

# Days of Grace

*"I simply can't build my hopes on a foundation of confusion, misery and death.  
I think peace and tranquility will return again." -Anne Frank*

Seven retired clergy volunteers worked on rehabbing a house in New Orleans the week of November 6 – 13, 2010. The week combined work, dining, worship and sightseeing. We were a VIM project working on a house in the suburb of Metairie. This was the 6<sup>th</sup> year the UMC has responded to the disaster. There are still more than 60,000 blighted properties and only 25% of the displaced population have returned. So far United Methodists have

contributed in service and supplies a value of more than 65 million dollars.

Participants included: Chuck and Stella Cordes (Alameda); Jerry Angove (Roseville); Betty Pagett (San Rafael); Joe Hurd (Philadelphia); Nadine DeWitt (Reno) and Rabbi Myra Bireno (Reno). Contact Nadine DeWitt or Jerry Angove if you are interested in participating in a Fall 2011 Project.



**by Stella Cordes**

I want to tell you what we did during the week to give you the sense of participating with us. We arrived Saturday, November 4, in the late afternoon and checked into the North Ramparts Community Center. It is located on the edge of the French Quarter across from Louis Armstrong Park and Mahalia Jackson Theater. The men's and women's dormitories each have 6 bunk beds and 6 small open closet cubicles.

We spent the weekend acclimating and recreating. After checking in, we walked through the dark French Quarter and dined at Tugaques, a historical, expensive restaurant with a set menu. On Sunday morning the group attended St. Mark's Church. The church is adjacent and connected to the Center where we were staying. St. Mark's Church serves lunch to the homeless after the service every Sunday. The music, sermon, and community service of this church amazed and motivated us. (con't on page 5)

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Brothers and Sisters,

We share a special bond in Christ through our call and common history in our church. It is a context I cherish for the great meaning God gives us through this imperfect institution of ours.

Because of this, the grave times in which we live are all the more poignant. Because of this I agreed to serve in the RCA organization. We have a unique association. It is up to each of us to contribute a bit so that all now and those to come can experience the nourishment of community and affirmations of what has been and what is to come.

So Stella and I volunteered for the New Orleans Service Project and we were not disappointed. It was not easiest thing to do, but it was well worth it. One is never too old to learn more with old friends and new acquaintances. In my 11 years of retirement

I have sought to attend every Annual Conference Retired Clergy Luncheon, most of the Spring Flings, and some small group meetings. Why? Because once there it was rewarding if not all too short. Because my participation makes it stronger and better for everyone else. Because I care. I guess that is one thing that we all have in common, we care.

Therefore, I encourage more of you to participate in these occasions. More, I encourage you to send a communication to those we learn are ill or the families of those we know have died. Even more I encourage you to be constant in prayer.

Blessings,

*~Chuck Cordes*

### Are You One of Cary's Kids?

Are you one of the hundreds of young people who were influenced by Bob Cary when you were a teenager or young adult?

Bob Cary, Annual Conference Youth and Student Director from 1949-1967, passed away on June 8, 2010, at the age of 96. He touched countless young people throughout his career. Many of the ministers in our conference were called to the ministry because of Bob. George Carter wrote on the Conference Blog: "Bob Cary was a mentor during my four college years, a role-model for the next 50+, and a stalwart example of living the life of a peacemaker. How could we be who we are had he not been part of our lives?!!"

In tribute to this much-beloved leader, RCA has established a special Bob Cary Memorial Scholarship Fund. We plan to give a scholarship this year to a seminary student in Bob's name, with the highest priority being given to someone called to youth leadership. We hope that there will be enough donations to this special fund that we can continue giving these scholarships in the future as well as now. If you would like to support this special fund, please send a check, made out to RCA, to Dick Ernst, Thank you.

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 MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER
 

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



As I look forward to a new year I am finding myself in a new place. No.... I haven't moved! Most Januarys find me as gloomy as the Valley Fog. I am a California girl to my very core. I thrive on warm sunshine. Not a good thing for someone who lives in the Sacramento Valley in the winter. January is my least favorite month because of the persistent fog that

goes on endlessly. My mood generally matches the weather!

However, this year is different. I am certainly counting the days until the end of the month which will mark the beginning of the end of Fog Season. This year, my reasons are different. First, my parents are celebrating their 50th Anniversary at the end of the month. My sister and I are throwing them a quasi-surprise party. We have been in the planning stages for months, but we gifted them with the party at Christmas. While they now know of the event, they were surprised it was underway and invitations had been sent! They were so touched by the gesture my father relinquished possession of our family slide photos for digitizing so I could create a slideshow tribute. This, trust me, is proof God exists indeed! I am excited to see my childhood photos once again. It has been decades since I have seen them. Going through family photos is always a spirit lifter!

The end of January will also mark the beginning of February. (I am glad I could bring this news to you!) As some of you know, our 15 year old daughter, Emma, was diagnosed with thyroid cancer last November. She has subsequently undergone two surgeries to remove her thyroid (one half at a time). Her final diagnoses was unusual. She had both follicular and papillary cancer. Unusual for anyone. Very unusual for a 15 year old. Fortunately, the treatment for thyroid cancer is short

and fairly simple. By the time this reaches you, she will be in the middle of her treatment plan. She will receive a dose of radioactive iodine on February 16 and be in quasi-isolation through February 28 when she will be able to return to school. She has to prepare her body for the treatment by reducing the amount of thyroid hormone and iodine in her body which will begin on February 1. So the entire month of February will be spent evicting every last cancer cell in her body.

This should be the extent of her treatment and she can go on with her life. Her attitude has been great and one of "well, this is inconvenient" more than anything else! Yes. Yes, it is! While she was in the hospital she said to me "I'm glad we don't fight all the time. That would make this, like, totally hard." I love that kid! I'm not sure what I did to be so privileged to be her mom. But I'm glad I am.

On the RCA front, we are working on keeping retirees and the conference connected one to the other as well as retirees one to another. The Relational Care Committee is developing a plan to create Care Districts that are separate from the Conference Districts. The RCA Board has plead the RCA's case to the Board of Pensions to keep the Newsette flowing into mailboxes.

Annual Conference is on the horizon and will no doubt be a legislation heavy session. The next issue of Days of Grace will contain information on the legislation as well as registration for the annual RCA luncheon. So mark your calendar for June 17, 2011.

One last reminder about Spring Fling! Registration brochures have been mailed and we hope you will join us to hear David Felten talk about how he is creating disciples of Christ through his program "Living the Questions" and at his church in Phoenix, AZ.

Peace,

*Nancy*

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 RETIRED CLERGY SCHOLARSHIP FUND PROGRAM

### Help is here for seminary students

Did you need financial help when you were in seminary? Do you know of a current seminary student who could use a little help? Most students cannot get through seminary without a little (or a lot!) of financial help. Your Retired Clergy Association is here to help.

Each year, RCA offers scholarships to students who will be enrolled in seminary at least half-time in the coming school year. Last year we were able to offer scholarships worth \$2500.00 each to two worthy students at PSR.



This year we are excited about a special scholarship we are able to offer: the Bob Cary Memorial Scholarship. The recipient of this scholarship must plan to work primarily with

youth. Thanks to the many people who have donated in Bob's name, not only RCA members but others, we now have almost \$2,500.00 in that fund. We plan to give this to an individual who possesses Bob's passion for working with youth.

The number of scholarships and the amount of money given each year are contingent upon the donations that we receive and the transfers we

make during the year. A transfer of \$100 is put into the scholarship fund whenever one of our members passes away. This is not only a tribute to the member who has passed away, but is a way of continuing his/her legacy in the future. Transfers are made in memory of RCA spouses as well as clergy.

Do you know a deserving seminary student that could use some help from RCA? Then please send their name and contact information to Linda Butler at [lbutler@psyber.com](mailto:lbutler@psyber.com). No email? You can phone her at 916-645-2605, and she will send an application to that person.

And be sure to watch for the presentation of our scholarship winners at Annual Conference!

Thank you for your support.

Donations, with check made out to: **RCA**, may be sent to:

Dick Ernst  
7930 Crystal Springs Way  
Loomis, CA 95650

Please note on the memo line:  
**RCA Scholarship Fund.**

*Linda Butler*

RCA Scholarship Program Chair

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“ALL OF YOUR SCHOLARSHIP, ALL YOUR STUDY OF SHAKESPEARE AND WORDSWORTH WOULD BE VAIN IF AT THE SAME TIME YOU DID NOT BUILD YOUR CHARACTER AND ATTAIN MASTERY OVER YOUR THOUGHTS AND YOUR ACTIONS”

- MAHATMA GANDHI



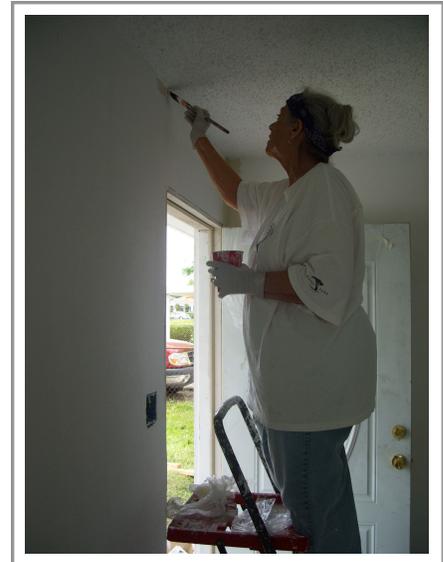
(continued from page 1)

Our leader, Jerry, hired Miss Peggy to guide us, and we walked around the French Quarter on the warm Sunday afternoon. Beautiful architecture, tourist-filled buggies pulled by colorful mules with big ears, and music accompanied Miss Peggy's stories. After over two hours, she joined the pastors for dinner at Margaritaville and continued entertaining us by answering our questions with delightful tales about New Orleans – a storytelling city.

On Monday morning, the team began the work routine. Our assignment was to sand, texture, prime and paint the inside of a small house. We got up at 7 am, ate, made lunches, and travelled by rental car to the worksite in Maiterie, about 30 minutes away. Other jobs the group completed included fixing a leak, sheet rocking and taping the laundry room and bathrooms. We learned that the owner was in the hospital because of a stroke. Since we did not meet him, we left him a note.

On weekdays at 3 pm, about the time we get back to the Center, kids start arriving for the after-school program. Approximately 100 school-aged kids participate in supervised enrichment programs such as art, computers, basketball and games. While the tired seniors clean up and “nap” or read, basketballs and feet bounce above us in the gym. We are inside a loud

drum with no rhythm. The kids are boisterous, well-behaved, curious, and assertive in asking us about ourselves. We go out to dinner, participate in review and planning and take turns leading devotions.



The last day of work was Friday. We attended a concert, “New Songs in a New Place,” the first event ever in the restored sanctuary of Mt. Zion UMC. The gospel music performances celebrated the reopening of the church after Katrina. We felt honored, fortunate, and inspired celebrating with God's people in triumph.

Our last day, Saturday, we presented our offering to St. Mark's Pastor Anita for the food program and to Coach Parker for the children of Rampart Community Center. Everyone who participated in the week of volunteering to help New Orleans received a blessing. Return volunteers, Nadine and Betty, commented, “We are overwhelmed by how far the city has come since our first year.”

## DELTA IS-BEENS NEWS

Sue Angove, Correspondent

**NORMAN and ARDITH CALLAWAY** have been celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary for most of 2010. They were married on April 2, 1950 in San Diego. They have enjoyed April days in Carmel, an Oregon week (Ashland and Seaside) in May, two weeks river cruising in Russia in June; finally, between Christmas and New Years all their coast-to-coast family -- 4 children, 4 spouses, 8 grandchildren -- gathered for several days in Woodland.

**VERNICE OTTO** will be moving to Stockton March 15, and will be living in an apartment connected to her son's "book house" (He stores his book collection in the living room and dining room.... Vernice will get the rest of the house!!!! After living in Citrus Heights for 30 years, it is hard to leave...AND hard to get stuff sorted out to pack and ready to move .She spent Christmas in Stockton, celebrating with family there...including the newest member of the family ...great grandson Jake, who was born September 10 in San José. She was able to give living in her new place, (which is 2 doors away from where

her son lives), a "dry run" by staying there for 5 days. It is going to work just fine!! Close to family, but not TOO close!!! Before moving, she will have had eye surgery Jan 18<sup>th</sup>. Her son Steve, who lives in Texas, will be paying a visit at the end of January when he attends a business meeting in San



Francisco. A gathering of the clan is planned for the 29th at Vernice's current apartment!!! (Maybe I can put them all to work helping pack!!)

**MARY McCOLLUM** is looking forward to serving as "pastor emeritus" for the three-month period this spring when our pastor at Fair Oaks UMC is on leave. Don Fado is scheduled to do the preaching and we're surely praying for him that he will be able to do this. Blessings and peace, one and all.

**SARGE WRIGHT'S** family hosted a 90th birthday party in September at St. Mark's UMC, Sacramento for about 200 friends and family. A few days later at Lincoln airport, about 30 friends and family watched him Skydive from 10,000 ft, one of his "bucket-list" items.

Later in September, he spent 10 nostalgic days on a trip to Illinois and Wisconsin to visit family and friends from his boyhood years. He visited his hometown church there. Sarge is the only person to

have been ordained from that church in its 150 years.

**JERRY and SUE ANGOVE** spent Thanksgiving with both of their children and their mates. Several days later they flew to Florida, boarded a ship and enjoyed a Caribbean cruise for fourteen days

## A MOMENT TO TICKLE YOUR FUNNY BONE.....

Since more and more Seniors are texting and tweeting there appears to be a need for STC (Senior Texting Code). If you qualify for senior discounts this is the code for you!

*-Courtesy of Kathleen Kaplan*

ATD: At The Doctor's  
 BFF: Best Friend Farted  
 BTW: Bring The Wheelchair  
 BYOT: Bring Your Own Teeth  
 CBM: Covered By Medicare  
 CUATSC: See You At The Senior Center  
 DWI: Driving While Incontinent  
 FWB: Friend With Beta Blockers  
 FWIW: Forgot Where I Was  
 FYI: Found Your Insulin  
 GGPBL: Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery Low!  
 GHA: Got Heartburn Again  
 HGBM: Had Good Bowel Movement

IMHO: Is My Hearing Aid On?  
 LMDO: Laughing My Dentures Out  
 LOL: Living On Lipitor  
 LWO: Lawrence Welk's On  
 OMMR: On My Massage Recliner  
 OMSG: Oh My! Sorry, Gas.  
 ROFL... CGU: Rolling On The Floor Laughing... And Can't Get Up  
 SGGP: Sorry, Gotta Go Poop  
 TTYL: Talk To You Louder  
 WAITT: Who Am I Talking To?  
 WTFA: Wet The Furniture Again  
 WTP: Where's The Prunes?  
 WWNO: Walker Wheels Need Oil  
 GGLKI: Gotta go, Laxative kicking in!

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to 'Honor thy father and thy mother,' she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem.

A small child replied, "They couldn't get a baby-sitter!"

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50."

The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100."

The third boy says, "I've got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

MODESTO AREA NEWS

Wally Riches, Correspondent

Some of the Modesto Area RCA Members gathered for a Holiday Luncheon on December 8 with Nancy Daley as our guest.

**BILL and MARY BECK** traveled to Florida at Thanksgiving to visit Mary's mother, Elizabeth Bullock in Jacksonville and then to her brother Jim's family in Ocala. They also had lunch with friends at Penny Farms Retirement Community.

Thirteen gathered around the Christmas dinner table at their daughter's in Ft Collins Colorado -- five grandchildren, plus parents and grandparents. All had a great time bowling and playing guitar on Wii, playing scrabble

and "Scene It", going to the movies, and walking the freezing, sunshiny neighborhood. Christmas Eve Worship with candles brought everyone together.

Wally Riches joined Bill to cheer the DUCKS for the BCS Bowl, but Auburn won. Oh well, there is always next year.

**OSCAR and INITA ESCAMILLA:** After serving five years as Supply Pastor at the Jamestown UMC, Oscar has "retired again". He continues to serve in the Chaplain Program at Emanuel Medical Center in Turlock. Oscar recently celebrated his 76th birthday to the tune of "Seventy Six Trombones". Music supplied by his family.

Oscar and Inita continue to enjoy their grandchildren.

**LARRY and SHIRLEY WINCENTSEN** enjoyed their summer travels to the Midwest. Larry also, was one of those to "retire again" after 11 years supplying the pulpit at Coulterville.

**WALLY and DALLAS RICHES** enjoyed their annual summer camping trip with 35 family, extended family and friends. Three different gatherings at holiday time brought them together with their six offspring's and their families.



The folks from the Sierra Foothills and beyond gathered for a Christmas potluck celebration at the home of Myrtle Findley in December. Colfax, Auburn, Grass Valley, Nevada City and Sparks were all represented! A small, but mighty, gathering!

Back Row (L to R) Kay Watters-Julsing, Helen Foster, John Foster, Dottie Vieira, Gil Vieira  
 Front Row (L to R) Peggy Baldwin, Ellen Silberstein, Myrtle Findley  
 Photographer (not pictured) Don Baldwin

**Ray Alderman** decided to postpone cataract surgery for six months. He had a fall on Christmas Day, and needed major repairs on his glasses. He was not injured. Ray is proud of his grandson, Norman, who will attend a leadership conference at Stanford University this summer. Ray hopes to go to a family reunion this summer in North Carolina. It has been three years since he attended a family reunion.

**David and Sherry Atkins** are very excited about the engagement of their son, Michael. (He was called Mark in the last newsletter.) Michael and his fiancé, Glenda, shared the news on Christmas. They will be married on February 5<sup>th</sup> at the Atkins' mountain home. David and Sherry are happily preparing for the event. Thirteen immediate family members gathered for Christmas, including David's sister from Corvallis, Oregon.

**Ivan and Ruth Ball** were without phone service for nearly a month. They are pleased with the citrus crop this year. They distribute their fruit throughout the community. How generous!

Ivan is recovering from a serious ear infection. Ruth has started school again after the vacation, and is busy accompanying school choruses for 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Currently, no trips are planned with their son, Eric, who is a cruise ship lecturer.

**Dick Bayard** spent the holidays at home, and at his daughter's place in Three Rivers, CA. After five years remodeling one room at a time, they are now putting the final touches on the house. The kitchen is done with the cabinets painted on Christmas Day, working around a delicious dinner with friends. The job will be completed by the time you read this report. Hooray! Anyone need a handy man?

**Floyd and Dana Castillo** had a great Christmas in San Francisco with son, Joe. Their son David has been a youth pastor, and was called to the mission staff of "Child Reach" in Peru and Appalachia. This ministry serves homeless orphans. Their daughter, Amy, is a radiologist, and serves on the school board. They are excited to have a great grandson in Virginia. Floyd

helps fill in at the China Lake Chapel.

**Alf Christiansen** was in the hospital for six weeks, and is steadily recovering. He finds it takes time to get back to full strength. Alf had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. He had a quiet Christmas and New Years. This summer, he will host a family reunion. His nephew, now studying in Turkey, will be attending, as well as Alf's brother, who teaches in Beijing. Alf has 5 children, 10 grands, and 8 greats! WOW!

**Cecilia Cluff** had a nice Christmas with daughter Becky and family in Bakersfield. She had planned to go to Reno for Christmas, but the weather was bad. She hopes to go in March to visit with her daughter, Laurie, and family. They will celebrate her son-in-law's birthday, which will be fun. Cecilia was moved by the candlelight service at Wasco UMC this year, and enjoys the fellowship of the congregation.

**John and Sylvia Corson** enjoyed a visit to Sedona and the Grand Canyon in October. Their children and grandchildren gathered in

Bakersfield for Thanksgiving. John won a 1<sup>st</sup> and a 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Kern County Fair for photos taken in India. Sylvia flew to Dallas for a December family wedding. Christmas was spent with their grandsons in West Sacramento. They are planning an October Mediterranean cruise to revisit some favorite places.

**Harry and Anita Dutt** finished their 17<sup>th</sup> season, and 15 years of camp hosting, at El Capitan State Beach Park. Anita's hip replacement was postponed until February because she was in need of a heart stent. They spent Thanksgiving and Christmas with children, grandchildren, and friends. In January, they went to Southern California with RV friends. Harry had two cataracts fixed, and now finds it easier to see road signs!

**Mark and Young Moon** are delighted that Mark's back surgery went well. He had the surgery on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and is recovering. It may be a few more months before he is back to full energy but he knows it takes time. He was impressed with the surgeon and medical care he received. They had a quiet Thanksgiving and Christmas. Mark wants to thank all those that sent their love, prayers and cards. It meant a lot!

**Bob and Nancy Schwartz** continue traveling. In October, they were in the Bahamas for a wedding. In November, it was Palm Springs. They were in the Bay Area with their family, and friends visiting from South Africa, in December. Next on their schedule is two weeks in Cabo San Lucas. Bob also went to Germany to visit friends and the Christmas

markets. He was fortunate to fly between periods of frigid, snowy weather.

**Alpha and Mary Takagi** celebrated 66 years of marriage in December! They enjoyed sharing the occasion with family. They had Christmas at their nephew's home in Saugus and had a good time. Alpha has a winter garden and enjoys working in the fresh air. He has Swiss chard and garden peas. Yum! Mary needs continuous oxygen but gets around okay. Alpha spoke at his younger brother's memorial service, as well as a friend's.

**Sharon Watson** and her son took a cruise to Hawaii. They had a marvelous time and the food was verrrry good. The fumes were bad at the big crater and they were evacuated. As a result of the itinerary change, Sharon felt they saw even more of the big island. She had a good, but quiet Christmas. She makes scenes from books and enjoyed doing one from Stone Soup. She is now detailing her dollhouses and scenes.



**Harry and Ruth Woods** had a marvelous Christmas with all their family. Their son, Lee, and his family from Taiwan joined them. Also, their daughter, Robin, and her family from Miami joined them. Ruth had a heart attack last May. She has a stent and is going strong again. Harry is active with Habitat for Humanity, and involved with the "rebirth" of the Fox Theater in Visalia. They

recently hosted an author, whose mother is a friend of Ruth's.

# Funeral Consumers Alliance by Bill Sanford

SACRAMENTO (Oct. 16) – The annual meeting of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of California was held here today. Among those present was RCA member Bill Sanford of Atwater. Bill has just concluded six years on the Board – the last two as president -- of the Stanislaus Memorial Society. SMS is one of about a hundred affiliates of the national Funeral Consumers Alliance. Of the hundred, ten are located within the boundaries of our Annual Conference. They are based in Bakersfield, Berkeley, Cotati, Eureka/Arcata, Fresno, Modesto, Palo Alto, Sacramento, Santa Cruz and Stockton Contact information – and much more -- may be found at [www.funerals.org](http://www.funerals.org).

Bill says other RCA members may wish to look into membership in an affiliate near them. He notes that the Modesto-based SMS currently offers members a basic

cremation price of \$531.50 and burial \$1,453. Cemetery costs are additional. Lifetime membership in SMS is \$25. SMS has served Stanislaus and Merced Counties since 1968, and has a membership of 1,264.

The FCA not only enables members to avoid excessive mortuary costs, it also has educational and advocacy functions. It is a non-profit organization unrelated to any church; however, Bill believes it merits the support of United Methodists. It leaves people free to spend as they please, but it tends to foster good stewardship of limited resources.

The newly installed president of FCA of California is Polly Jones of Turlock. Feel free to contact her for more information at either [drtblossom1@yahoo.com](mailto:drtblossom1@yahoo.com) or 209/735-1299.

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



As you remember from the October issue of Days of Grace, 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](mailto:nancydaley@frontiernet.net) and I will notify you by way of 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.***

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

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# Relational Care Committee

The Relational Care Committee is working hard to find a way to be in greater connection. We wish to be in greater connection, both one to another in the RCA, as well as with the Conference itself. We know that with the reduction of districts from seven to four, rather geographically large, districts there is a bit of a feeling of disconnect from those we knew as our neighbors. Plus, there is a feeling of connection to a larger group. A bit of a dichotomy!

However, we know it is easier to relate to a small group and easy to be lost in a large one. So, as a committee, we have decided the Conference Districts are too large for us and are working on creating our own "Care Districts". This is very much a work in progress! We have 19 designated Care Districts at this time. We also have a catch all "Out of Conference" that isn't exactly precise, which will be explained in a moment.

## Current Care Districts

Alameda/Oakland  
 Bakersfield  
 East Bay  
 Greater Sacramento  
 Greater Vegas  
 Merced/Madera/Fresno  
 Nevada  
 North Coast  
 Northeast Bay  
 Oregon  
 Redding/Red Bluff  
 San Francisco  
 San Mateo Co.  
 Santa Clara/San Jose  
 Santa Cruz/Monterey  
 Santa Rosa/Marin  
 Sierra Foothills  
 Solano  
 Stockton/Modesto

As you can see, there are areas that are out of our Conference, but still have a Care District. These have a number of RCA members in that area.

We will be contacting some people to request their assistance on being a Care Extender. (or some other, more descriptive title... this is all a work in progress!) As a Care Extender you will have a list of 8-12 persons. We would ask that you contact each person quarterly and on his or her birthday and anniversary. All that information should be available by the end of February and will be given to the Care Extender.

This is simply a way for the RCA to keep in contact one to another and be in fellowship with each other beyond events like Annual Conference and written communication. There is no additional obligation to be a Days of Grace correspondent or arrange for gatherings or parties.

We envision this task to simply be done via telephone. You will not be required to attend meetings nor to make any other commitment beyond keeping in connection with your fellow RCA members. Relational Care Committee members would be available to answer your questions and keep you up to date with information. That can all be done via phone, postal mail and/or email.

Please give this opportunity to serve God through the work of the RCA some prayerful consideration. If you have any questions or wish to join our efforts, please contact either Mike Nicolson, chair of the Relational Care Committee at 925-363-3980 or [mksnicolson@yahoo.com](mailto:mksnicolson@yahoo.com) or RCA Executive Officer, Nancy Daley at 916-539-4249 or [nancydaley@frontiernet.net](mailto:nancydaley@frontiernet.net).

## Word has been heard from....

**VELMA THORNBURG**, in Fernley, NV celebrated her 90th birthday last April with a motorcycle ride as is tradition for her birthday celebrations! Both family and church friends from Fallon (Gary Sears, pastor) joined in the celebration.

**KATHLEEN KAPLAN** spent the week before Christmas with Sybella and Gary Pope-Sears in Fallon, flew back to San Francisco Christmas night, played for worship Sunday morning and was on a plane for Oaxaca, Mexico that night arriving the morning of the 27th. Spent two weeks with son Karl Pope and his wife Ann touring the area had two different cooking classes, lots of walking, many new sites to explore, wonderful trip, glad to be home.

What? A party? There's a party!?

Or maybe it's a Cluster Group Gathering or a holiday luncheon...



Whatever the reason for the gathering... Please do let me know! I would LOVE to come and join with you! These are my opportunities to get to know each of you in a less hectic setting from Annual Conference. Getting to know YOU is the best part of my job!

~Nancy

### RETIRED CLERGY ASSOCIATION RETIREE HEALTH CARE SUPPORT FUND

Just a reminder, there is a Retiree Health Care Support Fund for Conference health plan members who might need financial assistance with their health care premium. Contact the Board of Pensions office at 510-839-8538 for more information.

**Norma Florendo (Atwater):** "I am still singing in the choir and have been invited to contribute solos in both Atwater and Livingston. In addition, I've taken a couple of turns doing "Time with Children." Looking ahead, I'm eagerly anticipating being part of our Conference's Volunteers-in-Mission team, which is going to the Philippines January 30 to February 15. In association with local doctors, we will provide medical, dental and vision services to the poor. We will serve at four different sites. Our team is composed of three ministers and five lay people. Please pray for safe travel and good health for our team.

**Bob & Elizabeth Kuyper** will conclude eight years in Livingston and 43 years under appointment with retirement effective July 1. They plan a move to Tucson to be near their son.

**Laurence & Alice Morley (Fresno)** write: "2010 was a great year for us. We celebrated 12 years in our own home, and enjoyed good health until Advent. Then Alice had emergency surgery, spent 20 days in the hospital and rehabilitation. She is presently home with Larry and Calico (our cat). Larry is full-time caregiver, housekeeper, cook, shopper and 'butler' for Calico. This is the first year we have missed Advent activities and Christmas Eve services.

**Bill & Jeanne Sanford (Atwater)** led a small group to the Fossil Discovery Center of Madera County on Jan. 6th. Hardly news, but the Center merits mention because it's brand new and very visit-worthy. It opened Oct. 13, 2010. It asserts that 15,000 fossils have been recovered from the Fairmead site to date. And it is expected that active digging will continue for about 20 more

years. Hours: 9 to 4 Tuesdays through Sundays. Location: 19450 Ave. 21 ½, Chowchilla. "Most of the four dozen species found there are mammals that lived about 780,000 years ago."

**Wilma Weber (Fresno)** has been cleared as a Pastoral Visitor for the St. Agnes Hospital in Fresno. Following 6 weeks of training (one day a week), she began with the special visiting program one day a week, visiting 18 to 20 patients on each day. It is a well-organized special service of the Spiritual Care Center. This has proved to be most satisfying for her in her goal of "going beyond herself" in service to others. She continues to be very active in the First Congregational Church of Fresno, and is now an Elder. In March, Wilma will be returning to Israel as Hospitality Staff for Educational Opportunities. This is after 14 years during which George and Wilma served together, but for the past five years she has been caring for George and they were unable to return. Now it is time, after a special request, for her to return to doing what she and George so loved, taking care of the passengers and making sure everything goes "right."

**Betty Boswell (Fresno)** writes: "I am now 88 years old and living in a lovely retirement community and enjoying good health. On Christmas day all of my immediate family -- 19 of us -- gathered in Fresno. It was wonderful!"



## David Felten

David Felton is one of the co-authors of the *Living the Questions* series, a popular curriculum designed for both seekers and "church alumni/ae" convinced that Christianity still has relevance in the 21st Century. What started out as just one DVD series has expanded to a dozen titles in use by nearly 5000 churches in the US and other countries.



## Jean and Jim Strathdee

Well known to many in the California-Nevada Annual Conference, The Strathdees are internationally honored concert artists, worship and song leaders. The Strathdees have written hundreds of hymns, songs and anthems, including "I am the Light of the World" and "What Does the Lord Require?" Their music is published and sung by faith communities on six continents, offering a message of compassion and unity, justice and healing.

# SPRING FLING!

### 2011 SPRING FLING SCHEDULE

#### THURSDAY, April 14

- 6:40-7:10** Exercise  
- Bill McCord
- 7:15** Devotion
- 8:00** Breakfast
- 9:00** Worship  
- Don Fado
- 9:30** Program  
- David Felten
- 11:15** Sharing/  
Business
- 12:00** Lunch/Clean  
Rooms/Departure

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

- 10-11:50** Registration
- 12:00** Lunch
- 12:45** Welcome  
Group singing  
- The Strathdees
- 1:15** Program  
- David Felten
- 2:45** Free time
- 3:45** Group singing  
- The Strathdees
- 4:00** Program  
- David Felten
- 5:30** Free Time
- 6:00** Dinner
- 7:15** Group Singing  
- The Strathdees
- 7:30** Program  
- The Strathdees
- 9:00** Free Time

Don't Forget!  
Favorite snack to share (fruit, nuts, cookies, etc.).  
Appropriate clothing for exercise and walking.

Registration Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Apt# City State Zip

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Need a Map? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

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

If you are commuting, will you eat Thursday breakfast on campus? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Roommate if single: \_\_\_\_\_ Bed preference for couples: Two single beds \_\_\_\_\_ Double bed \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: On-campus: \$99 **per person** by April 1 (\$110 after April 1) *First time* attendees \$49.50 **per person** by April 1

RV/Commuter: \$59 **per person** by April 1 (\$70 after April 1) *First time* attendees \$29.50 **per person** by April 1

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

**Make Check Payable to: RCA**

Send to: Registrar Linda Butler, 1120 4th Street, Lincoln, CA 95648

California-Nevada Annual Conference the  
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Retired Clergy Association  
P.O. Box 980250  
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<b><u>Calendar</u></b>	
<b>*Note: April Days of Grace will have Annual Conference Information only.</b>	
<b>April 13-14, 2011</b>	
Spring Fling	
<b>June 15-18, 2011</b>	
Annual Conference Session	
Sacramento Convention Center	