

# Faith In Action

A series profiling members and friends of SMCC

## **Winnie Washburn**

World War I ended on Winnie's first birthday: November 11, 1918. Her family lived in an old ranch house in the Oakland Hills. Dad taught manual arts for 40 years, and Mom was a talented seamstress, pianist, organist, poet, and teacher. There were six children in the family when they established Young's Dairy – "The Best Grade A Raw Milk in California". After school the kids delivered 300 quarts a day, with 11 year old Winnie driving the little truck. Their family motto for those growing up years was, "Make do with what you have, and if you don't have it, make it!"



Winnie "came to the Lord" at Mount Hermon, CA at age ten, and felt called to ministry. Stanford Medical School turned her down because she was a woman; San Francisco Presbytery turned her down in the 1930's, saying, "Women are not ordained... just be a Sunday school teacher." Not to be denied, Winnie got her MA in Christian Education and degrees in Church Music and Choir Directing. She said, "If I can't be a Minister, I'll marry one!"

And that she did. In 1941 Winnie married the Rev. Harry Washburn. Harry was a brilliant orator, a beloved pastor, father of three, and, as Winnie points out, "totally dyslexic". She loved their team ministry; making music all her life, raising three children, and creating a home wherever they found themselves. Winnie is a master gardener, having planted trees around the world, and has written three books with a fourth on the way about Biblical Messianic Prophecy.

Winnie received an MA in Gifted Special Students (H.S.), and taught for 30 years. She and Harry served Churches in IL, WY, ID, CA, New Zealand, and Scotland. They took students abroad, spent two years in Scotland, and traveled around the world studying missions. Even as retirement approached, Winnie earned a third MA in Gerontology, and became an assistant chaplain to her husband, serving nursing homes as a team for 15 years. (She hopes to get a PhD in Heaven!)

By 1995, Harry's health was failing and Winnie became his full-time caregiver until, in October, 2002, he passed to God's Kingdom. Winnie moved to Cedar City, UT to continue work as a lay pastor and master gardener, establishing two Native Plant Societies. She was eventually encouraged to slow down, find a comfortable retirement home, and enjoy some much needed R&R. In a matter of weeks she visited Monte Vista Grove, took to it immediately, and moved in. Winnie then joined San Marino Community Church. Thanks to the SMCC family and the many ministries offered, Winnie is at last "at home" as a Deacon. On November 11, 2011 at 11:01 am, Winnie began her 95<sup>th</sup> year. "Thank you, San Marino Community Church for your Christ-Music, Christ-Preaching, Christ-Fellowship, and above all, Christian Love."

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