

# Days of Grace

*"No spring nor summer beauty hath such grace as I have seen in one autumnal face." - John Donne*



"We only have time for love." was a frequent quote from Chuck. His wife, Becky Goodwin says it was oft expressed in frustration with war and discontent he observed. Indeed, Chuck only had time for love and spent his 54 years loving his family, his friends and those he came in contact with in all of his endeavors.

Chuck is fondly remembered by many in the Retired Clergy Association for his patient attention to each member and his vibrant writing and acting skills.

Chuck is survived by his wife Becky Goodwin, daughter Holly, son Tim, mother Florence, brother Dale and niece Alison.

## Bishop's Award

Our honoree was born in Puerto Rico where his parents were teaching English. He was baptized in the Garden Grove UMC, but grew up in the El Cerrito UMC where he was active in the youth group. He was graduated from Cal Poly with a degree in city planning and began working with the Gilroy City Planner.

He participated fully in the life of the church in Gilroy and was recognized throughout the Conference as a result of his involvement in MASC, Musicians and Actors Serving the Church. He met his bride to be at a Jim and Jean Strathdee workshop and concert at the Gilroy Church. The ceremony was performed by Paul Sweet, the pastor serving Gilroy, along with an Episcopalian priest at a Lutheran Church. His bride, an elementary school teacher, was determined to go to seminary and become a UMC pastor. Ten years later she accomplished her goal and our honoree, quit his job and followed her to her appointment. He provided child care for their 2 children and worked part time as a planning consultant for various cities. He honed his journalism skills writing for various publications and eventually was editor of our Conference UM Reporter. He is still an active columnist for the Arden Carmichael Times.

His published works include a book on the history of Placer County; a play, Chanukah Gold, about the Jewish experience in early California, which won a state competition; the lyrics for a cantata, A Thousand Cranes for Peace, and he wrote words and music for a theme song for our Conference Jubilee 2000. Ten years ago he became the first Executive Director of the Retired Clergy Association of our Annual Conference, a job he had to relinquish last month due to a terminal brain tumor. During those years he as a layperson, has provided pastoral services to our retired clergy.

He has been an integral part of this Annual Conference having served it in so many ways. He accompanied our bishop on the arts tour to Italy, served on committees, administered Jubilee 2000, and on and on the list could go. He was an activist for world peace, an activist for human values revealed by Jesus. We are honored today to give a Bishops Award to Chuck Myer.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the first lay president of RCA an introduction is in order. I know many of you as friends, more as names and presences at Conference, and hope to get to know many more of you as this year progresses. I come to this place through the Conference youth program ( I was one of the earliest Bob Cary Kids),the Conference

Clergy Spouse Association, the Conference Memoirs committee, and my work on the RCA Board. Being your president is both a joy and a responsibility. I will do my best to meet the needs of our group and members. Where I don't measure up, please let me know, and I will try to fix it. RCA can only succeed if we all work together.

I am writing this the week after Chuck Myer's service. We all feel Chuck's loss sharply, as friend and for all his contributions to RCA. If you have not done so, please write your remembrance of Chuck and send it to his family. They cherish each message they receive.

We have hired a new Executive Officer. Many of you met Nancy Daley at Conference, and many more of you will come to know through this year. She is a fast learner, and has impressed us with the width and depth of her grasp of our purpose and activities, as well as the personal gifts and graces she brings to us. She is anxious to meet you and learn about your lives and concerns. If you have something you would have contacted Chuck about please share it with Nancy. She may not have the answer Chuck would have had, but she will do all she can to help you, and you will know you have an advocate.

Your Board is working to see that all the areas that Chuck covered will be continued to be handled. Many will be done by Nancy, but we are committed to keeping her time at the  $\frac{3}{4}$  level for which she was hired.- See the notice asking for a Days of Grace editor!

At the Board meeting this week (Sept. 17) we spent a good deal of time in a serious and productive discussion about the future of health insurance for retirees. This discussion, led by Tony Ubalde and Grady Knowles, filled us in on the work of the Clergy Benefits Task Force and the problems and challenges we will all be facing in the future. Changes are definitely coming as the Conference removes all support for Retiree health care from its 2009 budget. RCA is totally committed to every member having adequate health coverage. It is NOT panic time, but you do need to educate yourself, and connect with your board and the Task Force to work through this in the best way for everyone.

I have no new exciting plans from RCA to announce. We are concentrating on getting ourselves on track in a new age. But I am seeing new things starting to take form in the near future. As the sign boards say- "WATCH THIS SPACE FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF SOMETHING NEW"

Blessing to each of you,

*Dottie Vieira*

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

GREETINGS! For those of you I have yet to meet, my name is Nancy Daley and I am the new Executive Officer for the RCA. I met many of you at Annual Conference Session in June and look forward to meeting everyone throughout the year.

A little about myself... I am wife to Norm (we just celebrated our 20th anniversary!) and mom to Kaitlyn (16) and Emma (13). We live in Elk Grove (just south of Sacramento) and



are members of Elk Grove UMC. As a family, we enjoy being season ticket holders to the Sacramento Monarchs WNBA team and we have been known to spend car trips singing along to the radio. We aren't exactly the Von Trapp Family Singers, but we amuse and entertain ourselves. We are all quite competitive Wii players, particularly in Mario Cart and Guitar Hero. It's always great fun to beat mom or dad! Kaitlyn is enjoying her Senior year and is looking forward to participating in Science Olympiad and French Club as well as being President of EGUMC's Youth Group. Emma is having a good 8th grade year and is enjoying her ability to participate in French Club at the high school. This is her 9th year with her Girl Scout troop and takes a devilish delight in giving her sister a good-natured hard time at Youth Group.

Norm has been working with the State of CA in revamping the Child Support Collection



system and I am quite proud of the fact that he has been the gatekeeper in preventing the state from being over-charged and has saved them multiple millions of dollars.

As a member of EGUMC, I have served in the worship band, as Historian, on the worship and nominations committees and am currently the Finance committee chair and a lay member to Annual Conference.

I am getting up to speed on all the issues before the Retired Clergy Association. My service as a lay member to ACS and on the Committee on Finance and Administration has given me a jump-start on the issues surrounding Retired Clergy benefits. It is my desire to serve the RCA, along with Tony Ubalde, to find an equitable solution to the issue of health care costs for everyone. I look forward to continuing to work with Don Cunningham and the entire Clergy Benefits Task Force in this endeavor.

I am excited about the work ahead and working with Dottie and the entire board to keep everyone connected as well as being your representative to the Conference.

Peace,

*Nancy*

## RETIRED CLERGY SCHOLARSHIP FUND PROGRAM

The Retired Clergy scholarships for 2008 were presented to Eun Joo Myung and Edna Andres.

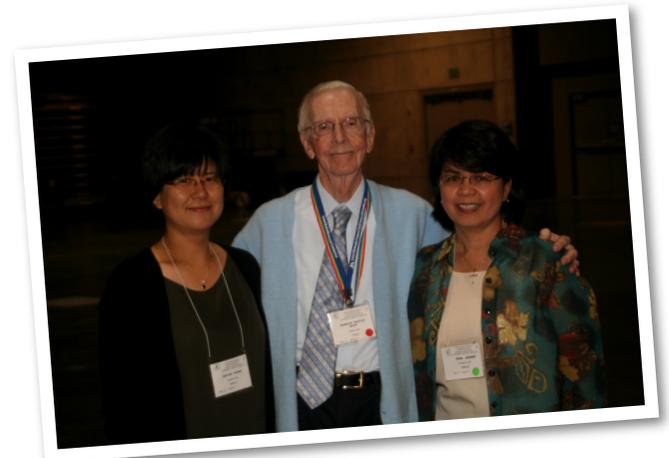
Eun Joo Myung graduated from SFTS and Pacific School of Religion in June of 2008. She is now a certified candidate and has a local preacher's license. She is serving as Associate Minister at the Epworth United Methodist Church in Berkeley. She is involved in all aspects of church programming.

Edna Andres is attending Pacific School of Religion part time and will graduate in 2010. She received her local preacher's license and became a certified candidate in 2008. She is the Associate Pastor at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Fremont. She ministers to youth and seniors and provides worship and Bible study at a Senior Center near the local church.

They each received a \$2000 scholarship at Annual Conference Session.

The Retired Clergy Scholarship Program is funded with \$100 donations from the RCA general fund in memory of clergy and clergy spouses, upon their death. Additional funding comes from individual gifts in memory of an individual, in honor of individuals or special events (such as birthdays and anniversaries) as well gifts given simply to support our seminarians.

The need for scholarship assistance for students in seminary has greatly increased. Most seminarians graduate with large student loans that need to be repaid. We invite all retired clergy, their families and friends, as well as churches, to contribute to the Retired Clergy Scholarship Fund.



Eun Joo Myung, Franklin Scott and Edna Andres.

You may send your contributions to the Retired Clergy Association c/o Treasurer Rev. Dick Ernst, 7930 Crystal Springs Way, Loomis, CA 95650

Franklin Scott  
RCA Scholarship Program Chair



“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

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**NORTHWEST NEWS**

**Doris Disbrow** writes: "I've been very busy this summer with life here at home. We have a new pastor, so as a member of SPR, we've been holding special events to help the church get acquainted. We've rekindled our education committee under his leadership and I'll be teaching K-2. The first job, and it will be a job, is to change the room from disorganized storage, back to a classroom. I've helped choose the curricula and we'll be using the new one "Rock ..." from Cokesbury. It looks like it will be fun to teach as well as for the kids to receive. One of our special challenges and opportunities is having two young special needs children. One is a 5 year old with moderate autism whose primary problem is very limited communication, and an almost 7 year old with Down Syndrome. I would appreciate hearing from anyone with experience serving these special children in Sunday School. Knowing their Moms I'm sure they too will be helpful.

Gradually I'm moving Carl's things on to other people who can use them. Finally got his last two big saws out of the shop/garage, so my job for September is to move things around in what was his shop, so I can get the car moved in for the winter. I'm hoping in the process I will find the garage door opener, so I won't have to purchase another system. Carl had sealed the garage door for security and weatherization purposes. And, for those who knew of his passion for model railroading, his layout is still intact in the other garage, and grandchildren come to enjoy it now and then. It isn't working right now; I think I need to get some new batteries for the controllers. But the children bring their own battery powered trains to run. Even after 26 months since his death I still miss his physical presence tremendously, but it's getting easier to manage each day, since I'm getting used to his absence. And, the hardest place to go without him is church! I understand now why some people stay away, but I can't. I'm also disturbed to hear about churches where some of my new friends from the Hospice Bereavement Support Group no longer feel welcome without their spouse.

The last big summer project, was to finish the fourth year of the historic preservation inventory of the houses in our neighborhood. The day after Labor Day I will start the research on the next 70

**Bert Schniepp Correspondent**

houses for the fifth year. Although we've only lived here 7+ years, I now know more history of Longview than many folks who are second and third generation here. Each house has a unique story and I really have fun writing those stories for the report.

**Eunice Roush** writes that "things are going much as usual." She has no particular plans or trips in mind, and is pleased to have celebrated her 90th birthday in August.

Happy birthday, though belated, to you, Eunice!

**John and Nancy Espie** have enjoyed visits from their Minnesota families this past summer. They were able to take several special day trips including the Forest Preserve Center 22 miles east of Tillamook, OR on the Wilson River, and AMTRAC to Seattle for a walk about and lunch along the waterfront. They are looking forward to helping with a ReVisioning program at our church this fall.

**Bert and Linda Schniepp** have had a busy summer involving some travel and visits from several friends. Late May and early June, we were fortunate to catch a few days of cool weather in Bakersfield followed by a short RV camping trip with friends near Yosemite. Through June, July and August visits from fiends and our daughter and a friend enabled us to do more sightseeing here along the Oregon coast and in the Portland area. We plan to spend some time in late September and much of October seeing more of the beauty of the Northwest with planned RV trips to Washington and near Mt. Hood in Oregon. Bert was also able to teach a short class for the Florence UMC about United Methodist history and continue meeting for a weekly breakfast with the active UM Men's group here.

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**SAN JOSE DISTRICT NEWS**

Our district gained no new retirees this year, but lost one of its longtime residents to China! (Details to follow).

**Benton and Mary Lou White**, along with their sons, wives and children, had a fun week in Hawaii in July, celebrating their 50th anniversary. Mary Lou didn't let a broken foot slow her down at the beach.

**Dick and Bobby Corson** report a season of weddings in lovely locations, Dick's 50th class reunion, baptism of granddaughter Ashley, vacationing with grandson, Nathan, at Fallen Leaf Lake. Dick is studying French in anticipation of their 40th anniversary fall trip to France. While Bobby continues her part-time therapy practice, Dick cleans, shops, cooks - and reads and writes poetry.

**Gladys Kessler** suffered a mild stroke recently, but is back in their retirement apartment with Wayne, and gradually improving. Their daughter, Linda Solis, recently had the lead in a musical version of "Cinderella" at Campbell UMC.

**Ardys Sandell** recently did a presentation at First UMC, Sunnyvale on "How to walk a Labyrinth".

**Bob and GA Hawthorne - Correspondents**

She will preach at the three churches in the Gold Country she helped unify in September. In August, she helped her mother celebrate her 99th birthday in Thousand Oaks with other family members. Ardys is still having problems with an arm broken more than a year ago.

**Bob Hawthorne** celebrated his 85th birthday with a buffet supper and party at Almaden Hills UMC in late June. Over 100 family members and friends enjoyed a program prepared by GA and their four daughters. In July, GA nose dived on to the patio while pruning roses, and broke her left wrist and now Bob is under the guidance of a physical therapist because of recent falls.

A message from **Ben and Margaret Fong** tell of their decision to retire in China, and carry on their ministry there. Born and raised in Shanghai, they have moved to a government operated senior home, where there is good food and excellent medical care. They will continue to travel and work with local Christian groups. They may be contacted on Email, and we'll keep them as honorary members of the San Jose District in this "second retirement".

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**DELTA IS-BEENS NEWS**

We met in July at the **Albrights** for our annual ice cream social.

This event is always well attended since **John and Lois** go to a lot of effort to prepare homemade ice cream using fruit from their own backyard.

**Gordon Fairchild** reports that the big difference in his life is that he is now a widower. Margaret departed this life from the rupture of a large brain aneurysm. He is thankful for the many cards, letters and phone calls. He says "I am doing as well as can be expected and have a lot of people checking on me." He expects to sell his home

and move into a smaller place soon.

**Doreen and Larry Hinshaw** had a trip to Kenya and Tanzania. While in Kenya they visited mission projects Larry was involved with a long time ago. They enjoyed a safari in Tanzania.

**Bob Moon** was honored at St Mark's UMC in Sacto on July 27th when a Peace Pole was dedicated in his honor. He is doing fine in the skilled nursing facility at Eskaton

**Sarge Wright** began another year as chaplain at St Mark's.

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**Eva Herschback-Martin Correspondent**

He also officiated at family weddings in Utah and Washington state during the summer. He plans to make his third trip to New Orleans in Nov with the retired clergy group to do restoration in the Katrina area.

**Eva and Ed Martin** have not been able to travel as they like since Eva has been filling in as pastor at Rancho Cordova UMC for Chuck's wife Becky.

NEVADA-SIERRA NEWS

Myrtle Findley Correspondent

**John and Janice** are spending the month of September in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and the Czech Republic, visiting family in Germany and sightseeing elsewhere with Reno friends. Nevada Humanities recently invited John to author an article on the history of Methodism in Nevada for the Nevada Online Encyclopedia ("ONE"). He has nearly completed months of research, and will submit his manuscript by the end of October.

He has been working part-time as a chaplain for Circle of Life Hospice in Reno.

I am busy preparing for our 2nd annual RCA trip to New Orleans. With all these hurricanes coming, it will be interesting what we will be doing. I am also the Interim Pastor at South Reno UMC, so am very busy. ~ **Nadine DeWitt**

**Don's** been enjoying his first-person characterizations of both Rev. Mr. John Wesley, as well as environmentalist John Muir. They both appeared at Carson City First UMC in August (on different Sundays!), while recently Mr. Wesley made a grand entrance via horse-drawn carriage, at an Old Fashioned Methodist Camp Meeting in Bidwell Park in Chico. This October, both John's will be

traveling to the Pacific NW, where they will appear at several UM churches on Whidbey Island in October.



**Peggy & Don** continue to be active in peace & justice issues, recently bringing Franciscan Fr. Louie Vitale to Nevada County to speak against state-sponsored torture. Vitale has been arrested numerous times for standing up against this horrible and inhumane practice, both by our own government as well as other countries.

- **Don Baldwin**

**Earl Morris** has been in the hospital, into a home, and as this goes to press is back in hospital with pneumonia.

**Myrtle Findley** had an almost week long 89th birthday party on

Sept 9th, while chairing the Fall Board meeting in Grass Valley for California Garden Clubs. Three cakes, and was the fall person for just about every occasion all week long. She came home with an 8 foot tall cardboard image of herself in full color, taken from a photo of her sitting atop a white convertible as Grand Marshall in the Colfax 4th of July parade; do not know whose feet were added but I



carried a big drum with over 100 names written on the face. A week I will never forget! By the way she was grand marshal the 2nd time this year at the State Fair...

Nevada Sierra will be having their annual Christmas get together on:

Tuesday, December 9th  
in Colfax  
at the Findley Home.

MODESTO DISTRICT NEWS

Wally Riches Correspondent

**MARGARET BARKER** and several from her family attended the Memorial Service at Annual Conference in which JIM was among those honored. She also spent a month at her beach home in Seaside, OR, and was joined by various family members.

**OSCAR** and **INITA ESCAMILLA** became grandparents again when son Steven and wife Beverly had their second son, Wesley Oscar Escamilla. He joins brother Jacob. OSCAR continues to serve as a Chaplain at Emmanuel Medical Center in Turlock.

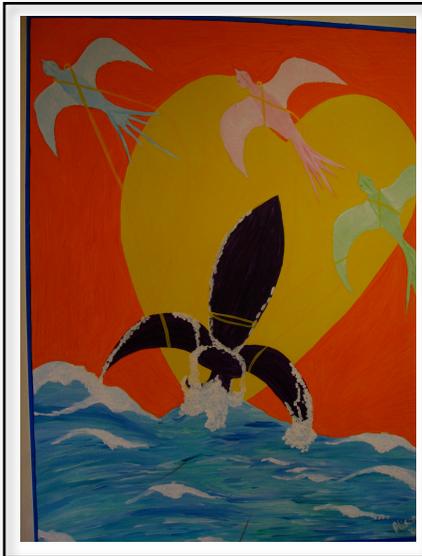
**MARY** and **BILL BECK** welcomed a new grandchild on September 13th, Angelena Elizabeth, born to son David and wife in Taiwan. The baby was 20 inches long and checked in at seven pounds. A wedding and family reunion was attended in Cambria, where BILL'S Nephew Brian Beck was married to Ashley Holzauer. Mary's brother, Jim Bullock and wife Ervin visited during summer. Her brother previously worked in the National Parks Ministry and enjoyed a visit to Yosemite Park. BILL preached at Sutter Creek UMC on behalf of Heifer Project on September 14.

**LARRY** and **SHIRLEY WINCENTSEN** two months in Wisconsin vacationing and attending family reunions. They are appreciative of those who filled the Coulterville pulpit while they were gone. LARRY continues to serve Coulterville UMC in his retirement.

**WALLY** and **DALLAS RICHES** spent a week in Costa Rica in April and May. The Annual Family Camping trip at Dinkey Creek in August was shared with 25 family and extended family members. WALLY just completed four months of Chemotherapy treatments for non-Hodgkin Lymphoma.

NEW ORLEANS VIM TRIP

Nadine DeWitt, Coordinator



We now have a full team for the RCA UMVIM trip to New Orleans.

They are Jerry Angove, Bill Beck, Mary Beck, Karla Bowman, Linda Butler, Donna Morrow DeCamp, Nadine DeWitt, Joe Hurd, Susan Kemper, Betty Pagett, Myrna McMillan, John Sublett, Carl Thomas, Barbara Troxell, and Sarge Wright. We leave Oct. 31 and return Nov. 7. Keep us in you prayers.



“New Orleans is my essence, my soul, my muse, and I can only dream that one day she will recapture her glory. I will do everything within my power to make that happen and to help in any way I can to ease the suffering of my city, my people!” - *Harry Connick, Jr.*

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# HELP WANTED

## NEEDED!

Correspondents for future Days of Grace publications!

High reward, low annual commitment position!

Keep in touch with your fellow retirees in your area, be the first to hear all the latest news and only report three times a year!

If you are interested in participating either solo or share the duties with another, please drop me a line at:

**Nancy Daley**    [nancydaley@frontiernet.net](mailto:nancydaley@frontiernet.net)  
**916-539-4249**

Interested in a bit more of a commitment?

We are looking for someone to claim title to  
**Editor of Days of Grace**

Duties include:

- Contacting all correspondents for submissions
- Spell checking submissions
- Converting hand typed articles to electronic form
- Coordinating any photo submissions
- Writing cover stories and other "of interest" articles
- 
- Page layout for final publication can be done by RCA Executive Officer if you prefer

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**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Both of Them!**

**Ecumenical Retreat**  
**January 13-14, 2009**

**Spring Fling**  
**April 22-23, 2009**

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SAN JOSE  
MONTEREY BAY  
DISTRICT NEWS

Bob Blaney Correspondent

**Bob and Laurel Blaney** appreciated the Silver Spur Springs Conference Family camp in June, especially the leadership of Doug Norris and being with their daughter Joy and her family. Later in June they took a 13 day Princess Cruise-Tour from Vancouver to Alaska, viewing Mt McKinley, a marveling at the Denali Wilderness and sighting numerous Eagles, Bear, Antelope, Moose and Hare. Two weeks later they flew with their daughter Joy and her family to Orlando Disney World for a 7 night experience hoping around Disney World for 3 days and cruising on Disney for 3 nights. In August they traveled to New Hampshire for a week in a resort overlooking Lake Winnepesaukee and a second week in Maine in a Camp on Lake Philips. Both weeks they enjoyed visiting with Laurel's sister and her husband, a visit to Bar Harbor, and eating lots of Lobster and fried Clams. Bob will be recuperating for several months following total left knee replacement in early September.

**Darrell and Karen Darling** state that the retired clergy list of birthdays, anniversaries etc. failed to recognize Darrell & Karen Darling's 50th Anniversary on Aug. 12. They celebrated with Steve Darling singing 2 songs that he had sung at their wedding. 45 people attended the event at the Darling House in Santa Cruz and enjoyed a catered meal beside the Pacific. Their anniversary trip was by

train to Denver for the Democratic Convention where Karen served as a Hillary Delegate. They are also celebrating 25 years as innkeepers after 26 years in ministry. The next quarter of a century is totally out of their hands.

**John Dodson's** summer found him still hiking the Santa Cruz Mountains and winding up a Feasibility Study for the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology. After 70 interviews he is now writing the report for the Institute. He has also assisted Susan Peters in a Feasibility Study for Santa Rosa UMC and keeps active in other projects such as working with the UMC in Ashland, Ore. John's family, at least a part of it, 5 of 7 grandchildren and two of the three sons and their families spent a week in Sun Valley dancing in the sun and having a grand reunion. One joy of the summer was preaching at the 150th anniversary of the Carson Valley UMC in Gardnerville, Nevada. Participating in the celebration for that thriving Church located in one of the most beautiful places in the USA was thrilling. Hats off to Pete Nelson, the pastor who has been there for 25 years and who was honored at a celebration of his own in September. Pete says he plans on staying at the Carson Valley UMC until retirement.

**Sandra Hammett** My summer included the joys and sorrows of life. I conducted the funeral service of a friend who lost her battle to ovarian cancer. And I had the wonderful honor of officiating at the wedding of a friend who reunited with her high school sweet-heart; both are

widowed. Its thrilling to see love enter at any age.

I have been having a wonderful life. I've never had so much leisure to do just exactly what I want. Being an avid reader I've branched out from theology, catching up with everything from Shakespeare to Quantum Physics. I've also watched many a French movie. Ooh la la. Since I plan to spend some time in France next year, I am learning to speak the language in a class at Cabrillo so I can order my escargot with savoir faire.

**Pharis and Jane Harvey's** summer sped by for them, bracketed by two dramatic happenings. On May 22, we were forced to evacuate our little mountain home in the Santa Cruz Mountains by a wildfire that raced to within a thousand yards of our place the next day. The stress sent Jane to the hospital for four days with a rare heart malfunction but in the end, both the house and Jane's heart were alright. In June Pharis spent a week in Shanghai attending board meetings of the Fair Labor Association, a non-profit involving company, universities and non-governmental organizations that works to improve labor conditions in factories in some forty countries. The rest of the summer was family time, as all eight of our grandchildren were able to be together with us, first in Santa Cruz, then in the Sacramento area, and finally for a week in Palm Springs. The final happening was the first day of pre-school for our littlest angel, Kayla, 3, who was born with congenital myotonic dystrophy. We could not have imagined such a day would ever come for

her but rejoice and thank God it did.

**Clyde & Sheila Vaughn** continues to enjoy a busy retirement. Clyde has accepted the position as foreperson of the County Civil Grand Jury. This is a year-long commitment and a very rewarding one. He continues once a month at the Boulder Creek UMC and has done some pulpit supply in several churches. Sheila and Clyde are co-chairing the silent auction at the annual Artisan's Faire at the Aptos UMC for the second year. It was a resounding success last year. They are in the midst of preparations for 2 weeks in England and Wales where Clyde will be exploring his Welsh heritage and trying to learn how to pronounce the names of Welsh hymn tunes.

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DELTA  
GREATER STOCKTON  
DISTRICT NEWS  
Sandra Exelby  
Correspondent

For the first time since last Christmas **Marge and Brack Combs** had the delight of having all four of their children, their significant others, and four of their five grandchildren all together. They gathered on the weekend of August 23, just before their youngest, Mary, Doug Briggs, her husband, Clarke, Spencer and Miles ended a month of visiting with both sets of grandparents here in Stockton. Lee, Vera and Lindy live here and Annie and Martin came up from LA. It was blessed.

**Bob Hartman reports:** "Joanne and I and two of our daughters, Julie and Andrea spent a week on the coast together at Sunset Beach State Park and a week at South Lake Tahoe in an RV Park. We enjoyed our time at the coast much of the time in wet rolling fog off the ocean -- the fog did not dampen our spirits. Tahoe was beautiful this summer with the weather in the high 70s and low 80s. We drove around the Lake one day soaking in the beauty of the lake, forest and mountains. Another day we took our two daughters to Virginia City which they had not been to since they were little girls. It was a wonderful revisitation of a historic site.

**Bob** will soon schedule surgery for two knee replacements - one later this fall and one possibly in the early spring. Joanne is still regaining her strength after last winters brain bleed. She suffered no loss of the speech or the use of her limbs -- still some balance problems and fatigue. Praise the Lord. Julie who lives at home, fell off her new bike (transportation to work) and broke her left arm just before she was supposed to start a new job. Oh yes, she's a lefty!

**El and Louise Hoffman** have moved into O'Connor Woods in Stockton. They both say, "Downsizing from a home of 17 years to an apartment is mind boggling and frazzling." On Sept. 7, El started a new adult class at Central UMC. "Eclipsing Empires, Paul, Rome, and the Kingdom of God". New Testament scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, took a camera to Turkey and filmed the journeys of Paul. Crossan wrote the participant's guide. Should be a lot of fun and

the best yet of the "Living the Questions" series. Among the co-facilitators in the class is **Doug Hayward**.

Professor Martin Pedersen, son of **Ralph and Marilyn Pedersen**, has recently written an article on San Francisco life at the time of the 1906 fire. The article, "Heal Thyself" received a prize and was printed in the literary journal, "Todd Point Review" He hopes to publish the book from which the article came. He and his wife Daniela, from Messina, Sicily, were here for the summer.

**Elaine Sager** traveled to the Mid-West to visit family in April. She also visited Florida for a convention where she met up with her daughter and another friend to tour the west coast of Florida. She continues to recover from surgery to correct a hammer toe.

**A-della Sowards** spent a week visiting her daughter in Nevada. Now that A-della has given up driving she appreciated the time away. She continues to volunteer weekly at Dameron Hospital, where she recently received her 5,500 hour pin, and she rejoices in her 6 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and now 2 great-great grandchildren.

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**SOUTH FRESNO DISTRICT  
NEWS**

**Sylvia Corson  
Correspondent**

**Ray Alderman** enjoyed a 6,000 mile trip to visit family in Houston and Florida, and also former church members in South Carolina. He felt fortunate to see many family members as folks are getting older. He was accompanied by his son, Mark, and a friend that was going to Georgia. Ray continues to have health problems, but is able to still go to the gym.

**David and Sherry Atkins** had a wonderful four generation family reunion in Oregon, which included a celebration of David's mother's 95th birthday. Sherry hosted a "Grandma's Camp" with four grandchildren. This fall both are involved in the chancel and handbell choirs, and Sherry serves as Worship Chair. A four day cruise gave them some time to themselves.

**Ivan and Ruth Ball** had a full summer. Ivan, with his lecturer son, Eric, spent 3 weeks on a cruise to the Mediterranean visiting Rome, Florence, Monte Carlo, and other points of interest. Ruth continues to enjoy substitute teaching in Kindergarten to third grade. They enjoyed a wonderful week camping at Pismo Beach in their van conversion.

**Richard Bayard** spent a week this summer with his oldest daughter's family in South Carolina after attending the annual Aldersgate Conference in Columbus, Ohio. He plans to visit his middle daughter's family in Rock Island, Illinois soon. Richard continues to enjoy doing small remodeling jobs at his

youngest daughter's place at Three Rivers.

**Barrie Blake**, who died this summer, is missed by his retired clergy and spouse friends on the South Fresno District. We extend our sympathy to his family.

**Floyd and Dana Castillo** enjoyed Floyd's fifty-fifth High School reunion in Washington, D.C.. The class was encouraged to bring friends with them to the reunion. They were delighted to do this, and they took their son Joe, who was recently promoted to Rear Admiral in the Coast Guard. Joe's wife, Heather, joined them for a delightful occasion.

**Alf Christiansen** had a wonderful time celebrating his 75th birthday. He appreciated the presence of the many family members who shared the big event. Family came from Salinas, Riverside, Sacramento and Hawaii. Son Kai will be assigned soon to Alabama with the Coast Guard, and Alf hopes to visit. Alf continues to pastor the Wasco Lutheran Church.

**Cecilia Cluff** had a nice summer visit with her daughter, Becky, in Reno. They were able to attend a neighborhood reunion in Yerington, Nevada. It brought back many memories as they toured the town. Her daughter was able to show her children where she went to school as a girl. Cecilia attends the Wasco UMC and enjoys it.

**Sylvia and John Corson** are looking forward to a November safari and trip to South Africa. The summer focused on John's physical therapy following his shoulder replacement. They also entertained grandsons, family,

and friends at their Strawberry cabin. Recently, they attended reunions for John's 55th at Modesto High, and their South America tour group.

**Harry and Anita Dutt** attended the Dakotas Annual Conference. They witnessed seeing the son of one of Harry's 3rd grade students ordained as an elder. Harry taught 3rd and 4th graders in his hometown of Tolstoy, South Dakota fifty-five years ago. Anita, and her sister, hosted 45 people at the home farm for the family's first "cousin reunion" in 13 years.

**Vernon and Melinda Hill** took an extensive trip this summer in their 5th wheel. They spent two months exploring Eastern Colorado, Nevada, and Utah. They met many delightful folks along the way, and Vern says the fishing was great! Vern is the assistant pastor at a newly formed Episcopalian Church in Bakersfield. It has been rewarding to start a new church.

**Mark and Young Moon** left in mid September to visit their son in Prague. They really enjoy this historic European city.

**Bob and Nancy Schwartz** are well, healthy, and traveling. Bob spent time visiting with his friends in Mexico. Nancy often goes to Oakland to see grandson Malcom, and his parents, son Paul and Amy. Bob and Nancy are off to Mexico this month, and then to Australia in late October. Bob served as interim at St. Mark's UMC, Bakersfield, and loved working again.

**Alpha and Mary Takagi** have enjoyed the cooler summer weather in San Luis Obispo, for

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## SOUTH FRESNO DISTRICT NEWS CONTINUED

they remember the Central Valley's heat! They visit with their family frequently, as they live close to all of them. They both help with the bulletin at the church, sending out the monthly newsletter, and enjoy a regular "talk" session that is held at their church.

Sharon Watson had an exciting trip to Alaska with her granddaughter, Lanie, 10 years old. They saw a lot of wild life, scenery, and interesting city life. Places of special interest were Denali, Fairbanks, Rangel St. Ellis Park, and "Chicken". Another highlight was spending the Fourth of July in

McCarthy. Her "1640 Amsterdam" replica doll house is almost complete.

Harry and Ruth Wood will combine a family reunion, and Harry's 50th High School reunion this fall in Georgia. How time flies! Harry is chairperson for a bond election in Visalia. He sometimes has 30 calls a day related to the campaign. The bond is for funding the Community College of the Sequoias. Ruth is a bridge player and enjoys it a great deal.

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## INLAND SHASTA NEWS

**Gene and Katy Anderson** had quite a scare in July during the Orland fire when the fire was so close that it burned about two feet into their backyard. Gene was in the mountains, but Katy was at church when she got the word that she had to evacuate immediately. Fortunately they had had a wooden fence replaced by a cyclone fence which may have saved their house. Katy says the fire fighters were so efficient that the evacuation only lasted two hours. The experience brought neighbors together afterwards at a thank-you barbecue for the firefighters and other volunteers.

In August **Bill Jefferies** filled the pulpit for the pastor at Gridley who was in Scotland and the night before got the word that a long-time member, Erwin Linning, had died. Bill knew him well, having served the Gridley church, so was asked to conduct the funeral. **Doris Long** attended the service as Mr. Linning was her son's father-in-law. Bill says he had a similar experience a few years ago when he was called out of retirement to serve the church again until annual conference,

and the night before he was to begin, the organist died suddenly. He thinks maybe Gridley might think twice before asking him back again.

**Arleen McLane** enjoyed seeing all of her 5 children during the summer. In May she traveled to Phoenix to help a childhood friend celebrate her 80th birthday. In June she attended the annual CFO retreat in Tacoma, WA and afterwards spent time with a daughter and family in Seattle. At the end of July she attended another CFO camp with son Herb at Monte Toyon. During the night a tree fell on his car and demolished it. Fortunately he wasn't in it!

**Bill Stegall** writes that his wife Mary, who is mayor of Redding, officially greeted the President when he flew into Redding on Air Force One in July to inspect the fire damage in the forests. Mary, as an alternate delegate, attended the Democratic Convention in Denver.

**Jerry and Georgie Summers** had an eventful summer. Georgie fell the night before coming to conference and

## Georgie Summers Correspondent

dislocated her left shoulder. A week later she celebrated her 80th birthday at a luncheon at Trinity UMC catered by their 3 children. She asked that no gifts or cards be given but that those who wished could give a monetary donation for the church's apportionment deficit. Over \$1100 was given! On August 1 the Summers moved into a senior apartment in Chico and don't ever want to move again. Their new address is:

2701 Sierra Sunrise Terrace,  
Apt. 518,  
Chico 95928.

**Bill Wheeler** kept things going at home while Joan drove to Claremont, CA to help her oldest brother celebrate his 80th birthday. After being home a few days she helped a grandson and family get ready to move into their newly purchased home and then to Fresno to help a daughter and family move into their first newly purchased home. While there she enjoyed 5 grandchildren from college age to an active two-year old. What fun!

**Ecumenical Retired Clergy/Spouse Retreat**

*SAN DAMIANO RETREAT CENTER, DANVILLE, CALIFORNIA - JANUARY 13-14, 2009*

**FROM AGING TO SAGE-ING: SPIRITUALITY AND CREATIVITY**

**John & Laura Landgraf** will lead us with stimulating presentations and in worship and music. Married in 2004, they immediately began making music together for the sheer fun of it, giving concerts across America. Their first CD, *Listen To Our Heart*, freely explores the grace-full miracle of "Second Chances" as they sing love songs to each other, God, country, their children and grandchildren.

**John Landgraf**, an ordained American Baptist, was a pastor, hospital chaplain, Director of Oakland's Center for Ministry from 1975-87, and President of Central Baptist Seminary in Kansas. Now he does psychotherapy, teaches at Fuller Seminary in Menlo Park, and makes music. Of late he was Musical Director for performances at the Plush Room in San Francisco, 142 Throckmorton Theatre in Mill Valley, the Onwentsia Club in Chicago, the Reserve Club in Palm Desert, and charter cruises down the Mississippi and up the Columbia. He has received kudos for his jazz improvisations on hymn tunes on his CD *Piano That Talks* and 23 original compositions for the Russian River production "FORT ROSS." He also authored Singling: A New Way to Live the Single Life (Westminster/John Knox) and other books and articles.



**Laura Landgraf** is the child of pioneer missionary parents and lived in Ethiopia. As a schoolgirl, she sang for Emperor Haile Salassie. At 19 she developed a successful business plan for a medical practice, became a consultant to medical offices, followed by being a full time mom for 17 years. As a Minister of Music, she developed a children's choir program adopted by the University of Oregon for their children's studies program. Entrepreneurial at heart and facing an empty nest, she began, built, and sold a national investment company. As a speaker, trainer, consultant and coach she developed successful courses and programs for corporate and small business alike. Laura remains passionate about both music and Africa. She has written a novel, The American African, to be published in 2009.

For more information contact: Bob Blaney, 831-477-7750 or [rwblaney@gmail.com](mailto:rwblaney@gmail.com)

For scholarship information contact: Walter Johnson, 650-679-6212 or [FLYWJ@aol.com](mailto:FLYWJ@aol.com)

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Ecumenical Retired Clergy/Spouse Retreat - January 13-14, 2009 *(Please Print)*

Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Denomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Contribution for Scholarship Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Registration Deadline is December 15, 2008. Additional \$10 fee for late registrations.**

Please register early! *No refunds after January 2 unless another person can take your place.*

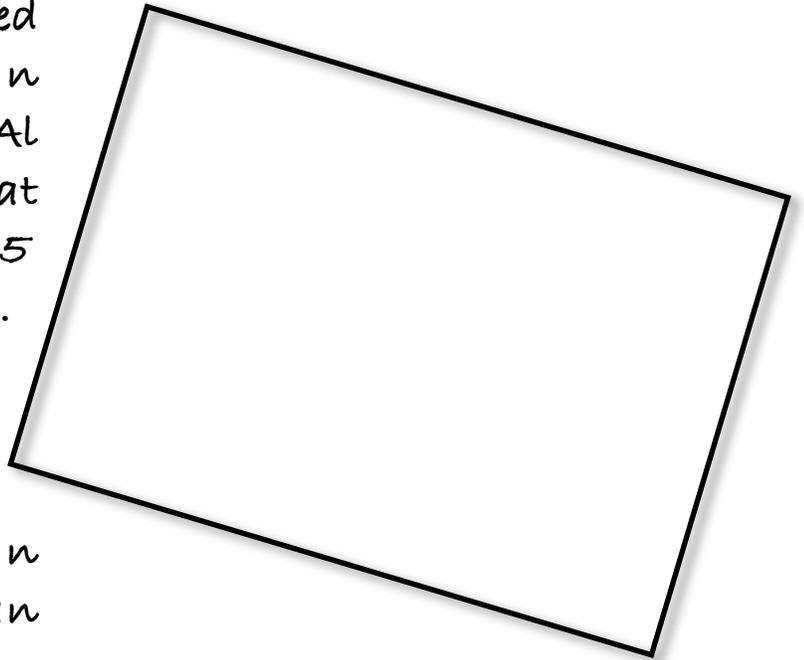
**Cost: \$105.00 per person double occupancy, \$120 single occupancy** which includes overnight accommodations with private bath & 4 meals starting & ending with lunch: **\$50 for commuters** including all meals except breakfast.

**Please make checks payable to "Retired Clergy Roundup" and send checks and registration to:**  
Lloyd Schneider, Registrar, PO Box 892, Tuolumne, CA 95379. 209-928-4015 or [LloydS38@gmail.com](mailto:LloydS38@gmail.com)

## CONGRATULATIONS TO REV. AL AND MADOLYN CHANDLER!

Rev. Al Chandler celebrated his 100th birthday on September 22, 2008! Rev. Al has answered Roll Call at Annual Conference 75 TIMES! That's right... SEVENTY FIVE!

But first, Rev. Al and Madolyn celebrated 67 years of marriage on September 20! What an inspiration!



### COWTOWN STACY'S TACO SOUP

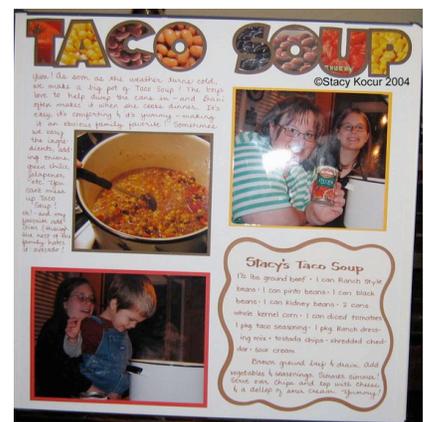
This recipe comes from my friend Stacy Kocur who lives in Fort Worth, Texas. It is a Daley Family favorite. It feeds four hearty dinner eaters plus at least one lunch. But it freezes wonderfully! I often make a double batch so I can freeze half and have a quick and easy dinner later!

To reduce sodium, rinse the canned items. You can also substitute ground turkey or soy crumbles instead of ground beef. Ranch Style Beans will be with canned baked beans and Rotel can be found in the Mexican food section. 1.5 lbs. ground beef

~Nancy

- 1 can Ranch Style Beans
- 1 can pinto beans
- 1 can black beans
- 1 can kidney beans
- 2 cans whole kernel corn
- 1 can diced tomatoes
- 1 pkg. dry Ranch dressing mix
- 1 pkg. taco seasoning
- tostada chips
- shredded cheese
- sour cream
  
- Optional:*
- avocado
- Rotel
- black olives
- jalapenos

Brown ground beef and drain. Add vegetables, do not drain! Just dump the whole can in the pot and seasonings. Simmer simmer simmer! Serve over chips, and top with cheese and sour cream.



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**EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Nancy Daley

9509 Baypoint Way

Elk Grove, CA 95624

916-539-4249

nancydaley@frontiernet.net

**Calendar**

**November 14-15, 2008**

MFSA Fall Retreat

**January 13-14, 2009**

Ecumenical Retreat

**January 15, 2009**

Days of Grace Deadline

**April 22-23, 2009**

Spring Fling

**May 1, 2009**

Days of Grace Deadline

**September 15, 2009**

Days of Grace Deadline

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