

Days of Grace

"There are two great days in a person's life. They day we are born and the day we discover why." -William Barclay

B E A W A R E - B E S A F E

Thieves are always looking for a way to separate you from your money. It used to be they had to do so up close and personal. Now, they can hide behind a computer screen OR a phone and steal your money without you even realizing it. These thieves may well be on the other side of the world, not standing next to you in a stick up.

You may think you are safe if you don't use a computer or don't go on the internet. This will save you from some, but not all scams.

One popular internet/email scheme is to send you an email and make you think that a friend or family member is "stuck" in some foreign country and has been robbed of all money and identification. This is ALWAYS a scam and all you need to do is delete the email. Do not respond to it in any way.

The scammers have figured out that we are getting wise to their dastardly ways and have hit upon a new scheme... the telephone. Yes... the good old fashioned telephone!

Much like the email, the phone scam preys on your good heart. Often the voice is muffled and so you are unable to hear the voice clearly. The person on the other end will usually tell you that the speaker is your grandchild and they are... stuck in a foreign country without money or ID. Maybe that

they are in jail. Maybe in jail in a foreign country! Whatever it is, it is a lie.

Simply hang up and if you are truly concerned, call your grandchildren or their parents and check on them.

We have learned that "if it's too good to be true, it probably is" is a clue to whether or not something is a scam (no, you did not win the lottery you did not enter and a Nigerian Prince does not need your help). Now you need to be aware that if it is "too horrible" it probably is not true as well.

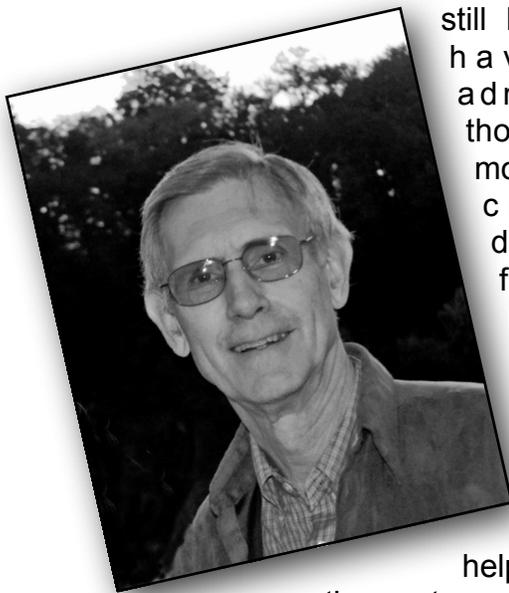
You can protect yourself by keeping your passwords difficult to guess, change them every few months and never ever click on things that look the least bit suspicious. Remember, no financial service will request your password. The IRS NEVER emails you. If you get a suspicious looking email, do NOT click on the links in the email. Go directly to the appropriate website to see if they are requesting the same information.

I keep abreast of computer security issues through a website called Naked Security run by the company, Sophos. They sell security software, but their blog for everyday tips is free to anyone who wishes to read. <http://nakedsecurity.sophos.com/> I make no endorsement, nor use their products.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Brothers and Sisters in retirement,

Many times I have heard folk speak of retirement as a goal, the end of a journey. Yet the longer I am retired the more I am aware that retirement is a continuation of our journey. Our status within the annual conference may have changed, but God is not done with us yet. In retirement life continues to bring its challenges and opportunities. Adjustments are required. There are things yet to be learned and



tried out. Ministry still happens. I have great admiration for those who have most successfully created a dynamic and fulfilling life in retirement.

Your Retired Clergy Association exists to help you in these

retirement years. There are several goals we seek to reach in our work together. Let me name some of them:

- We promote fellowship and caring among our retiree families. From our annual luncheon to the formation of cluster groupings we want to bring people together to affirm the ties that bind us together. Our Relational Care committee tries to maintain contact and awareness which can lead to opportunities to support and care for one another.
- We try to be aware and active in issues that affect us. We maintain links with the Board of Pensions and stay aware

of issues relating to health care that make a difference in our lives. We keep the annual conference aware of the retired clergy who are a very significant portion of the clergy membership in the conference. And we try to help the Annual Conference recognize and honor those who retire each year.

- We provide opportunities for service such as our annual Volunteers in Mission project. Again this fall a team will be in New Orleans helping a family reclaim their home all these years after Katrina.
- We provide opportunities for growth. This year we experienced cutting edge adult Christian Education through "Living the Questions" at our Spring Fling.
- Finally, we recognize that during this part of our journey some will leave us in death. We try to see their lives rightly honored by the conference and through our scholarship program.

This association is your association and I invite your participation. Let's stay in touch and enjoy this part of our journey together. I also want to say that our Retired Clergy Association is a rarity among the conferences of the United Methodist Church. It is thanks to the generosity of the Conference Claimants Endowment Board that we can do all we do.

Peace and Strength for the journey,

~John Sublett

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

I find the church calendar habit of more or less beginning in the fall, familiar as it closely mirrors the traditional school calendar. For our family, school begins in August at just about the same time the RCA Board of Directors gear up for a new 'year' of activities.

Several committees have already met and some are looking towards their second meeting of the year. Our "Cluster Groups" are meeting over lunch (or homemade ice cream!) and continuing the connectional relationship built during active ministry as well as welcoming those retired from other conferences into the fellowship. While a peek into my office may lead you to believe I have a deep love affair with paperwork, it is joining with RCA members over lunch that is the true joy of my job. I very much look forward to sharing meals with as many of you as possible over the next year.

The Relational Care Committee, through Outreach Volunteers, is working to connect more people in smaller groups. This is a process and I hope you have patience with us. You may have received a call from one of these volunteers already. If you have not, we

are getting to you! We may be calling to ask you to serve as one of our volunteers. We have not chosen you by pulling your name out of a hat... but rather because your colleagues feel you have the gift and graces to serve the RCA in this way.



On a personal note, I am still overwhelmed and deeply grateful for the continued prayers for Emma as she continues her journey through Thyroid Cancer. We won't get an all clear until she has a clear scan, the first of which will be in the spring. Meanwhile, she is a trouper and has taken this in as much stride as one can.

Peace,

Nancy

ATTENTION ALL RCA UMVIM ALUMNI



We are planning a reunion on Feb. 16, 2012 at Mercy Center in Auburn. There will be a time to see and share memories, some fun surprises, see the difference between New Orleans during the first trip and how it is now after our fifth trip. The cost is \$30 and it will be from 10-3 and includes lunch. Save the date. More later.

Nadine

RETIRED CLERGY SCHOLARSHIP FUND PROGRAM
Help is here for seminary students

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



Each year, RCA offers scholarships to students who will be enrolled in seminary at least half-time in the coming school year. Last year we were able to offer two Memorial Scholarships and one Bob Cary Scholarship

This year we are excited to be able to continue to offer the Bob Cary Memorial Scholarship. Preference is given to those who plan to work primarily with youth. Thanks to the many people who have donated in Bob's name. We plan to give this to an individual who possesses Bob's passion for working with youth.

The number of scholarships and the amount of money given each year are contingent upon the donations that we receive and the transfers we make during the year. A transfer of \$100 is put into the scholarship fund whenever one of our members passes away. This is not only a tribute to the member who has passed away, but is a way of continuing his/her legacy in the future. Transfers are

made in memory of RCA spouses as well as clergy.

Do you know a deserving seminary student that could use some help from RCA? Then please send their name and contact information to Jan Dahl at jrfts@att.net No email? You can phone at 916-961-3662, and an application will be sent to that person.

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

Thank you for your support.

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

Dick Ernst
7930 Crystal Springs Way
Loomis, CA 95650

Please note on the memo line:
RCA Scholarship Fund.

Jan Dahl

RCA Scholarship Program Chair



Retired Clergy Association Annual Luncheon

June 22, 2012

PLEASE MAKE NOTE THAT OUR
LUNCHEON WILL BE HELD AT THE

HYATT HOTEL!

Printed Journals may be ordered using this form

(Journals on CD will be sent to all clergy and lay members to ACS for free)

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Cost for each Journal is \$31.95 plus \$5.95 for shipping and handling. Number of Journals ordered: _____ X \$37.90= TOTAL\$ _____

Make checks payable to:

GW Print Media, Inc.,
1211 C Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Downloadable journals will be available through the conference website for free.

NORMAN and ARDITH CALLAWAY have spent the summer season with grandchildren - a May wedding in Portland, a June graduation at Fresno State, a July visit from a New York granddaughter, AMTRAKing the West coast. In August, a Delaware granddaughter brought her husband to meet us. In June we were at Ashland for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival for our 40th season.

LARRY and LYNN GEORGE Larry will be part of Cycle Oregon in September, a cycling trip of 500 miles in a week. Lynn and Larry are planning a trip to Italy in October with a visit to their daughter in the U.K.

STEVE and RUTH DARLING are recovering from last year, which was their 50th Anniversary. They also took the train to Chicago and then Toronto, Canada, across the Canadian railroad to Vancouver, dropping back down to Lodi and their hobbit hole to rest up from their trip.

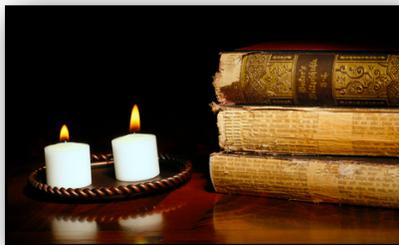
LINDA BUTLER is thankful to be back in her home again after being evacuated when a propane tanker car caught on fire seven blocks from her house in Lincoln, CA. The tanker car had other propane tanks by it and was next to a storage facility holding several propane storage tanks. The chance for large-scale destruction was high, but the fire was eventually put out, and all who were evacuated got to return after 2 days.

Linda is deeply grateful to the skilled firefighters who avoided disaster. Prayers were running high in Lincoln those two days!

SARGE WRIGHT spent a week in Seattle with his two daughters. His bucket list for his 91st birthday on Sept. 1 hopefully will include a visit to a racetrack where he will drive a NASCAR race car for 18 laps. He is also hoping to sell his home and move into a senior residence.

BONNIE HUSER at the invitation of the Angove's, Bonnie made her debut at the annual Is-Been's Ice Cream Social and is looking forward to joining in more adventures of the Is-Beens.

JERRY and SUE ANGOVE became first time grandparents July 1st with the arrival of Gabrielle Marie born to son Philip (P.J.) and "daughter" Amy. We are having so much fun! Daughter Heather will marry her beau David, October 1 in Sedona, AZ where they became engaged. We're blessed to be having such an eventful year and have added "Conveners" for Is-Beens to our activities.



JANICE DAHL saw her daughter and family move to Fair Oaks this summer. Just about two miles from her house, which is a wonderful blessing. She has enjoyed her garden and the wonderful summer weather. She is looking forward to a trip to Spain in October.

ED and EVA MARTIN have recently visited Death Valley for a week along with Organ Pipe Park in AZ. They returned by way of Las Vegas to see Valley of Fire and Red Rock Canyon, which are petrified sand dunes. They had two granddaughters married and now have two great grandchildren on the way. They had a family reunion in July with Eva's brother and sister after 20 years.

LOIS and JOHN ALBRIGHT On June 21st, Lois, as a brainwashed elderly woman trying to stay healthy, was riding her exercise bike. Upon dismount, her left foot went down, her right foot swung over the seat, her skirt caught on the seat and it all came tumbling down. Her pelvis was broken in two places! No surgery, but four weeks to heal and another four to recover from hospital food. John served as her caregiver and is helping her regain her strength.

Our group was saddened by the death of **DOROTHY MacMURDO**. **DAVID MacMURDO** is doing well as he has celebrated his 95th birthday.

Words of Appreciation from our Treasurer

Among the joys of serving as RCA treasurer is the privilege of being on the receiving end of so many tangible expressions of our members' commitment to our retired community, and to the outreach projects of our association. During the 2010-11 conference year we received dues payments and undesignated gifts from more than **55%** of our retiree households totaling **\$ 5,800**. In addition, our retirees made contributions of **\$ 900** (Health Care Subsidy Fund), **\$ 2,580** (Seminary Student Scholarship Fund), and **\$ 3,590** (Bob Cary Seminary Student Scholarship Fund). Many of these generous gifts were made in honor or memory of loved ones and friends.

As we come the end of the first quarter of the 2011-12 conference year (and **prior** to our general appeal for donations) we have already received **\$ 1,360** in dues payments and **\$ 500** in support of our Health Care Subsidy and Seminary Student Scholarship funds. We also continue to be blessed by

the **\$ 84,000** grant that we receive from the Conference Claimants' Endowment Board; an amount that supports **70%** of our annual budget!

Thank you to all whose generosity has in the past, and continues in the present, to support the work of RCA and the projects that serve the needs and commitments of our retiree community. Your gifts are never taken for granted, and always received with a prayer of gratitude and deep appreciation!

In Grace and Peace,

Dick Ernst

RCA Treasurer



Word has been heard from..

James McCray God is merciful and loving beyond all we can hope or imagine! I am doing well: a five year cancer survivor; remarried to Ms. Gail Jackson-McCray, JD and we share 9 grandchildren; and serving the community through the creation of a new faith-based development organization. My prayer always includes God's continued blessings upon all my colleagues in ministry.

Kathleen Kaplan a year of much travel, the first two weeks of January in Oaxaca, Mexico, wonderful weather, beautiful things

to see and explore. Late May I flew to Istanbul, from there to Ephesus, and on to Patmos Island, and six other of the Greek Islands, then five days on the mainland, visited monasteries on top of huge rocks, and Delphi, ended up in Athens. I walked up Mars Hill and was amazed at its relationship to the Parthenon and the Acropolis. Home in time to get to Conference and my daughter's graduation. July I was in New Jersey at a memorial service for Len, in the Jewish tradition called an "unveiling"

Help Wanted!

Are you wondering who the correspondent is for your area? Are we missing a report from your area? Please volunteer to be your area's correspondent! Email Nancy Daley at nancydaley@frontiernet.net for information (it's not too difficult!). This is the perfect job for the social butterflies among us who like to chit chat with everyone! (It's a great way to keep in touch with friends!)

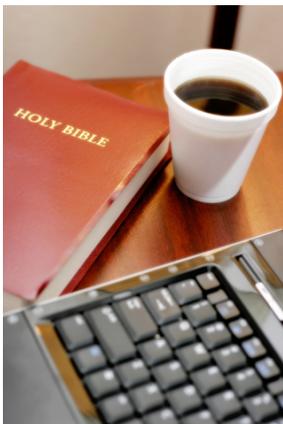
A Little Housekeeping...

Please check your mailing label and be sure that I have your name(s) and address spelled correctly. If there is an error, please email or drop a postcard in the mail to me with the corrected information.

nancydaley@frontiernet.net
 Nancy Daley
 9328 Elk Grove Blvd. #105-141
 Elk Grove, CA 95624



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



As you may remember from previous Days of Grace issues, the Retired Clergy Association now has a dedicated website separate from the Conference website.

One of the benefits of having our own website is that we have the ability to deliver our communication through the website.

The RCA History, past issues of Days of Grace as well as forms and registrations are available as downloadable documents.

IF you would prefer to receive Days of Grace through the website, I ask that you EMAIL me at nancydaley@frontiernet.net and I will notify you via email when each issue is available to download.

The benefits of receiving Days of Grace electronically are:

- It's GREEN! No paper!
- It saves money on printing and postage for the RCA.
- It is viewable in full color.

I do insist that you email me so I can create my notification list with your correct email.

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

Janna Adamson has been busy preaching for vacationing pastors in our area. She recently attended a workshop at Chico Trinity on "Following Christ Under Corporate Rule" led by **Sharon Delgado** and will soon be taking a trip to Idaho with a friend from Willows.

Thom Brackney continues to write his daily devotionals and says he has preached in every church in his cluster. He reports that he has spinostenosis (back problems) for which his Australian physician recommended (in Thom's excellent Down-under imitation accent) "two martinis and a pokey-pokey" which turned out to be a cortisone injection.

Bob and Hazel Buckner's son-in-law had a call to serve a church in Wilmington, Delaware so they will likely be traveling there in the future to visit the family. **Bob** has put his considerable construction skills to use on a VIM trip to Haiti and continues to do Habitat work. **Hazel** still enjoys her gardening activities but admits she is getting slower at it.

Jim Horton at 77 is still teaching psychology, philosophy, and world religions at Shasta College. He has recently moved to a house in a senior community.

Bill Jeffries woke up to find himself on the floor recently with blood streaming down his face. He had fallen out of bed

and landed on his eyebrow. When he couldn't stop the bleeding, he called 911 and went to the hospital where they took care of it and also gave him a CAT scan as a precaution because of fluctuating blood pressure.

Doris Long recently received the sad and unexpected news that one of her daughters who lived in the Seattle area had died.

Arlene McLane hosted our group in May at Aldersgate UMC in Chico. In July she went to Monte Toyon for a CFO retreat and recently traveled to Fremont by Amtrak to attend a granddaughter's wedding where she enjoyed visiting with many family members.

Jim Patterson reports the birth of two grandchildren whose parents live within walking distance of each other in Durham. He also reports that he and **Nancy** both sing in the choir at Aldersgate UMC in Chico and try to stay out of trouble.

Bill Stegall continues to serve on the Shasta County Board of Education and will be board president in December. He is also a board member of Northern Valley Catholic Social Service, shelves books at the Redding library, and makes calls for the Redding church. **Mary** retired from Redding City Council in December 2010. She is now on the cabinet of the Women's Fund, a non-profit to

mobilize women through philanthropy and also on the board of People of Progress, a non-profit community safety net. For fun she has started taking piano lessons again after a 30-year hiatus. Together they have enjoyed taking mini-trips around California and made family trips to Clovis and San Diego to visit grandchildren, the newest one only 8 months old.

Jerry Summers is taking a class in OLLI, the senior program at Chico State, called "Writing Your Slice of Life" and enjoying writing his memories of his early years in Borneo and India. **Georgie** wrote a letter to the editor of the local newspaper about the wealthy not paying their fair share of taxes and as a result got asked to give speeches at 3 different local rallies in August.

Joan Wheeler is off on a trip with family members at this writing. We all mourned the loss of **Bill** from cancer, but **Joan** reported that he went peacefully at home and kept his sense of humor to the end.

Bryan and Glennis Wilber joyfully report the recent birth of a granddaughter in Oak Grove.



SPRING FLING!!!

Save the Date: April 18-19, 2012

Watch your mail for registration materials in January

ABOUT RELATIONAL CARE

Some years ago, the Retired Community of the Cal/Nevada Conference was served by a committee known as the Contact Care Committee. This past year, we gave re-birth to that concept but renamed ourselves the Relational Care Committee since we believe that more is involved in the life of our clergy and spouses than a need to be contacted. We felt that we wanted to be in touch with each and every one of you on a more meaningful level to develop and to foster relationships among all of us so as to connect us more meaningfully to each other as well as to our annual conference and to the United Methodist Church. Many of you have not yet heard about us and our work but we strongly hope that this will change.

Change has also come to our annual conference when the

old districts were eliminated and replaced by fewer districts with new names. That meant that the way we—the RCA—organized our work of reaching out to you would also have to change so we decided that this would be a great opportunity to re-think our method, and we subsequently restructured our pattern by no longer deploying representatives to districts but, instead, to *newly formed clusters*. Each cluster represents a significant population center, and will ideally have a representative to serve those of you living in that area.

Obviously, this means that we will need many more representatives than we currently have working with us. At each meeting, therefore, we will attempt to add more representatives to fill all of the eighteen clusters that cover our conference, and we still

have a great deal farther to go. I am now appealing to each of you to consider whether YOU might be able to serve as a rep, but also whether you can think of others among your friends and acquaintances who would be good at this task. The pay is the best in the world: it is the joy of serving God meaningfully in your retirement, as well as the happiness you will be bringing to many others.

Please do some serious thinking in the next few weeks, and contact either Nancy Daley or me to accept our invitation or to suggest other persons. Thank you for your continuing love and dedication.

Mike Nicolson, Chair,
Relational Care Committee,
RCA
mklsnicolson@yahoo.com

WATCH YOUR MAILBOX!
(THE ONE USED BY THE US POSTAL SERVICE)

**THE BOARD OF PENSIONS WILL BE SENDING
IMPORTANT INFORMATION
IN REGARDS TO YOUR HEALTH CARE COVERAGE AND PLAN!**

SANTA ROSA AREA NEWS

CeLinda and Jim Current, Correspondents

We came out in force to celebrate the completed life of **Claude Friesen** at the Sonoma UMC. We have gone through a patch of serious loss.

Gayle Pickrell and John Davenport were in Hilo from February to May. Gayle was a part-time associate at the UCC Church there during that time.

Bill & Noreen Marx have gone on a cruise to Alaska.

Evelyn Schlager is recovering well from a slight stroke she suffered last year.



Betty Pagett was a member of the RCA VIM trip to New Orleans last November.

Jim and Celinda Current are off on an extended trip to Europe.

Ray Alderman had cataract surgery. His eyes and glasses are in the process of adjustment. His shoulder continues to be a problem, but he gets treatment for it. He says he's just "getting old!" Ray's grandson, Roman, had a marvelous time at a Stanford University leadership conference this summer - sounds like a proud grandfather. Ray is involved at St. Mark's UMC, and appreciates their new pastor.

Ivan and Ruth Ball manage to keep busy. Ruth had hip replacement in August and is back accompanying choruses at school ten hours a week, and playing at the church. Ivan was "chief cook and bottle washer" after Ruth's surgery. Their little farm continues to provide for themselves, and others who enjoy picking their own. The almonds are finished and the peaches are late. Yum, yum.

Dick Bayard finished remodeling his daughter Paula's home in Three Rivers. The next project is a deck in the backyard. This summer he was a "stay at home guy." He did attend a family reunion in June with four generations of Bayards present. The star of the event was a three year old member of the fourth generation. Even though his two great grandchildren were unable to attend, Dick says it was a super special event.

Floyd and Dana Castillo report that their health continues to be good with the exception of Floyd's recent diagnosis of Type 2 diabetes. It is controlled by diet. Their son, David, is the new sponsorship Director for Child Reach. Their other son, Rear Admiral Joe Castillo, is waiting for new orders. Their daughter, Amy, is on the local school board and raising teenage twins. Floyd said they are glad they are past that phase of life!

Alf Christiansen had a family reunion this year, and a very large one is planned for next year. Family is expected from all over the United States, plus Turkey. He was saddened by the death of a good friend in Portland, Oregon. Alf

has slowly regained his health after some time in the hospital. He has completed at least 100 courses at home through the American Teaching Company. He's quite a student!

Cecilia Cluff is doing fine. She is happy that the weather is starting to cool off a bit. There have been a lot of summer fires. Her daughter said there were several grass fires where she lives. Cecilia is proud of her grandson who attends the UN at Reno, and wants to teach. Her granddaughter (of whom she also proud) will study chemistry at UNR. She attends the UMW, and enjoys her new pastor at Wasco UMC.

John and Sylvia Corson went to Dallas in May where John officiated at a wedding for Sylvia's cousin. Upon their return, John had foot surgery which kept him in a wheelchair for three months, missing Annual Conference. Sylvia was a patient caregiver. Thankfully, John is walking again. They are preparing for a 24 day Mediterranean cruise to Spain, Monaco, Italy, Greece, several Greek Islands, Croatia, and Turkey in October

Harry and Anita Dutt are downsizing and moving to a retirement community apartment in Santa Barbara. They take possession on September 26th but do not expect to complete the move right away. They admit it would have been easier to move from full-time RV'ing directly rather than going "back home." Now they have to get rid of "stuff" again! They are looking forward to being closer to their daughter and husband, and two granddaughters.

Mark and Young Moon have been dealing with health issues. A year ago he had major back surgery which took some time to heal. Then, this past April, he had another heart by-pass surgery. After three months of rehab, he finally completed the program in early September. Mark is continuing to diet and exercise, and is slowly regaining his strength. Young has been a wonderful caregiver, and they are thankful for God's goodness.

Don and Donita Roulsten are new retirees in Porterville. We welcome them to RCA and hope they will be active in our fellowship activities. They traveled for a couple of weeks in early July. Then, on August 1, Don began a part-time ministry at Visalia UMC working with seniors. His job title is Senior Adult Pastor (SAP). Don explained that “the life blood of the tree is the sap, and so are the seniors in the church.”

Bob and Nancy Schwartz have not traveled recently. Bob had a knee replacement in July, and recovered well. Afterwards, he collapsed due to low potassium and blood pressure. His knee buckled, and was hospitalized. His “meds” were changed, had more knee therapy, and his knee is working again! Nancy was an able nurse. Now, she faces another foot surgery, and hopes it will not be as severe as the first. Meanwhile, the suitcases are on hold.

Alpha and Mary Takagi are on their way to their 67th anniversary in December. They are doing O.K. As Mary says, “we are carrying on.” There have no major health concerns, and their families are doing well. They appreciate having some family near by. They are grateful to live in a more moderate climate. Alpha enjoys his garden, even though his tomatoes are slower this year!

Sharon Watson is “on the go.” At the end of October, Sharon and her daughter, Candice, are going on a cruise to the Mediterranean. They will visit Monaco, Italy, Sicily, several Greek Islands, and Croatia. Next May, she plans a river boat cruise with her son, Joel. Among the cities they will visit are Vienna, Budapest, and Prague. Quite the gad-a-bout! Sharon continues her artistic skills with miniature scenes from Harry Potter.

Harry and Ruth Wood are doing well. They had a good summer. One of their summer highlights was hosting dinner in their Visalia home for Doug and Ellie Norris, and, Bob and Nancy Schwartz. They are long time friends and fellow RCA'ers. Their granddaughters from Taiwan came for a visit which was an absolute delight! Harry says

he preaches every chance he gets.

John and Eva Fugitt celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary July 24th – a month late. Eva had returned from France on June 23. She studied “Sacred Healing” at the Chartres Cathedral for a week with a group of twelve women. She is an active Healing Touch and Reike practitioner with a group of women in Ashland. John and Eva continue to be an active part of the local Methodist church and in the Mountain Meadows Retirement Community.

Lin and Nanci Goodyear write that they are headed to Fort Stevens on Labor Day weekend for their church family camp where Lin will be the camp Bible teacher. If the weather holds they may go up to British Columbia later on in the month. Lin has fulfilled one of his retirement goals: to write a murder mystery. He has written *Murder on the Enchanted Hill* (Hearst Castle), available at Amazon Kindle for \$2.99 and downloadable to any PC. He writes to us: “I have sold about 50 copies, not exactly a best seller yet, but I have gotten good reviews. I am now working on a second mystery that takes places in Yosemite called *Murder at the Ahwahnee Lodge*.” Their grandson, Jacob, lived with them last Spring, attending Pacific University in Forest Grove where he is majoring in theater/drama and wants to teach in High School. He has just recently moved into the dorm for this year.

Bert and Linda Schniepp had a wonderful 3 month RV trip to the East Coast last fall highlighted by the fall colors in New England, a visit to Charleston, SC, a chance to become reacquainted with relatives now retired to Florida, and home by Thanksgiving. They have continued to enjoy shorter RV trips with the RV club in their development. Bert has had opportunities for preaching occasionally in Florence and in Coos Bay, continues to teach the adult Sunday School class at Florence UMC, and occasionally covers pastoral care while the pastor is on vacation. He also has earned his initial ham radio license and is part of the emergency communication team for their development.

NORTH FRESNO DISTRICT NEWS

Bill Sanford, Correspondent

Norma Florendo (Atwater) reports that she and her first-born daughter had a memorable vacation this past August 9-17. They spent four days seeing Seattle's highlights, proceeded to Vancouver and then to Victoria. There are two significant events that I'll cherish: Afternoon Tea at the Empress Hotel, and a visit to famed Butchart Gardens. I learned the gardens cover more than 55 acres and were designated a National Historic Site of Canada in 2004.



I thank God for the privilege of traveling and seeing other places. Throughout the trip, I saw God's amazing handiwork. His "embroidery of the earth" is breathtaking and awesome.

Kim Leslie (Clovis): Kim is in his ninth year of teaching at Clovis East High School--senior English and Bible as Literature, coaching Academic Decathlon, and advising the Interfaith club.

Denice is in her second year appointed to Hughson UMC, (a great church, though 100 miles from Clovis) where she and her brother, with some hospice help, also care for her mother, who has Alzheimer's and macular degeneration.

Daughter Moira Harada and husband Adam have moved in with Kim as Adam serves an unpaid internship in school psychology in Clovis Unified, and Moira is very grateful to have a new position teaching English at Clovis North High School.

Daughter Rena Love Al Arabi, (originally Ong Vue from Oroville), is a cosmetologist in Palo Alto, married to Ahmed, and expecting the Leslie's first grandchild in late September.

From Gramma Denice: Our expected grandchild's name is Intesaar Abigail Shoua Al Arabi. Her name reflects her Palestinian, European, Hmong and Arabic heritage. But her mom tells me we will call her Abby.

Bill & Jeanne Sanford (Atwater): Bill says he will exercise great restraint and mention only (a) surviving the 1,396 tight turns driving into Mineral King and back, (b) relishing the outstanding performance of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* in Modesto, (c) feeling relieved to finally finish his long article on how 15 Sierra passes got their names, and (d) finding pleasure in the publication of 12 photos of Yosemite's waterfalls in

the *Merced County Times*. Jeanne, with others in the Merced church, is completing a guided prayer and meditation CD. J & B together are rejoicing in the return to California (Fresno) of their daughter Laura after 13 years in Texas

Larry & Alice Morley (Fresno): We're calling it our year of illness. In August of 2010 Alice went into surgery for a blocked bowel. In August of 2011 she had an aortic stenosis in which a heart valve was replaced with a pig valve. She is breathing easier now, but is still a rehabilitation outpatient.

Larry is busy being a driver, caretaker of cat (Calico), Alice, house, yard plus the usual activities of facilitating classes at Wesley UMC, even preached during August, spoke at Teacher Appreciation, taught Vacation Bible School, served as church receptionist twice a week. Maybe all of this accounts for his loss of a few pounds. He has lost the ability to hear out of his left ear, and had cancer removed from his left hand. Other than that, things have been pretty normal at the Morley household.

ECUMENICAL RETIRED CLERGY/SPOUSE RETREAT

SAN DAMIANO RETREAT CENTER, DANVILLE, CALIFORNIA – January 17-18, 2012

BEN DANIEL

NEIGHBOR: CHRISTIAN ENCOUNTERS WITH ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

Ben Daniel is a progressive moonlights as a provider of left- and political commentary. Pastor of San Jose, his first book, *Neighbor: Immigration* was released in Knox Press and a second book on and Islam is currently in the works. variety of print, broadcast and online Huffington *Post*, and is a regular the *Perspective* Program on KQED largest NPR affiliate. For our some of the important issues raised *Encounter with “Illegal”* our own understanding of how strangers in our midst, and how to move from seeing them as strangers to knowing them as friends.



Presbyterian minister who leaning, spiritually-grounded, social Foothill Presbyterian Church in East *Christian Encounters with “Illegal”* August, 2010 by Westminster John the relationship between Christianity His writing has appeared in a wide media. Ben writes column for the participant in FM San Francisco, the nation’s retreat, he will be exploring with us in his book, *Neighbor: Christian Immigration*. We will reflect upon scripture calls us to relate to the

Music & Worship by David Vallelunga

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 17-18, 2012 *(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 4, 2012. January 5 and later include an additional \$10 fee

Please register early! No refunds after January 5 unless another person can take your place.

Early Bird: Double Occupancy: \$109 *(per person)* Single Occupancy: \$121
Commuter (no room) \$57 *(per person)* All meals 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

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

See website for updates

October 21, 2011

Is-Beens (Fados)

November 9, 2011

Santa Rosa Area Gathering

December 9, 2011

Is-Beens (Wright/Dahl)

January 17-18, 2012

Ecumenical Retreat

January 15, 2012

Is-Beens (Catteralls)

February 15, 2012

Full Board Meeting