

Days of Grace

"Seldom ever was any knowledge given to keep, but to impart; the grace of this rich jewel is lost in concealment.." -
Wendell Phillips

Retired Clergy Association Website Launched!



A brand new website for the RCA has been launched and is ready for you to come in and take a look around! The web address is www.ca-nv-rca.org and has several pages of interest. You will find upcoming events on the calendar page, downloadable past issues of Days of Grace and the RCA History, contact information and those we are keeping in prayer.

Come check it out and keep coming back. More exciting features are coming!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all of you – members of our California-Nevada Retired Clergy Association. It is a joy and privilege to serve as your President in this 2009-2010 year.



Your RCA Board and I are working hard with Nancy Daley, our executive officer, to keep you informed of the latest news and issues for us as retired clergy and spouses. In these troubling times of recession, budget cuts of social services,

and the acrimonious debate on health care it is critical that we stay informed and active in the political and theological debate. Let us not forget the call from Mt 25 “to serve the least of these our brothers and sisters” and to remember what we do for them is what we do for our Lord, Jesus Christ. God is a God of the marginalized who cares for the widow and orphan, the stranger and the alien, the poor and the infirm. These are the people who are often overlooked or forgotten.

Researching cognitive development in kids, Jean Piaget coined the term “object permanence.” It describes the awareness that objects continue to exist even when they are no longer visible. It usually shows up in kids at around eight months. That means if you hide a rattle from a three-month-old, he or she literally thinks there isn’t a rattle at all. OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND ... OUT OF EXISTENCE. If we’re honest, many of us lack object permanence in issues of social justice. TOO OFTENIf the poor, sick, unemployed, uninsured, the alien aren’t in our sight, they aren’t really an issue. Because of this, God reminds us of his justice on behalf of those who are often ignored.

- Micah 6:8 calls believers to live justly and to love mercy.
- Luke 4:18-18 calls us to preach good news to the poor and to announce the year that the Lord will save his people

One thing we can do in response to God’s call to share his concern for the marginalized is to take steps to eliminate our object permanence toward social justice. Princeton professor, philosopher,

critic and civil-rights activist Cornel West said, “JUSTICE IS WHAT LOVE LOOKS LIKE IN PUBLIC.” Let us continue to be involved -- to be pictured as those who love in public. Like celebrities under the constant eye of the camera lens, the Christ-follower is always being watched. Our God sees all that we have done and all that we have left undone. Let us not grow weary in our well doing.

I especially urge you to be involved in the current health care debate. Our welfare as retired clergy and the welfare of all our citizens are at stake. You already know that we literally and figuratively can no longer afford business as usual or doing the same old thing when it comes to our health care. Our share of our retired clergy health care cost will move from the current 20% to 30% in 2010 with cost of living adjustments in addition. Our share of health care in 2011 is projected and could be 40%. Your RCA board representatives continue to work with the Board of Pensions and the Clergy Benefit Task force on this vital issue. Please review the work of the task force and the Board of Pensions. Plan to attend one of the district meetings this Spring to inform us as retired clergy of what the future holds for us. Tony Ubalde, one of our past Presidents, represents RCA on the Clergy Benefits Task Force and I represent us on the Board of Pensions. Contact us with your concerns.

Also, representatives of our new Relational Care Committee chaired by Mike Nicholson, are contacting our members in every District to be sure no one is ignored and that we stay connected. Reach out to a RCA member near you who may need a ride, prayer, visit. Use our new website ca-nv-rca.org for news, prayer requests, concerns. Nancy Daley is doing an excellent job in building this web site and representing and serving RCA members. We continue to have a very capable, dedicated, and involved board. I am deeply grateful for their service and support. I look forward to our third RCA Volunteer in Mission trip to New Orleans Oct, 30-Nov 7. There are still several spots open so call Nadine DeWitt if you are interested. You may contact me at jsangove@surewest.net or 916-781-6785.

Shalom,

Jerry Angove

 MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

Having completed my first year in your service, I am finding my legs feel more sure underneath me and my path more clearly defined. As I have worked with both the Board of Directors from last year and the new Board of Directors, we have made adjustments to the roll of Executive Officer. We have added some duties and reassigned others. I am looking forward to this next year as we work together to best serve the RCA Membership.

One of my goals as your Executive Officer is to increase the connection within the membership. As we, as a church, struggle with remembering our connectional ministry heritage in some areas, I look forward to the RCA being leaders in re-connecting the people of the United Methodist Church.

Currently, we are working on two fronts. One is more high tech and the other is more low tech. As you saw on the front page, I have launched a new RCA website. This is available 24/7 for reference and can be updated quickly and easily. If you wish to have a Cluster meeting or other RCA event added to the calendar, just give me a call or send an email.

One of the questions I am frequently asked is "who is in need of prayer?" Unfortunately, I am not always able to give a complete update simply because I do not know the answer. The prayer list on the website will have those we are keeping in prayer as I hear about them. If you or someone you know IS in need, please *please* let me know.

I am also working on a message board to be part of the website. This will allow each of us to write to the group. There IS a bit of a learning curve that goes along with using a

message board, but it's really not much more difficult than using email. That feature is yet to come, but I'm hoping to have it ready within the next few weeks. Look for "Message Board" in the list.

My hope with the message board is that the distance between us can disappear. Conversations can be had, hobbies can be shared...even photos of grandchildren and travels can be shared! We will also be able to have small group Bible or other theological studies. Or any other small group interest that one may have!

Access to the message board will be restricted to RCA members to allow a safe place for us to 'gather' in cyberspace.

The low tech connection is being made through our new Relational Care Committee. This contact is made primarily through phone calls. Each district has a designated "rep" but these lines are not strictly drawn. This committee is growing. If you would like to participate in whatever way you are able, please let me know. Mike Nicolson explains this new committee elsewhere in this issue.

Peace,

Nancy





Kim Young, Franklin Scott and Samuel Sondah.

RCA was able to offer two scholarships this year, in the amount of \$2,000 each. With a field of seven candidates, it was a difficult choice for the Scholarship Committee, comprised of Franklin “Scottie” Scott, chairman, Eva Hershbach-Martin, Dick Ernst, and Linda Butler. All of the applicants showed dedication and a deep desire to share their love for Christ with others. Their enthusiasm was exciting to watch during the interviews. The future of the UMC is in good hands!

The winners were Samuel Sondah and Kim Young. Both are students at PSR.

Samuel, who experienced many hardships in his native Africa, is working full time and also going to school full time. He has four children at home.



“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

Kim Young has worked as the youth pastor at Grace UMC in Stockton and as the interim pastor in Lone. Her dream is to open a Wesleyan school someday. She and her husband, Don, are the parents of a 19-year-old. She writes, “I was so honored to be selected for the \$2000 scholarship...I will continue to work hard in ministry and in seminary. You are all an inspiration, and I will not let you down. My being selected...is just another affirmation of the gifts God has given me to see that the United Methodist Church continues on.”

We regretfully announce the resignation of “Scottie,” who has been the moving force behind the committee. With the help of his capable wife, Alta, he has been a “committee of one” for many of his years as chairman. We also have lost the help of Eva Martin, who resigned this summer. The good news is that we have a new member on the committee, Janice Dahl. Welcome, Janice!

We look forward to interviewing the next set of candidates in the spring.

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

Linda Butler
RCA Scholarship Program Chair

SAN JOSE DISTRICT NEWS

Bob and GA Hawthorne - Correspondents

GRACE AHN celebrated her 90th birthday in August. Her three sons live nearby, so she has lots of help when she needs it, and good health allows her to get to church regularly.

JIM and MARLYSS KUBIK remain busy in the Salinas community. Their UMC is feeding 160 homeless folks each day, with help from a Catholic church nearby. Granddaughter, AMY SWANK, has left for Mills College, so their nest is really empty. Son JOHN is thriving in an independent living apartment close to them.

JANET ENGLE, now a longtime resident at the Terraces in Los Gatos, has not given up her music. She plays for Vespers as well as a weekly hymn sing. Though she is now in the assisted living center, she attends Los Gatos UMC and enjoys other activities.

ROY DUNN has enjoyed trips to Carmel and to Seattle this summer, spreading his humor wherever he goes. At the end of August he preaches for son RON DUNN at San Ramon Valley UMC.

BENTON and MARY LOU WHITE are just back from a 2-week riverboat cruise in Europe. Sailing from Amsterdam to Budapest, they visited places they had seen before, but with an entirely different, more relaxing perspective.

RUTH WOLFE reports on the fun of entertaining 3 grandchildren this summer. **DAVE WOLFE** keeps busy with many different activities in the community and church.

Several retired pastors have found new careers as care-givers for their wives. **DWIGHT KINTNER** helps **ELOISE** with meals other tasks in the

assisted living center of The Terraces, where he has a separate apartment. **WAYNE WILLIAMS** has been a life-saver for **ELIZABETH**, who fell in March and seriously injured her left eye. After a lengthy recovery, she is feeling much better.

JERRY and SARAH CARTER enjoy their new retirement community in Cupertino, but continue their activities at Almaden Hills UMC. SARAH is a Caring Caller, while JERRY teaches adult classes.

In an Email from Shanghai, **BEN FONG** writes: "We have now lived here for over a year, and we feel fine and healthy. At first we wondered how we could survive the cold winter and hot, humid summer. Thank God we have passed the test. We made several short and long mission trips in different cities in China last year. So will be the pattern of our commitment to God's mission here." To contact FONGS directly, the address is talinfong@yahoo.com. **BEN and MARGARET** want to keep in touch.

BOB HAWTHORNE continues to recover from a series of falls which damaged some vertebrae; he calls his new mobility aide "Johnny Walker". **GA** is able to drive them to church and other activities. She also enjoys a weekly reading group at a nearby community center. They celebrate their 60th anniversary in September.

BOB CARY wishes everyone to know of his new address:

399 Buena Vista Avenue East, Apt. 5013
San Francisco, CA 94117
415-863-1721 x5013

He looks forward to hearing from folks!



John and Lois Albright flew to Kansas in late June. They rented a car and drove it more than 1000 miles in one week. They visited twelve family members and school friends. The trip was enjoyable but what is even better is they are home again!

Jerry and Sue Angove spent their anniversary week in early September enjoying Lake Tahoe

Norman Calloway spent several June days in Chicago with his daughter and grandson. He also took one day to visit his sister, Evelyn Morgan in Milwaukee.

Jim and Jane Corson continue to enjoy their retirement spending time with family and friends.

Larry George and his son, David are in Oregon for the Cycle Oregon adventure covering 500 miles during the week of September 13 – 20. Lynn enjoys spending time with grandchildren, Sabrina, Rose, and Calvin.

Bob and Carol Olmstead continue to enjoy living in Placerville. Bob fractured a fibula(lower leg), has it in a cast, and will know in three weeks if the healing is going well enough to avoid surgery. He is having frequent therapy to strengthen his leg. Federated Church in Placerville has been privileged to hear Bob preach regularly. He

led their annual church retreat in late August at Zephyr Cove.

Verniece Otto attended a grandson's graduation from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and he now is living in Peru for a year studying linguistics. Another grandson obtained a Master's Degree from a university in San Diego. She is happy to have him move closer as he prepares to begin a Doctoral program in Physics at UC Davis. Verniece feels blessed to live near shopping and bus transportation. She treasures friends who take her to church and other important places she needs to be.

Byron and Sylvia Roberts take each day, one day at a time. Some days are very good where Byron is completely aware of what is happening, other days not so good.. The medications he takes seem to help. Sylvia is grateful for calls and cards. They hope to join Is Beens at Nancy Daley's in late September.

Franklin (Scotty) and Alta Scott are happy, healthy, and enjoying life in Lincoln.

Carl Thomas enjoyed attending his 50th high school class reunion in Williamsport, PA during July. He informs us that Williamsport is home to our national Little League.

Dick and Arlene Huser are doing well in Lincoln. Dick has just completed the writing of "My Anxiety Is Better Than Your Anxiety", a book four years in the making. In it we shall find stories and reflections that prove anxiety IS helpful to us in our life journeys. One person in the book describes anxiety as the chamber music of our souls. The book will be available in November.

And directly from **John Dodson**, he is presently serving as Sr. Pastor of St John UMC in Anchorage, Alaska. St. John is a church of 800 persons and is a vital, active community and is the largest UMC congregation in Alaska. St. John is active in many areas of social action, has 4 services on Sunday, a large Youth and College group, many hiking and sports activities and is a caring and supportive community. John reports that he is relishing the opportunity of being a pastor, having many exciting personal adventures in the mountains, on the sea, hiking on the glaciers, fishing, hiking the trails around Anchorage and exploring the incredible last frontier that Alaska represents. John expects to be in Alaska at least a year, perhaps more. He enjoys hearing from friends and is looking forward to the winter months. His email is jld65@aol.com.



"Friends are angels sent down to earth to make good days and help us find our way."

On March 1st **Janice and John Emerson** welcomed into the world their first great-granddaughter, Leah Grace who must "hold her own" with their seven step great-grandsons and a step great-granddaughter. In April, John and Janice enjoyed a Mexican Riviera cruise. John continues to find fulfillment serving as a hospice chaplain. Recently he was contracted by Nevada Humanities to write the history of Methodism in Nevada for Online Nevada Encyclopedia, for which he has spent a great deal of time research and now writing. He has uncovered many fascinating stories that are humorous, heroic and poignant. There it is, and believe it or not we've edited out other newsy items! Blessings, John & Janice.

Gil and Dottie Vieira recently participated in an annual family reunion at a relative's cabin at Russian River. Before that, they celebrated their 57th anniversary with an outing in San Francisco, visiting the Museum of Modern Art and the Academy of Sciences. Gil preached at the Lafayette church where he returns every year on invitation of its pastor.

Sylvia Osman of Grass Valley traveled to Sonora for a family birthday gathering at her son, Eric Osman's new home. Sylvia found the Sonora area similar in terms of the Gold Rush communities. Sonora has Columbia State Park nearby.

Don and Peggy Baldwin had a wonderful summer, including vacation time on the shore of Lake Tahoe, the ocean shore of the Pacific at Ventura and the quietude of the near Gold Lake and Sierra Buttes. Peggy continues to be active with her Grass Valley Friends Meeting. During our recent camp-out with the Quakers at the Lakes Basin campground, we actually held a silent Quaker worship inside our pop-up camper because of cool and windy weather!

Don is happily involved in being "Reverend John Wesley," and environmentalist "John Muir," as well as being himself! Currently he is constructing an altar for the annual "Altar Show" to be held at the Nevada County Fairgrounds from October 24 – November 1. Are you curious? For an explanation, go to www.thealtarshow.org. It's a great spiritual experience!

Myrtle Findley hosted another garden tour for the local Garden Club in late August, but added a new twist this year. She made waffle cones and

served ice cream cones to the visitors; then celebrated a 90th birthday on September 9th.

John Foster and another person from the Democratic Club put together a Truckee forum on health care reform in August. There were 130 people and a lot of interest. The presenter was a researcher on health policy from the University of Nevada School of Medicine who laid out what was currently on the table. The panel of responders included an oncologist, a restaurant owner who has had trouble getting insurance for her people, a lawyer and a representative of our local public hospital district. The question period revealed that the people have a deep desire to see something meaningful happen.

John and Helen will be taking a fall trip to Washington for friends and sightseeing, and to Boston for the installation of a new dean at Boston University School of Theology along with friends and sightseeing.

From **Earl and Darlene Langguth** we received: Earl lost the ability to read on May 11th. This was his response:

MACULAR REGENERATION

And shall I rail against the will of God
Who, as my Father, gently leads me on
Have I the right to cite such slight felt pain
To Him Who faced the cross and still pressed on?
My eyes grow dim with age, not punishment,
My life exceeds the span once promised man
And never have I felt His love so near
Since with new birth my life in truth began.
~Earl Leonard Langguth

The annual **Christmas gathering** for the west side of the mountains will be held on Wednesday, December 9. Location to be announced.

MODESTO DISTRICT NEWS

Wally Riches Correspondent

MARGARET BARKER went with the Prime Timers in April to the Henderson Settlement and the Redbird Mission, both mission projects of UMW. She did volunteer work at the mission's Green House project. She also witnessed active coal mining and strip mining, traveled through the Cumberland Gap and saw Cumberland Falls.

In July she hosted a family reunion at her Seaside, Oregon home for her children and grandchildren. This followed attending the Seattle wedding of one of her grandsons. In September she accompanied a granddaughter on a trip to Boston, touring historic sites and attending a Red Sox game.

MARY AND BILL BECK spent "April In Paris". On the way home they stopped in Dallas, TX, visited a son and his family, and attended Mary's 50th Class Reunion from Austin College in Sherman, TX. In June they attended a reunion of Bill's long-time Heifer colleagues and the dedication of the new Heifer Village/Keller Murphy Ed Center in Little Rock, Arkansas. They also attended the Kiwanis Convention in Nashville.

BARBARA DOW states that she is glad to be up and about and enjoys visits from her daughter Adele. She finds herself at First UMC about three days a week, participating in UMW activities, the church Prayer group and attending Sunday Worship.

OSCAR and INITA ESCAMILLA enjoy time with their grandchildren. OSCAR is still serving as Chaplain at the Emmanuel Medical Center in Turlock and preaches at the Jamestown UMC. He celebrated his 75th birthday in May. His three sons came from Bangkok Thailand, Santa Monica and San Francisco to help him celebrate.

IRWIN and GAYLE TROTTER attended the wedding of a nephew in San Diego and visited with their daughter who is Pastor of a UMC in Long Beach. They are still at work helping to restore the historic Congregational Church in Ripon and appreciate the leadership of UMC Clay Pastors.

LARRY and SHIRLEY WINCENTSEN took a seven week vacation visiting family and friends in Illinois, Wisconsin, Wyoming, South Dakota, Minnesota and Washington. They were glad to return to the warmer temperatures of central California. LARRY is in his 11th year preaching at Coulterville. Quite a "retirement".

In August family and friends of **WALLY and DALLAS RICHES** gathered in Tilden Park in Berkeley to celebrate Wally's 80th Birthday. Two friends from Wally's Elementary and High days were in attendance. In September they visited the Hawaiian Island of Kauai.

NEW ORLEANS VIM TRIP

Nadine DeWitt, Coordinator

The RCA is sending another team to New Orleans October 30 - November 7. Keep our team members in your prayers as they are the hands and feet of Christ as rebuilding continues in New Orleans.



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.

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.

SOUTH FRESNO DISTRICT NEWS

Sylvia Corson Correspondent

Ray Alderman had recent cataract surgery. It was more complicated than expected. He continues to suffer back pain. He will have a procedure soon that, hopefully, may alleviate some of the pain. Ray continues to be involved at St. Marks, Bakersfield, and is enjoying their new pastor.

David & Sherry Atkins report he was diagnosed with prostate cancer in June. He had a radical prostatectomy in August with good results. Recently, Sherry was in Irvine, baby sitting, while their son-in-law recovered from near fatal, post-surgery, lung blood clots. The 4th annual "Grandma's Camp" at their cabin was a highlight

Ivan & Ruth Ball are busy people. Ruth enjoyed Norway with her son, Eric, this summer. Ivan continues to enjoy his "string group" and study group. They spent several days at Pismo Beach, and had a delightful time at a family reunion in Porterville. The Eastern Mediterranean may be a future trip destination.

Dick Bayard made two trips this summer. In July he attended the Aldersgate Conference in North Carolina, and then spent time with family in South Carolina. He was present to see his great-grandson crawl and stand up. In August, he visited with more family in Illinois. What a delightful time!

Floyd & Dana Castillo spent Labor Day visiting their son, Joe, who lives in Alameda. Floyd is doing some preaching in Lake Isabella. He and Dana spend Tuesdays helping to make dozens and dozen of cookies for the base chapel coffee hour. They enjoy living close to their three grandchildren.

Alf Christiansen explored the Gold Country this summer. He visited towns like Oakhurst, Georgetown, Placerville, Coloma, and others. Did you know Alf was a thespian in his younger days? Alf hosted a B-B-Q for a family reunion. He continues to read and take classes on line using the "Great Courses" program.

Cecilia Cluff had a good summer. She is delighted to own her own home now (formerly the Shafter parsonage.) She enjoys going to church when she is able, as there have been a few health concerns. Her yard is coming along, though it always takes time. Cecilia enjoys keeping up with her grandchildren's lives.

John & Sylvia Corson will travel to India in November with friends. The summer highlight was time at their Strawberry cabin with family and friends. John took their twin grandsons (now 5) on their first fishing trip with good success. Their spring trip to France was memorable, especially Normandy and Paris.

Harry & Anita Dutt are grieving the death of their youngest son, Kenny, who died on June 6th at UCSF. They rejoice for all he taught them. They enjoyed an annual family reunion with seven

of Harry's siblings in South Dakota. The time shared with their three children and four grandchildren enriches their days.

Mark & Young Moon will attend the 13th Korean Senior Citizens Convention in Seoul in September. Mark is the president of the Central California Association. He continues to serve the language group at Christ UMC in Santa Maria. A recent joy was the Moon family celebration of Mark's 80th birthday. Congratulations!

Alpha & Mary Takagi continue to enjoy having their daughters close to them. Alpha has helped with several memorial services, as many Niseis are aging and dying. They look forward to the upcoming 80th anniversary of Christ UMC in Santa Maria, and the 100th at Aldersgate UMC in Palo Alto.

Sharon Watson's hobby is making doll houses and street scenes. She is working on some Dickens' street scenes, and doing a lot of planning on Harry Potter scenes. Next year she may visit her son who lives in Japan. She enjoyed the Rose Festival in Wasco with her children, and got to Morro Bay to see tide pools.



NORTHWEST NEWS

Bert Schniepp Correspondent

Judy Currier writes that they are ready for two weeks in the Hawaiian Islands, visiting Oahu, Hawaii & Maui. She is looking forward to a relaxing time reading, resting (after a very full summer of family visiting) and spending a bit of time in museums, beach laying, and just being open to what ever might come up to see or do.

She adds "This summer we celebrated with our 6-12 year old grand-children. They learned how to build a tree house (which grandma thinks is way! too high in the tree), how to cook and bake traditional family recipes, and they helped grandpa put a deck half way around our home."

Ginnie Pearson writes from England at the conclusion of her first year as *'minister in the Bude Circuit, responsible for the churches in the Northern Section: Hartland, Woolfardisworthy and Bradworthy.'* "As you can guess, that is quite a title and quite a responsibility. I have been busy, here in Northern Devon. Larry kids me by saying that I have *'failed retirement.'*"

She continues with some detail about the experience. "I preach each Sunday morning in one of the eleven churches in the Bude Circuit (most with about 20-30 in attendance) and have also been doing all of the 'usual minister' duties, such as officiating at Holy Communion, doing baptisms and weddings, making pastoral calls, leading and attending church and leading Bible studies.

As part of my role in the village of Hartland, I alternate with the Anglican vicar in going to the local primary school every

week where we do school assembly. The vicar and I have begun an after-school program, *'Messy Church'* each Thursday afternoon during school term with 20-25 children (ages 4-11 years) and have just done a week of 'Holiday Club' (aka 'Vacation Bible School').

The church here is struggling for survival with too many buildings and too many expenses for the dwindling number of members. I am working hard to try to build enthusiasm and interest in the villages and taking the church outside the walls of the building. I have also decided to return to the US a year earlier than planned and will leave England in August of 2010. I do this for a variety of reasons, but hope it will also bring about some necessary changes in the structure of the church and circuit in this remote part of England.

It has been an adventure, a challenge and a delight to be here and do what I can to be a part of the Church Universal, worldwide Methodism, and respond to God's call in a new and exciting way."

Eva and John Fugitt write that they are doing well. They are particularly grateful for the prayers, cards and e-mails from their friends.

Bishop Choy and Nancy Adachi-Osawa write that most of their children and families live in California, with the exception of Dennis, Nancy's son, who lives in the Northwest. They joined together last summer and gave Bishop Choy a 90th birthday party in Oakland. Two families have visited them in Seattle this summer, and two more will be coming.

Jim and Dianne Lynn have enjoyed the milder weather

on the Oregon coast this past year. Recent visits from some of their extended family, along with some friends from various communities in their past, have brought much joy.

A special highlight for Dianne in February was traveling to San Juan Bautista to join the Women's Retreat from Trinity UMC in Los Osos. A "lowlight" is that, due to County budget cuts, she no longer has her job as a museum aide at the local museum (except occasionally substituting).

Jim continues to sing in the choir, lead adult classes, preach occasionally, substitute a few days each month as a chaplain at the local hospital, and try to keep their little "ranchette", replete with two canines, maintained.

Both of them have had some health challenges in 2009. Dianne has been struggling with Lyme disease, but they think it was caught early enough that they are hoping for a full recovery by the end of the year. Jim has a ruptured cervical disk in his spine, but surgery will not be required or advisable at this time.

As Dianne recovers, they are looking forward to a few short trips this fall to explore the grandeurs of the Pacific Northwest.

Bert and Linda Schniepp continue to enjoy traveling in their RV and life on the Oregon coast. There are numerous opportunities for volunteer work and they have been helping with the Florence UMC free lunch program and with the Van Fans (a community group which raises funds to support daily van transportation for cancer patients from Florence to treatments in Eugene).

This group has met twice since last report, in July at the **Currents** and in September at the **Friesens**. Good folk, wonderful food and great stories.

Jean Conrad has just celebrated another birthday. She stayed put this summer, overseeing a house renovation. Her house now has new paint and new carpeting throughout!

Bruce and Mary Ann Warner celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June. Their three children and their families, including 7 grandchildren gathered at Tahoe, where as part of several days activities, they rented a pontoon boat and picnicked near Emerald Isle.

Ruth Rambo-Brown has had a rough summer. Husband, **Webb**, has had many surgeries to help in his battle with cancer. To top it off, Ruth broke her foot in July and is only now back to putting weight on it. They are alive, if not well, and grateful.

Rejean Idzerda took the trans-Canadian Rocky Mountain rail tour in July. She and a friend went from Vancouver to Toronto with excursions at Jasper, Banff, Lake Louise and Niagara Falls. She's been to Niagara before but this time went out on the Maid of the Mist. This month she is off on a cruise to the Mexican Riviera.

Gayle Pickrell reconnected with her roots in Ohio in September. She went with two half sisters and two cousins to do genealogy. Pickrell Town was named after Gayle's great, great, great grandfather. He was a leader on the Underground Railroad. His mansion (no longer standing) was used to shelter slaves on the move. Gayle and husband, **John Davenport**, closed the Mt. Shasta Church Camp at summer's end. They were there with a team of VIM Caravaners.

Lois Clazie went on an Elderhostel at the Embassy Suite in San Rafael. The topics were the U.S. Constitution,

Mozart and Art in Tuscany. There were 28 participants mostly from the west coast. The food was outstanding, and they enjoyed an afternoon at Muir Woods.

Claude Friesen reported that **Alice** will be on a road trip with their daughter at month's end. They will be driving from Washington, D.C. to Delhi, New York to visit relatives. Claude would say what he will be doing.

Evelyn Schlager decided that she wanted to have a gathering of all four of her busy children. She "lured" them (her very words) with Argentine food. They all took the bait and had a wonderful time feasting on empanadas (meat pies) and alfajores (two cookies put together with sweet cream and then frosted with chocolate). Evelyn lived in Argentina for five years when her late husband, **Bob**, was assigned to the downtown church in Buenos Aires by the Board of Missions.



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...?"

 WE HAVE HEARD WORD FROM . . .

Suk-Chong and Yonsil Yu spent a week in Pyongyang, North Korea, in April, visiting Suk-Chong's two sisters and some of their children. Suk-Chong and his sisters were separated in 1950 during the Korean War.

It was the second time for Suk-Chong to be re-united with them in last five years, but it was the first time for Yonsil to meet her sisters-in-law. It is a very complicated country with not much freedom. Suk-Chong was not allowed to go to his sister's apartment in Pyongyang. They met twice briefly at the hotel Suk-Chong and Yonsil stayed.

Suk-Chong finished his two year interim service at Love Korean UMC in Yuba City.

A TRIBUTE TO LEE WILLIAMSON

We lost a giant among us.
 I weep at his parting.
 We are left in sadness and
 I see no one else to replace him;
 this gentle agitator;
 mischievously prodding righteousness
 in the unjust halls of justice;
 this ageless sage with full Santa Claus beard
 and accompanying generous spirit that shook
 with the gelling of peace and mercy for all;
 this MFSA leader, who chose to humbly
 follow another called the Christ.
 That Christ who called upon this meek soul
 to be a calm purveyor of eternal truth
 upsetting the monied tables of societal greed;

This Christ like brother,
 O how he enriched our lives.
 Our status quo could not remain unchanged
 whenever and wherever his presence graced us,
 and I suspect he will continue to do that
 through the benevolence of God's Holy Spirit
 that so abundantly gifted him
 and through the precious assets he deposited
 in our precious vaulted banks of memory
 safe from any form of devaluation.

- Don Fado

“JOHN WESLEY” VISITS GOLD COUNTRY COMMUNITY PARISH



On August 30, 2009, Rev. John Wesley rode into Colfax for an old fashioned circuit meeting of the “Gold Country Community Parish”. This is the combined worship of Colfax, Dutch Flat and Meadow Vista churches.

Greeting Rev. Wesley were Dottie Vieira and David Bright.

If you wish John Wesley to make an appearance in your neck of the woods, contact his alter ego, Don Baldwin!



UPDATED RCA HISTORY AVAILABLE

The latest version of the history of RCA is now completed and available. This covers the high points from each year of RCA starting in 1992, when we re-organized and changed our name from 'Retired ministers' to 'Retired Clergy,' and continues through 2009. It is in the form of informal memoirs from each president from Roy Dunn to Dottie Vieira, and brings our story to life in a very personal way. It is available to you in two forms. The entire text is posted on our web site and can be downloaded. If you would prefer a paper copy send your request to:

Dick Ernst at 7930 Crystal Springs Wy
Loomis, CA 95650



with a \$5.00 contribution and we will send a copy to you. This figure includes copying and mailing costs, and a small contribution to the RCA scholarship fund.

A NEW COMMITTEE TO CARE FOR YOU THE RELATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE

Mike Nicolson, chair

When the R.C.A. Nominating Committee tabbed me to be the chair of a new committee designed to provide care for the retired clergy and spouses of our conference, I was touched by the confidence they were placing in me. After all, I was decidedly the new kid on the block: I did not grow up in California and have never even been a member of this annual conference. I truly felt honored and I remain grateful to this day.

I arrived on the East Bay in 2001 after having taken early retirement from the Oklahoma Conference, and I was soon involved with our beloved RCA, as I felt that everyone accepted and appreciated me and, eventually, I began a term on the Board of Directors. Now I thank all of you for giving me this rich opportunity.

As we began organizing our committee and our work, it seemed that the name that had once been used for this committee was not adequate to the task. Once upon a time, there was, indeed, a committee known as the Contact Care Committee but its work was abandoned at a certain point in time; reviving it to meet a need was a great idea, but a new name was obviously needed to communicate the full extent of our theology of care: one that reflected the essence of our being a community of 'related' clergy and spouses. At our very first meeting, we decide that relationship was the basis of our

organization, and we re-named ourselves the **Relational Care Committee**.

What is the scope of our work? Simply put, even though we strongly care for all aspects of well-being for our members we obviously could not possibly meet all of the needs that we might all experience so, armed with the conviction that we cannot be all things to all people, we first decided what we are not: we are not a social service agency; we have neither the personnel nor the resources to provide health care, financial aid, transportation nor any other such care to the many retired members of the California-Nevada Conference, but what we can and hope and plan to do is to provide a sense of relationship to one and all. As we retire and grow older, it becomes increasingly challenging for us to feel meaningfully connected to our annual conference, to our RCA, and to one another. Eventually we all come to need the friendship and encouragement of our sisters and brothers to keep those flames burning, and yet, how vitally important that is to the well being of our spirits! To wit, our newly founded Relational Care Committee is designed provide an on-going sense of loving connection.

How did we propose to fulfill this ambitious goal? We immediately borrowed a useful practice from the past, selecting a representative for each district to



be in touch with those of you living on that district: to talk with you, encourage you, and to give you a point of reference! We quickly realized that some districts are so large as to warrant more than one representative, and we are now in the process of finding extra reps for those bigger districts. Beyond that, we also came to understand that we will be far more creative and productive by taking a team approach on each district, and eventually, even among the various neighboring districts. That alone will provide us with plenty of work and planning as we continue to try to improve the way we operate.

Our committee meets every other month, and we invite our district reps as ad hoc members to meet with us and help us shape the future of our work. We are so very eager to relate to each of you—begin feeling the effects of that relationship throughout our retired community. To that end, we send to you our love in Christ, until the next publication.

Most joyfully,

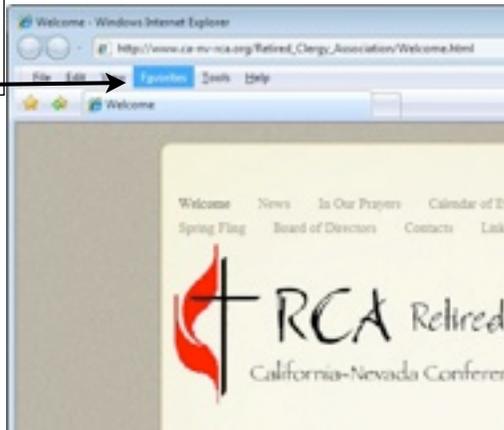
Mike

925-363-3980
mkl@nicolson@yahoo.com

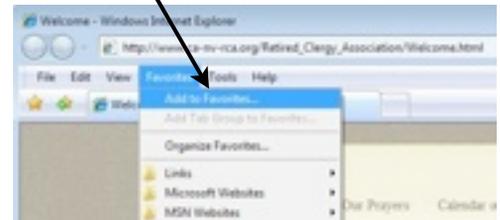
HOW TO ADD THE WEBSITE TO YOUR FAVORITES/BOOKMARKS

Below is a step by step explanation of how to add the new RCA website to your FAVORITES using **Internet Explorer** and Firefox.

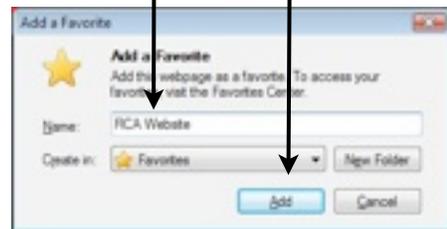
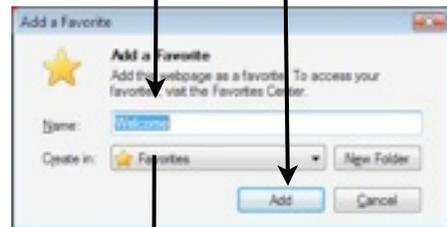
1. When you are on the opening page of the website, locate the "Favorites", and click.



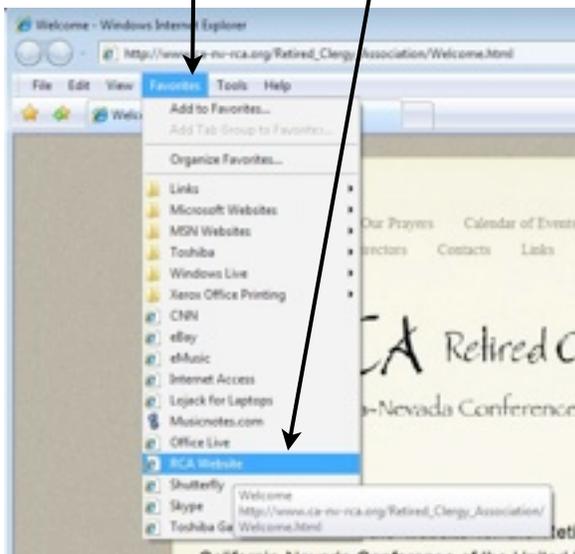
2. Choose "Add to Favorites" from the drop down menu.



3. If you want to change the name from "Welcome" to "RCA", you can do so here. Click on "Add".



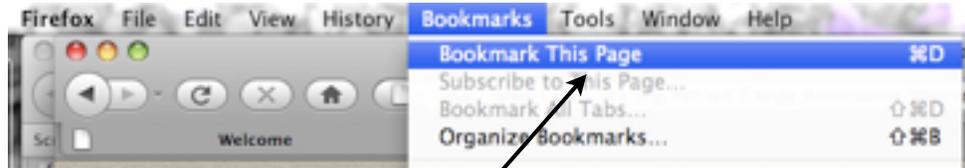
4. You can now find the website using your Favorites drop down menu.



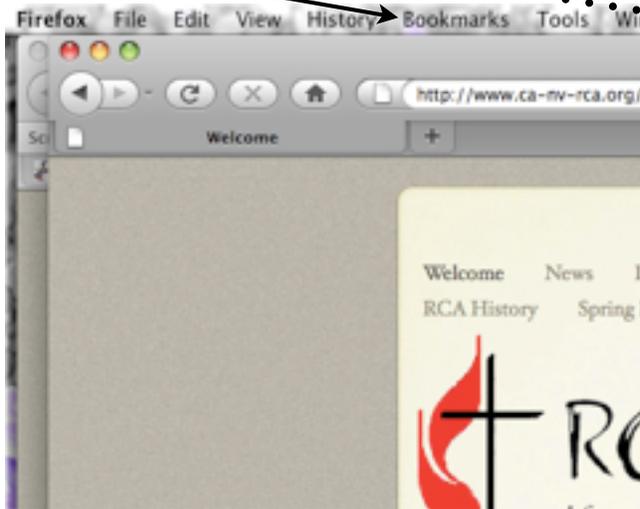
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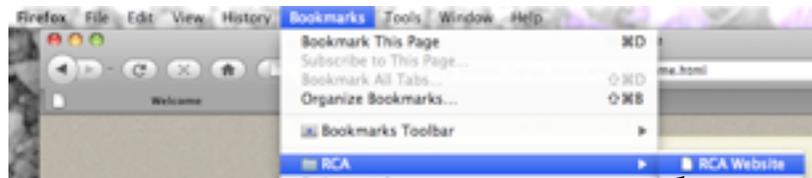
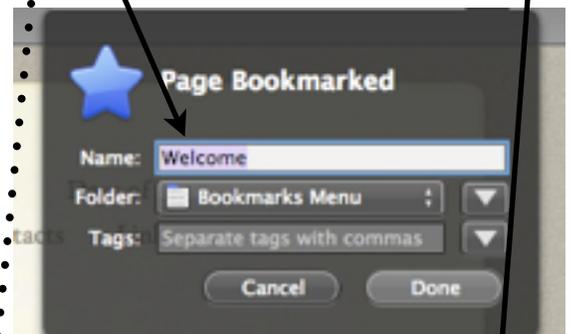
1. When you are on the opening page of the website, locate the "Bookmarks", and click.



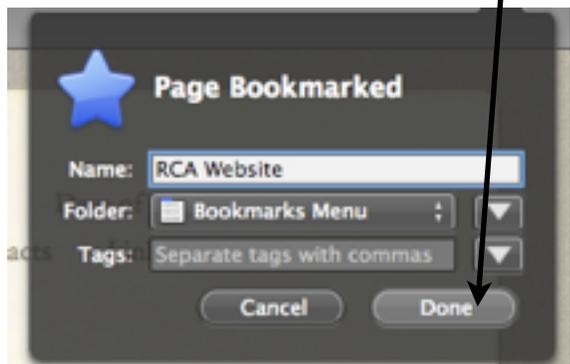
2. Choose "Bookmark This Page" from the drop down menu.



3. If you want to change the name from "Welcome" to "RCA", you can do so here. Click on "Done".



4. You can now find the website using your Bookmarks drop down menu.



HOW TO USE THE WEBSITE

Your final step once you are in the website is to navigate around and see what is inside!

By simply clicking on the words on the top of the page to visit the different pages.

Each page has helpful information that is updated as needed. Please check regularly for news and information.



New pages will be added over time, so don't be alarmed if the order changes!

Look for an interactive message board coming soon!

PASS ON YOUR VALUES *and* YOUR VALUABLES

Bill E Beck, Vice President, C/N United Methodist Foundation

The Greatest Generation has already passed on its commitment to country, community, and children. In the next few years it will pass on its legacy of Valuables: the largest estate pass-through in history.

More important is passing on the Values of this historic generation. It is important to pass on your belief in the ministry of the local church. Likewise, you can support your favorite mission program: Africa University, Heifer International, Habitat, Faith Promise, UMVIM or others. You might also consider your local museum or the performing arts.

As you include these charities in your estate plan you witness to their value in your life and assure their vitality in the future. Plan your estate to care for your family with your valuables but also pass on your values.

The CA-NV United Methodist Foundation is ready to help you in your gift planning. The Foundation

provides planned giving options that enable you to fulfill your charitable goals with a will, trusts or annuity.



Here is an opportunity to support the mission of the Retired Clergy Association - providing fellowship and support for its members. Or, you can leave a legacy to support the Scholarship Fund for Seminary Students or provide aid to retirees for health care or other needs.

The Foundation stands ready to give you information for Charitable Trusts, Annuities or bequests. As a Past President of RCA I recommend you contact Susan Peters at 916/374-1577 or go to the Foundation website – www.canvumfgiving.org.

For All Things Blooming
by Ethel Adams

For all things blooming
And arising in new green leaf
For spring sky after a rain
Give thanks once more
For beloved kindred, blessed friendship
Celebrations of remembrance and hope
Old histories
New surprises
Shining like poppies no one planted
Violets in the grass
Persistent gifts of grace
Say gracias shukria, thanks.

Retired Clergy Association of
The California-Nevada Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church
presents



Ed McNulty
Nationally recognized
leader in film & faith

The 2010 Spring Fling

April 14-15, 2010

Christ the King Retreat Center, Citrus Heights, CA

"Holy Laughter: The Gospel and Comedy"

Led by Dr. Ed McNulty, Presbyterian Minister

Founder and Editor of Visual Parables

His film reviews appear in Lectionary Homiletics, LectionAid,
BeliefNet, Presbyterians Today and various newspapers and web sites.

The most recent of his 12 books: *Praying the Movies I: Daily Meditations From Classic Films, Praying the Movies II FAITH and FILM: A Guidebook for Leaders.*

- 2002 Earl Lecturer, PSR, "Image to Insight: The Power of Film in Faith and Culture"
- Charles Osgood featured his film ministry on his radio series.
- He has worked in television and radio, producing programs and writing "spots" that have been used around the country. He has collaborated with Hollywood film director Michael Rhodes to produce a cassette series of Film Clips for church and school use.

*Have fun Enjoy
Greet old friends! Meet new friends!
Be inspired! Gain new perspective!*

For further information: Larry & Doreen Hinshaw: hinshaw@surewest.net

Ecumenical Retired Clergy/Spouse Retreat

San Damiano Retreat Center, Danville, California - January 19-20, 2010



Barbara Troxell

Spirituality in a Progressive Christian Perspective

Barbara Troxell will lead us in exploring Christian Spirituality as connectedness with God, others, self, and the world. We will reflect on the links and differences between contemplation and action and seek awareness of how the Christ-presence frees, empowers, and challenges us for the creative living of our days in this beautiful broken world that is part of a much larger cosmos.

Barbara, a life long United Methodist, has served in ordained ministry for over 45 years. A graduate of Swarthmore College (Pennsylvania) and Union Theological Seminary (New York), she also studied at New College (Edinburgh, Scotland), GTU and PSR. She has served as a United Methodist and Presbyterian Church USA pastor, YWCA Executive Director at Stanford and Ohio Wesleyan, United Methodist Conference program staff, district superintendent, Dean of Students at PSR, and on the faculty of Garrett-Evangelical Seminary (Evanston, IL), teaching Field Education, Spiritual Formation and United Methodist Studies and more recently United Methodist Polity at Claremont School of Theology. She is a member of the Grail Movement, Order of St. Luke, and Spiritual Directors International. She is an experienced spiritual director and retreat leader trained at Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation. She enjoys music, likes to sing, walk, share meals and conversation, and rejoices in the beauties of God's creation. She has a strong commitment to women in ministry, ecumenism, and to actions for justice and peace in the world.



Music and Worship by
Jim and Jean Strathdee

For more information contact: Bob Blaney, 831-477-7550, rwblaney@gmail.com,
For scholarship information contact: Walter Johnson, 650-697-6212, flywj@aol.com

REGISTRATION FORM

Ecumenical Retired Clergy/Spouse Retreat - January 19-20, 2010 (Please Print)

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____ Denomination: _____

Additional Contribution for Scholarship Fund: \$ _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Special Needs & room mate request: _____

The Registration Deadline is January 1, 2010. Additional \$10 fee for late registrations.

Please register early! No refunds after January 4 unless another person can take your place.

Cost per person	Occupancy	Meals
\$110	Double Occupancy	All
\$120	Single Occupancy	All
\$60	Commuter (no room)	All except Breakfast

(Cost includes overnight accommodations with private bath and 4 meals starting and ending with lunch)

Please make checks payable to "Retired Clergy Roundup" and send checks and registration to:
Lloyd Schneider, Registrar, P.O. Box 892, Tuolumne, CA 95379. 209-928-4015, lloyds38@gmail.com

Days of Grace
Retired Clergy Association
California-Nevada Conference
P.O. Box 980250
West Sacramento, CA 95798-0250

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Class of 2011: *John Davenport, Suk-Chong Yu, Nobu Hanaoka*
Class of 2012: *Steve Darling, Janice Dahl, Jim Scott, Carol Ubalde*

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Nancy Daley
9509 Baypoint Way
Elk Grove, CA 95624
916-539-4249
nancydaley@frontiernet.net

<u>Calendar</u>	
January 15, 2010	Days of Grace Deadline
January 19-20, 2010	Ecumenical Retreat
April 14-15, 2010	Spring Fling
April 15, 2010	Days of Grace Deadline
June 16-19, 2010	Annual Conference
June 18, 2010	Annual Luncheon