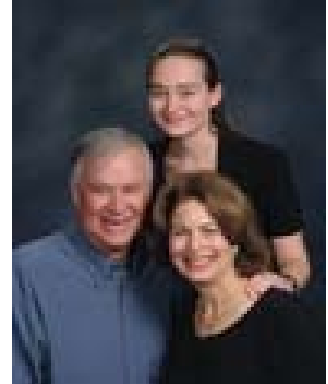


Faith In Action

A new series profiling members and friends of SMCC

Bill Wells

Growing up in San Diego, Bill's mother made sure he was at Point Loma Presbyterian Church every Sunday. Mom was often his Sunday school teacher and his Dad was caring and compassionate, but he wrestled intellectually with faith. However, it was only after Bill experienced a "perfect storm" in college that he began to truly turn to God on his own.



Bill exudes thankfulness for being given a blessed life, however, in college he first experienced the blessing of being "poor in spirit". He continues to grow his faith through San Marino Community Church's Men's Bible Study and another Bible study group for couples. Bill truly "hungers and thirsts for righteousness." Serving as co-facilitator of the SMCC Adult Bible Study on Sundays also encourages his growth in faith. He and wife Janet have been active members here since 1989; they share in leading Dinners for 7 or 8, as well as participating in a monthly Marriage Enrichment Group.

Another aspect of Bill's service came through Stephen Ministry training, which has equipped him to help lead Grief Groups at SMCC. Bill has learned that he is best suited for one-to-one or small groups, where he can listen, but also share his faith and the joy he has in his relationship with God.

Bill says that living Jesus' Great Commandment, motivates him to help those who suffer, including his 86 year-old mother as she deals with the latter stages of Alzheimer's. He will continue to serve her beyond these past five years, as he lives "the longest good-bye" and knows first-hand about anticipatory grief.

Bill believes in and lives a servant-shape of ministry in and through the Body of Christ, where it is safe, though stretching, to be vulnerable in community in order to grow. When Bill first went to Malawi, Africa, he was inspired by the faith and joy of Malawian Christians who have so much hope in the midst of dire needs. He says, "Their life in the Spirit is so real and powerful. Because they depend on the Lord for their needs they are close to him." Bill sees that in our abundance, we are easily blinded and miss this freeing reality. Bill confesses his need to see the log in his own eye. He is a man who admits to being "in process". "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." "Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted." He mourns our being "poor in spirit". Bill strives to walk his talk, as he lives and serves his family, his church family, and beyond.

San Marino Community Church 1750 Virginia Road, San Marino, CA 91108
(626) 282-4181 • Fax: (626) 282-4185 www.smccpby.com • smcc@smccpby.com