institutional kitchen once a quarter. **SMPC serves dinner at the year-round emergency shelter on the first Saturday of every month and breakfast on the third Saturday.** An average of 300 women and children sleep at the homeless shelter every night. Many of the children who enjoy the messy plate of pasta and meatballs are as young as Claire and Olivia and frequently moms with newborn babies come to the dining hall.

The Overcashes' first experience supervising the kitchen was March 4, 2017, and the evening went smoothly. "Several residents came back through the line for seconds," Tyler reported. "They said that our spaghetti dinner was like eating a meal in a restaurant." Kim overheard some guests comment that the hot, healthy meal with child-friendly options would be welcome every night. "Being a part of the Center of Hope ministry helps connect us to the larger community, to get outside our South Charlotte bubble," said Kim. "It's not a big time commitment, and we get to meet new people in our church family."



"Our dream is to build the spiritual foundation that Claire and Olivia will need to carry them through life. We want them to know there is a loving God who will always be there for them."
-- Kim Overcash

From left: Kim, Olivia (18 months), Claire (4), and Tyler Overcash



Since becoming a part of our SMPC family, making spiritual connections has been vital for Kim and Tyler. Kim teaches three-year-olds in Sunday School and Tyler attends the Bible 101 adult class. "It's one thing to be a believer," said Kim, "but it's another to practice your faith. SMPC helps me to grow intellectually and to deepen my faith."

In 10 years, Claire Overcash will be 14 years old and able to serve alongside her parents in the Center of Hope kitchen. In 10 years, we can retire our Sanctuary debt, freeing our resources to reach even more of the vulnerable people God has called us to serve. What are your dreams for loving and serving our neighbors in the Charlotte community and in the world? Please take time to prayerfully consider making a commitment to SMPC's 2017 Room to Dream Capital Campaign on Sunday, April 23.

Ardrey Kell junior Chad Jorgensen (pictured with his mother Barbara) was one year old when SMPC's Center of Hope ministry began. Today, he regularly leads a team of spaghetti servers in the kitchen.

Want to join this meaningful ministry? Visit www.SMPChome.org/Serve/Outreach.



WHAT WILL THIS CAMPAIGN ACHIEVE?

Raising \$1.4 million through a three-year capital campaign will enable us to continue to fund our Sanctuary mortgage payments for the next 36 months. Any additional money raised will allow us to increase our payments, decrease our debt, and fund other ministries of the church.

HOW IS OUR DEBT STRUCTURED?

We refinanced our mortgage in 2016, and an end is in sight! We will be debt-free in nine years – by April 2026. We have a fixed monthly payment of \$42,725.55 and an effective interest rate of 3.07%.

WHAT DID THE SANCTUARY COST TO BUILD?

The cost was just under \$6.2 million. Currently, our debt balance is \$4.1 million.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

SMPC needs your support for this campaign! We need your prayers and we need your love. We also need your financial commitment. Please set aside time to ask for God's guidance as you consider how you will support this campaign.

For your convenience, we have included a Room to Dream pledge card, below.

You may also pledge online at www.SMPCHome.org/home/room-to-dream.

Please return cards on Commitment Sunday, April 23 or to the Church Office.



Capital Campaign Pledge Card

May 2017 - April 2020

Commitment Sunday: April 23, 2017

In gratitude to Almighty God, I/We (print name): _____ wish to contribute a total pledge of \$ _____ to the 2017 Room to Dream Sanctuary Capital Campaign to be paid as follows:

Annual Payments

- or -

Weekly, Semi-Monthly, Monthly, or Quarterly Payments

\$ _____ in 2017

\$ _____ weekly for 156 weeks

\$ _____ in 2018

\$ _____ semi-monthly for 72 periods

\$ _____ in 2019

\$ _____ monthly for 36 months

\$ _____ in 2020 (by April 30, 2020)

\$ _____ quarterly for 12 quarters

I/We desire to pay by bank draft (enclose voided blank check.) Please call me to discuss a gift other than money or other matter.
 draft on: 1st of month 15th of month 1st & 15th split

Signature _____

Signature _____

Date _____



South Mecklenburg
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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→ PRAYER WALK →

Take a spiritual time-out with your SMPC family on **Saturday, April 22**. Come as you are with your family, by yourself, or with your small group and drop in between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to experience our beautiful 14-acre campus – rain or shine.

It is a time of prayer, reflection and gratitude as you embark on a guided prayer journey through 12 different stations inside our wonderful facilities and throughout the grounds. A prayer leader will greet you at each destination along the way – the Community Outreach closet, outdoor worship space, pastors' offices – and offer self-directed activities. The prayer walk can be completed in as little as 30 minutes, but you are invited to linger as long as you like.

For more information, contact Kathy Galati at kathyhg118@yahoo.com or Lisa Gilleland at lsgilleland@gmail.com.



Commitment Sunday APRIL 23

One worship service at 10:30 a.m.
followed by a casual munch & mingle lunch!

No reservations necessary. All are welcome!