

Days of Grace

"The Gospel is good news of mercy to the undeserving. The symbol of the religion of Jesus is the cross, not the scales"
~John R. W. Stott

RCA TEAM RETURNS FROM HURRICANE RELIEF WORK IN LOUISIANA

by Marty Murdock

Another UMVIM trip of retired clergy and spouses has completed hurricane relief work near New Orleans. The 11 member team, led again by Nadine DeWitt, was assigned this time to a house in Slidell, which had been damaged by the more recent hurricane Isaac.

Some two or three feet of water had inundated this young family's 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. The mother, father and two young girls only had funds to stay elsewhere until the end of the year, so time was running out to make their home habitable again.

A previous team had removed the wallboard and insulation up to the 4 foot level and applied spooricide to kill the mold. Our assignment was to replace insulation, install sheetrock, tape, and apply drywall compound (mud); all of which we completed during our week of work there. The next teams will texture and paint the walls, in preparation for floor covering. The work is coordinated by the Epworth Project, which is continuing the relief and rebuilding efforts previously done by the Women's Division in the years following hurricane Katrina.

The homeowners were fortunate that they had some flood and rain damage insurance, but their settlement was insufficient to cover a contractor. The family was thus delighted to work with the Epworth Project, who used the

settlement money for materials and provided us, and other teams ,to do the labor.

We were disappointed that Carl Thomas could not serve on the team as planned. He fell and broke his wrist just a few days before the team left California and his doctor forbid his going. Get well quickly, Carl! Other teams members included Betty Pagett, Dave and Pat Thompson, Nancy Schwartz, Sandy Roberts, Joan Wheeler, Joe Hurd, John Sublett, Nadine DeWitt, and Marty and Cheryl Murdock.

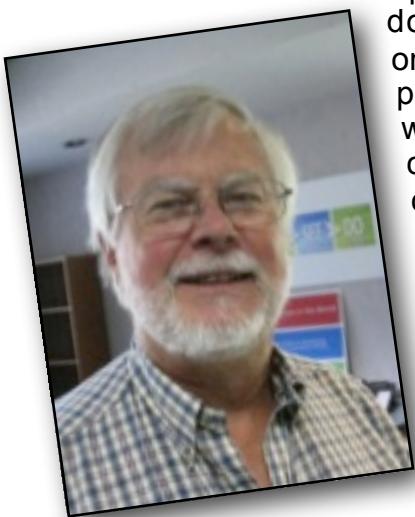
The veterans of previous New Orleans work teams helped develop the skills of those of us new to the work. They also showed us the houses where they were previously assigned, as well as taking us to see the Music Village houses and those done by Brad Pitt. Both of those projects have had the houses lifted up on piers to reduce future damage.

If you would like to be usefully involved in hands-on mission right here in our country, you can watch for the dates and sign-up details for next year's team. Unfortunately, there is still a lot of need. The good news is that we have the skills and a system to be able to respond and make a difference! See you in New Orleans!

PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

Colleagues and Friends,

It didn't happen!! Here it is January and the world has not come to an end, despite interpretations that the Mayan calendar predicted our planet's demise. It appears that doomsday prophets once again have been proven wrong, and we are faced with the continued challenges of living.



Yet, those predictions may have caused some of us to consider what we should do to be prepared for the end. When I served on the conference youth leadership team, we presented a play at district events where a group of people gathered at the "Last Chance Bar" to await the end of the world. They tried to figure out something to say as they faced the oblivion that was coming. We have lived with the threat of nuclear annihilation, terrorism, crashes, accidents, life-threatening diseases ... all pointing to the reality that earthly life, for each of us, will come to an end. And almost every month we gratefully remember one or more of our clergy and spouses who have completed their life in faith and entered into the life immortal.

While perhaps not the most positive way to begin 2013, these realities encourage me to consider, "Have I made adequate preparations for that time when the world, for me, will end?" A few years ago, at the Board of Pensions pre-retirement seminar, a presenter encouraged us to organize our important papers and information in a binder and inform

our family of its location so that they would be able to handle our affairs when we are no longer able to do so for ourselves. I took the suggestion seriously and began assembling a binder of insurance papers, banking documents, mutual fund information, pension and social security records, and other items that would need to be easily accessible to our family. Edie and I prepared our living trust, as well as durable power of attorney and advance health care directive documents. We felt that we were finally adequately prepared.

However, that was several years ago and it is time to look again at that binder and our plans in order to insure that our survivors will have everything that they will need at some future time. The February 2013 issue of ConsumerReport lists seven money stumbles to avoid, the first two of which are: not updating wills and beneficiaries; and, not sharing information with family. It is great that we have binders of information, but do our sons really know where they are and what they contain? Should there be changes to our pension and insurance beneficiaries. Do our trust and health documents still meet state laws? What changes to property, bank accounts, safe-deposit boxes have been made that need to be noted in that binder? How can I further simplify the information so that it can be easily accessed?

Now that the world hasn't ended, I think that Edie and I need to take some time and make sure that we are up-to-date for whatever may come in the years ahead. How about you?

On His hook,

Doug McCoy

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

GREETINGS and salutations! I hope this issue of Days of Grace finds your days filled with grace indeed.

I hope the new year is full of blessings for you and yours.

This is the time of year when we all look forward as well as reflect on the year that has passed. This past year I traveled around our conference to meet with RCA members as they gathered together to share a meal and to fellowship. As I look into 2013, I look forward to doing more of the same and adding new groups to my travels! This is, by far, the best part of my job. I can assure you, regardless of how necessary maintaining the database may be, it comes no where near as fun, and interesting, as visiting with all of you!

When I was a small child and was asked what I wanted to be when I grew up my answer was "archeologist". It seemed no big deal from my point of view, but the grown ups always gave me a strange look! I didn't want to dig up dinosaurs, I wanted to dig up STORIES. I wanted to know more about the people. Who were those ancient peoples? What did they do for a living? How did they interact as families? How did they travel, acquire food, entertain themselves?

While I'm not in a big hole in the ground with a paint brush dusting away layers of dirt to unearth bones and pottery, I haven't lost my love of stories. That's why it's no big deal for me to drive to visit with all of you. I encourage you to gather together to share your stories with one another. And invite ME!

I come from a large extended family (my grandmother was one of 12 and there are a

LOT of cousins). The Sisters (8 of the 12) organized an annual family reunion. It was always in a large hall and always potluck. There was always plenty of fried chicken and "Denney Beans" (which I cannot replicate no matter how hard I try). My grandmother's generation has all passed now and we don't gather like we did when I was little. Sitting around with lots of food and sharing stories and histories is coming home for me.

We must look forward to move forward, but I treasure the looks back too. And on that note, I encourage you to join us for Spring Fling May 1-2. More information is in this issue, but we will be looking forward with a nod to the past as we visit with Bishops Talbert and Sano. I hope to see you there, share a meal and listen to you stories!

Peace,



Help Wanted!

Are you wondering who the correspondent is for your area? Are we missing a report from your area? Please volunteer to be your area's correspondent! Email Nancy Daley at nancydaley@frontiernet.net for information (it's not too difficult!). This is the perfect job for the social butterflies among us who like to chit chat with everyone! (It's a great way to keep in touch with friends!)

A Little Housekeeping...

Please check your mailing label and be sure that I have your name(s) and address spelled correctly. If there is an error, please email or drop a postcard in the mail to me with the corrected information.

nancydaley@frontiernet.net
 Nancy Daley
 9328 Elk Grove Blvd. #105-141
 Elk Grove, CA 95624



DAYS OF GRACE GOES PAPERLESS..... IF YOU WISH



As you may remember from previous Days of Grace issues, the Retired Clergy Association now has a dedicated website separate from the Conference website.

One of the benefits of having our own website is that

we have the ability to deliver our communication through the website.

The RCA History, past issues of Days of Grace as well as forms and registrations are available as downloadable documents.

IF you would prefer to receive Days of Grace through the website, I ask that you EMAIL me at nancydaley@frontiernet.net and I will notify you via email when each issue is available to download.

The benefits of receiving Days of Grace electronically are:

- It's GREEN! No paper!
- It saves money on printing and postage for the RCA.
- It is viewable in full color.

I do insist that you email me so I can create my notification list with your correct email address.

You WILL continue to receive Days of Grace in your mailbox UNLESS you tell me otherwise.

<http://www.ca-nv-rca.org>

CONTACT INFORMATION

PLEASE NOTE

- Please make a note of the contact information for the RCA.

Executive Director:

Nancy Daley

916-539-4249

nancydaley@frontiernet.net

Website:

<http://ca-nv-rca.org/>

We have received word of the passing of the Rev. Dr. John I. Trotter. Rev. Trotter was retired from Cal-Pac Conference, but resided within Cal-Nevada and had connections in our conference.

The Rev. Dr. John Irwin Trotter, 85, of Ripon, California, died on December 2, 2012, with Gaynl, his wife of forty years, by his side. Irwin was ordained a Methodist pastor in 1954 and served churches in Connecticut and throughout Southern California.

In 1984, Irwin was asked to teach preaching at the Claremont School of Theology. He held the Gerald H. Kennedy Professor of Homiletics Chair until 2000.

In 2000, Irwin and Gaynl moved to Ripon, California. There he enjoyed involvement with the Modesto First United Methodist Church, the Ripon Congregational Church and the Parkinson's Support Group.

Irwin is survived by Gaynl, his devoted wife of 40 years; his daughter, Sheena and her husband Pete Dennis, and granddaughters Katherine and Lauren, two brothers, one sister, many nieces and nephews, and countless friends.

A service celebrating and remembering Irwin's life was held on Saturday, January 5, 2013, at Claremont School of Theology. In lieu of flowers, if you would like to give a memorial gift, please send a donation to Claremont School of Theology, "J. Irwin Trotter Communications Center," The Wilderness Society or the Parkinson's Institute (Sunnyvale, CA).



virgin HEALTH MILES BLUE SHIELD WELLNESS PROGRAM

Thank you to everyone who is participating in the Blue Shield Wellness program. The Board of Pensions is reporting great participation by those who are in the age groups represented by the RCA! Go RCA! The BoP encourages everyone to keep walking and challenge yourself to go the extra mile for good health. You can still enroll in our Virgin Health Miles walking program at

<http://www.virginhealthmiles.com/cnumc>.

Opportunities to Assist Others

The RCA has two major funds that we have established to assist others. The first is our Memorial Scholarship program to assist seminary students with their expenses. The second is our Health Care Assistance Program. In the face of increasing health care insurance premiums, some are experiencing difficulties making these escalating payments. If you are in the position to help either group, please send your contribution to our treasurer with a note indicating how to direct your donation. Together we can help those in need.

Make your check payable to: RCA

Send to: Dick Ernst

7930 Crystal Springs Way
Loomis, CA 95650





Myrtle Findley hosted a gathering for the Western Sierra Nevada group at her home in Colfax. Pictured above, top to bottom, left to right: Peggy Baldwin; Kay Watters-Julsing, Sylvia Osman, Don Baldwin; Myrtle Findley, Carol Carter

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Through the generous donations of RCA members we are able to support those in seminary with our scholarship program.

This year we are honored to present a scholarship in memory of Franklin "Scottie" Scott. Scottie served with passion as the Chair of the RCA Scholarship Program. We welcome donations to this special award as well as our general Memorial Scholarship Fund.

If you wish to contribute:

Make your check payable to: RCA

Send to: Dick Ernst

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Loomis, CA 95650



CENTRAL VALLEY - SOUTH

Sylvia Corson

Ray Alderman spent three weeks in the hospital with pneumonia and other medical issues. He regrets that he was ill over Christmas and New Year's. His daughter has been very helpful overseeing his medications, and checking in on Ray and his son, Mark. He will be having a needed surgical repair procedure done in the near future. He reports that the pastor at St Mark's UMC is appreciated by the congregation.

David and Sherry Atkins and their five grandchildren had a wonderful Christmas at their cabin. There was plenty of snow to sled and play. Sherry finished physical therapy following her knee replacement, and is doing well. Now that she is walking pain free, they hope to take a fall trip to Europe. David continues his counseling practice in a new facility that houses massage therapists, yoga classes, and psychotherapy.

Ivan and Ruth Ball had a very nice Christmas with their son, Eric. Ivan is in a study group, (has met together for 18 years), that is reading Hitchens's Arguably - a collection of essays on a variety of topics. Ruth continues to accompany choral groups, and as organist for the Congregational Church. She works six days a week. Wow! Ivan is in a recorder group of eight, and they play four different voices. They offered a Christmas program.

Dick Bayard spent the

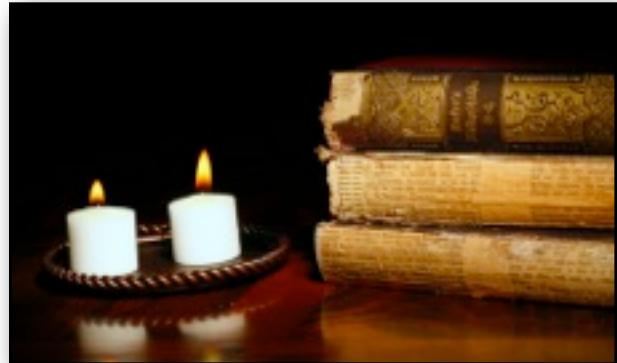
Christmas holidays at home, for the first time since the death of Luetta in 2001. It was a time of relaxation and working on small projects in his shop. Christmas was spent with his daughter, Paula. They abandoned their "medical vegan diet" for one day and enjoyed a traditional turkey dinner with a few friends at Dick's home. Dick says this was a truly uneventful fall for him.

Alf Christensen's holidays were good but quiet. This is his ninth year serving the Wasco Lutheran Church which he finds hard to believe. The congregation is appreciative of his ministry. He enjoyed the Christmas Candlelight and the Epiphany services. His daughter plans to record Alf reciting some of his poetry to share with the family. He is amazed that he will turn 80 this year. He continues his virtual classes on TV and loves them.

John and Sylvia Corson left for a Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, and Singapore cruise in mid-January. Last fall, they participated in the 8th presentation of the Stephen Corson Award for Outstanding Teaching at UOP. Christmas was spent in West Sacramento with their daughter and grandsons, and later with their sons in Bakersfield. They also honored Sylvia's parents with the Jack and Frances Bradbury Endowed Scholarship at UOP in October.

Harry and Anita Dutt were pleased that three children and

three grandchildren were with them for Thanksgiving - one granddaughter was spending the



semester in Italy. They rode Amtrak at Christmas, going from Santa Barbara to Antioch, to be with their son's family. After ten years, they retired as volunteers at the Indio Western Family Coach Rally, and are selling their RV. They have good memories of their many travels.

Don and Donita Roulsten had a lovely Christmas with family from Northern California. They celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in October with a trip east. They saw beautiful New England and enjoyed Niagara Falls. They will travel to Europe in June with the community choir. Donita serves as the accompanist. They will sing in the Czech Republic, Austria, and Germany. Don continues his part-time ministry at Visalia UMC.

Bob and Nancy Schwartz had a delightful Christmas with their son's family in Oakland. Bob spent five weeks in Germany, Spain, and France, and preached in both English and German. Nancy went to New Orleans with RCA's VIM team for the fall work project. Sharing her experience with the congregation, she said it was a

social and spiritual learning experience and her first time doing construction. Bob is doing well after a blood clot problem.

Sharon Watson had a delightful holiday. She hosted Christmas Eve in her home with her family. They also celebrated one of her granddaughter's birthday. She plans to go to France and England this summer with her son, Jonathan, who recently got out of the Navy. He is going to work for the Army Corps of Engineers. Sharon is very pleased with her latest Harry Potter house project. It is an

amazing copy of the very "weird" Burrow House.

Harry and Ruth Wood had Christmas in Miami with their daughter, Robin, and her family. They loved hearing granddaughter, Isabelle, sing Silent Night in a school program. They will see their son, Lee, and family in Oregon, when he brings them from Taiwan for a ski vacation. After one year of preaching at the Selma Baptist Church, Harry has finally retired! Their health is doing well again. They left on a seven day cruise to Mexico in mid-January.

Marin/Sonoma/Santa Rosa

Jim Current

We met at **Bill and Noreen Marx's** home in Windsor on November 14th.

Dave Slope gave a report on his recent trip to China with son **Tim**. Both went to see the sights and bike through the countryside. Highlights were the cruise down the Li River (Dave says it is even more beautiful than its picture in the back of the 20 yuan note) and the Great Wall.



Gayle Pickrell and John Davenport made an 8,000 mile road trip that included Sioux City, Milwaukee, Chicago, Upper State Michigan, Lincoln and St. Louis. They drove their Prius which meant their trailer was left in Santa Rosa. John found a wealth of genealogical material, but the most moving was the visit to the home his mother lived in as a child in Sioux City. It is now a rundown tavern.

Dick and Vera Patton recently visited the not so rundown home of Herbert Hoover in West

Branch, Iowa. He apparently lived a remarkable life before he became President.

Evelyn Schlager visited Santa Fe to attend a granddaughter's wedding in August. Evelyn reported that **Lois Clazie** fell and that is why she was unable to come to the luncheon.

Jim and Celinda Current are still keen on house swaps, especially when it is not their house that they are swapping. This fall they lived in homes in Tuscany, Venice and Istanbul.

Bill Marx is no longer playing with the American Symphony, but he still plays on occasion at First Church, Santa Rosa.

Nancy Daley filled us in on Conference happenings. The direct billing of pensions seems to be working and year end payments of apportionments is picking up. Present but not reporting were **Bob and Lucinda Breshears** and **Bruce and Mary Ann Warner**.

FRESNO NORTH

Bill Sanford

Thom & Debbie Abrahamson are in Fresno as these personal reports are being gathered, but as permanent R.V. dwellers they will be back on the road soon . . . to Brandenburg A.F.B. for a month, and then to the East Coast for their grandson's graduation in Georgia. Northern climes beckon for summer.

John Auer (Fresno): A brief update – John retired from Reno, First, in 2009. His wife Julie died on January 1, 2012. Presently, John is sharing a residence with his daughter and her children. And he is enjoying being called on for pulpit supply. His contact information: 3301 E. Garland Ave., Fresno, CA 93726; 559 / 222 - 3550 ; johnandjulieauer@yahoo.com. Betty Boswell celebrated her 90th birthday January 4. She enjoys living in Carrington, her place of residence the past four years. She is a huge Giants fan and enjoys watching both baseball and basketball on TV.

The Greilichs (Clovis) share with our RCA community as follows: Florence keeps active in a Memoirs Writing Class every Wednesday morning. She is also part of a Monday night women's Bible study group, and participates in several quilting activities. Her quilts are creative and beautiful. Ron continues in ministry as the Walk to Emmaus Western Regional Clergy Leader. This involves traveling and sometimes Florence is able to go along. The first weekend in October Ron led clergy training in Missoula, MT; the first weekend in November the venue

was Honolulu, HI. In between Ron met with all the Emmaus Regional Leaders in Nashville.

Gussie Kidd lives in Lush Meadows Estates just outside Mariposa. She spends her weeks volunteering: Mondays, Lush Meadows Playgroup, Tuesdays, reading tutoring for 2nd graders at Woodland Grade School. Thursdays, spending time at the church with mothers and their pre-school-aged children and also rehearsing with the Mariposa UMC bell chimers, and Fridays, "Thank God It's Friday" after-school program at the Methodist Church for children preschool to 6th graders.

Newell & Eleanor Knudson (Fresno) moved last March to Fairwinds at Woodward Park. Newell says it is "as good resort living as you can get without it being a resort." Their address is 9525 N. Fort Washington Rd., Apt. 103-W
Fresno, CA 93730
559/412-4203.

Mas & Hope Kawashima of Fresno send Happy New Years greetings to our entire RCA community. And they add: We're busy practicing music for Michael W. Smith's Carnegie Hall Concert that we will be singing in before this reaches you. We will also be seeing our daughter and family from Florida in New York City. We ask for your prayers for our health and safety as we travel.

Floyd & Donna Quenzer. Floyd is serving as pastor at Caruthers, officially 1/4 time. He and Donna tell of a community café every Wednesday night. They say some 15 people volunteer and an average of 15 homeless

people are fed. Church members are excited about the project.

Bill & Jeanne Sanford (Atwater) continue – and commend to others – the keeping of Gratitude Journals. Each night they record and share the things in the day they have been thankful for. They both rejoiced in having all three daughters in Atwater for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Bill appreciates the opportunity to contribute a weekly column to the Merced County Times.

Wilma Weber (Fresno) reports that last fall – Sept. 15 to November 21 – was the season to be cruisin'. In that span Wilma packed four Mediterranean area cruises. She returned home for December plus a little. She'll be providing hospitality for Educational Opportunities in Bethlehem for two months beginning in mid-January. Already she is anticipating becoming a great-grandmother in July.



INLAND SHASTA

Georgie Summers

The Shasta Inland retirees met in early December for a luncheon at Marie Callendar's in Chico. We were pleased to have Nancy Daley join us.

JANNA ADAMSON had quite a story to relate about traveling to Tampa, Florida to perform a wedding ceremony, and then from there making a 4200 mile trip in 15 days connecting with friends and family she had not seen in many years. This included a visit to Louisville, Kentucky where her parents were married in 1938 and a visit with a roommate from Aleppo, Syria who was then in this country as an exchange student.

GENE ANDERSON reported that he is enjoying his retirement without stress and gave us a philosophical statement that "what is true for Mother Nature is true for human society." KATY, however, has had quite a bit of stress in her life surviving three operations on her eye for glaucoma. The good news is that she found a doctor in Los Gatos who is using a new technique of putting plastic canals in the eye to drain the pressure. It seems to be working.

BILL JEFFRIES is still giving talks at Masonic observances and shared that he recently had the joy of hearing the Vienna Choir Boys at a concert at

Folsom Lake Community College. brother-in-law whom he joined in marriage there 45 years ago.

ARLEEN MCLANE had an episode with her heart while visiting in Tucson and is now wearing a defibrillator. She is now also the owner of a one-step tub.

NEAL NEUENBERG spent 10 weeks in Yreka this past summer filling in for pastor Toni Hartman who was critically injured in a car accident. He is now back attending Aldersgate UMC in Chico after his year of absence in which he visited 41 churches. He and FRAN also took a trip to Dallas, TX meeting up with former Gridley Presbyterian ministerial friends.

JERRY AND GEORGIE SUMMERS enjoyed taking a class last fall through the Chico State Senior Program on the American Presidents which focused on Abraham Lincoln. **GEORGIE** got talked into doing a Christmas play again (after 4 years retirement) for the Church School Christmas program. She was asked to preach at Chico Trinity on December 30, and Jerry agreed to be her liturgist. He read selections from Psalm 139 like a pro, and the congregation was thrilled to see him in his element. It was a special day!

DARRELL THOMAS spent three days in Yosemite to help celebrate the wedding anniversary of his sister and

JOAN WHEELER was unable to attend our gathering because one of her sons-in-law was seriously injured in a fall, and she was needed to help her daughter take care of him.

However she reported that she had spent some time in Idaho with friends of 57 years from college and seminary days enjoying reminiscing. In September she went with a friend across Canada to Quebec and in October went with the RCA VIM group to New Orleans.

BRYAN WILBER has been fitted with specially designed glasses that enable him to watch TV and use his computer. He enjoyed working in his yard all last summer, and **GLENNIS** says her happiest times are working in the yard. She walks about 18 blocks a day, still plays the organ, and says her calendar for appointments with doctors is far busier than her social calendar.



SACRAMENTO “IS-BEENS”

Sue Angove

Some of our group were not reachable for this month's publication. I spoke with others who said they had enjoyed their holidays. As this New Year, 2013, begins, they also said they are content and thankful for their many blessings.

JOHN AND LOIS ALBRIGHT: Are well again after having the flu through the holidays. They feel so thankful for good health once again. What a blessing it was to be able to care for each other during that time.

JERRY AND SUE ANGOVE: Enjoyed a week of R&R in Peoria, AZ just before Christmas. Don't we enjoy R&R every day as retirees? Jerry is enjoying HO model railroading as a new hobby.

NORMAN AND ARDITH CALLAWAY: Will journey to San Diego in February. Ardith will have a reunion with some of her former church youth group members from a few years ago! She is a native of San Diego and looking forward to the trip. They plan to visit John Moore, and Romain and Juanita Swedenburg too while there.

ART AND CAROLEE CATTERALL: Art was hospitalized for a few days before Thanksgiving. He is slowly recovering at home. Carolee is very thankful for the slow but sure progress Art is making. They hosted approximately 30 members of Art's family for Thanksgiving

GARY AND DEB GRUNDMAN: Bishop Elaine Stanovsky has appointed Gary as Interim Pastor



of the Tongan United Methodist Church in Salt Lake City through the end of June. The church has much to do in the way of restructuring and understanding more of the United Methodist way. Debbi has just returned from a visit and reports that the people are most gracious and warm. ‘It is quite humbling to see how grateful they are for fresh eyes and a sense of humor to help to heal them. God is surely at work!’ We give thanks for God’s guidance and the Spirit’s empowerment of new leaders.

LARRY AND DOREEN HINSHAW: Spent Christmas in Arizona with Larry’s family. They returned to Sacramento to share New Year’s Eve with Doreen’s family. They look forward to a planned April trip taking them from Amsterdam, The Netherlands to Istanbul, Turkey.

DOUG AND MARTHA MONROE: Enjoyed two months of car traveling around the United States during 2012. They had a marvelous time visiting places Doug had previously been to and wanted Martha to see. They toured sites Martha had always wanted to see – part of a bucket list maybe? Friends and family were with them on some of the ventures during that time. Back home again, Martha says it looked mighty good as we arrived home thanking God we had had NO accidents and NO car trouble. They already have several trips planned for this year. Hurrah!

JEANNINE WELLS: Took a fall on December 3rd and fractured her upper right arm. She is totally out of commission. Her family members as well as Woodland UMC folks are assisting her as needed. She says several months must pass before she will be up and about again.

SARGE WRIGHT: Hosted the *IS-BEENS* Christmas gathering at his senior residence where he has now lived one year and is president of the Residents’ Council. 27 family members joined him for Christmas in his former Citrus Heights mobile home park. Our Annual Conference Archives and History program is presided over by Sarge. He is welcoming ideas for his “Bucket List” event to do on his 93rd birthday September 1st! Got thoughts?

Please pray for and send cards to those mentioned who need our support.

MONTEREY BAY

Bob Blaney

Bob and Laurel Blaney enjoyed visiting with many RCA friends at the January Retired Ecumenical Clergy/Spouse Retreat. Birthdays included celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary with our family in Yosemite and celebrating Bob's 80th and Laurel's 70th birthday and Laurel's sister's 80th birthday in 2011. We cruised the Western Caribbean, from Barcelona to Venice, from Florida though the Panama Canal, from NYC to Quebec, and to Hawaii and Alaska. We travelled with Laurel's sister and her husband to Myrtle Beach, Alaska, and Sedona, visited Bob's brother and his wife in Palm Desert several times, and enjoyed a wonderful Road Scholar Program in Prince Edward Island. We both continue to be in good health and in 2011 Bob volunteered to participate in a nationwide study in Memory and Aging at UCSF Medical Center. We continue to be active at Aptos Community UMC, sing in the choir. Bob chairs the Ecumenical Retired Clergy/Partner Retreat committee and has been active in COPA, a group of 22 congregations and non-profits engaged in community organizing for collective public action. Laurel is active in two Book Review Groups and enjoys knitting.

John and Vicky Dodson celebrated their first wedding anniversary last year (August 7) and are planning many more together. As you may know they met in Alaska where John was serving as pastor of St John UMC in Anchorage. Vicky had shoulder surgery on December 31 and is still in recovery, which has put on hold her progress on redesigning our home at Mt Hermon in the Santa Cruz Mountains. John has published his great grandfather, Col. Home A. Plimpton's, Journals from the Civil War, documenting Homers rise from Private to Colonel of the regiment. In February they plan to travel to Steamboat Springs in Colorado, Vicky's home town, to attend the Winter Carnival celebrating all past Queens of the Carnival. What fun to be a former Queen. We are looking forward to a grand time.

Sandra Hammett sends greetings from Puerto Vallarta where I have been living for almost a year now. I've been volunteering with the Anglican Church, teaching a little English, and in my spare time learning Spanish. I was really afraid to get my electric bill since I've had to use fan and or AC most of the time especially in the summer, but got my bill today, 399 pesos for 2 months (that's about 28.50 usd). Think I can quit worrying???? I have found Mexico and its people to be beautiful and gracious. Wasn't really sure I'd like the loud colors and music, but I surely do! Everything is an adventure.

Paul Sweet recently moved to Scotland and sent Christmas Greetings from Scotland on Boxing Day..” I'm here with my special friend Sheena Mckendrick. I've spent the year in travel, first to the Dalmatian Coast, then to some of the bigger islands in the Mediterranean Sea--Crete, Corsica, Sardinia, then on the top of my Bucket list--the Trans-Siberian Railroad--then on to Angkor Wat and the Mekong River, and finally here to Scotland where I intend to stay indefinitely which is looking more and more like permanently. That, of course, is up to God's leading, but the doors have been miraculously opened and the journey forward cleared so far in favor of Sheena and my future togetherness.”. On Christmas Eve we went to her parents' church for a Watch Night service. The congregation had been founded in 800 AD, the ministerial roll went back to 1527, and the building is 200 years old this year. It reminded me just how timeless the Christian message is and how important communities of love are--more timeless than buildings or institutions.



2013 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 19-22, 2013

Sacramento Convention Center

Annual Retired Clergy Association Luncheon

Hyatt Hotel
(Room TBA)

WEDNESDAY

June 19

Please plan to attend our annual luncheon the opening day of Annual Conference. Answer Roll Call, attend Clergy Session and have lunch with Retired Colleagues and Spouses.

Annual Conference Luncheon

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2013

Hyatt Regency - 1209 L Street

Gathering 11:30 a.m. Program and Lunch - noon-1:30

Pre-registration REQUIRED. No non-reserved tickets available at the door.

Registration DEADLINE is June 10, 2013

Please join us for fellowship, food and celebration of our continued ministry as retired clergy and spouses.

This is a time to welcome new retirees, renew friendships from years past and catch up on the lives of friends and colleagues

RCA LUNCHEON REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address (for confirmation) _____

You will receive a written confirmation. If you have not heard please call 916-539-4249

LUNCH CHOICE: Chicken _____ Salmon _____ Vegetarian Pasta _____

Cost: Postmarked by **June 1, 2013** **\$ 25.00**

Postmarked after June 1 (**but no later than June 10!**) **\$ 30.00**

Number of lunches _____ Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

NO TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR.

Make check payable to "RCA"

Mail to:

Nancy Daley, 9328 Elk Grove Blvd #105-141, Elk Grove, CA 95624

OFFICE USE ONLY: S _____ CL _____ CK# _____ PMD _____

Pilgrim Place

A Retirement Destination

From Bill Beck

Pilgrim Place celebrates the collective spirit of individuals who wish to reside in a theologically and intellectually stimulating setting. Residents in this intentional community share a commitment to issues such as social justice, world peace, preservation of the environment and a commitment to lifelong learning.

Founded in 1915, Pilgrim Place originally served as a home for Christian missionaries on furlough. Over the years, the mission of Pilgrim Place has expanded to provide quality housing and services for retired clergy and those who have served fifteen years or more in careers in religious or humanitarian non-profit organizations. The 32-acre community includes tree-lined streets and more than 165-homes reflecting almost every era of Southern California architecture.

The campus is located in the idyllic town of Claremont, on the outskirts of the Los Angeles basin. Neighbors include the five Claremont Colleges, Claremont Graduate University, and the Claremont School of Theology.

Individuals come to Pilgrim Place to continue their lifelong service and outreach to others while exploring new opportunities for personal growth and learning within this caring intentional community. The average age upon entry is seventy. Residents from the Cal-Nev Conference include Barbara Troxell, Lynn Rhodes, Bill & Mary Beck, Fern Jo Kaukonen and Kae Lewis.

Resources include an on-campus library, reading room, and numerous facilities for both formal meetings and more-relaxed visits and discussions. A piano is never far away. Residents can cultivate their artistic skills in the Arts and Crafts Center, as

well as more than sixty groups covering all sorts of activities and interests. An aquatic fitness center and extensive exercise program, including access to a personal trainer and a variety of classes, are also available.

The best way to become familiar with Pilgrim Place is to visit the community. We would welcome hosting you. Check www.pilgrimplace.org for additional information or contact the Admissions Office today at 909-399-5503.

Five Leaves Clinging

John M. Fugitt

January 7, 2013

*They held on for dear life
Wind blown rain soaked
Their brothers and sisters
Long ago had left*

*Their mother had nourished
Them for all these months
Now it was time to go
But these five refused*

*They knew only their life
Attached to mother tree
They loved their family of leaves
They mourned their departure*

*So now they desperately cling
As a storm approaches
Winds stretch their fragile grip
Calling out to each other, they let go*

*Circling down they find rest
Among their brothers and sisters
Happy to find their place
For their next life*

RCA Treasurer's Report

On behalf of the RCA Board of Directors, I would like to express appreciation for the many ways in which you, our retirees and spouses, so generously support our Retired Clergy Association and the work that we do together.

Our Income Budget for 2012-13 totals \$118,200:

\$ 96,000 – Endowment Board Grant (81%)
 \$ 6,500 – Membership Dues & Undesignated Donations (5.5%)
 \$ 4,200 - Endowment Board Note Interest (3.5%)
 \$ 11,500 – Registration Fees for RCA Event Participants (10%)

Thus far this year we have received membership dues and undesignated gifts of **\$ 5,900**. Thanks to your response. It looks like we will exceed our expectations!

As of January 1, 2013 (half way through our fiscal year) our membership donations and special gifts are as follows:

Project	Special Gifts from Members	Contributions from RCA Budget	Total
Seminary Scholarships	\$ 2,138	\$ 1,300	\$ 3,438

(Many of our scholarship gifts in the past few months have come in memory of Franklin "Scottie" Scott. By action of our Board of Directors, one of this year's awards will be a "Franklin Scott Memorial Scholarship". Additional gifts for this special award are welcome.)

Seminary Scholarships (Bob Cary Memorial)	\$ 570	\$ 570
Heath Care Subsidy	\$ 905	\$ 1,500
RCA UMVIM (New Orleans Project)	\$ 385	\$ 1,800

Special gifts to RCA are often designated in memory or honor of colleagues, family members, and friends. Letters of acknowledgement are sent to family members of those being remembered, as well as donors of these gifts. Your support and generosity is greatly appreciated.

- Dick Ernst, RCA Treasurer

Spring Fling Playbill

BISHOP

ROY SANO

"A Zen Buddhist Christian urges alternatives to the hardening, insidious Orthodoxies on the Right and Left which are debilitating UMC faith and ministries, theology and ethics."



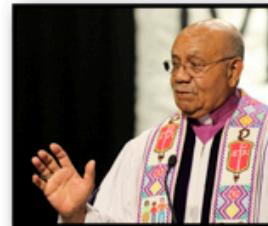
2000. He has been a thoughtful proponent of human rights and racism issues and believes we are all children of God who radiate God's qualities to build people up and heal wounds. He now makes his home in Oakland, CA.

Bishop Roy I. Sano was elected to the episcopacy in 1984 and served both in the Denver Episcopal Area and the Los Angeles Area until his retirement in

BISHOP

MELVIN TALBERT

"I declare to you that the derogatory language and restrictive laws in our Book of Discipline are immoral and no longer deserve our loyalty and obedience."



Bishop Melvin G. Talbert served as bishop for both the Pacific Northwest Conference and our conference from 1980 until his retirement in 2000. He has been a voice of compassion for racial, gender and sexual orientation inclusiveness, as well as a global leader in ecumenism. He believes there is room at God's Table for everyone. He is currently living in Tennessee.



Don Lee Song Leader

Before going to seminary, Don Lee took on a part-time job as a choir director at First UMC, Redding, while owning a successful retail piano store. He has served the

Sierra Pines UMC in Grass Valley and currently is appointed to First UMC Sacramento. He has led many district clergy retreats, and has shared his musical talents at Annual Conference.

During this retreat, Don will help us explore songs from the new United Methodist hymnal supplement, Worship and Song, as well as some old favorites. If you play a musical instrument, you are welcome to join in the music-making!

Cotton Patch Gospel

The Broad-

way produc-
tion of the
greatest story ever retold features the Blue
Grass music of Harry Chapin, adapted from a
New Testament translation by Clarence Jordan
in a modern southern setting. The Sacramento
Bee dubbed it an "infectiously high-spirit produc-
tion...it could illuminate Sacramento". Christianity
Today said "A winner! Drop everything and go
see it."



John Auer Worship Leader

John and Julie Auer, with three children, moved to Cal-Nevada, 1992, following nearly 25 years in Northern Illinois/Chicago.

Four grandchildren have since joined the family. Julie died 1/1/12. John lives in Fresno with a daughter, where he pursues social justice, and occasionally preaching, all at Wesley. He is working toward a long-delayed completion of D.Min. project for what used to be University of Creation-Centered Spirituality, and he blogs on occasion at johnnyjubilee.blogspot.com



Where Are We Headed?

Spring Fling

May 1-2, 2013

Christ The King
Retreat Center

6520 Van Maren Lane
Citrus Heights, CA 95621

Join with us for two days of fun, fellowship and reflection on our theme with **Bishop Roy Sano** and **Bishop Melvin Talbert**.

We will be joined by our own **John Aufer** as our Worship Leader as well as **Don Lee**, pastor at Sacramento First. Don will lead us in song and we will explore some new hymns from the new United Methodist Hymnal Supplement.

The Cottonpatch Gospel will entertain us Wednesday evening with their high spirited production retelling the Gospel.

Registration Form

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____
 Street _____ Apt# _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

I/We will (check one): **Stay on Campus** _____ | **Bring an RV for lodging** _____ | **Commute daily** _____ |

COMMUTERS, will you eat Thursday breakfast on campus? Yes _____ No _____

Bed preference: Two single beds _____ Double bed _____

Cost: On-campus: \$115 EARLY BIRD SPECIAL **per person** by April 1 (\$130 after April 1)

First time attendees \$57.50 EARLY BIRD SPECIAL **per person** by April 1 (\$65 after April 1)

RV/Commuter: \$70 EARLY BIRD SPECIAL **per person** by April 1 (\$80 after April 1)

First time attendees \$35 EARLY BIRD SPECIAL **per person** by April 1 (\$40 after April 1)

Scholarship Assistance? _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____ Do you have special needs?* _____

*We cannot accommodate specific **dietary** requests.

Make Check Payable to: RCA

Send to: Registrar Nancy Daley, 9328 Elk Grove Blvd. #105-141, Elk Grove, CA 95624

OFFICE USE ONLY: S _____ L _____ # _____

California-Nevada Annual Conference the
United Methodist Church
Retired Clergy Association
P.O. Box 980250
West Sacramento, CA 95798-0250

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Mark Vale*

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Nancy Daley
9328 Elk Grove Blvd. #105-141
Elk Grove, CA 95624
916-539-4249
nancydaley@frontiernet.net
<http://ca-nv-rca.org/>

Calendar

See website for updates

May 1-2, 2013

Spring Fling

June 19, 2013

ANNUAL RCA LUNCHEON

June 19-22 2013

Annual Conference Session
Sacramento, CA
