

Charles and Della Gill (as told by Charles)

From my earliest years I have known that God loves us and that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. I was blessed to grow up in a home where the Good News was proclaimed. My mother and father taught us that the chief aim in life is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

But aim as we might, early on I also learned that life is not that straightforward. People miss the mark. To make a long story short (God knows the long version well!) I personally have come to know how forgiving God's love is in Christ Jesus. I have been amazed by God's presence in my life. God is love; His is the love that binds wounds and makes us whole and restores the soul.

My wife, Della, and I met when we were 12 and have been best friends ever since. We were married in 1975. We share the blessings of our belief that Jesus is the Son of God and the Bread of Life. We also share a love for reaching out to the lost. Our offering is witness to the old adage: we are like one beggar showing another beggar where to find bread... the Bread of Life. After serving 16 years in Virginia (Richmond, West Point, and Arlington) I was called to a ministry on these Outer Banks where we planted a new church in Southern Shores while building the ministry and adding on at Saint Andrew's by the Sea in Nags Head during a 14-year pastorate. Community ministry was emphasized with the aim of connecting neighbors in Christian fellowship through the love of Jesus. Community Suppers were organized by Della, providing meals to those who would benefit in breaking bread with others, honoring the fellowship of those who share the joy that Jesus is the Bread of Life. These meals brought people together whether "churched" or "unchurched", believers or not. This was the start of what is now called "Ruthie's Kitchen."

After raising three children on the Outer Banks, our professional lives changed. Della and I retired; Della from her practice in pediatric physical therapy and I from parish ministry. However, we found that retirement is not a biblical term! Putting on a new set of tires, "re-tiring", Della spearheaded and planted the seeds of a mission with Teresa Clarkin Green now realized in Cross Roads OBX.

Our aim... Befriending neighbors who are broken and lost; thrown off course by homelessness, addiction, incarceration, or other events. Simply put our mission is to build relationships that provide new direction and trust in God, themselves and others.

Comfortable wearing several hats, Charles notes, "There is great potential for ministry in everything we do. I continue to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ on the Outer Banks through ministry, witness, worship, and serving. About ten years ago I got my real estate license and hang that hat as a broker with The Sakers' Team at Coldwell Banker Seaside Realty. Truth of the matter is, God cares about where and how we live our lives!"