

Days of Grace



FEBRUARY 2017

SPOTLIGHT ON:

N. State/Chico Cluster

This group draws from a wide geographic area. They most frequently meet in a Chico restaurant but have on occasion met at the Willows church and in homes in Colusa. They only meet twice a year but they have a good turn out for both the December/Christmas gathering and the late spring gathering.

They are currently gathered together by Neal and Fran Neuenberg, who followed in the footsteps of the late Bryan Wilbur. Glynnis Wilbur continues to be a faithful member to the group and shares her love of her garden, her walks, and her playing of the organ for various events and churches. Bill Jefferies, an avid reader, brings a book report or two. Georgie Summers shares, with delight, her worship dramas...the good kind! She has written many plays for worship over the years!

Read more about what the group is up to on page 5!

This Cluster Group treasures the fellowship they find together even though it is only twice a year. Keeping the connection over the years and the miles!

This is the second in a series spotlighting the various groups that gather together for fellowship and, of course, they each do their gatherings a bit differently but we want to celebrate the vitality and joy that comes with these get-togethers.

If you are not part of a group and would like to find one or start one, please contact Nancy Daley at 916-539-4249 or nancydaley@ca-nv-rca.org

In This Issue

- New Orleans and Weed
- Spring Fling Registration
- Generous RCA Members
- "Like Grounded Swallows"

President's Ponderings

~Marty Murdock

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for sharing ministry with me across these decades before our retirement. Even serving on Conference and District agencies, for me, always had the added benefit of time spent with cherished colleagues. Now, through the work of the Retired Clergy Association, it turns out that we still have these opportunities.

For example, several of us were at the Gathering of the Orders together recently, along with the active clergy of the Conference (there is scholarship money available for retirees—just ask).

Many more of us will be at the Spring Fling in April again, where Fr. Thomas Bonacci will share about Pope Francis (the program costs are subsidized to keep the cost down for everyone for this overnight event)

A growing number of us have been supported to attend Annual Conference Session in recent years, due to a more generous per diem reimbursement for lodging and meals. (We are considering adding mileage to that formula). Thanks for being there!

UMVIM teams of retired clergy and spouses have continued to restore damaged homes in the New Orleans area each fall, and plans are now underway to do this work here in the Conference area, where so many homes were lost to wildfires. (costs are subsidized to make these efforts more affordable to more people)

And now the Pastoral Response Team has been launched, with the costs for room, meals, and travel fully covered for the training events. (One of the perks for those involved is the opportunity to share an overnight together during the training)

You are also invited to serve on the Retired Clergy Association Board of Directors and the committees that manage the projects listed above. The meetings offer still more opportunity to gather with fellow clergy and enjoy each others' company. (Meal and travel costs are covered)

So, how does all this happen? Through a generous annual grant from the Conference Claimants Endowment Board. They see their mission as helping make good things available to enrich the lives of our Conference retirees. We say: Thank You Very Much!

And why does all this happen? So that we can continue to be in relationship with each other, with the same folks who shared the journey while we were in active ministry. We have a share history, we know each other, we like to think and grow together, and so we have created opportunities for that to happen still.

Please be present at all of these events which may call to you. You will be glad you did. And you will make others glad you came to share and celebrate, offering the blessing of your presence.

Have a great 2017, stay healthy, and we will see you soon.

Shalom,
Marty

Board of Pensions News

Watch for the launch of a new Board of Pensions website! To better serve you and offer 'one stop shopping' for all things pension related.

Watch The Newsette for more information on the launch!

Executive Officer's Message

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



You may be surprised to find this issue in your physical mailbox instead of your email box. Proving the law of Murphy or maybe just unintended consequences... an improvement to the database caused a hitch in the get-along when it came to parsing out those who go to email and those who go to the Post Office! This hitch was discovered just days before putting Days of Grace together so to be sure all received it, all are getting a physical copy!

If you still prefer to get it via email, please email me at nancydaley@ca-nv-rca.org to let me know. REMEMBER... you will not get the newsletter itself in the email but rather the link to where you can download it. You will need Acrobat Reader to read the pdf file that you will download. I apologize for the inconvenience. My IT guy will be here in a few weeks to debug the database!

In other news.....

Please note that the Spring Fling registration is underway! A registration form is on page15 of this issue and is available for download on our website.

The Pastoral Response Team is ready to serve you as well. We are basing this ministry loosely on Stephen Ministry and is available to all RCA members. If you have a need or become aware of a need, please contact me or Carolee Catterall at 916-636-4942.

Last, but not at all least, I'd like to give a big thank you to the Conference Claimants Endowment Board for their continued support. They make a generous gift to the RCA every year which includes the per diem for ACS reimbursement for all RCA members!

Grace and peace,

Nancy



Have you moved?
New phone number?
New email address?

Please send updates to:

RCA
9328 Elk Grove Blvd. #105-141
Elk Grove, CA 95624

nancydaley@ca-nv-rca.org



South Valley News
From Sylvia Corson

Ray Alderman is settling into his new home at the Brookdale Living Residence. He participates in the creative writing group, enjoys the exercise program, and finds his physical therapy helpful. He wishes he could still drive the car, but after an accident knows this is not wise. He now gets around using an electric wheelchair which makes life much easier. Ray enjoyed a lovely Christmas with his daughter Susan's family. She is very supportive and visits Ray weekly.

David and Sherry Atkins had a great holiday with family and friends in Laguna Woods. A highlight was a Christmas night of caroling in their neighborhood. A Muslim neighbor asked to join them. Then, after knocking on the door and singing to another new neighbor, they asked her if she had any favorite carols. She said, "Actually, I'm Jewish." So, they sang the Dreidel song! Three faiths together, Christian, Jew, and Muslim. It was great!

Dick Bayard is healing from a fall in early December which resulted in a broken leg. He is slowly regaining his ability to walk as the leg heals. The accident provides a good excuse for his out-of-state daughters to take turns to visit him. They come and stay one at a time, which is a real delight. He expects to recover enough in another month or so to resume his usual activities. Here's wishing you a speedy recovery, Dick!

John and Sylvia Corson shared Christmas at home with their two sons and wives. Sylvia remains the "designated" driver as John continues to heal from his August foot infection and surgery. This past fall, the 13th annual "Stephen Corson Award for Outstanding Teaching of Freshmen" at Pacific was presented to Dr. Alan Lenzi, Chair of Religious Studies at UOP. They were able to attend. A cruise from Florida to Montreal is planned for April with friends and clergy colleagues.

Anita Dutt reports that following **Harry's** death on October 29th, a memorial service was held in Santa Barbara. All of their children and grandchildren were at the service. The family returned for Thanksgiving. Anita, and granddaughter Britney, went to Palm Springs to cheer for cousin Ryan in a basketball tournament. Her grandson's team won the championship. Anita appreciates those who attended Harry's service, and all those sending cards and notes.

Brian and Barbara Mark had wonderful holidays. Barbara's health keeps their planning "iffy". On January 6th their eldest son, Bryan and wife, Melissa, gave them their first grandchild, Leonardo David Mark! They were at the hospital when he was born, and saw him two hours later. They feel blessed with this new child in their family. They are hoping to spend the first week of February in San Mateo getting to know Leonardo. Congratulations to you and your family.

Bob and Nancy Schwartz had a well-celebrated Christmas with their son's family in Oakland. However, Bob said, "we left (home) with a house not decorated, a tree not assembled, and cards not sent out. Health problems. Further distraction came by the coming inauguration. "But the meaning of Christmas is that our hope is not found in modern trumped-up glitzy towers but in a humble stable."

Sharon Watson is very happy for her son, Jonathan, who married his fiancée Cheryl. They had to wait for a date that fit into their busy lifestyle. Sharon was delighted to get acquainted with Cheryl last year. Jonathan is with the Army Corps of engineers in Washington. Her son, Joel, stationed in San Diego with the Coast Guard, was able to be with everyone for Christmas. Sharon cooked a "real German menu" for Christmas dinner.

Harry Wood misses Ruth, but with God's grace life has a way of moving forward. Harry sent this Christmas story: "Our daughter Robin and family attend a beautiful Catholic church in Miami Beach. Ruth and I were there for both granddaughters' first communion and enjoy worshipping there on our visits to Florida. On Christmas Eve the family and I went early for a concert of Christmas music before the midnight mass. The priest's
~Continued next page 

North State/Chico Area News

From Fran and Neal Neuenburg

As our Retired Clergy Group gathered for our luncheon on **May 2, 2016**, the group began by remembering one of our members who suddenly passed away last week, retired pastor, Janna Adamson. We reflected on the different situations in which Janna had impacted our lives. Janna was remembered as being loyal and caring; concerned about people fitting in. She was a pastor to all with whom she came in contact. And also a good preacher.

Jim Patterson attends Aldersgate UMC in Chico and carries on an active prayer minister. He always has prayer-oil with him for anointing those who have healing needs. Jim and Nancy sing in the choir at Aldersgate. And they enjoy their children and grandchildren in the area.

Bill Jefferies frequently brings a recently read book with him to the group. His latest read is Hermann Hesse's *The Prodigy*. Bill is a learner and the group always enjoys hearing about Bill's reads.

Karen Watson is continuing to pastor Greenville UMC. The church has an active youth group and a mission outreach from the thrift store they maintain. The goods sold help the community and the funds raised also go into the community. A win/win for everyone

Julie Horne is serving as pastor to First Presbyterian in Corning. Upon the hiring of a Sunday school teacher, both the children's and youth groups have grown and become active. In a quite miraculous way, money that had been embezzled from the church was recovered in time to be used for much needed repairs on the church building.

Kathy Anderson is very grateful that her glaucoma surgeries have left her able to see enough to still drive. **Gene** is needing care these days and Kathy is

able to provide that.

Glennis Wilbur is navigating her life with Bryan. She loves to walk and is thankful for good health. However, her passion and her ministry are her music. Glennis regularly plays organ for both the UMC and Baptist congregations in Willows.

After a short time living apart, **Georgie and Jerry Summers** are back living together in a retiree apartment complex. (Jerry was living in an assisted living facility) Jerry always brings his radiant smile to the group. Georgie is the primary caregiver and Jerry calls her his "Guardian Angel". Georgie has managed to get a bit of respite with help coming into their home for a few hours each week. They treasure their togetherness.

Fran and Neal Neuenburg are looking forward to better health days ahead. After suffering a life-threatening accident in July of 2015, Fran is finally able to walk again minus wheelchair and walker. She is part of the choir at Aldersgate UMC. Practice and singing have lifted her spirits each week in her journey toward wellness. Neal has been mentoring a Chico Southern Baptist minister as that pastor works on his doctorate. The two meet weekly and Neal has to turn in reports to Gateway Seminary in Ontario, CA. Neal has also been instrumental in helping establish a recovery house for men in Chico. But Neal faces spinal surgery and is actually looking forward to that in January at UCSF. Better days ahead!

Joan Wheeler Ash and Lloyd Ash have been married for two years now. Joan shared how she really enjoyed attending her 60th college reunion at Redlands University. Lloyd has been pastoring at Maxwell UMC for 18 years, but Lloyd had sobering personal news...he has been diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus and the outlook is grave. In the midst of the situation Lloyd is very glad for Joan's steadfastness, help, and support. Our group laid hands on Lloyd and Jim anointed him with oil as well prayed over him

greeting was curt; *Silence your cell phones. No talking. No applause.* The music was wonderful. The choir loft is in the rear of the church and the music of singers, timpani, trumpet, and the great organ warmed all of our hearts. At the end of the concert a man began to sing the "Ave Maria". A hush fell over the packed church as the tenor voice brought to Floridians the anticipation and joy that must have been the emotion of the holy family that night in Bethlehem. As the final note faded the congregation rose as one and turned to face the choir loft, clapping as hard as they could. My daughter had lip synced what I had ventured to hope. Andrea Bocelli has a home in Miami and he had given us an unforgettable Christmas gift."

Special Gifts Received by RCA in 2016

The Retired Clergy Association received special memorial donations for persons who have died and in honor of others who serve the church. Those honored by these gifts include:

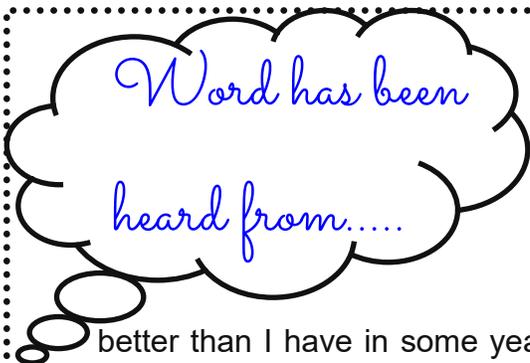
In memory of ~

Bob and Doris Moon
Josue Florendo
Cliff Crummey
Julie Auer
Doug Hayward
Bob Keller
Casper & Hisako Horikoshi
Virginia Hansen
Bob Cary
Frank Roberts
Alfred Thornburg
Robert Schlager
Byron Roberts

Robert Hawthorn
Wayne Williams
Richard Smith
Glen Doyle
Elaine Combs-Shilling
Sandra Hammett
Jiro Mizuno
Ralph Pederson
Philip Whitmer
Sarge Wright
Romaine Swedenburg
Harry Dutt
Larry Hinshaw
Janna Adamson

In honor of ~
Don and Jean Fado
Bishop Brown
Dave Thompson

All donations are tax deductible and RCA welcomes the opportunity to recognize and honor those who have served Christ through the church.



Carol Layton....

While I loved my time in California, it was good to move back home to the Rocky Mountains. We are well settled in Delta, CO, a small agricultural community about 70 miles from the Utah border and located eleven miles from my childhood home. While my first year of retirement was spent dealing with a number of health issues, I am now feeling

better than I have in some years. I occasionally fill the pulpit in the area surrounding Delta and I teach a class at Delta UMC, but I spend a lot of my time simply getting reacquainted with the mountains. George and I have also been helping as we are able with the care of my mother, but that has been eased by her decision to go into assisted living. There was a trip to Denver to see The Lion King last winter and a summer trip for a Colorado Rockies game, but we have been staying close to home. However, since my health is on the upswing, the future contains some travel plans, such as Spring Training in Phoenix, a return to California for ACS in June, and a trip to Northern CA to spoil our grandchildren. Life is good, and it was an absolute delight to surprise Bishop Oliveto when she visited Delta on her tour of the conference.

Pacific Northwest News From Bert Schniepp

John and Eva Fugitt have lived at Mt. Meadows Retirement community in Ashland, OR for eleven years. They have been experiencing health problems for several months, but good health has now returned and they look forward to a healthy new year. John continues to write and give away his poems. His prayer life is enriched by a Methodist Men's prayer group. He enjoys a game or two of pool in the new Mt. Meadows Game Room and making Welcome banners for new residents. He has presented several hundred over the last 11 years. Eva, as a Master Reiki Practitioner, enjoys working the Mt. Meadows Reiki group. In the spring she initiated the planting of flowers in front of the Club House. Her book, "He Hit ME Back First!" has been rediscovered and is now an e-book at Amazon and Barnes and Noble. The Ashland Methodist church fellowship remains a meaningful, loving part of their lives. Their family is doing well, for which we are grateful.

Jim and Dianne Lynn are still enjoying life in Newport, OR but with the downside of rarely seeing California friends or participate in CANV Conference activities. Jim's church involvement is mostly with the local ELCA (Lutheran) congregation, including singing in both of the choirs, and sometimes filling in here and there when the pastor is absent. It would appear the ageing process and health issues are catching up with them. Jim is having cardiac issues (related to his 4 vessel heart bypass 10 years ago); Dianne is dealing with high blood pressure. They can no longer do the amount of traveling as in earlier years and they are no longer working at the local museums which they did for a few years. Whoa! The years do pass by! But they are grateful for all the things they are still able to do. They have high hopes for 2017—more about that next time! They send a belated Christmas greeting and prayer for the spirit of Christ's shalom in all the world.

Bert and Linda Schniepp—we returned from our fall trip in the Puget Sound area to settle into more quiet activities back home in Florence. Many pumpkins and mums accompanied us on the trip home! After four mild years, winter returned with a vengeance to the Pacific Northwest. Florence has escaped the worst of it though, but we enjoyed being snowed in for one day in early January. Art, music, theater, volunteer activities, nature, and good times with friends make for a full and interesting life here in Oregon. Bert preaches occasionally, leads an adult class on Sunday, and plays bridge every week. We keep abreast of our daughter's many musical activities in So. California via social media.

Lin and Nanci Goodyear are now living in OR and enjoying life in the Pacific Northwest. Lin is now an author focusing on writing murder mysteries and Bible studies. He just finished writing a study on the letter of Jude. They enjoy keeping up with others via Days of Grace.

Penny Vorster has just had her first "journey of a lifetime" since Arnold's death and their motorhome adventures. Spending almost two months, October and November, in New Zealand, traveling by herself using their efficient bus system and carrying only a backpack, she pretty much saw the whole country. She reports that it is a beautiful country, very green, green rolling hills now in their early Spring. Friendly people and a safe country for woman traveling alone. Lots of interesting culture and history, beautiful public art and architecture everywhere. And she survived the 7.8 earthquake! She was at her last stop in Christchurch when it hit, so was in a hotel built since their last bad one in 2011 and felt safe. Since she had already done things that were affected, felt very lucky that her trip was not impacted at all. Discombobulated that day, yes. Plans changed, no. Locally, she has taken on the job of Trustee Chair which keeps her busy when not traveling. She sends Happy New Year wishes to all.

FEBRUARY 2017

Sacramento Region Is-Beens News From Sue Angove

ANGOVE, JERRY and SUE had a wonderful Thanksgiving week with their daughter and son-in-law in Sedona, AZ. Christmas brought us all together in Sacramento. What a holiday to behold, especially through the eyes of 3 and 5 year old grandchildren! The two of them particularly loved placing baby Jesus in the manger beds of the many creches we place around our home. During 2017, we are excited to celebrate 50 years of Ministry in June, 50 years of Nursing in July, and 50 years of marriage in September!

DARLING, Steve and Ruth have had an eventful year this past one. It began with a trip for the two of them to Hawaii. They went with their daughter, Cheri, and granddaughter, Allison for a trip to Pearl Harbor. A first for each of them. During their stay they met two of the last survivors who were at the base to greet visitors. The Bishop's Museum was an adventure celebrating the history of the island. The open air café overlooking the lagoon was wonderful for watching the sun go down. We plan another two week stay in Hawaii this next summer. Ruth and Steve recently visited Paris, France. They found a small café named Versailles in the neighborhood where they ate their meals most of the week and made friends. They saw most of the visitor haunts; the Seine, Notre Dame, Victor Hugo neighborhood and ate in the oldest café in Paris. They were on their own without a tour guide and enjoyed it immensely. Early on they joined the Golden Gate Austin Healey Club, travelling to Yosemite in their 1962 Austin Healey which they have owned since 1969.

They met at the South Gate and stayed in the cottages there for a week, traveling throughout the park's environs. This past year they became great-grandparents when their granddaughter in Coquille, OR had a baby boy, Aiden, on July 7; 7.5 pounds and 19" long.

GREEN, LOTHAIR and JOYCE spent Thanksgiving at Mammoth with one son and wife, his son and girlfriend from San Diego State, his daughter from Cal Poly Pomona, and her friend, and another grandson from Rocklin. Great time, but left a few hours early to avoid the storm. Didn't work! They were stuck for a while at Kyburz! Christmas in Roseville & Rocklin with both sons and wives and all grandkids, including one from Okinawa and wife. Great reunion!

GRUNDMAN, GARY and DEB have enjoyed a cruise through the Panama Canal in January. An added bonus was discovery that long-time friends from the Patterson Federated Church were also on the cruise. Gary had married three of those couples and baptized some of their children. A fun surprise! Grateful for the chance to explore as well as a good opportunity to 'test' how many days any future trips might entail.

JULSING, KAY shares, "In the midst of turmoil and chaos all around us, my family and I continue to be grateful for the many Divine blessings we do have. This past summer, the 7 of us (son, daughter, families & Kay) had a marvelous time spending three weeks together. We explored,

learned about, and enjoyed amazing places in Italy, Switzerland, and France. We had adventures and created memories of a lifetime! May ALL of US be blessed with Divine inner peace and light as we radiate them and navigate life around us.

SCGWARZEBTRAUB, BETSY and KEN are wanting us to know Betsy is driving again following her hand surgery in December. Ken's total knee replacement surgery in October went very well as has his recovery. Our horses are doing well too despite the weather. In January and February, Betsy is teaching an online course on Stewardship and Culture through the Ecumenical Stewardship Center.

TAYLOR, JOHN and MAGGIE tell us all that Maggie spent 5 weeks this past fall visiting family in the Philippines. The two of them have been VERY busy of late placing wired fencing around their property to keep out the deer.

THOMAS, CARL enjoyed a November river boat cruise from Basel, Switzerland to Bruges, Belgium. He is very glad his son and family have moved back to California so all the family is close together again.

A Note on Scholarship

In the fall of my freshman year at a small liberal arts college, I embraced God's claim on my life for ordained ministry. The following summer, Betty and I decided to be married. While we had intended to continue my education, the funds were just not there. So that fall, I did not return to college. At the time, The Philadelphia Conference, Board of Ordained Ministry, offered loans for pre-ministerial students from college through seminary. I had applied for the loan for my sophomore year. In September, their check arrived along with a personal letter from Dr. Charles Brodhead, the loan chair. Since I had not returned to college that fall, I returned the check. Shortly afterwards, I received another letter from Dr. Brodhead. He encouraged me to continue to follow my call and education when that became possible. And, he suggested that I apply the check on my freshmen loans. His letters and checks were very important encouragements on my journey. They were God's nudge to complete the education I needed to effectively serve what God had in mind for me.

A couple of years later, when I was able to return to college, I received a loan for my sophomore year from my Board of Ordained Ministry. I continued to receive these loans through my seminary years. While the loans were always modest, they were an important financial part of my journey. And each year, Dr. Brodhead included a personal note of encouragement along with the check.

After seminary, I was ordained Elder and received an appointment in the Philadelphia Conference (now the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference). Interest now began to accrue on the loans. For each year of service in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference after ordination, twenty percent of the loan was forgiven. So after five years, the loans were totally forgiven making them scholarships.

While the amounts received each year were modest, they were a constant reminder that the Philadel-

phia Conference was investing in my ministry and were a visible reminder that I was not alone on this journey.

The Retired Clergy Association of the California-Nevada Conference likewise invests in the ministry of Certified Candidates of our Conference who intend to serve here. In the period of 2004-2016, 35 scholarships have been granted for a total of \$64,000. The scholarships have ranged from \$1000-\$3000.



The funds for these scholarships have had three primary sources: first, the RCA contributes \$200 upon the death of our clergy and spouses to the Memorial Scholarship Fund. Second, occasionally personal memorial contributions have been made by individuals in memory of colleagues and spouses. Finally, special scholarships were presented in memory of Bob Carey and Franklin Scott.

What will you contribute to our Memorial Scholarship Fund? While our scholarships are modest in terms of the total cost borne by Certified Candidates, they are a visible way to encourage them on their journey towards their goal to be a deacon, and elder, or appointed as a local pastor.

To make your contribution, make your check payable to: **RCA**. Send your check to: RCA, 9328 Elk Grove Blvd. #105-141, Elk Grove, CA 95624. If it is a memorial or honorary contribution, please include a note with that information. The family or person will be informed of your gift.

On behalf of those who receive our encouragement as recipients, thank you!

— Judson O. Gears, Memorial Scholarships, Chair

New Orleans is Calling

For the 10th time in as many years the Retired Clergy of the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church went to New Orleans to work on a house damaged by water.

On October 22, 8 persons (Betty Pagett, Marty Murdock, Cheryl Murdock, Donna Schauland, Floyd Quenzer, Donna Houglund, Randy Bolen, and Mona Bolen) gathered at the Rampart Youth Center in New Orleans which would become the center of our activities during the next week.

We enjoyed our time of fellowship with each other. We also enjoyed participating in the worship service on Sunday morning at St. Marks UMC which is connected to the Rampart Center. We were privileged to spend time with Ms. Ruth whose house we worked on in addition to some of her family. The highlight of spending time with Ms. Ruth was the prayer of dedication in which she participated fully and energetically. Also, to see the eyes well up in tears of a son who had come from Texas when he saw the work we had accomplished and the joy we were experiencing in this work.

This home in Rogers, LA is the latest of 24,000 homes that United Methodists have worked on. The 540 hours of labor we completed during the week brought us home tired and excited about the contribution we made to the New Orleans area. Our group added our 540 hours to the nearly 25 million labor hours spent rebuilding homes in Southeast Louisiana. Nearly 40,000 United Methodists have worked in Southeast Louisiana during the past 10 years.

The particular home we worked on this year had been hit twice by flooding waters—once in April 2016 and again in August 2016. The home's occupant, Ms. Ruth (84 years young) was recovering from the April flooding and moving back into her home when the August floods hit. Ms. Ruth did not have flood insurance or available resources and personal finances were limited.

Step in the Epworth Project, which was founded in 2008 as a volunteer management organization. Ms. Ruth's family assisted her in applying for help in rebuilding her home which had been in 9 feet of water.

Another group had replaced the studs in the house. Our task was to insulate the walls in the entire home and then put paneling on the walls. We also spent considerable time cleaning up the yard. Another group or groups will come in and complete the house so that Ms. Ruth can move back in.

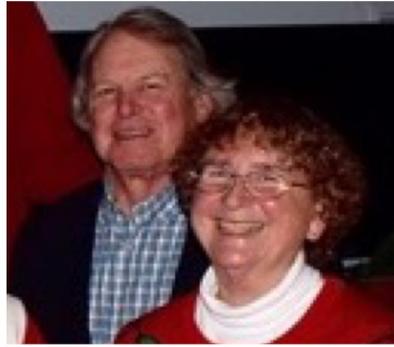
We concluded each day with worship after having a delicious meal in the French Quarter.

While we were tired at the end of the week, we felt renewed, re-energized, and ready to go to New Orleans again next year. We will be sending a team to Weed, CA April 24-28, 2017. RV parking is available as well as lodging at a local motel that offers a discount for volunteers. If you wish to participate in the Weed Project, please contact Betty Pagett immediately as arrangements must be made ASAP.

If you wish to join the next New Orleans trip, contact Betty or any team member.

Betty Pagett—707-981-8636





Colfax Christmas



Darlene and Earl Langguth, Peggy and Don Baldwin, Bud and Kathleen Tillinghast, Betty and Judson Gears, Susan Kemper, Dave Bunje, Don Lee, Barbara Smith, Carol Carter, Patricia Spooner, Kay Watters-Julsing, and Sylvia Osman gathered at Myrtle Findley's Colfax home. They caught up with good friends, met new ones, shared scrumptious home cooked foods, and shared highlights of their lives. All were grateful that Myrtle, at 97, is good health and able to host them all once again!

RCA Members Contribute to Health Needs

Twenty-six members of RCA contributed special donations toward Retiree Health needs during the last six months. A total of \$1,385, which had been received by RCA for the support of retiree health needs, has been forwarded to the Conference Claimants' Endowment Board.

As members submit their membership dues, there is the opportunity to support other RCA projects, including health care assistance. Four of the gifts were made in memory of individuals and the rest were designated gifts toward this need.

Thank you for your support of this important connectional ministry.

FEBRUARY 2017

North Bay Retiree News From Gayle Pickrell

Bob & Pearl Simison married 67 years! They spent 63 years in Kansas, but have moved to this area to be near their daughter.

Noreen and Bill Marx Noreen now has trouble walking, but they enjoy being around their kids and grandkids. Bill is more homebound now to care for Noreen—and he is glad to be there.

Jim & Celinda Current—Jim is working part time at Santa Rosa First UMC doing senior ministry. Celinda is ready to retire from retirement! They recently hosted teams who were running from San Francisco to Napa via Pt. Rees. They have a new puppy that they share with their daughter on the East Coast.

Gil and Dottie Viera—Dottie shared she has little energy, but she can still laugh at Gil's jokes. Gil took primary responsibility for raising money for 54 workers at their Springfield Retirement home in Petaluma. His joy is still waking up next to Dottie, after 64 years of marriage.

Alice Friesen went to Virginia in October to see her daughter. They had a wonderful experience at the Frank Lloyd Wright "Falling Waters".

Jean Conrad is proud of her daughter who is a Unitarian Universalist minister in Escondido. Jean is the member of the local UU Church, which now shares space with the UCC.

Betty Pagett has re-retired. She has helped find homes for 14 displaced families through a housing program in Petaluma. She is also involved with the W. Marin Land Trust, and was the leader for the RCA VIM work project to Louisiana again. The group is considering adding a work project in Weed, CA next year.

Gayle Pickrell & John Davenport were quite thrilled with the wedding of Gayle's son Jason in Santa Barbara in August. Gayle was responsible for many of the details of a Pickrell Family reunion of 92 people from across the US when they gathered in Healdsburg in August. They also visited with John's two great-grandsons, grandson and son and families in Carson City recently. They recommended people see the National Geographic special (available on YouTube) called "Before the Flood" narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio.



Opportunities to Assist Others

The RCA has two major funds that have been 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 insurance premiums, deductibles, and related costs, some are experiencing difficulties making 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

Book Review

By Art Gafke

Like Grounded Swallows by Gerhard Drumm

Our colleague, Gerhard Drumm, has recently published part of his autobiography. With the encouragement and help of his adult children, he tells his story in *Like Grounded Swallows: 1929-1947: My boyhood and youth before, during, and after the Second World War in Yugoslavia*. "In my childhood, life still moved at the speed of a horse-drawn wagon. My hometown of Vrsac (pronounced Vrschatz) was a peaceful, multiethnic, multilingual, and agricultural city. Then Vrsac became enveloped by the darkness and violence which was visited upon the people of Europe preceding, during, and following the Second World War."

His father, Ferdinand Drumm, was an ethnic German and a Methodist pastor. His mother, Katicza Bezzegh, was Hungarian. They moved several times to establish and/or serve Methodist congregations. Rev. Drumm was one of the earliest circuit riders in that part of Europe.

I had heard Gerhard tell about being bullied. In the book when he is ten years old: "One day three German boys my age cornered me on the street right across from our home. They began bullying me. Then one of them punched me, after which they all ran away. I was sure it had something to do with me being different. I went to a different school, our family was new in town, I spoke German differently than they, and I attended a different church."

With the post war violence and ethnic cleansing in Yugoslavia, Gerhard and some of his siblings escaped in an extended and dangerous journey across three countries. Before and during the escape they were imprisoned several times in harsh conditions. Their practice of faith and kindness in the face of oppressive regimens provide us a timely challenge.

Gerhard was pastor of Grace church in Fresno in the mid-nineteen sixties when I landed at First Methodist, fresh from seminary. From the beginning I appreciated his steady presence and wise counsel. He clearly brought to his faith and practice a depth of personal experience. Over the years, I heard a few stories from before his immigration to the United States. Now, finally we have his telling in detail of his early years, the time under Nazi occupation and the ethnic cleansing of post war years.

I called Gerhard when I finished reading the book, to give thanks, ask questions, and encourage the rest of the story. He said that he has written the second book, but it is not close to publishing yet. I look forward to reading the rest of his autobiography.

This book is privately published and currently available by contacting Gerhard at gedrumm@att.net.

FEBRUARY 2017

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Greetings from your Retired Clergy Association!

Your Board of Directors will be working to faithfully shepherd the RCA to work on your behalf in several areas of the California-Nevada Conference.

First, we ask for your prayerful support of the RCA. Second to that, we ask for your support by participating in the ministries, activities and gatherings of the RCA. Your presence is integral to our continued success. Finally,

we ask for your financial support. A generous gift from the Conference Claimants' Endowment Board provides for a major portion of our budget. Support by individuals is equally important so we can:

- Provide financial assistance to the VIM Project
- Offset the cost of Spring Fling (mark your calendar: April 19-20, 2017)
- Contribute a memorial gift to the Scholarship program upon the death of a member
- Fund the Per Diem received by ACS attendees
- Subsidize the cost of the annual ACS Luncheon

Dues are voluntary and greatly appreciated. Dues are **\$25 per person** or **\$40 per couple**. Additional gifts beyond these suggested amounts, to any of the designated funds below, are always appreciated.

Thank you,
Your RCA Board of Directors

Dues & Donations Form

Enclosed is my/our check in the amount of \$_____ Please designate as follows:

\$_____ Membership Dues for July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017 (\$25 single/\$40 couple)

\$_____ Seminary Student Scholarship Fund Donation

\$_____ Health Care Subsidy Fund

\$_____ Other – Please specify: _____

My/our special gift is: In Memory Of: _____

In Honor Of: _____

Member Information:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address(es): _____

Make check out to: **RCA**

For Office Use Only: C K # _____ \$ _____ Date _____ D B _____ L T R _____

Presenter

Thomas Bonacci, C.P.

Walking with Pope Francis
A Light Shining in the Darkness
A Lamb in the Midst of Wolves

Pope Francis offers contemporary Christians an opportunity to see and experience how the Gospel of Jesus can both inspire and challenges every dimension of the Church's life and mission in the World. Pope Francis lifts up the Gospel of Jesus and the Poor to all peoples of the World in such a way as to challenge the people of the Church to be credible witnesses of the Gospel. We will explore Francis' personal experience of, and conversion to, Jesus emphasizing that his challenge to Church and World is based on his personal experience of Jesus.

Father Bonacci is the founder and director of the Interfaith Peace Project, encouraging interfaith peace and mutual respect through discussion, study, prayer, ritual, and practice.

"The Church is a field hospital where wounds are treated." - Pope Francis

Spring Fling

Musician

Dr. John Hillebrandt

John Hillebrandt is the choir director and organist/pianist at First UMC, Sacramento. He will be joining us to sing hymns from both the UMC Hymnal and The Faith We Sing Hymnal. He will be performing classical piano pieces for us as our evening entertainment.

Keep in mind your favorite hymn as we hope to take requests!

April 19-20, 2017

Christ The King

Retreat Center

6520 Van Maren Lane
Citrus Heights, CA 95621
916-725-4720

2017 SPRING FLING SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, April 19

10:00 Registration

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Gathering with Music

1:30 Presentation

6:00 Dinner

7:45 Evening of Music

THURSDAY, April 20

8:00 Breakfast

9:15 Gathering with Music

9:30 Presentation

12:00 Lunch

Registration to:

(Checks payable to: RCA)

Nancy Daley, Registrar

9328 Elk Grove Blvd. #105-141 Elk Grove, CA 95624

For more information: 916-539-4249

nancydaley@ca-nv-rca.org

Registration Form

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Street Apt# City State Zip

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 _____ Double _____

Cost: On-campus: \$120 EARLY BIRD SPECIAL **per person** by April 1 (\$135 after April 1)

First time attendees \$ 60 EARLY BIRD SPECIAL **per person** by April 1 (\$67.50 after April 1)

RV/Commuter: \$ 75 EARLY BIRD SPECIAL **per person** by April 1 (\$85 after April 1)

First time attendees \$ 35 EARLY BIRD SPECIAL **per person** by April 1 (\$42.50 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 _____ CK# _____ \$ _____ RM# _____

California-Nevada Annual Conference of the
United Methodist Church
Retired Clergy Association
P.O. Box 980250
West Sacramento, CA 95758-0250

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SACRAMENTO, CA
PERMIT NO. 1914

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: *Marty Murdock*
Vice President: *Betty Pagett*
Treasurer: *Doug McCoy*
Secretary: *Dave Bennett*
Scholarship Program: *Judson Gears*
UMVIM: *Betty Pagett*
Spring Fling: *Floyd Quenzer and Donna Hougland*
Relational Care: *Carolee Catterall*
ACS Commission: *Dave Thompson*
Class of 2017: *Jerry Angove, Jim Luther, Siosifa Setoki, Ben Silva-Netto*
Class of 2018: *Pam Abbey, Debbie Dillon, Tom Kimball, Floyd Quenzer*
Class of 2019: *Carol Carter, Jim Current, Bill & Kate Johnson, Sandy Roberts*

EXECUTIVE OFFICER & RCA CONTACT INFO

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

Upcoming Events

April 19-20
Spring Fling
Christ The King

June 21-24, 2017
Annual Conference
Session
> Burlingame
2018
> Modesto

June 21, 2017
Annual Luncheon
Poolside Pavilion
Burlingame Hyatt