



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

The Gifts of God for the People of God

Dear SMPC Friends,

Our family has a deeply fulfilling relationship with South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church that is continuing to grow and prosper. Having moved to Indian Land, South Carolina in June 2008, we were excited about our new “hometown”. We arrived in Charlotte in our first year of marriage, we each had successful careers and we moved into a terrific neighborhood. We quickly befriended our next door neighbors, Barb & Pat Malo, members of SMPC.

Amy grew up Presbyterian, Aarik did not. We were married in a Presbyterian church in Sarasota, Florida and visited a Presbyterian church in San Francisco prior to settling in Charlotte. Aarik’s Presbyterianism was definitely taking root. Together, we encouraged one another to grow in our faith and make the Presbyterian church an extension of our family. Our neighbors extended an invitation to attend worship at SMPC and aside from some uneasiness congregating in non-pew adorned Mecklenburg Hall, we quickly fell in love with SMPC. Finding South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church was meant to be.

Aarik was baptized here in 2009 when we joined the church. Both Amy and Aarik got involved with various ministries and devoted their time with ease. Amy is currently a Ruling Elder and has been very active with Hospitality and Membership. Aarik served as a Deacon and is currently active leading the Men’s Bible Study on Friday mornings. Both enjoy participating in the Modern Family Values adult Sunday school class, too. Our spiritual faith has certainly deepened as a result of the many areas SMPC offers the congregation and the community.

In 2010, we decided that it was time to grow our family and we started an open adoption process with an agency in February. Once enrolled, it would take between 18 to 24 months to complete the adoption process, if successful. Out of the blue, we received a call from Aarik’s cousin only a couple months later. She was pregnant and not in a position to keep and care for her child and asked us if adoption was a possibility. Aaron was born July 15, 2010 and our parenting dreams were answered. Aaron was baptized here in November of the same year. Our family, our faith, our journey with SMPC just seemed meant to be.

Aaron has been growing up here, too. He is excited to serve as an acolyte and every so often he nudges me for some dollar bills so he can share with the children’s worship offering or the Spoon-It-Up offering. With the help of the SMPC staff, we are able to educate Aaron on the “why” and “how” to give to the church and the importance this institution has to the greater community at-large.

Throughout our years at SMPC, we have made a concerted effort to share our financial resources with the church. We recognize the importance of giving to support the Operating Fund and the

Sanctuary Fund, as well as various activities ranging from buying food for the Center of Hope breakfast or dinner, sponsoring a child in Bayonnais, Haiti and supporting the SMPC walkers during CROP Walk. We are blessed to be able to give to many great causes; however, we are committed to making our greatest contribution to SMPC.

With each year, we make a commitment to SMPC's Annual Operating Fund campaign. We do so with immense gratitude for the journey we are on. With all of the demand on our time, our talent and our resources, we take advantage of the automatic draft process for our pledges. It really makes it easy despite that guilty feeling when the plate gets passed to you. Thankfully, there are the "We Give Electronically" cards to use!

This journey, this place, this family simply must have been meant to be. Thank you SMPC!

With gratitude to God,

Amy, Aarik & Aaron Eberhardt