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THEIR MANY GIFTS

Did you know that one of our members is a Soccer Hall of Famer?

This Hall of Famer is from one of our most active families. Their Christian roots are deep. His grandparents were missionaries in China. One of his forebears was Roger Sherman Baldwin, the defender of slaves aboard the Amistad. Brought up in church, he shares a vivid memory of a mishap involving candle lighters and some drapes, in which a priest prevented disaster by using what he had at hand, holy water, to douse the flame. It was, however, the other acolyte's fault, he insists.

This story is about Bill and Sue Spencer.

Bill served as moderator of the WHCC for five years. He has also served two terms as a deacon and been on a number of committees: Christian Education, a Search Committee, and Prudential, chairing the Stewardship Campaign.

Sue sings in the choir. She has been a deacon and served on the Outreach and Music Committees. She is on the board of directors of Honduras Hope, a charity that supports service trips to Honduras and assists the poor in that nation in other ways. She also leads our effort to provide Christmas gifts for children of lower income families.

Bill grew up in Williamstown, MA, where his father was a math professor at Williams College. Bill graduated from Middlebury College and went on to MIT, where he earned his Ph.D. in Physics. At that point, when offered a job teaching at Pomona College, he made a decision to go into software development instead, starting his own company. He has founded or co-founded six companies in all. Currently his company, Aliaswire, Inc., supports payment processing systems and educational software for medical residency programs.

Sue grew up on Long Island, and sang in the choir at a large Presbyterian church. She later graduated from Middlebury College with a major in sociology. Bilingual in Spanish, Sue studied for a term in Guatemala and traveled in Mexico. She also studied Latin American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. She later taught in Lawrence, MA, where she was a pioneer in bilingual education. Today she works as a Developmental Specialist at Thom Charles River Early Intervention.

While in college, Sue and Bill were both active in the Middlebury Christian Fellowship. Bill later became a member of the MIT Christian Fellowship. He finds no conflict between being both a

scientist and a Christian – recalling one of the first lectures he attended at MIT, during which the professor shared a lengthy list of things we don't know about the universe.

Sue and Bill have three children: Matt who teaches math at Holy Cross and is married to Jocelyn, a UCC minister; our Anna, a social worker, and her husband Ted, and their delightful little Eleanor; and Jonathan, an educational software developer who lives in Somerville.

It was at UT, Austin that Sue first fell in love with soccer. Since then, she played on the Charles River women's soccer team from 1978 to 2016. In 2002, she was inducted into the Massachusetts Adult State Soccer Hall of Fame as the founder of the Eastern Mass Women's Soccer League, the first – and still the primary – women's soccer league in Massachusetts. A special delight was when daughter Anna joined the team – a true mother and daughter soccer combo!

Quiz: Did you assume that the soccer hall of famer was a man? (*Circle one.*) Yes No

Either way, you pass!

By Elizabeth Robertson