

Faith In Action

A new series profiling members and friends of SMCC

Laurie and Katie Mitchell

Laurie and her daughter, Katie, are on the GO Team for Malawi. They look forward to visiting the warm heart of Africa together, and are sure the experience will enrich their faith.

Laurie, husband Chris, and their children Katie (confirmed 2003) and Max (confirmed 2007) moved to San Marino in 1993. Three days after the move, they walked the three blocks from their home to “check out” San Marino Community Church. They have been involved members ever since – SMCC feels like family to them. The annual croquet tournament sponsored by the Mitchells has become a popular summer event, encouraging multi-generational fellowship. The Mitchells also frequently prepare and serve dinner at Union Station



Laurie has served as an elder, Foundation director, Sunday school teacher, and a Vacation Bible School teacher. She is involved not only in the church, but also gives a helping hand and kind heart to many young adults who are struggling to find their way in life. As an accounting professor at University of Redlands, Laurie truly exemplifies “Love your neighbor as yourself” through the caring and nurturing of students. She meets individually with each student to help them identify their passion, and advises them how to use that passion to succeed. After noticing how many first generation college students struggled in job interviews, Laurie wanted to help. She now arranges workshops on how to dress and act appropriately for business situations, plus sets up mock interviews. When one of her students had to drop out of college due to credit card debt, Laurie saw the need for young adults to learn about financial matters. She took action and gives seminars on financial literacy to high school students.

While Laurie shows a commitment to her faith in many ways, she also feels that her faith gives back to her. There is joy and satisfaction when her students accomplish their goals. Her family has grown in faith and community through all their activities at the church, including a small group, and an annual summer highlight – All-Church Family Camp!

Katie Mitchell, who just graduated from University of Richmond, has also given a lot to the church, and has received much in return. Early involvement in SMCC’s music and arts program led to glee club and theater in high school and college. Katie also enjoyed teaching Vacation Bible School, which strengthened her leadership skills. She has utilized these skills in her role as a Resident Advisor and leading organizations at college. Some may remember Katie’s outstanding sermon as a Summer Youth Intern in 2007, which helped her decide to become a rhetoric and communications major and speech consultant to other students.