

# Faith In Action

A series profiling members and friends of SMCC

## Lew and Elinor Miller

Lew and Elinor Miller have been at San Marino Community Church since 1956, for 55 years of its 70 year history. For Lew and Elinor, whether it's about being a member of a church, a city, or a neighborhood, it's all about the people and getting involved.



Lew and Elinor met as students at Florida State College in Lakeland, FL. They lived in Colorado and Ohio before coming to California for the warm climate. When they moved to Endicott Road in 1956 there were 27 kids on the street and many of the families both then and over the years have been members of SMCC. It was little Billy Dryden (now SMCC's sound technician) who first told them about the church. They promptly visited and Elinor joined the church choir the very next week, an affiliation that lasted 53 years. Trained as a singer, attending college on a National Arts and Letters vocal scholarship, Elinor sang many solos with the choir and was choir president five times.

Lew and Elinor have always loved being involved with children and youth. Their classic car has been one magnet, attracting both neighborhood and church kids. They also were advisors for the Chattic Choir for many years, back in the days when over 100 middle and senior high kids participated. Rehearsal was every Wednesday night and special events included summer trips to the Hollywood Bowl. The Choir was a nucleus of activity and a wonderful experience for the Millers and the many youth who were involved.

In the summer the Miller family loved attending all-church family camp at Camp O'ongo. They were regular campers for 18 years and often ended up chaperoning as many as a dozen kids whose parents couldn't attend. (They're intrigued with the yurts they've heard about at the current camp). Strong advocates of family camp, they refer to the experience as a "big vitamin pill" each summer that really connected their social and spiritual lives.

As long-term members at San Marino Community Church, they've seen many changes. Their motto for dealing with change is that if everything was always kept the same, there would be less opportunity for growth.

The Millers urge everyone to say "yes" to getting the whole family involved in activities at church throughout the week, not just on Sunday. "Whatever you can do, be a part and own it." Their activities: teaching Sunday School, Men's breakfast, Wednesday morning prayer group, choir, camp, deacons, elders, and committee work have made life rich and rewarding. Being involved has led to a sense of belonging, pride in what's being achieved, life-long fellowship, and tremendous mutual support throughout the years.

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