

# Faith In Action

A new series profiling members and friends of SMCC

## Ramona Garrison

Many have seen the smiling face and experienced the love of Ramona Garrison who has been a member of San Marino Community Church for nearly 50 years.



Ramona moved to California when she was 18. She met Fred Garrison, her future husband, who grew up in San Marino. He was 8 years old when the doors of SMCC opened in 1941. Fred was a deacon and an elder who oversaw communion preparation and servers every month. When Fred died in 1999, the church family lifted Ramona in prayer and she knew that God was with her. She is deeply grateful for the love of this congregation which helped her through her loss. Shortly after Fred's death, Ramona began participating in the Grief Support group. Now, she nurtures and comforts new members in the group.

In 2005 Ramona had a serious heart attack and was in the hospital for 5 ½ weeks. While she was there the reports were dismal. The doctors were about to release her from all life support systems; however, the pastor and her children asked the physicians to give her another 24 hours. The power of prayer was present and she took a turn for the better and was on her way to recovery. Ramona knew the congregation and her family had been praying for her, and she was inspired to give to others in a way that the congregation had given to her. She was led to volunteer at Arcadia Methodist Hospital where she takes people to surgery, wheels pregnant women to the operating rooms, prays with people, comforts people when they are afraid, and co-leads meditation in the Chapel on Monday mornings with the Chaplain. She has asked to be alerted when any folks from SMCC or Monte Vista Groves and Royal Oaks are visiting so she can say hello and pray with them.

Ramona is involved in the life of the church in many capacities. She has been a Deacon for three terms (9 years) and volunteers in the church office. Her faith is strong, but she says she is still growing as she remembers this scripture verse written by Paul in Acts 20:35: *"In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'it is more blessed to give than to receive'."* Ramona works, serves, and loves her church family and beyond.

Ramona is indeed an example of someone who listens to God's call inviting us to put our Faith into Action. Ramona felt the hand of God lifting her and she takes advantage of God's gifts to her to help others feel strengthened by God's love.