

Days of Grace

“Live with intention, Walk to the edge. Listen hard. Practice wellness. Play with abandon. Laugh. Choose with no regret. Appreciate your friends. Continue to learn. Do what you love. Live as if this is all there is.”

- Mary Ann Radmacher

2016 SPRING FLING

April 20-21, 2016

Christ the King Retreat Center

Announcing a new Speaker for Spring Fling 2016!

Due to illness, Harry T. Cook had to send his regrets as our speaker for Spring Fling 2016. We keep Rev. Cook in our prayers.

As we regret not being able to hear Rev. Cook, we REJOICE in the addition of our own Barbara Troxell! Barbara has served as a pastor and district superintendent in our conference, as well as field education director at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. She and her husband Gene Boutilier live at Pilgrim Place in Claremont, CA, and are active in many circles from spiritual direction to peace and justice issues.

Barbara will engage us on the theme "Seeking Balance", with emphasis on 3 "balances" that emerge in many contexts of our lives: "Solitude and Community"; "Keeping Silence and Speaking"; "Letting Go and Holding On". Many texts and resources come into play, from Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels to historical and contemporary thinkers, writers, music and of course our own experiences. The theme includes the need for balance in the rhythm of our own lives, and in how we experience and respond to both the dreadful and the beautiful within and around us.

We're happy that Dan Damon will return as our musician and song leader. Barbara is eager to work with Dan on creative musical expressions of this theme.

PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS



Dear RCA
Friends,

Grace and
Peace to
you and
yours. I
greet you
as we
anticipate
the cooler

weather of Fall. I
trust all is well for you and yours.

In my reading this week I came across the
following by St John of Chrysostom:

"If you cannot find Christ in the
beggar at the church door, you will not find
him in the chalice."

St. John reminds us that there is much
more to the living out of our faith than simply
gathering for worship in the comfort and safety
of our sanctuaries. He further reminds us that,
in those just outside our door, those who have
little or nothing, we will find Jesus.

When we move beyond worship and
move into our community, there to offer
tangible gifts of life to those who have very
little or nothing, we are living out the faith to
which Christ has called us.

Believing this to be true, we commit
ourselves to discovering Christ, not only in the
beggar at the church door, but in all we meet.
Let it be so.

Be gentle with yourself, with one
another, with all creation.

Blessings & Peace,

Dave Bennett

Too Deep for Words

A Gathering of the Orders
January 19-21, 2016
Mount Hermon Retreat Center

We are called to the ministry and
anointed for service. We step out in faith
and we are met with a variety of responses
and experiences. Let's share our joyful
celebrations together, as well as our grief
and pain. Together, let's retreat into the
glory of creation and the beauty of God's
word to rediscover the faithful presence of
God, the power of the Spirit and the
strength of our hope. In the midst of our
covenant community, come and experience
renewal for our lives and for our ministry.
Bishop Brown calls the orders to gather for
a time of retreat, learning and
strengthening relationships with one
another as we continue on the journey of
pastoral leadership and honest witness
with our congregations, our communities
and our conference. The Bishop's invitation
extends to everyone appointed, assigned
or serving in this annual conference,
including students, ClayM pastors and
retired clergy.

Through worship and workshops,
small groups and new experiences, we will
be reaffirmed in our covenant relationships
and all of the possibility of ministry. We will
discover new ways to address the joys and
the hurts of the world around us, bringing
hope to one another and the world.

Make plans now to get away to the
beautiful Santa Cruz mountains in January
for this special time of renewal with Bishop
Brown and your colleagues.

Scholarships of \$100 will be
available for retired clergy through RCA.
Contact Susan Smith with questions
(susan@wgumc.org).

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

Once again, it was wonderful to see all who were able to attend Annual Conference! I enjoyed the fellowship at lunch and in the lounge.

I have been a bit out of the loop the past couple of months. Just as our "new year" got underway, the County of Sacramento requested my presence in the Jury Room downtown. The short story is that I didn't leave! They let me go home, but we were in trial for 5 weeks, followed by a week of deliberations. It was a mentally and emotionally draining trial (and deliberations) and I got more and more behind in work. I missed several gatherings and meetings. After all of that, I am sure that interacting with people is far more preferable over sitting and watching OTHER people interact! By the time you read this, sentencing will have happened and it is expected the guilty party will face some variation of life in prison. An appropriate sentence for the murder of a 13 year old girl, in my opinion.

In the immediate future, the RCA will be re-examining how we want the Relational Care Committee to go forth. Our chair, Miklos Nicolson, decided he need to retire from the position. We thank Miklos for his passion for the Relational Care Committee. We will be meeting this month to determine how we go forth and relate, one to another, in the tradition of connectional ministry. Until another chair comes forth, I will be heading up this committee. If you wish to join with us, just let me know!

Please mark your calendar for the Gathering of the Orders, January 19-21 at Mt. Hermon. The theme this year is "Too Deep For Words". Dave Thompson represents the RCA to the Gathering of the Orders and encourages all who are able to, to attend. There is scholarship monies available. Please contact Dave (209-367-5907) or Doug McCoy, our Treasurer (541-482-0673) for more information on the scholarship. Dave can answer any questions about the Gathering itself.

Spring Fling has made our October first page this year because we have had a change in speaker. The Spring Fling Committee is both grateful to Barbara for filling in at the "last minute"

and excited to hear her speak on the different kinds of balance we all seek.

I have had many questions about the health of various people in my family. Our youngest daughter, Emma, got the official Cancer Free declaration from her doctor last month. She has graduated to blood tests every six months instead of every six weeks and every other year sonograms of her thyroid (rather the lack thereof) area.

My mom is continuing with chemo and will do so for the rest of her life. She's fallen into a rhythm and seems to be ok with it. My dad had a stroke the Saturday before ACS (great timing dad!). He is continuing to recover and is making slow but steady progress.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to John and Sylvia Corson. They live around the corner from my parents and have ministered to them both during all these health crisis'. It means a lot to my parents and gives my sister and me peace of mind to know they are there.

I look forward to seeing you at a gathering soon!

Peace,

Nancy

If you have recently moved, please be sure you send your new contact information (address, phone number(s) and email) so I can update my records.

nancydaley@frontiernet.net

Nancy Daley

9328 Elk Grove Blvd. #105-141

Elk Grove, CA 95624

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Retired Clergy Association was happy to award four scholarships this year. The awardees this year were Bethany Cseh from Fuller Theological Seminary, Dana Gill from Austin Presbyterian Theological School, and 'Iunisi Tovo, Course of Study, Claremont School of Theology. We were delighted that all three were able to attend our luncheon and give our members the opportunity to meet and encourage them as they go forward.

The cost of post graduate education is ever increasing. The RCA wishes to encourage those who are called to be in mission and ministry as United Methodist clergy to be able to answer that call without the burden of increasing tuition. While we cannot halt the rising cost, we can, in our own small way, offset that burden with our Memorial Scholarship Program.

We have elected to include those enrolled in the Course of Study in Scholarship eligibility.

Please keep an ear out for those who may wish to apply for our scholarship. Contact Judson Gears, our Scholarship Chair, for more information (530-432-7774)

This program is funded by a donation from our operating budget in honor of each clergy and clergy spouse upon their death. It is supplemented by direct donations from our members. We wish to increase our scholarship amounts as we are well aware that the costs for seminarians is only going to increase as well. If you wish to make a contribution to this fund, please send it to the RCA at 9328 Elk Grove Blvd. #105-141 Elk Grove, CA 95624. Please note "Scholarship Program" on the memo line of your check.

HEALTH CARE ASSISTANCE FUND

The RCA collects donations on behalf of the Board of Pensions for the Retired Clergy Health Care Assistance Fund. This fund is used when a need arises to assist those retired clergy and spouses with health care costs. The RCA received a donation along with this note to share with you all.

...Enclosed is the check that is to be a memorial for Rev. Alfred H. Thornburgh. It is to be used for Health Care Assistance.

Al, (as most folks called him), served seven churches. He loved children, enjoyed working

with teenagers and liked spending time with older folks too.

He always enjoyed celebrating the special holidays and spending time with family and friends.

Al delivered his last sermon on Sunday and passed away the following Friday at age 83.

Sincerely,

Velma Thornburgh

Velma called me wishing to make a memorial donation for her beloved Al. She wanted to celebrate his life by doing the most good for the most people in a tangible way. After some discussion, Velma felt the Health Care Assistance fund most represented Al's spirit. -ND

NINTH!!!! Annual RCA UMVIM Trip
New Orleans, Louisiana
October 30-November 7, 2015
Tenth Anniversary of Katrina

Who?

Betty Pagett - VIM Chair
MoChi Lam
Joe Hurd
Randy Bolen
Floyd Quenzer

Donna Houglan
Marty Murdock
Dave Herb



How you can help this year?

Keep our team members in prayer as they serve the ongoing post-Katrina needs of New Orleans and the St. Mark's Church and North Rampart Community Center.

What if I want to go next year?

Let Betty Pagett know! The VIM Team is looking for new projects. If you have an idea, Betty wants to hear from you!

How?

Contact Betty and arrange to make your \$100 registration deposit for each person. There will be a limit to the number of people, so---first come, first served!

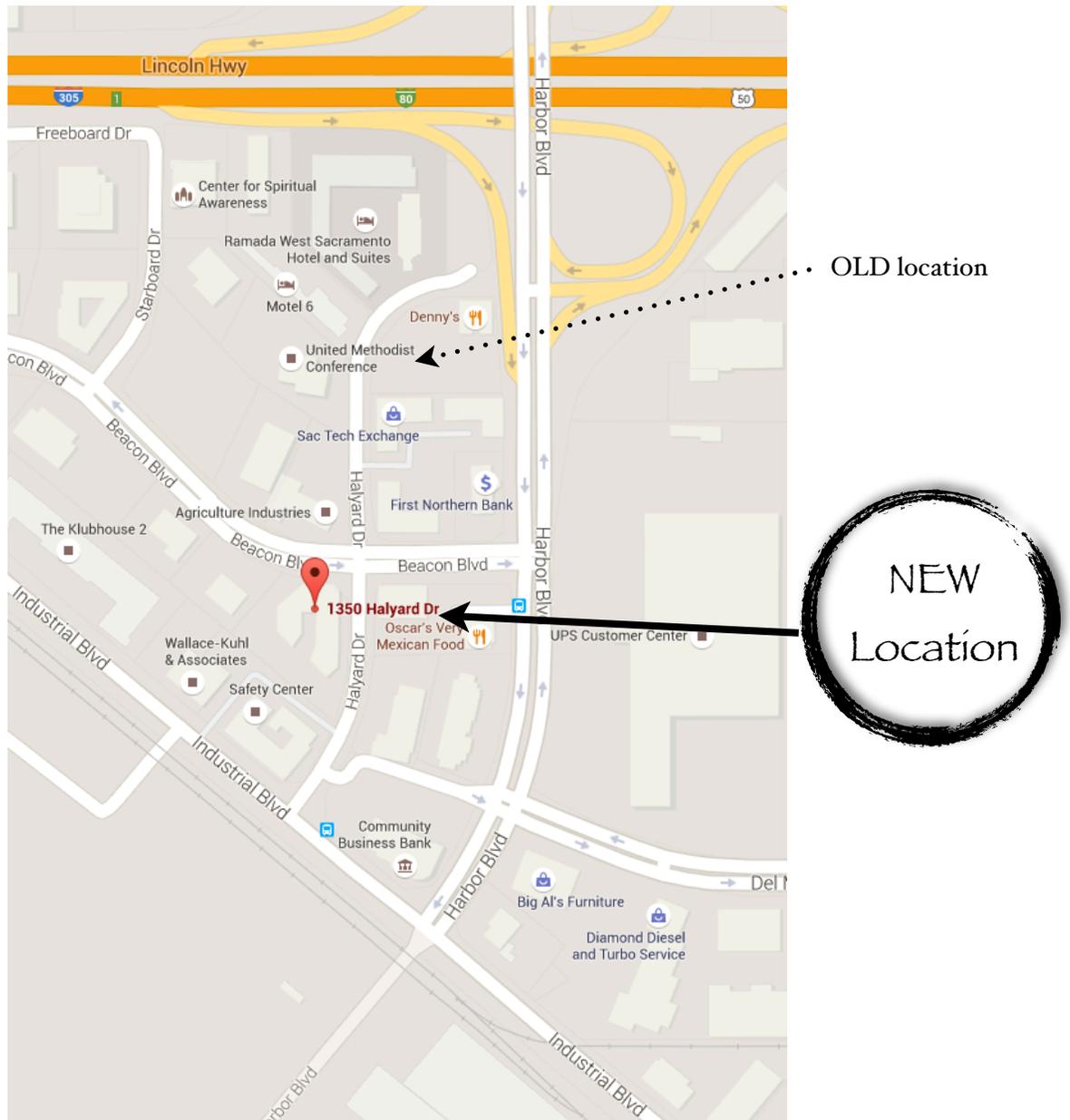
Lodging?

To be determined for 2016! It will depend on where we go! New Orleans has bunk beds, hot showers and a kitchen. Maybe we can find the same!

For more information contact:
Betty Pagett 707-981-8636
bettypagett@gmail.com

THE CONFERENCE OFFICE HAS MOVED!!!

Please note that the West Sacramento Conference Office has moved. Just down the street to 1350 Halyard Drive.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NEWS

Bert Schniepp

John and Eva Fugitt have had a few difficult months with the death of their son, Doug and John's brother, Jay. They also have had to deal with some health problems and are happy to be doing better. John continues to write poetry and some are published in the Mtn. Meadows newsletter. Eva's book, "He Hit Me Back First!" has been rediscovered and is now in e-book form with Amazon and Nook. She is being video interviewed as a pioneer in mind/body connection for children.

Bert and Linda Schniepp have been able to spend a quiet Summer at home after two

short RV trips to Washington state and the southern Oregon coast. They were also able to enjoy a short (too short) visit with their daughter who managed to find a few days during which she was able to come to Oregon for a visit. Their church has a new pastor, so after 3 months with lay people filling in and 6 months of an interim pastor, the church is beginning to look to growing. Bert continues teaching his Sunday School class and assisting with occasional pastoral tasks. They are looking forward to October along the Puget Sound area of Washington before returning home to Florence for the winter.

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 with a note indicating how to direct your donation. Together we can help those in need.



Make your check payable to: RCA

Send to:

RCA

9328 Elk Grove Blvd #105-141

Elk Grove, CA 95624

SACRAMENTO "IS-BEENS"

Sue Angove

ALBRIGHT, JOHN and LOIS are trying to get with "the tech age". Family members have sent them an iPad so Lois can play her scrabble games and keep in touch with them. We all thank them for hosting our Annual Ice Cream social in July at their home. They are getting along all right.

ANGOVE, JERRY and SUE celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary at Lake Tahoe. They have begun attending their 4 year old granddaughter's Saturday soccer games in Sacramento. Sue begins giving flu vaccine to Kaiser members for another year September 26th.

CALLAWAY, NORMAN and ARDITH marked a milestone this summer attending for the 40th year the Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon. For this final season, they were accompanied by daughter Susan Ogawa and chauffeured by granddaughter Rebecca Ogawa. Norman's all-time favorite is *My Fair Lady*, part of the 2014 season. Callaways are at the stage of life where they stay home and let people come to visit them. This included a mid-September visit from **John Moore** and his daughter, Rebecca who were visiting California after their move in May to Friday Harbor, WA in the San Juan Islands. Becky has retired from San Diego State University's Religious Studies Department. She has just published a book – a breakthrough in both brevity and clarity titled Women in Christian Tradition (New York University Press) John is now 95, moves about carefully. The important thing is: he still is moving about.

CARTER, CAROL and TOM GOULD are hoping for positive news as they deal with Tom's health issues. In the Auburn area, Carol is beginning a "Bridges Out of Poverty" group also called "Circles" within our Annual Conference. Carol would be glad to share with us more about this program. They ask for

prayers for daughter Elke Sharma who steps back from parish ministry in the Oregon- Idaho Conference. She will be busy in her role as mother to her wonderful son and will begin professionally to write.

CATTERALL, CAROLEE is now pastoring the Elverta UMC. She has encountered wonderful people and is starting some new programs, one of which is a Square Dance club which will meet Fridays from 6:30 – 8:30 pm starting September 25th. Carolee is excited about the new opportunities coming to the churches and community in that area. Call her (916) 967-7898) for info and to become involved.

DAHL, JAN spends most of her days close to home. She is living with Alzheimer's so has a person coming in to help her with issues and tasks of living. She appreciates being remembered by our Is-Beens group.

ERNST, DICK and BARBARA relocated to Livermore after 14 years of retirement living in Loomis. This was a difficult decision, occasioned by our desire to be geographically closer to four of our five children, and our four grandchildren. We are still dealing with the grief of leaving our Loomis home, many personal friends, community connections, and our church family. Barbara has had to let go of much of her spiritual direction and retreat work, and we are both missing our long time association with PFLAG of Greater Placer County.

While moving and downsizing is something of a nightmare at this stage of life, it does open doors leading to new experiences and opportunities. We've already had more quality time with our children and grandchildren than was possible the last 14 years -- dozens of soccer and baseball games, plus many informal family times have been a special joy. We are gradually getting

Is-Beens - continued

reacquainted with the Tri-valley area, and exploring new recreational, social, and community opportunities. When the time is right, we look forward to establishing our church membership in this area as well.

Personally, I am very excited about the opportunity to serve as a volunteer marshal at the 2016 General Conference in Portland. Having grown up in Portland and experiencing my formative church years at Rosé City (United) Methodist Church, being there for a General Conference will be an especially meaningful time for me!

Our new location info: Address - 1417 College Avenue, Livermore, CA. 94550
Phone - 925-583-5935

FADO, DON and JEAN report that their great grandson was diagnosed in late September with an inoperable neuroblastoma tumor next to his heart and lungs. Connor Halloran is just 5 months old. He is on chemotherapy and seems to be responding well. His mother was finally able to hold and breastfeed him on Oct 7, so that's progress. Your prayers for Connor, his parents, and the entire extended Fado family are coveted and appreciated.

GEORGE, LARRY participated for his fifth time in Cycle Oregon, a week long annual bicycle trip through remote regions of Oregon. For the first time in the 28 year history of the event, route changes were made because of forest fires. 2,200 cyclists and hundreds of volunteers in many remote communities participated. It was a great experience which included Hells Canyon, Idaho. Cycle Oregon routes are designed to help boost the economic health of small communities not normally visited by tourists. Lynn and Larry spent time with family in San Francisco seeing *Phantom of the Opera* for her birthday.

LAM, MOCHI continues to adjust to and enjoy her new home in Irvine. She arrived there in February this year and wants to keep in touch with Is-Been folks here. Her address is 14851

Jeffrey Road, Space #233, Irvine, CA 92618. Her phone has not changed – (916) 436-6009.

EVA and ED MARTIN spent some July time camping at Truckee, CA. They have pictures of the Truckee River taken 2 years ago and again this year. The pictures clearly show how the drought is affecting California. There is a bike/walking trail from Squaw Valley to Tahoe City that is along the Truckee River. This is an enjoyable walk and when there is water you can watch the people tubing down the river. We had an excellent lunch at the Blue Agave Restaurant in Tahoe City. The other five days we camped at Logger Campground near Stampede Reservoir which was almost dry. We drove home before the hail storm closed highway 80.

OTTO, VERNICE thanks the Combs for getting her to the Retired Clergy luncheon at Conference and to Steve and Ruth Darling for taking her to the Is-Beens Ice Cream social in July at the Albrights. The most eventful happening of the year has been the wedding of her grandson Garrett on a farm in the hills of San Luis Obispo. The venue was so hilly, Vernice was transported to her seat in a piece of farm equipment! The bride came in by motorcycle! It was lots of fun for ALL ages. She walks 20 – 30 minutes every day, goes to Curves 4 – 5 x each week, and bakes cookies for church, friends, and neighbors. She surely is on the go!!!

(continued next page)

WATTERS-JULSING, KAY is grateful to all who have prayed and continue praying for her daughter, Kathy diagnosed with cancer. Kathy is feeling MUCH better and is doing well. Kay's family enjoyed a reunion during July in Florida. She plans to attend a meditation seminar in late October to be held in Medford, Oregon. Moving on to November, Kay will then travel to North Carolina to celebrate special birthdays with special friends and family



Photos of the Truckee River.
The top one was in 2013 and the
left one is in 2015. Taken by Eva
and Ed Martin

CENTRAL VALLEY - SOUTH

Sylvia Corson

Ray Alderman appreciates his new motorized wheelchair. He has knee problems, but is unable to have surgery because of his COPD. As a result, he is now wearing a brace. He is considering a move to a retirement residence where he would have some assistance. For now, he

has someone coming in to fix meals for him. His daughter lives nearby and provides additional support.

David and Sherry Atkins had marvelous 50th Anniversary celebrations in July at Sunriver Resort in Oregon (near Bend). They were joined by all of their children, grandchildren, Godchildren, and extended family. They plan a return visit next year. Sherry is

having severe vision impairment, and will have eye surgery on September 2. They are praying for a good outcome.

Dick Bayard stayed home this summer for a change. He enjoyed working on new landscaping that features drought tolerant and bird/butterfly enticing plants. He continues his weekly Bible studies at two assisted living centers, and they are a source of

Central Valley South - continued

satisfaction for him and the participants. He is relatively healthy, but slowing a bit as the “aging process takes place.”

Alf Christensen spends time reading, and a bit of cooking. He donated some of his books to CSU, Bakersfield. He published his third book of poems with the title, “*Crispy Crumbs of Toast*”. Alf has become a prolific author. He gives some of his proceeds to Heifer International. He is very excited about the birth of his 14th great grandchild in July, with another on the way!

John and Sylvia Corson are celebrating their recent 58th anniversary on a North Atlantic cruise from Copenhagen to New York City this month, with stops in Iceland, Greenland, and Newfoundland. Summer included visits “up north” with friends and family, hosting grandchildren and friends, and lots of swimming! In April, they visited 13 Caribbean islands on the MS Maasdam.

Harry and Anita Dutt sold their beloved motor home. They skipped AC to attend a Dutt family reunion in South Dakota. All 7 of Harry’s siblings, plus 22 others (spouses, children and grandchildren), stayed at a pheasant hunting lodge for 4 days of activities. They are grateful for their children, and glad to be near their Santa Barbara daughter, Renee. “Come see us sometime!”

Brian and Barbara Mark stayed close to home this summer. Barbara has had some health problems. Brian, and son Brent, trained for a Mt. Whitney climb. The training was fun. They spent two days in Lone Pine, climbed to 12,000 feet where Brent got elevation sickness, and had to stop. However, the anticipation and attempt

were rewarding - maybe again next summer!

Mark and Young Moon are doing well. Their health is stable for which they are thankful. Currently, they are planning a trip to Korea to see Young’s son who lives in Seoul. Mark’s second son will join them for his first visit Korea. They will travel with a Korean group. Mark reports that **Alpha Takagi** is getting weaker, and his memory is failing. He will celebrate his 98th birthday in November.

Bob and Nancy Schwartz were delighted to have a “grandparent” camp for grandson Malcom this summer – swimming, cooking, eating, watching *Jeopardy* and playing games. Malcom has returned to Oakland with his parents after 2 years in Paris much to “grandma” Nancy’s delight. Bob left for 7 weeks in Germany, “in spite of advice to postpone the trip due to several medical issues.”

Sharon Watson has not traveled recently. She is concerned about her son, Jonathan, who works at a dam in Washington, near the raging fire area. Reports of evacuations, struggles getting supplies, and the disruption of the internet have been a concern. Sharon is proud of her son, Joel, who has joined the Navy. She is looking for Heidi dolls for her collection.

Harry and Ruth Wood gave their daughter, Robin, a trip to Paris for her 50th birthday. Since she had taken Harry to Paris for his 60th, Ruth and Harry wanted to return the favor. Paris is one of the Wood’s favorite places. Harry raves about their favorite Paris restaurant (call for info), discovered by Bob and Nancy Schwartz’s son, while living in Paris.

California-Nevada Annual Conference the
United Methodist Church
Retired Clergy Association
P.O. Box 980250
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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

January 21-23, 2016

Gathering of the Orders

April 20-21, 2016

Spring Fling

June 22-25, 2016

Annual Conference
Session

Burlingame, CA