



**South Mecklenburg  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
2018 Operating Fund Campaign**

*The Gifts of God for the People of God*

Dear SMPC friends,

We are the Davis family and have been members of SMPC since 2007. At the time we started visiting SMPC, we were a young family with two daughters, Chloe and Hiley, who were 3 and 5 years old – they are now 13 and 15! Like many of you, we visited SMPC for a little while and quickly realized this would be our church home. Everyone was so welcoming, we could see the good things the church was doing for its members and the community, and we knew it was the right place for our family's spiritual growth.

Thinking about how church played a role in our early lives, Maria regularly attended with her family in her youth, while my family was not very active in any church. In the first few years of our marriage, and early days as parents, we did not make finding a church home a priority, although we always felt it was something that we needed in our lives. Fortunately, our good friends Derek and Leanne Royster, whom we have known since young Derek and Hiley were infants, encouraged us to try SMPC, and the connection was made!

Over the course of the past 10 years, we have come to rely on our SMPC family during times of emotional, spiritual, and basic day-to-day support. We have also found ways to provide these very things back to our church family. Maria has served as a Deacon and is currently an Elder on the Session. She has also found connection and growth as a member of her women's circle group, while I have just joined the Stewardship Committee and am looking forward to the many ways that I can contribute to the growth of SMPC. We are both mentors in the confirmation program this year, and Chloe herself is part of this year's confirmation class.

Each year we grow a little more – getting older, maybe a little wiser, the girls are getting taller, smarter, becoming young adults that make us proud each day. SPMC grows as well through new church families, a new sanctuary, more baptisms, big confirmation classes, and supporting more community needs. To be perfectly honest, we are still learning how to best contribute our time, talent and resources to SMPC, as I am sure many of you are also. What we do know without question is that we are blessed every day, and in many ways much more than we could have ever imagined, so we truly believe contributing our resources to our church home is the absolute right thing to do.

We have received and continue to receive so much more from SMPC and our church family than we could ever give back. Over the years, we have been fortunate enough to find the path to give more and now see this as the normal part of sharing with our time, talent and resources with our church family.

Jeff and Maria Davis