

# FBC CONNECTION

EST. 2009  
CONNECTING THE LIFE AND PEOPLE OF FOOTHILL BIBLE CHURCH

## Inside This Issue:

- County Fair..... 1
- Weddings ..... 3
- ONE28 Retreat ..... 4
- New Members.....5-7
- Anniversaries & Birthdays... 8



Photo by Chris Harris



# CELEBRATING THE GIFTEDNESS OF GOD

by Linda Mawby

The 1st Annual Foothill County Fair took place on December 6, 2014. Its purpose was to showcase and celebrate God's creative giftedness in the church body here at FBC. God has endowed each of us with the ability to minister to one another through our natural abilities and interests. The Foothill County Fair was a means to recognize and appreciate this giftedness.

The Fair was designed to provide opportunity to get to know each other at a deeper level. It was a natural forum for opening doors to future knowledge sharing, and an encouragement to



Continued on page 2

Lynette Fulton, quilting. Photo by Art Nakamura





Dale & Bernhard Wassink.  
Photo by Art Nakamura

County Fair continued from page 1

others who may have, or want to have, the same gifts or passions. It also brought the church body together for fun, fellowship, and entertainment. It was a grand success!!!

The genesis of the Fair arose as Pastor David contemplated a greater depth to the meaning of living together in community as a body of Christ. This, ultimately, led to a call to the church body at large for volunteers willing to share skills in one or more of three overall categories: **Performing Arts** - music, dance, or comedy; **Culinary Arts** - cooking or baking; and **Artistic Crafts** and

**Hobbies.** An additional category showcased members of the body who have served, or currently serve in the armed forces and first responders. Over 375 people attended the event, with 79 skills showcased and a dozen military and first responder displays.

It really was like a County Fair absent the competition and winners' ribbons. The showcased skills and abilities, and their great variety, were genuinely impressive! It was truly a time to appreciate each other and be reminded that the creative ability is a result of being made in God's image - our Creator. It didn't feel showy or competitive, nor did it seem boastful. It was a blessed time of sharing from the heart. We sampled delicious family recipes, admired beautiful artwork, and enjoyed singing, dancing and the playing of musical instruments. There was even a magic show blended with a gospel presentation. Learning how and where our veterans served overseas, and to be reminded of those who are currently serving in military

and first responder capacities to keep us safe, was truly meaningful.

**“Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights...”**

Other fair-like activities included a petting zoo, a bouncy castle, face painting, and crafts. There was even a food booth from the official Hot Dog on a Stick!

It truly was a day of rejoicing and inspiration, a day that brought our church body together to celebrate God's good and perfect gifts. *“Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights...” James 1:17.*

If you didn't bring your talents to the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Foothill County Fair, consider doing so to the 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup>, Annual Fair. If you do, I can say with certainty, that the church body will be blessed - and God, honored.



Veterans Display. Photo by Chris Harris



Rowland Maddox, carved gourds. Photo by Art Nakamura



Bud and Jean Smith, photography by Bud. Photo by Art Nakamura



## Nathan and Emily Bugbee

by Julia Buehl

Nathan and Emily Bugbee were married by Emily's father, Pastor Art Nakamura on January 10, 2015. The ceremony and reception were held at FBC. They first met at FBC as young children over 20 years ago but did not get reacquainted until both were in the same college and career small group and while attending the Master's College together for a year. Their respective childhoods have parallels as both families have served on the mission field. Emily spent 5 years in India as a youth and Nathan's family served for 12 years in the Philippines at Faith Academy.

"We are so close as families and enjoy spending time with all of them," Emily shares, "We love to explore new parks, hiking trails, and restaurants together." Putting Christ first in their personal lives has been their priority and is what has drawn them toward each other throughout the two years they dated and the ten months of their engagement. You can see them on Sunday mornings serving together as greeters. They participate in the Young Marrieds Sunday school class and small group.



Photo by Laura K. Moore



## Paul and Jessy Molina

by Julia Buehl

Paul and Jessy Molina were married by Pastor David Forsyth on November 29, 2014. They held their ceremony at Imagine That! banquet hall in Upland. Paul had attended FBC since 2008 and Jessy has been attending since Easter of 2014. Shortly after that, they were engaged to be married.

Jessy said that Paul is everything she had prayed God would bring to her in a husband; he is kind, is an amazing leader, has a great sense of humor and has a humble heart. "He loves to surprise me. He can make me laugh, even if I am crying," reflects Jessy. Even though Paul and Jessy have so many different tastes and preferences, when they come together, Paul said, "We just work...our lives fit together so perfectly."

Paul is serving at FBC as an usher and Jessy finds joy in caring for the children in the nursery. Both have been attending the Young Marrieds Sunday school class.



Photo by Darren Caballero Photography



## The Pause: Learning to Seek God

by Micah Lugg

On January 16-19, the junior high and high school students went up to Pine Summit Christian Camp in Big Bear for the annual ONE28 retreat. The theme for the retreat was The Pause: Learning to Seek God, and the weekend provided an opportunity for them to do that. Electronics other than digital cameras were not allowed, thus taking away some of the common distractions in students' lives. They were challenged to see the importance of intentionally setting time aside to seek the Lord in silence and solitude through Bible study and prayer. This seeking of God privately helps believers to live as ambassadors for Christ publicly. Here is what some of the students said they learned from the weekend.

"It really bothered me that I keep putting off reading the Bible. I pray, but that is just half of the conversation."

"I am reaching some of my close friends at school for Christ, but I'm not reaching as far as I should be. That is something big I'm going to have to work on."

"You have to read your Bible to be able to show people what God is like. You can't just wing it."

"The lesson on prayer stood out to me. I pray

before I eat and before I go to bed, but it's routine, I'm going through the motions with it. I need to work on prayer being a regular part of my walk with God."

"I'm a planner and like to plan things in my life, and so not knowing God's plan can be frustrating. But I realized this weekend that His plan for me is ultimately for His purposes and my good, so it doesn't matter what I think would be best for myself because the Lord has what's best in mind for me."

"One thing I noticed is that even though we had to shut off our phones this weekend, we still had a good time hanging out together without checking Instagram and Twitter and texting."

We pray these lessons continue to stick with them as they discover the joy of walking with Jesus daily. Ultimately, our goal is to see young people take their relationship with God seriously and the Spirit to ignite a passion for Christ in their souls. This weekend retreat fits into our longer range strategy of sharing the gospel with students week in and week out. This happens through the faithful service of the ONE28 small group leaders. Please keep them in your prayers: Andy & Rachael Valenzuela, Mark & Kathleen Hetzel, Paul & Cori Roybal, Jim & Kristie Kercheval, and my wife Audrey and myself. Pray with us that God would do great things for His name's sake through these young people.



Photo by Micah Lugg





Lauren, Tammy, Eddie and Leah Blanquel

## Eddie & Tammy Blanquel

by Emily Allen

For Eddie and Tammy Blanquel, life has always been about contrast; Eddie grew up in L.A., Tammy in small town Indiana; Eddie enjoyed lively discussions that forged friendship, Tammy strived to keep the family peace. Yet when these two love birds met through the waves of cyberspace known as eHarmony, it was a match well made. The Blanquels have now been married for six years and are the blessed parents of two daughters, Lauren (4) and Leah (2 1/2).

Eddie grew into a solid believer during his college years when challenged by his Christian friends to pursue the Word. He enjoys reading the book of Ecclesiastes as it helps him “keep life in perspective.” Tammy grew up in a Christian home with a strong example of Christ modeled to her by her parents, and became a believer at the age of 12 while attending a church camp. She derives constant encouragement from her favorite Bible verse, Isaiah 40:31, *“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”*

The Blanquels have attended FBC for less than a year, and joined FBC wholeheartedly a few weeks ago after a long search for a church that was biblically grounded. “For a while we thought, ‘we won’t find a church like that because we live in California,’ almost as if to say, ‘what good could come out of California?’” Eddie and Tammy recall of their church searching days with a smile.

Both Eddie and Tammy are registered nurses, sharing in the same passion of caring for others. Eddie, who used to

teach ESL, has worked as a nurse for a year in West Covina, while Tammy who has been a registered nurse for 18 years, has now adjusted to working as a part-time nurse for a hospital in Pasadena. The Blanquels reside in Upland, and are thrilled that their family home is now near their new found spiritual family.

## Billy and Arcelia Miller

by Julia Buehl

“Everything we have is not ours, it is God’s; we are stewards.” With this understanding, Billy and Arcelia have realized that living wholly for God and not for the things of this world is where their hearts ought to be.

Billy and Arcelia have two beautiful children, Benjamin (9), and Annaleigh (7). Arcelia has taken up the challenge to educate them at home while Billy provides for the family. It was not always this way for them. Both Billy and Arcelia served our country as Military Police, having met at Beale Air Force Base in Northern California. After marrying in 1999, they moved to Washington, D.C. It was here in 2009 where they both came to a saving faith



Billy, Benjamin, Annaleigh and Arcelia Miller

within months of each other after challenging each other to see who could read the most books, including the Bible. For Arcelia, it was her good friend, Anna, who invested in her through prayer and caring for their children. Arcelia saw that Anna had something that she had not known, a sincere love for God and others. After studying Philippians, God opened her eyes to know that He is real. As she poured her heart out to God, broken, she saw her sin and her inability

*Continued on page 6*



# New Members

*Miller continued from page 5*

to teach her children to love. Her heart of stone was changed to a heart of flesh at that moment.

Having made a profession of faith in 2002, Billy knew it was intellectual and his obedience was in his own strength. In 2009, he observed a man of God who lived a different life while he was reading through Hebrews. He knew now that the righteous shall walk by faith, not by sight (1 Corinthians 5:7). Billy and Arcelia now have a unity of beliefs, values, and purpose since they both put their trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Nine months after Arcelia's conversion, her faith was to be tested when Billy was in a head-on collision. He did not know if he would survive and called his wife to say goodbye. She had to trust God for everything, collapsing in the arms of her Savior, trusting the body of Christ to minister to their family for four months as Billy recovered.

Billy loves running, something he had thought after the accident that he would never do again. He served as a chaplain at a homeless mission for a time after the accident and has been taking seminary classes for the past two years. He already has a degree in cooking but currently works for Best Drilling digging wells.

The Millers discovered FBC when visiting Arcelia's grandmother who had just had a stroke. They relocated to California to be able to help care for her. Arcelia is currently serving as a leader in the 2's and 3's class during the worship service.

## Tom and Charlotte Fong

*by Linda Mawby*

Tom, Charlotte, and their three children: Caleb (7), Joshua (5), and Serena (2 ½) have been attending FBC since May 2014. Tom is an M.D. practicing oncology at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Fontana. Charlotte is a stay-at-home mother who is busy practicing the art of homeschooling. They are presently enjoying the Young Marrieds' Sunday school class and participating in a Young Marrieds' small group with Leif and Kathy Jensen, and Alan and Jessica Archambault, as leaders and hosts.

Tom was born and raised in a Christian home in Baltimore, Maryland. It was in 2005, while attending medical school at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, that he met Charlotte, who was also attending college. They met through their church, a Chinese congregation, though initially she attended the Chinese-speaking service and he the English. They married in 2007 and moved to Southern California in 2008 with their oldest son.

Charlotte was born and raised in Taiwan, emigrating to the U.S. at the age of 23. She was earning a Master's degree in Piano Performance when she came to a saving faith in Christ through a Bible study on her college campus. This happened to be her second stay in the U.S., after first coming at the age of 16 to live in the small town of Staunton, Illinois east of St. Louis. Staunton, in spite of its notoriety as the second largest city (population 5,000) in Macoupin County, proved to be too great a culture shock for her and her brother, who returned to homeland Taiwan after a short time.

Their favorite Bible verses are Matthew 6:33 – *“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”* and Ephesians 3:20-21 – *“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”*

*Continued on page 7*



*Charlotte, Tom, Serena, Joshua and Caleb Fong*



New Members continued from page 6

## David and Esther Vining

by Ruthie Braun

April is guaranteed to be an exciting month for David and Esther; they will meet their fourth child and first boy, Dylan Victor! Dylan will join sisters Hannah (12 years), Sophia (32 months) and Samantha (14 months). The budding Vining family loves the beach and fishing, anything that gets them out of the house. Their oldest daughter lives with her mother and brothers in Oregon where she plays basketball and loves to read. Their youngest two daughters are the best of friends; Sophia is sweet and caring and constantly keeping Sammie, their little tasmalian, out of trouble. Esther has her work cut out for her as a full time mom caring for a growing family!

Esther was born in Mexicali, Mexico and moved to the United States when she was nine years old. She grew up in El Centro, CA but has lived in San Bernardino since moving there to attend CSUSB after high school. David was born and raised in Monterey County. He joined the US Navy in 1996, serving for 6 years, and after living in San Diego for three years he made his way to San Bernardino where he began working for the Sheriff's Department for the County of San Bernardino. David and Esther actually met while working for the Sheriff's Department and were married on September 8, 2011.

David grew up in a Christian home and remembers praying for salvation on several occasions as well as responding to a few altar calls. He's not sure at what point the Holy Spirit began the work of salvation in him but in his early twenties he heard the doctrine of election and really struggled with accepting it. He realized that those early confessions of faith were most likely motivated by human effort and desires as well as pride. Although he still struggles with it, he acknowledges it as truth and knows he is a follower of Christ as he sees the changes and work of the Holy Spirit in his life. Philippians 4:6-8 have become his favorite verses as they are a practical reminder to keep his focus on the Lord and resist the attacks of Satan through sinful thinking.

*"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. Finally, brethren, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything is worthy of praise, dwell on these things."*

While engaged to David, Esther began her journey



Sophia, Esther, David and Samantha Vining

toward a relationship with Christ. After David shared his concerns with her over marrying an unbeliever they began reading the Bible together and Esther agreed to begin attending church with him. Together they searched for a church but Esther really struggled with the notion of Christianity and wasn't convinced it was really "for her". After giving it one last chance they found Cornerstone Church in Riverside, where her heart was opened to the gospel and David was able to share it with her. It wasn't until they began attending Foothill that she was completely sure she wanted to be a follower of Christ. Through the years (particularly after reading crime reports when working for the Sheriff's Department) her favorite verse has become Psalm 56:11. It has brought her peace when she struggles with anxiety, especially at night, while David is working.

*"In God I have put my trust, I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?"*

David and Esther have been attending FBC for a little over three years and have really been able to plug into the church body through Sunday school, serving in various ministries and getting involved in a small group. They are currently attending the Young Marrieds Sunday school class and are in Zach and Stacey Mikat's small group, with many other growing families. They have both served in the Greater Ministry and Esther has helped with Cheerful Cooks as well as the Children's Ministry while David attends Pastor Art's Thursday morning Bible Study and is currently helping to build a shed for one of Foothill's shut ins.

2015 is sure to be a year of changes, challenges and many, many joys for the Vinings and the expanding Foothill family is excited to share in them all!

# Anniversaries & Birthdays

## Wedding Anniversaries



### March

- 3 William & Kaitie Forsyth
- 3 David & Gayle Bostic
- 3 James & Erica Beatty
- 4 Joe & Michelle Lane
- 7 Ken & Margie Durrell
- 7 Donald & Mindy Granger
- 7 David & Kimberly Broadwell
- 12 Ivan & Yvonne Andrews
- 14 David & Jessica Garcia
- 17 Mike & Vonnie Perez
- 20 Rex & Mary Beach
- 22 Rob & Cindy Behnke
- 22 David & Mireya Furman
- 27 Andy & Judi Astadurian

### April

- 3 Preston & Joan Smith
- 7 Tim & Rachel Donaldson
- 7 Michael & Carrie Castillo
- 14 Ray & Jackie Langeloh
- 18 Rey & Debbie Thorne
- 21 Mark & Kathleen Hetzel
- 22 Ernie & Linda Arroyo
- 26 Joseph & Marlene Malone

### May

- 7 Steve & Sheryl Shwetz
- 10 Corey & Ruthie Braun
- 25 Michael & Evelyn Lagal
- 27 Brandon & Adena Harstad

## Birthdays: 80+ years

Charlotte Robbins  
March 1, 1935  
80 years

Edna Sudduth  
March 6, 1926  
89 years

Phyllis Keller  
May 6, 1924  
91 years

Betty Evans  
May 9, 1933  
82 years

Loren Miller  
May 14, 1920  
95 years

Beulah Ozias  
May 21, 1928  
83 years

Neil Neuenschwander  
May 31, 1924  
91 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.*

