

# FBC CONNECTION

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CONNECTING THE LIFE AND PEOPLE OF FOOTHILL BIBLE CHURCH

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Chris Johnson, Teresa Miller and Sheila Sutton playing charades.  
Picture by Christine Andrews

More great Game Night pictures on page 11.

## The Comfort of God

PEGGY BRYAN

By Linda Mawby

### By God's Grace

What is most striking, initially, about Peggy Bryan is her agility and grace - at the age of 93! For those of us who are "middle age" and beyond, as life takes its toll on the body this becomes more and more relatively extraordinary. Peggy not only maneuvers her way through life, she does so with spry and confident buoyancy. Take her line dancing for example, a class she has attended at the local senior center every month for the past 14 years - three days a week! "You have to keep moving" or, as the saying goes, "if you don't use it, you lose it." To top it off, it's a lot of fun! ... Don't be fooled, however. This achievement requires strength, persistence, and determination - underlying traits that have been demonstrated throughout her life ... a life both challenging and rewarding - by God's grace.

Born in Los Angeles in 1921, uncertainty and change has

been a prominent part of her life. She has seen Southern California evolve through the Great Depression, World War II, and a comprehensive shift from an agrarian economy to the barely identifiable evidences of it. In 1921, World War I officially ended, and Adolf Hitler, a decorated war veteran, was elected to lead the Nazi party. Instability began early for her and her younger brother due to her parents' employment at a retreat center in Idyllwild. They were primarily cared for by a loving, elderly Christian couple, until Peggy reached the age of 5. They then relocated to Los Angeles where her father had a neon sign business and her mother was a bookkeeper. Although the Great Depression had a devastating financial impact worldwide, Los Angeles maintained a relatively strong

economic base in farming, oil, tourism, and movies. Finances were not a difficulty, and she recalls her mother feeding many a transient that migrated to and through her community of El Sereno ("the serene one" in Spanish). Life for Peggy, however, was not always serene with an alcoholic father. Yet, her ever present teachings about Jesus and attendance at church through her youth gave her the stability she would learn to rely on for support and strength.



Peggy in 1941

### My Refuge is in God

Peggy married William Bryan of Victorville in 1941, just in time to bid farewell as he entered the Navy. Stationed at Pearl Harbor, he survived its bombing and began a 20-year

career that left Peggy, for much of this time, raising their children alone. She lost their first baby before birth, but later raised children Billy, Valerie, and David with the ever faithful support of her mother and extended

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*Peggy Bryan continued from page 1*

family. Retiring from the Navy did not lead to a happy home life either, as his practice of unfaithfulness led to a divorce, and Peggy once again found herself alone - but not without the continued support of her family and, most importantly, the Lord - her ever-present Rock through times of trouble.

**Psalm 62:7 - "On God my salvation and my gloryrest; The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God."**

Peggy had begun an education in nursing many years prior, after graduating from high school and before meeting William. Now, with the need to support herself, was the perfect time to complete it. She did, and was licensed as a Registered Nurse in 1966 at the age of 45. She then relocated to Oceanside to live with her mother. Armed with her degree and her experience working at a pharmacy while studying at Mt. San Antonio College, God provided a job near Camp Pendleton at the Tri-City



*Nursing photo taken in 1966*

Medical Center. Twenty years later, she retired as one of the PM Nurse Supervisors for the entire hospital! Her strength, resolve, and perseverance, all while being upheld by the Lord's most gracious hand, carried her through.

## Find Rest For Your Soul

In the midst of this season of life, God would bring Peggy through her darkest of times - the accidental death of her youngest son, David, at the age of 20, while doing what he loved - rock climbing in Yosemite. This has been a life-long heartache beyond all others. Where was the Lord at this time? ... He was carrying her through, yet, again ... through the numbness and anger ... and the whys and why nots. She found great solace in a poem given her by a friend entitled "God's Lent Child", a portion of which includes:

"I'll lend you for a little while a child of mine" God said - For you to love the while he lives and mourn for when he's dead. It may be six or seven years or forty two or three but will you, till I call him back, take care of him for me? ... Now will you give him all your love, nor think the labour vain, nor hate me when I come to take this lent child back again?

Shortly thereafter, she would lose her mother. Through these times she continued to receive great comfort from the Lord through His precious promises, such as those found in

**Matthew 11: 28-30 - "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."**

Upon retiring from nursing at age 65, Peggy now had opportunity to become more involved with her beloved church body: joining the mission committee, becoming a deaconess, making quilts for gifts, starting a Cookie Brigade delivering cookies as an opportunity for engagement and outreach. She also had the opportunity to travel. Hand in hand with a favorite aunt, she visited many countries around the world. Her favorite experiences include an African safari, a biblical trip to Israel and Egypt, the Passion Play at Oberammergau in Germany, Nelson Mandela's home in South Africa, and the Iguassu Falls in Brazil.

Another challenge that followed was to receive news of the dreaded "C-word": she was diagnosed with colon cancer. Fortunately, with good medical care it was successfully treated. The process, however, led her to realize she needed to be closer to her children. Her daughter lived in Rancho Cucamonga, so she moved here in 2000. As God would have it, while searching for a local church, a friend from her church in Oceanside happened to know a long-time member of Foothill Bible Church, Carol Kennedy. Carol gave Peggy a call, and on her first Sunday here, she knew she was "at home".

**You Never Stop Learning and Growing**



*Peggy with her line dancing troupe. She's the 2nd one from the right.*

Peggy has been growing and serving in ministry here at FBC for 14 years. Though not an "up front" person, you can find her behind the scenes, sending cards of encouragement and care on behalf of Women's Ministries, lovingly preparing our monthly communion, encouraging other women through weekly Bible Studies and through the Common Thread

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# Prayer & Fellowship

*Peggy Bryan continued from page 2*  
ministry to older, single women.

Through 93 years ... “I’ve learned that you never stop learning and growing. When I was younger my relationship with God was more superficial – I prayed when I was desperate or in need. I’m not sure I ever took the time to thank Him as He answered those prayers. Yet, God’s love is not conditional. It’s important that we thank him when we’re aware of his presence and interest in our lives - but his care for us isn’t dependent on



*Peggy with her family. Left to right: Kacey, Seana, Peggy, Kari, Ashley, Jamie, Michael. Back row: Wesley, Michael, Tyson.*

those things. He’s going to meet you where you are.”

“Don’t depend on yourself - depend on the Lord. He is the one who sustains us - from one day to the next.”

Her favorite scripture verses include: **Psalm 23** and **II Corinthians 1:3-4** - “**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.**”

Peggy has truly found the comfort of God, and, in turn, is able to comfort others.

Although she lost her daughter to cancer 5 years ago, her son Billy and her 7 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren, and one great great-grandchild all continue to love and care for her. So too, her church family and close friends. We reap what we sow, and I see in Peggy Bryan a life full and overflowing with love, strength, determination, grace, and beauty. Knowing this kind and gentle woman on a deeper level, it is evident that her spry, confident buoyancy exists not only in body, but in soul and spirit, too – and it flows from the hand of God.



*Attendees form small groups to pray for specific needs. Picture by Art Nakamura*

Our first prayer meeting in June was a report from the short-term mission team that ministered at the Joni and Friends Family Camp. We heard the testimonies of God's grace through this trip and prayed for our missionaries and ministries at FBC.

For July, we had an update on Promise in PNG and a special report from her parents, Robert and Valerie Vaughan, regarding their trip to visit her in April. We also spent time in prayer for our missionaries and ministries.

The August focus for prayer was for our upcoming Fall Kick-Off, the ministries at FBC and beyond. Each month we followed our prayer time with ice cream on the patio outside of the Fountain Cafe.





sure we were welcomed from preparing a delicious meal, complete with a Dove chocolate bar (no, not a little piece, a WHOLE bar for each of us).

The conversation was not forced, but flowed naturally from basic get-to-know-you questions like, "Where do you work?", "What are you studying in school?" and "How long have you played the piano?" At first, it seemed one-sided as Bryan and Stacy sought to know more about our family. The questions were reciprocated and each person shared their basic life bio.

After the meal, we entered the living room to continue the conversations started at the dining room table. We began to be more curious about this young family and how they came to faith. Our children were now asking questions, not just answering them. Who knew that our whole family had so much in common with this young family. They so reminded me of Scott and myself eighteen years earlier when Hannah and Blake were three years and eight months.

Before we knew it, five hours had passed and not one smidgen of boredom on our part and not one regret about spending the evening getting to know one another. We said our goodbyes and returned home with full tummies and a sense of having a kindred spirit with this young family.

What holds us back from practicing hospitality? Many times it is our priorities, sometimes it is our lack of understanding this directive to Christians to practice hospitality. Often, it is thinking we do not have a nice enough home or enough money to spend on a nice meal.

Are you ready to show love to another by sharing a meal and a conversation?

## An Unlikely Friendship

by Julia Buehl

My family was the recipient of hospitality from Bryan and Stacy Shaw this summer. It seemed an unlikely matching of families as my children are in college and their children are preschool age. I asked what I could bring for the meal and was told just to bring myself. It was an evening of being served, sharing our life stories, and knowing that as believers, we have a bond that surpasses the generation gaps in our families.

As we entered the front door of the Shaw home, two little faces peered at the four of us standing on the front porch of their home. Hugs were passed between us and we came in to find a tidy home with a table set and the food ready to be served.

**On my mind were the obvious objections: "What if I do not like the food they are serving?" "How long will I have to stay?" and "What if we have nothing in common?"**

Let me reassure you that each one of those fears were, well, never realized. Why? Because our hosts made the effort to make



Hannah, Scott, & Julia Buehl, Stacy, Bryan, Clarissa, & Gabriel Shaw.  
Not pictured: Blake Buehl



## Newcomer's Luncheon

by Al Gernon

The Newcomer's lunch is a gathering of those who are new to FBC and a team of hosts who are church members. After a period of time for introductions and informal pairing we settle in and pray over the food, our guests and hosts. The guests soon find themselves with church members joining them for lunch and conversation. Sometimes we have a group of ten and at others forty. Wow! What a way to begin at Foothill Bible Church, first an intriguing sermon followed by lunch and several new friends who are willing to know all about you and point you in all the right directions to find the answers to your questions.

Every third Sunday of the month the Newcomer's lunch is prepared by my wonderful wife, Karen, and myself. Home cooked food is served buffet style for our guests to enjoy. Along with the meal, a team of church members greet, converse, and introduce our guests to the church, their families and the various activities of FBC. This can include every aspect of our church life from church service times, Sunday school locations, small groups and even a condensed version of FBC's doctrinal foundation. I have seen parents and students come from my classes as a teacher and those whom I have had the opportunity to know through my singing. This is multiplied by other FBC members as well as those who come after hearing about it through the church announcements.

After serving in this ministry for several years, we know it works. Karen and I have been blessed many times over by our guests, hosting groups and our three pastoral couples.

There are many who have come to join this ministry and have filled in the gaps when we were hard-pressed or uncomfortable with some of the areas needed for this ministry to be complete. I am always amazed at the talents provided by God. One area that became difficult to handle was the gathering of information about our guests. A member of the church came and offered to handle this need. Gayle didn't want to do this on a scheduled basis but to our great pleasure she comes every month by greeting every guest ensuring that all of the business needs are complete. She then helps with the serving of dessert. Here is an opportunity for someone to take over Gayle's ministry as she is no longer able to attend.

Everyone who is a part of this ministry are a blessing to those who come as guests. The host groups who come to minister to our guests provide a tremendous blessing to Karen and myself. From the wonderful pastors and their wives, younger church members, and those of us who are at least young at heart are all blessed by the guests we serve. Some examples I've witnessed are a guest being invited to lunch by an FBC attendee of only six months. Another a ten year old member of a visiting family, not wanting the corn chowder being served, ate two pieces of corn bread and gave his Dad's chowder a reluctant taste. He then consumed eight bowls. When Joe and Michelle are at lunch you can expect an exuberant, spirit filled conversation heard throughout the room. Often one can hear an elder or pastor involved in a theological discussion.

Whatever level of need or service needed, it is given in the name of Jesus Christ. The Newcomer's lunch combines the gathering in the name of Christ, sharing in both faith and food.

Come and offer to those new to FBC a warm meal served and shared love of Christ.

We are looking for people willing to join our host teams for our Newcomer's Lunch every third Sunday of the month. We currently have 4 teams alternating once every quarter. Host teams are simply responsible to show up for lunch and talk with and answer questions about FBC. If you would like more information regarding this ministry or would like to be a part of a team, please contact the church office.



*From left to right: Al Gernon, Karen Gernon, Rachel Donaldson, Patti Nonemaker, Tim Donaldson*



*Back row: Jackie & Ray Langeloh, Patti & Jeff Nonemaker, Bernie Cestone; Front row: Ann Inlow, Karen Gernon, Carol Brandt, Joe Lane*

*Not pictured: Gayle Bostic, Jim and Kathy Johnson, Betty Evans, Mike and Denise Morrow, Paul Molina, Preston and Joan Smith, Debby Mayclin, Arsenio Montoya.*

## Rearing in Righteousness

By Jason Pince

This summer, a number of couples were able to attend a seminar titled “Parenting Building Blocks”, taught by Zach Mikat, elder and co-leader of the Young Marrieds class with Pastor Vince. We had a lot of fun as we reflected on a range of different topics, the realities of life with kids, and the truths provided in Scripture to guide our parenting.

Proverbs 4:5-6 - “Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding! Do not forget nor turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake [wisdom], and she will guard you; love her, and she will watch over you.”

We began with establishing our parenting foundations of authority, the one flesh relationship, and discipleship. We established that God is the ultimate authority we and our children submit to; He then delegates His authority to Dad, then to Mom. Obedience to that authority is taught first, and all other instruction then follows. We learned the importance of the one flesh relationship and open communication leading to alignment in all aspects of parenting, ensuring that the same objectives and means of achieving them were set as we began refocusing our parenting around a simple formula: God’s Word + Relationship + Time = Discipleship.



Zach Mikat is the leader of the group. Picture by Jason Pince

Proverbs 6:23 - “For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; And reproofs for discipline are the way of life.”

Our study in how to impart wisdom to our children naturally led to the book of Proverbs. Here Zach introduced the “mountain” diagram to help visualize the direction and nature of Biblical parenting. Each mountain has a path, with the top mountain depicting the path towards wisdom & righteousness, and the path circling the bottom mountain leading to death & Sheol. The circular nature of the path as it winds up the mountain is illustrative of both the book of Proverbs and real life. As we often find ourselves returning to the same struggles, so do our children. For this reason, Solomon often repeats his instruction to his son to constantly remind him and steer him back towards the path of righteousness as sin’s temptations repeatedly attack.



Left to right: Jason & Christine Pince, Kaitie & William Forsyth, Zach & Stacey Mikat, Audrey & Micah Lugg with Evelyn Lugg, Matt & Nicole Wrye, Erica Beatty, Luke & Laura Rhee  
Picture by Jason Pince

Proverbs 4:18-19 - “But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, that shines brighter and brighter until the full day. The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know over what they stumble.”

The principle of “Teach, Train, and Correct” became a core mantra of the class, focusing on encouraging our children towards righteousness instead of the typical parenting path of “Tell, Yell, and Punish.” In this distinction, we sought to avoid the burdensome rules of legalism by always pointing back to God as the ultimate authority. In circumstances where correction was needed, we learned the process of ensuring even that became a teaching moment and included *restoration* of the relationship through the example we have in Christ. Some practical tips on how to go about the correction were also instructive for those of us who were not blessed with a “Wisdom Whacker” or similar implement in our childhood.



Left to right: Bryan & Stacy Shaw, Stacey & Zach Mikat, Peter & Vanessa Bugbee, Amber Quoc, Zara Plakakis, Mireya Furman, Monique & Fernando Rios, Andrea & Jerry Montano

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# Annual Meeting

Parenting Class continued from page 6

**Proverbs 22:6 - “Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.”**

Teaching on responsibility & privilege centered on balance. Each is given carefully so as not to overbalance in either direction. Every child is different, however, especially when it comes to distinctions between the genders. The implications of these differences were many, but here are a few that stood out to us. For girls, we were encouraged to help her build a “Wall” of wisdom instead of Dad wielding a shotgun to keep unwelcome suitors at bay, and Mom’s example of Biblical values, service, and submission. Boys presented much different challenges, but the key points here included channeling boys’ boundless energy through appropriate means (usually outside), and to put off anger, crude speech, immorality, selfishness, and laziness, and put on righteous living habits (Col. 3:5-10).

**Proverbs 13:7 - “There is one who pretends to be rich, but has nothing; another pretends to be poor, but has great wealth.”**

Here are some key applications different families had from the class:

*“The class has been spectacular.*

*My wife and I were greatly encouraged, challenged, excited for the things God is doing in our family.*

*We are so thankful for this opportunity to dig deeper into godly parenting.”*

*“One of the most important things we learned was taking a proactive approach to teaching and training our child how to walk rightly, not just administering correction when wrong was done.”*

*“I really appreciated how Zach brought the vision of life taught in the book of Proverbs to a practical level for our home life and parenting.*

*His consistency to apply Solomonian wisdom to parenting in today’s world was really helpful and illuminating.”*

*“One of the most helpful things we learned is the difference between punishment and correction. Punishment is focused on bringing pain for a past action. Correction is focused on calling your child back to the path of wisdom for their benefit.”*

This year's annual meeting and potluck was well attended on August 24, 2014. The 2014-15 budget was approved at 100% and the affirmation of the elders and deacons at over 99%.



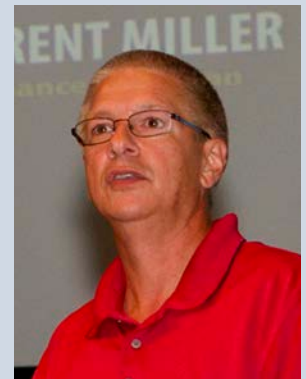
*David Forsyth  
Teaching Pastor*

Besides our pastors, our elders are Bernie Cestone, Carlos Flores, Jim Kercheval, Zachary Mikat, John Sutton, and Ivan Andrews. Andy Astadurian is on sabbatical and we welcome Ivan Andrews on his first term.



*Bernie Cestone  
Chairman  
of the Elder Board*

The deacon board members are Mark Anderson, Richard Johnson, Jeff Letherer, and Brent Miller who also serves as church treasurer.



*Brent Miller  
Treasurer*



*Jeremy Bryan  
Pastor  
Summit Bible Church  
Church Plant in Fontana*

# New Members



## Brooke Farrar

by Debby Mayclin

Like many raised in Christian homes, Brooke Farrar, youngest daughter of Jeff and Gina Farrar, cannot remember the exact date she became a Christian. However, she can instantly recount an important lesson God is teaching her. “Definitely, anxiety and fear have always been a struggle, especially this last year... being uncertain of what the Lord has for me, where my life’s going, getting the classes I need. That’s been hard. Then He reminds me that if He is who He says He is I need to accept that whatever happens is GOD’s plan! And I know He knows best. He has my life in His hands.”

Brooke has always lived in California. She enjoys reading and music, prefers cats to dogs, and loves sports. Her favorite sport is volleyball; she played one year for Mt. San Antonio College. She was home schooled since kindergarten and says she was surprised that attending

public community college was not as big a “shock” as she anticipated.

However, what is surprising is her goal. Since 2011, Brooke has been studying commercial aviation at Mt. SAC to become equipped as a missionary aviator. How did God lead her in this direction? Never doubt the influence of grandparents. Brooke’s grandmother suggested the course of studies based on what she knew of Brooke’s interests, temperament, and character. From Brooke’s first aviation class, it has proven to be a great fit. Currently, she is just a few hours and an exam away from earning her private pilot’s license.

This year, Brooke’s classes focus on aircraft maintenance, a necessity for missionary aviators! As a female, she will be in the minority. Moreover, she has had little mechanical experience to date. Nevertheless, she is moving forward trusting God will continue to reveal His will for her life and arming herself with Philippians 4:6-7: “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”



## Susan Hansen

by Debby Mayclin

*“I really know He is in control, no matter what... Everybody has their struggles... when you go through those valleys, it is a comfort knowing He is there...”* Indeed. Susan Hansen radiates this calm assurance of God’s presence in her life with her ready smile and unassuming countenance.

Born in Pennsylvania, Susan’s family moved to California when she was two. She grew up in Needles, a small, close-knit community where everyone knew everybody else. After business school, Susan worked for Douglas Aircraft in Long Beach. Later, Susan married and left work to raise her children. When her children were in high school, Susan returned to work as an administrative assistant to a Christian doctor of psychology in Claremont until her employer retired. For the last four years, she has served as caregiver to her 90-year-old mother. Susan loves to quilt, read, sew, scrapbook, and spend time with her grandchildren. Blessed that her children live locally, her face literally lights the room when she talks about her two grandsons and the granddaughter expected in late October!

Susan’s unique history with FBC commenced as a new believer in the early 1980s when she began attending Upland Bible Church at the invitation of her sister. At approximately the same time, she also began attending a “Joy of Living” Bible study at Foothill Baptist Church facilitated by Norma Crawford. When the two churches merged, she continued at FBC until, due to changing family dynamics, she made the difficult decision to seek another church home. Now many years later, the warm welcome she has received upon her return had added to her joy in being back.

Susan has been eager to jump into service at FBC. Among her motives to do so was her desire to reconnect with old friends as well as to make new ones. However, serving has been an integral part of Susan’s Christian life. At Upland Bible Church, Susan seems to have done a little bit of everything, helping in Sunday school, VBS, AWANA, and the hospitality team. Now, you will often find her at the Connections Corner and at TABS. In fact this fall, Susan will be succeeding Norma Crawford as facilitator of TABS.

TABS, short for “Tuesday A.M. Bible Study,” began about 35 years ago as a ministry of Foothill Baptist Church. Women attending FBC as well as from a variety of other Bible-believing

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*New Members  
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churches meet weekly to discuss their Bible lesson, to praise God, to fellowship, and to pray on Tuesday mornings from 9:00-11:30. This year beginning September 23, and running through May of 2015, TABS will use a Joy of Living study of the book of Acts. Taking what Susan says is “a definite step of faith,” she will be heading up this ministry, which will surely result in yet another year of Susan’s testimony that “God is in control...”



## Rhonda Risser

*by Julia Buehl*

Rhonda has attended FBC for a total of eight years. In 2001, she was part of a mailing list for Foothill Institute of Theological Training (FITT) which really excited her because she had a deep desire to grow in her understanding of Scripture, theology and doctrine. Before she could commit to FITT, she needed to check out the church behind

it. Pastor David was preaching the book of John and his systematic expository preaching confirmed for her that she had found a church home.

Rhonda grew up in Hacienda Heights having been raised in a Christian home. It wasn’t until her twenties that she experienced true faith after seeing the truth of Scripture for herself. At her former church she had been actively involved in ministry from preschool to college, and participated in the music ministry.

Her career of seventeen years at Scripps College has taken her from assistant of Financial Aid to the position of Director of Financial Aid. She loves to read, travel, entertain, and get together with friends for breakfast with the goal of always trying someplace new be it for location or fare.

Philippians 1:6 is a verse that currently holds a wonderful promise for Rhonda: “For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.” Realizing that sanctification is a lifelong process, she clings to this promise knowing that the transforming work of the Holy Spirit is at work in her. Her favorite book of the Bible is Romans. She also has momentary favorites which are typically what she is studying at the time. She particularly loves John, Ecclesiastes, Galatians, Ephesians and Philippians... Rhonda says, “I’m so indecisive when it comes to favorites.”

She is currently serving in the nursery and loves caring for the babies. Twice a month she joins a team of friends from FBC led by Arsenio Montoya to minister to adults with disabilities at

Farmers House in Claremont which she says is such a blessing and reward. She has been attending Sojourners Sunday School class and enjoys being a part of Andy Astadurian’s small group.



*Alvin and Lisa Luna with Gabby*

## Alvin and Lisa Luna

*by Debby Mayclin*

Lisa describes their personalities as “complete opposites.” From the first moments spent with Alvin and Lisa Luna that is immediately apparent. Alvin is lively, outgoing, quick, funny; Lisa is gracious, introspective, relaxed, solicitous. However, the contrasts go beyond temperament.

Alvin was born in the Philippines into a Bible-believing, church going home. His family was large, extended, and poor. Over 7000 miles away, Lisa was born in Inglewood, California, into the relative affluence of American culture where God, if He is considered to exist at all, is largely irrelevant. However, God in His mercy saved Lisa during her high school years at a youth retreat. Then, after living worlds and lifetimes apart, God brought Alvin and Lisa together.

The depth of Alvin’s relationship with the Lord—the result of years steeped in God’s Word and the influence of the humble and rock-solid faith of his mother—challenged Lisa. That had not been a part of her experience. One of the important lessons Lisa has learned during this time is the freedom of turning from her own efforts in dealing with sin to relying upon and responding to God’s work in her heart.

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# New Members

*New Members continued from page 10*

Alvin immigrated to the United States at the age of 13. During high school, he lived with his grandparents taking care of his disabled grandmother and his grandfather who had Parkinson's disease. How did he deal with that kind of responsibility? "I joked and sang hymns to my grandma." But Alvin relates this hands-on, day-to-day service directly to the kind of relationship God calls us to as believers living in the Christian community of the church.

Alvin is the director of a hospice organization and also owns a marketing business. Lisa served in the Marines (ask her about this unusual part of her life), became a nurse, and is now happy to be a full-time homemaker. Between the two of them, Alvin and Lisa have four children. Lisa will be home schooling their daughter, five-year-old Gabby, come fall. They enjoy golf, having people in their home, and FOOD!

The Lunas discovered FBC through their doctor, Oliver Burrows. Oliver and Alvin began meeting for monthly lunch, prayer, and Bible reading. Alvin and Lisa have now attended FBC since June of 2013. Among ways they have sought to serve have been getting FBC golfers together for fellowship and fun, providing a presentation about hospice, and serving in AWANA. They are hosting one of the small groups in their home in Pomona this fall.



*Fernando & Monique Rios holding Isayah, Josiah & Elijah*

## Fernando and Monique Rios

*by Julia Buehl*

Fernando and Monique both grew up in Southern California. Fernando's mom, a believer, taught him the truth of the Bible from his early childhood and modeled what it meant to be a

Christian. For a period in the late 1990's, he regularly attended Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California; however, although he affirmed the truth of Scripture and the Gospel, he had not committed his life to Christ. In 2003, Fernando and Monique met and began dating at work; and after two years in October of 2005 they became engaged. While planning their wedding, the question arose as to which church they would be getting married in. It was this question that prompted Monique, being raised a Roman Catholic, to begin asking several other questions regarding the differences between Christianity and Catholicism. Fernando reluctantly answered many of her questions, however soon afterward decided it was best to simply give her a CD from John MacArthur entitled *How to Obtain Eternal Life* from Matthew 19:16-22. After listening to this sermon several times over the following few weeks, Monique became a believer in January of 2006. In the following months, Fernando witnessed significant changes in Monique. She began graciously confronting him over his love for sin and shared the joy that she now knew having believed in the Gospel that until then he had only mentally assented to. In March of 2006, Fernando too committed his life to the Lord.

They attended Grace Community Church for five years commuting from Rancho Cucamonga after they were married in 2006. While Monique was pregnant with their second child, they made the decision to find a local fellowship which brought them to Foothill Bible Church in 2011.

The Gospel of John holds a special place in Fernando's heart as it portrays the life of Christ, explaining the true nature of Christ and what He came here to do. The practical truths found in Ephesians have guided Monique in every relationship as she gleans truth regarding parenting and marriage relationships from this Epistle. For two years, they served in the Greeters ministry; Fernando currently is on the security team while Monique serves in the Children's ministry as a helper to our special needs children. Since they started attending, they have been in the Young Marrieds Sunday school class and have enjoyed great fellowship in the Mikat's small group.

The joy of Monique's life is being a stay-at-home mom. God has blessed them with three beautiful boys, Josiah (4 ½), Elijah (3), and Isayah (11 months). Monique just began the journey of educating Josiah at home in August. She loves to try new recipes and especially loves her morning creamer with a little coffee.

Fernando is a Quality Control Business Analyst with First American Title and will soon be celebrating his 13th year anniversary with the company; as a hobby, he enjoys visiting the shooting range for target practice.

# Game Night

The Generations and Sojourners Adult Sunday school classes gathered together for a Game Night and Potluck on Saturday, August 16 at the home of Alvin and Lisa Luna.



Donald Carlson, Wayne Burrow  
Picture by Christine Andrews



Donald Carlson, Gordon Crowl, Kim Broadwell, Vicki Best, Wayne Burrow, Steve Shwetz, Sandy Anderson, Juliann Johnson, Christine Andrews  
Picture by Trevor Crowl



Gordon Crowl, John Sutton, Brent Miller, Art Nakamura  
Picture by Christine Andrews

# Softball Team



Wayne Burrow led our co-ed softball team at the Campus West Athletic Complex in La Verne throughout the summer. The FBC Softball mascot is represented by a leopard killing a zebra in the tradition of the Zulu warrior, a quintessential symbol of the underdog. To view videos of the games, check out the Youtube channel FBCSoftball. Our website has the games and final scores posted at [fbcsoftball.com](http://fbcsoftball.com).



Back row: Chris Bement (Summit Bible Church), Jacob Brummet, Scott Brummet, Jeff Farrar; Middle row: Wayne Burrow, James Beatty, Mark Anderson, Noah Anderson, Emily Allen, Jaymin Allen; Front row: Noah Collins  
Picture by Susanna Burrow



Back row: Eric, Jaymin Allen, James Beatty, Wayne Burrow; Front row: Chris Bement (Summit Bible Church), Emily Allen, Noah Anderson, Micah Lugg, Alan Archambault  
Not pictured: Tim Nelson (Summit Bible Church), Seth Roybal, Trevor Crowl, Tony Gonzales, Aaron Milosch, Nick Bravo  
Picture by Audrey Lugg

## Aaron and Alyssa Miller

by Stephanie Wilson

Aaron and Alyssa Miller were married by Pastor David Forsyth on June 15, 2014. They held their wedding ceremony at the Tennessee Gardens in Redlands. They first met at FBC when they were very young, and met again through the College and Career ministry when they were older. They began dating in 2011. Their first year together was made more difficult due to Aaron being in South Carolina as part of his service in the Marine Corps. They say that time of having all their dates via Skype was a blessing from the Lord because it taught them strong communication with each other.



Picture by Amanda Cleland



Picture by Emily Rickard, of Juxtapose Media.

## Christopher and Ariel Donaldson

by Stephanie Wilson

Chris and Ariel Donaldson were married by Pastor David Forsyth on July 12, 2014. The ceremony and reception were held at the Astadurians' home in Upland. Ariel has been attending FBC for her entire life, and Chris has been attending since 2001. Chris and Ariel met at FBC about thirteen years ago and got to know each other through various church activities such as Sunday School, serving in the children's ministry and AWANA, going on youth retreats, and spending time with mutual friends. They started dating in December 2010. One thing that Chris finds special about their relationship is that they make each other laugh every day.

## Wedding Anniversaries

### October

- 1 Jason & Heather Welday
- 4 Rob & Suzie Shatsnider
- 9 Cliff & Lisa Newman
- 20 Jim & Julie Deaton
- 23 Jordan & Meghan Bryan
- 26 Michael & Maddie Wine
- 28 Fernando & Monique Rios

### November

- 1 Robert & Valerie Vaughan
- 3 Randy & Ann Inlow
- 5 Steve & Karen Hydamus
- 9 Rowland & Barbara Maddox
- 15 Zach & Stacey Mikat
- 17 Jon & Paula Rollins
- 18 Paul & Jackie Maurer
- 24 Ian & Gavrielle Allison
- 27 Jack & Jennifer Nance
- 28 Robert & Lynne Barker



## Birthdays: 80+ years

**Howard Sudduth**  
October 2, 1933  
81 years

**Ken Durrell**  
October 11, 1927  
87 years

**Roy Moore**  
October 28, 1924  
90 years

**Paul Mauer**  
November 1, 1930  
84 years

**Nancy Frain**  
November 14, 1933  
81 years

**John Ozias**  
November 20, 1924  
90 years

**Ray Langeloh**  
November 24, 1932  
82 years

### FBC Connection

The purpose of the FBC Connection newsletter is to inform and inspire the FBC body of what God is doing in the life of its members. Please note that the testimonies and articles are written by volunteers and do not necessarily reflect the sentiments or endorsements of the elder board. The apostle Paul explains in I Corinthians 12 that the local church is one body made up of many members and gifts. FBC Connection recognizes this diversity in the FBC body and seeks to promote community through this form of communication. On behalf of the elder board of FBC, we invite you to proclaim the excellencies of Christ who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Art Nakamura, editor-in-chief  
Julia Buehl, editor  
Linda Arroyo, picture editor  
Ann Inlow, layout

Pictures by Linda Arroyo unless otherwise noted.