



## ***Bridging the Generations***

One of the bridges provided by the American Baptist Foundation (ABF) is offered through the program entitled Strengthening Your Financial Future (SYFF, see page 19). This resource can connect financial support from a maturing generation to projects that will affect future generations.



A prime example of SYFF that occurred in 2022 was the creation of the Howard and Wahly Quan Family Endowment, which will benefit the First Chinese Baptist Church (FCBC) of San Francisco, California.

Howard and Wahly Quan grew up in San Francisco's Chinatown and were married at the First Chinese Baptist Church in 1947. Their three daughters benefitted especially from the church's extensive ministries, most notably, its music ministry. Of the children, one remains active in the church, Wendy, the youngest. She is a living witness to the church's influence:

*"We lived about a half-hour away from the church by car and were regularly provided transportation by our wonderful high school choir leader. Our dedicated youth leaders also gave us rides and once led us on a mission tour down the California coast, from San Francisco to Pasadena, where we sang and stayed overnight in several churches. Undoubtedly, such experiences influenced me to continue in our music ministry. I am now a soloist and one of the directors of adult choirs."*





The development of the endowment was encouraged through contact with the Rev. Rick Barlow, an ABF donor advisor from coast to coast. He observes:

“Wendy is an FCBC servant leader, demonstrated by her being the current chair of the church’s gift planning committee. She continues to honor the Quan family through the endowment, which will fund projects affecting generations yet unborn. She believes, as do I, that the future is bright for those who prepare for it.”



The Quan Family Endowment memorializes Wahly, who was active in church life until her recent death at 96 years of age, and Howard, who died unexpectedly at the age of 58. Because he excelled at home remodeling and custom wood cabinetry, the endowment fund that bears their names is dedicated to capital improvements. First Chinese Baptist Church’s building is more than 115 years old, and the endowment will help fund such projects as window replacement and energy improvement.

The Rev. Dr. Donald Ng, was the church’s senior pastor from 1998 to 2015. During his tenure a number of earthquake retrofit renovations were accomplished. Dr. Ng says:

“One of the projects, which was left undone by the retrofit and which will be funded by the endowment is the replacement of the many windows dating back to 1908. They aren’t energy efficient and allow urban pollutants and noise into our Sunday school classrooms. But the most important reason to maintain the church home to its highest standards is so that it will continue to be a beacon of hope in Chinatown to neighbors and tourists alike.”