

# Faith In Action

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A series profiling members and friends of SMCC

## Tom and Nancy Billings:

Even as they enjoy watching the progress of the renovation of San Marino Community Church over recent weeks, Tom and Nancy Billings are quick to reaffirm their belief that the true foundation of their church is its members; through times of joy and of challenge the congregation has remained united in its commitment to the community and to the good news of Jesus Christ.



Tom and Nancy were high school friends in New Jersey and reconnected four years later in San Francisco. They discovered that they had been living only a block away from each other, and a year later they were married. The couple came to San Marino from Northern California in 1975, their daughter, Carrie, was born in 1976, and they made SMCC their church home in 1978. Since then, Tom has served as elder, deacon, Foundation director, and has been a member of the choir for thirty-one years. Nancy has been involved with the children's programs, including Sunday school, VBS, and the youth choirs. She and Tom have expressed a great respect for Reverend Jeff O' Grady's inspiring and unifying leadership of the church.

As the great-great-grandson of a Presbyterian minister, the roots of Tom's faith are deep and personal, and today he continues his service as an elder. He is a committed veteran in the group insurance industry, designing and implementing health plans to benefit working Americans. Nancy has been a businesswoman in San Marino, operating the gift store "Crickets" for 16 years.

When sharing the joys of her faith, Nancy recalls the night before her father died. She had been staying with him in the hospital and, unable to sleep, wandered outside. That night, the breathtaking sight of Mount Tamalpais under a full moon brought her an undeniable awareness of God's presence and peace. Her father passed away the next day, but the image of "Dad's moon" over Mount Tam that night will always remain.

Twenty one years later, Nancy still finds herself outside at the end of each day, saying good night to the moon and thanking God for the many blessings she and Tom enjoy. They remember her Dad as a gentle man with a big heart who shared his love of God with his family, and led by example with his leadership at both San Anselmo Presbyterian Church and San Francisco Theological Seminary. They like to think they are following his example at SMCC.

Their thoughts and prayers are always with their daughter Carrie, their grandchildren, Will and Kate, ages four and two, and their son-in-law Chuck, a surgeon currently serving with the Navy in Afghanistan.

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