

# Faith In Action

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A series profiling members and friends of SMCC

## George & Coleen Ball

George comes from a family tradition deeply rooted in service to the Church. His paternal grandfather and maternal grandmother served as pastor and organist at the same small country church – the United Methodist Church (UMC) in Lake Mahopac, New York. It was there that his parents first met as teenagers and where George attended regularly before leaving for college in 1976. This strong foundation of church and family had a lasting and profound impact on his life.



On receiving his degree from Drexel University in Philadelphia, George set out on a career in accounting and finance, which led to several relocations, extensive international travel, and most important of all, meeting his lovely wife, Coleen. They were married in Coleen's home church – St. Thomas United Church of Christ in Reading, Pennsylvania – in March 1985, and thereafter welcomed into the world two beautiful daughters, Courtney and Katie. Following several moves, which included membership in several UCC and UMC congregations in various states, they settled in San Marino in 1999. They soon came to love both the community, and San Marino Community Church, becoming Presbyterians for the first time.

George, a self-professed “church bureaucrat”, served on a variety of church boards and committees before arriving in San Marino, and did much the same thing during his early years at SMCC, serving as Elder and chair of the Personnel Committee during the recent pastoral transition years. During that time, he served as “Acting Head of Staff” for six weeks before Rev. O’Grady’s arrival at SMCC in March 2005; a period George jokingly refers as the “most challenging chapter” in SMCC history. Since that time, George has been involved in a variety of activities including the Celebrate 70 Capital Campaign. He currently serves on the SMCC Foundation Board, and as Clerk of Session. Coleen, too, has been deeply involved in many similar activities at the church, serving prominently on the Board of Deacons where her duties included overseeing food and refreshments for the especially important Sunday morning time of fellowship.

More recently, George’s focus has been the study and teaching of scripture; an awakening he credits to SMCC’s excellent adult ministry programs. During any given week, George is actively engaged with up to three Bible study groups: the Sunday morning Adult Bible Study class, which he co-leads with Bill Wells; the Wednesday evening Men’s Bible Study, and a small group bible study which George and Coleen host at their home on alternate Thursday evenings. Through groups such as these, George’s faith has grown and deepened at SMCC. His hope and prayer is that all may find the same joy and depth of meaning in and through our church community.