

Days of Grace

"The longer I live the more beautiful life becomes. If you foolishly ignore beauty, you will soon find yourself without it. Your life will be impoverished. But if you invest in beauty, it will remain with you all the days of your life."

- Frank Lloyd Wright

Website Revisited

Yes! We have a website for the RCA! It was launched a couple of years ago and had remained unchanged in any substantial way until....NOW! We have upgraded to allow for more functionality now and in the future.

The biggest change you will experience is that some of the pages on the website require registration. This is to protect more sensitive information from those who might just wander into our website. At this time, this includes contact information (names, phone numbers, addresses), Days of Grace downloading (because that has personal information too) and Prayer Requests.

Registration is a simple process. Simply fill out the form and watch your email. I have to approve each person so I implore you to use your ACTUAL name as your User Name. You will be sent a password to get you into those pages. PLEASE SAVE THIS EMAIL. I *do not* have a record of the password. It is auto-generated and you are the only one with the information.

Once I approve your registration, you will get another email letting you know. Please give me 2 business days. If you haven't gotten your "you are in" email in that time, please send me an email directly. I am supposed to get an email alert, but sometimes cyberspace goes wonky.

Please check the website regularly. We are hoping to add video and articles from various RCA members. In the future, we may have guest 'bloggers' as well.

This is YOUR website. If you have content or feature suggestions, please drop me an email or give me a call. I am open to both suggestions and content!

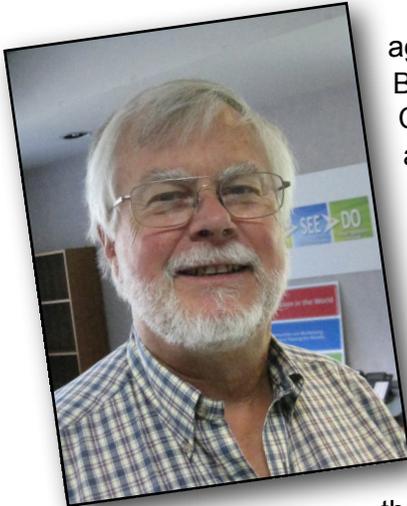
The website can be found at:

<http://ca-nv-rca.org/>

Please bookmark and visit!

PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

Colleagues and Friends,



“Why did you agree to serve on the Board of the Retired Clergy Association and what do you feel is the best thing about RCA ?” That is the question that I asked the members of the Executive Committee when we met in August .

My answer is that I believe that RCA is an organization that is committed to supporting, linking and caring for all of us who have ministered as clergy and clergy spouses in this Annual Conference. We have given our lives to God and to Christ’s church, and our commitment to the Creator does not end just because we retire from a “paid job” serving a congregation or ministry. It may seem to some that retirement separates them from church, congregation, friends and opportunities to respond to Christ’s life call. The Retired Clergy Association seeks to connect all those who have retired, maintaining relationships, reaching out to those who may have special needs or concerns, and advocating on behalf of all retirees and spouses. That is why I agreed to serve, even though my home is beyond the borders of our Annual Conference.

When you think of RCA, you may consider our mission being: luncheon and lounge at Annual Conference; involvement in the Memorial service; recognition of new retirees; Spring Fling Retreat; support of the ecumenical retired clergy retreat; RCAVIM work team to New Orleans; seminary scholarships; and “Days of Grace” newsletter. However, throughout the year,

Board members and volunteers reach out to retirees, offering friendly contact and support under the leadership of the Relational Care Committee. You are represented on the Board of Pensions as we advocate for the needs of retirees. Planning for the Annual Conference Session includes representation from RCA in order that all of our needs are accommodated as we participate as members of the Conference. The Board is seeking to find ways to include retirees in the ongoing ministries of local churches, circuits, and districts. We continue to ask: “How can we retirees support one another and the church to which we have dedicated our lives.

What do you value about RCA? What could we do that we have not done, or what can we do better? Are you aware of needs – either individual or group – that should be addressed? I invite you to share your response with me or any of the RCA Board members. I encourage you to be an active RCA member by doing what you can to meet needs where you are ... reach out to other retirees near you; invite other retirees in your area to gather for a meal; offer your assistance or counsel when you know of someone’s need; call or send a note to a retired colleague; include other retirees in your prayers.

You are the Retired Clergy Association. I hope that you will support one another as retired clergy and spouses, and, if you can, contribute toward the ongoing work of RCA through being involved in our activities and financially supporting your organization.

On His hook,

Doug McCoy

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

It was wonderful to see all who were able to attend Annual Conference! We will be gathering again in Sacramento in 2013 but note that in **2014**, we will be gathering in Burlingame at the Hyatt Regency as voted by the Annual Conference several years ago.

We are quickly approaching the Advent/Christmas season. I would like to encourage you to reach out to other RCA members in your area at this time of year and organize a gathering. This can be done in your home or in your local church. I have had the privilege of visiting several conference churches for lunch over the years! They are all potluck so no one needs to spend hours cooking. I am happy to provide a list of those in your area and join with you. I'll even bring cookies!

I would like to bring your attention to the work of the Board of Pensions. You will be getting your health care bills for 2013 soon. The Board of Pensions has been able to hold your premium increases to amazingly low levels this year. Initially, our providers were requesting very high increases. But through a variety of circumstances and work by Paul Extrum-Fernandez, increases are significantly lower.

One of the pieces, as it were, for the lower increases, is the wellness program. If you have not yet signed up for the Virgin Health Miles program, I encourage you to do so. Just having a pedometer on your person every day makes an incredible difference in how you view daily health decisions. I have one and it

is a constant nag reminder to make better choices. I have heard of great, positive changes in health due to constant attention to exercise and thus, diet. More information is in this issue of Days of Grace and on the RCA website.



Speaking of the RCA website.... The website has been undergoing some changes this summer. The RCA Board has decided to keep some of the more 'personal' information behind a privacy wall. In order to access this section, you will need to register as a member. The simple explanation is that all RCA members will be members, but I just have to flip the switch to allow access to sections like the Prayer Requests.

The website can be found at <http://ca-nv-rca.org> I encourage you to check the website regularly as we add new features and information.

Peace,

Nancy

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 address.

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

<http://www.ca-nv-rca.org>

CONTACT INFORMATION PLEASE NOTE

Please make a note of the contact information for the RCA.

Executive Director:

Nancy Daley

916-539-4249

nancydaley@frontiernet.net

Website:

<http://ca-nv-rca.org/>

John Sublett and Nadine DeWitt



Are pleased to announce their marriage

On October 7, 2012

They are at home at

4840 Ravello Drive

Sparks, NV 89436

A PERSONAL OPINION

THERE ARE OPTIONS FOR HEALTH CARE

The cost of health care insurance continues to rise. While retiree health insurance cost in our Conference is anticipated remain nearly the same in 2013, last year's health care premium paid by retirees increased by as much as 92.3% (for Blue Shield PPO). There are other options!

First, a word of grateful appreciation to the Conference Board of Pensions which has responsibly cared for our health insurance needs throughout our years of ministry. The staff and members of the Board of Pensions are charged with providing the best possible health insurance for active and retired clergy. When we were active clergy, we needed to be a part of a group to receive the lowest cost health insurance available in the area to which we were appointed. This meant that some alternatives were not available to some of us because we did not live in a major service area, and therefore our church and/or we had to pay more than colleagues appointed to other areas. The Board of Pensions recognized our needs and sought to treat us all fairly within the constraints imposed by insurance providers.

However, once we retired and began receiving Medicare (for which we also pay) we became part of a very very large group and 80% of most of our medical costs are covered through Medicare. Retiree insurance coverage augments Medicare and covers other health needs. Last year, I discovered that my wife and I were eligible to obtain supplemental health care insurance from a local provider (in Southern Oregon) which was equal to that offered through the CNUMC Board of Pensions at a far lower cost, without any financial supplement from the Board of Pensions or Annual Conference.

Do you get those Fall ads or invitations from health maintenance organizations, insurance companies or other organizations which offer free information about insurance to cover the costs that Medicare does not? Do you see ads on television for supplemental health insurance? I encourage you to consider attending those seminars or writing for the materials, because you, too, may find that there are other options which could provide all the insurance you need for much less than you now pay.

There is Medigap insurance nationwide which many companies offer and the coverage is the same for all [though cost can vary by age and location]. There may be health maintenance organizations and/or regional Medicare plans in your region for which you may qualify, some which offer virtually the same coverage you now have. Talk with your own insurance provider or a local agent about what may be possible. Compare coverage. Examine your own health needs and any preexisting conditions which may make you ineligible for certain insurance products.

Now is the time to look into possible alternatives before the enrollment deadline (December 7).

[I am not an insurance agent, broker, or expert, and I do not know what might be available where you live. I just know that there are other alternatives and it is wise to consider what may be best for you, your health and your budget.]

--Doug McCoy



virgin HEALTH MILES BLUE SHIELD WELLNESS PROGRAM

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Blue Shield Wellness program. If you completed the biometric test, wellness exam and online assessment, you'll be receiving a \$75 gift card this fall. Even though the deadline has passed for this year's gift card, you can start preparing for next year! Also, you can still enroll in our Virgin Health Miles walking program at

<http://www.virginhealthmiles.com/cnumc>.

Opportunities to Assist Others

The RCA has two major funds that we have established to assist others. The first is our Memorial Scholarship program to assist seminary students with their expenses. The second is our Health Care Assistance Program. In the face of increasing health care insurance premiums, some are experiencing difficulties making these escalating payments. If you are in the position to help either group, please send your contribution to our treasurer with a note indicating how to direct your donation. Together we can help those in need.

Make your check payable to: RCA

Send to: Dick Ernst
7930 Crystal Springs Way
Loomis, CA 95650



CENTRAL VALLEY - SOUTH

Sylvia Corson

Ray Alderman continues to suffer from extensive arthritis. He gets some relief by using patches for pain. His eye glasses, which gave him problems, are doing fine now. He and his son, Mark, were unable to make their annual trip to Texas this year. Ray said that his church, St. Mark's UMC, is holding its own. They appreciate the pastor who commutes from Visalia to serve them each Sunday.

David and Sherry Atkins had a great summer. They took their five grandchildren on a ten day trip to Oregon for the "Seventh Annual Grandma's Camp." They had an exposure to art in various forms. David's sister is a potter and sculptor, who has many art connections. They celebrated David's mother's 99 birthday, too. Sherry just had a knee replacement, and looks forward to being pain free again!

Ivan and Ruth Ball are doing well. Ivan continues to study. He recently read *Grand Design* by Hawking. Bursitis has slowed him down, so he is traveling less. Ruth recently went to Alaska with their son, who is a lecturer on cruise ships. She continues to accompany choral groups at Porterville College and the middle school, and is the organist at the Congregational Church. Her weeks are full.

Dick Bayard had a stay-at-home summer with no trips taken. He spent the time at home doing remodeling projects. He helped

prepare his daughter's house for renting, as she now lives with him in Visalia. This required some improvement on his own home, including a bathroom remodel. Next, he will paint the outside, refinish the deck, and do some roof repair. Whew!

Alf Christiansen enjoyed a family reunion at his place in July. There was a Bar-B-Que with others doing the cooking! It was a wonderful time of sharing. His son from Hawaii, with his wife and two children, spent several days. Alf was waited on "hand and foot." His daughter wants to publish Alf's poetry written over the years. The Lutheran Church he serves is very thankful for his ministry.

Cecilia Cluff is remembered by many of us in RCA. She was the surviving spouse of Larry and died this past March. A lovely woman!

John and Sylvia Corson celebrated her 75th birthday with a festive family dinner, and the announcement of the *Sylvia Bradbury Endowed Scholarship* at California State University, Bakersfield. Family and friends created this in honor of Sylvia's career in social service and family therapy. Their 55th anniversary in August was spent in Carmel. John is doing well again after some health issues. In January, they plan to travel to Southeast Asia.

Harry and Anita Dutt are enjoying their new home (called a *casitas*) in Santa Barbara. They attend a current event session each weekday. Other activities include a water walking class, concerts, movies, and special events at their complex. Harry and Anita attend two UMC

churches, and volunteer to prepare meals for those in need. They have decided to sell their RV which provided many happy memories.

Mark and Young Moon report they are well. They are excited that Young's youngest brother and wife will visit from Seoul, Korea in September for a month. They will celebrate the brother's 70th birthday at a family gathering during his stay. Mark's health seems to be fine again, and he continues his diet and exercise. Mark enjoys his work at Christ UMC in Santa Maria.

Don and Donita Roulsten have an active retirement. Don serves as part time pastor with senior adults at Visalia UMC. Donita accompanies the Sierra Vocal Arts Community Choir, and Don sings with the group, which is raising money for a European trip in June. They are excited about their upcoming 40th anniversary, and a trip to the East Coast. Their itinerary includes a visit to Niagara Falls.

Bob and Nancy Schwartz celebrated their 5th and 10th anniversaries in Tahiti, and decided to return for their 45th in August. This time they took a "Paul Gauguin" luxury cruise through the Tahitian Islands. They had incredible scenic views as they cruised. They say, "our eating was totally undisciplined." They are looking forward to hosting Bob's nephew and family from Australia.

Alpha and Mary Takagi have moved to San Luis Obispo. They live in a home that offers them the extra care they need. Alpha will be 94 in November and Mary also turns 94 a short time later.

CENTRAL VALLEY - SOUTH

continued

Alpha misses his lovely vegetable garden. They appreciate Mark Moon's faithful visits to check in with them.

Sharon Watson's son, Johnathan, is home from the Navy in Japan. He has a job lined up in Washington state. In May, Sharon and her son, Joel, took a Viking River Cruise to Budapest, Vienna, and Prague. They were guests at a special castle tour, including dinner and a concert. Sharon is planning a trip with

son, Jonathan, to France and England. She is also working on a new house for her collection.

Harry and Ruth Wood shared great joy and excitement in July as they celebrated their 50th anniversary. Ruth was hospitalized with a health issue prior to the event, but was determined to be present. She was! With much gratitude, she enjoyed the celebration, and the presence of their son, who came from Taiwan. Recently, Harry was in Miami for a few days "baby-sitting" their daughter's two girls while the parents were on a trip. (Yeah, Harry!)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Albert Schniepp

John and Eva Fugitt just returned from a 50th church celebration at Trinity UMC, Sunnyvale. It was a weekend of joyful celebration. Five other former pastors were also there. Trinity is a church that reaches out to the community and has paid its apportionments in full every year for those fifty years is a vital witness to its spiritual commitment.

John continues to write poetry and make banners for new residents at Mt. Meadows. He recently chaired a program on Islam for the residents. He also is president of an active Methodist Men's group.

Eva received here Masters in Reiki and is active with a group of volunteers giving Reiki and Healing Touch treatments at the Ashland Sr. Center. She is Liturgist this month at Ashland UMC, keeps busy with PEO and two book groups and Course In Miracles.

From **Alfred and Dorothy Dale**: Al had a mini stroke on Sept 2. He is in rehab and recovery looks good. He and Dotty are lucky to have all in their far flung family come throughout the year to visit them in their loved cabin in the forest.

Elizabeth and Montee Kennedy are celebrating the marriage of their son Geoffrey

Kennedy to Kristin Melanson on September 1, and write that they would be pleased for others to celebrate that joyful occasion with them.

Lin and Nancy Goodyear have been busy recently. Lin has just released his second book in the Sam Gates murder mystery trilogy, *Murder at the Ahwahnee Lodge*. It is available both as an e-book and in soft cover at amazon.com or through his publisher mcavepublishing.com. He writes "Nancy has been in Sacramento helping to care for her sister, as she recuperates from major surgery. While she has been gone, I have been camping over at Fort Stevens doing research for my third mystery...*Murder at Fort Stevens*."

Albert and Linda Schniepp have been enjoying some trips in their RV. They spend most of April exploring western Washington state, and made several short trips with their local RV club to nearby areas of western Oregon.

Bert has been able to cover pastoral care in the Florence UMC at times while their pastor has been out of town, preach once, and lead an adult Bible Study on Sunday mornings. He has also been active in the UM Men's group and in a local ham radio club.

Linda has remained active in the UM Women, on the staff-parish committee, and recently has joined a PEO chapter.

FRESNO NORTH

Bill Sanford

Thom & Debbie Abrahamson are using their RV to tour the U.S. On Sept. 9 they were at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. Among other things, they had plans to visit their son in Georgia and be back in Lemoore for Thanksgiving.

Don & Judy Burkhart (Fresno) write: We were privileged to get to be with our son, Don, and family from Sonora in July. The four-day trip included three nights at a beautiful resort in Newport Beach and a full day visiting the fabulous Universal Studios Amusement Park. The rides and 3-D theaters and futuristic shows, plus the tram ride through the actual sights where films are made, were something else: experiencing huge monsters picking up the tram and dropping it, plus life-like earthquakes and flash floods. The worst part was the L.A. bumper-to-bumper traffic. We decided, "We'll never go back there in this lifetime!"

Mas & Hope Kawashima (Fresno) check-in with this update: During the month of July, we flew round trip to Orlando, Florida, to visit our daughter and family. Our son-in-law and daughter drove us, along with their two grandkids to Tampa Bay, Atlanta, and Nashville where we all attended the Gospel Music Association's Immerse Conference in Rockettown. We enjoyed nightly concerts of contemporary Christian artists including Michael W. Smith, and were invited to sing in his concert choir to be held at Carnegie Hall

in New York City next year. We have been busy practicing on the string bass, violin, piano and organ besides singing for church and special events. We also practice golf, and participated in two tournaments, winning first place in a small one with our golf team. Thanks to the Health Miles program and to the Grace of God we are able to keep busy with our grandkids and church activities.

Gussie Kidd (Mariposa) plans to travel to Union College in Barbourville, KY where she will receive an Alumni Distinguished Service Award on Oct. 27. Her brother and his wife will accompany her.

Vic McLane (Fresno) got home Aug. 10th from a two-week trip to the Holy Land organized by his daughter who lives in Brazil. The group numbered about 25 and they spent a week based at the Baha'i World Headquarters in Haifa, Israel.

Floyd & Donna Quenzer concluded a week of vacation in Princeville, Kauai, on Thursday, Sept. 13. They shared the time and place with Jim & Terry Scott. See below. Floyd says he is enjoying serving as pastor of the Caruthers UMC.

Jeanne & Bill Sanford (Atwater): Jeanne got far deeper into nursing than she ever anticipated, caring for Bill following two major neck/spinal cord surgeries at Stanford. She has had her own health challenges coping with sleep apnea and the removal of cataracts from both eyes. Through everything our three daughters have been wonderfully supportive, caring and helpful. Bill was pleased by

the publication of his article celebrating the life of Michael O'Shaughnessy, who was hired by San Francisco on Sept. 1, 1912, to take charge of the vast Hetch Hetchy Project. Mike died 16 days before the dedication of O'Shaughnessy Dam, having given the last 20 years of his life to the colossal undertaking.

Jim & Terry Scott (Clovis) recently spent a delightful week on 'the Garden Isle,' a week shared with the Quenzers. See above.

Bill & Carole Sparkman (Selma): Carole says Bill is having a very difficult time with what has been diagnosed as Post-polio Syndrome.

Wilma Weber (Fresno) files this report: "Leaving for Rome on September 11th, I am back to volunteering with Educational Opportunities again. Serving as Hospitality Staff and Bus Captain I'll be on four back-to-back "Faith Based Cruises" around the Mediterranean, plus a week in Rome and another in Jerusalem with groups. The first cruise will be on Royal Caribbean's Mariner of the Seas which accommodates over 3,000 passengers. E.O. will have 640 of that total – 16 buses - with day excursions into Egypt, Israel, Turkey, and Greece. Plan to be home for Christmas.

On January 8, 2013, I will return to the Holy Land for two months, staying half of the time in Bethlehem with groups who will be enjoying new itineraries and hotels. In-between these two adventures as well as on my return in March, I will continue with my volunteering at St. Agnes Hospital here in Fresno as Protestant Pastoral Visitor, a

once a week responsibility which I enjoy so very much.

Fortunately, my two children and my five adult grandchildren all support my 'keeping busy,' seeing that it is so physically and mentally healthy for me."

Norma Florendo (Atwater) reports: I am deeply grateful to Almighty God for keeping me under his care while recovering from a pacemaker implant procedure last August 2, 2012. I am also thankful for the prayers and care from my family, relatives, and church friends. Two recent special events. One was Aug. 12th, a lovely celebration of my 70th birthday at the Atwater UMC. Two was Sept. 15 when I spoke at a Filipino Festive Day featuring Filipino Culture and Values hosted by the Meadow Vista, Colfax and Dutch Flat UMCs.

INLAND SHASTA

Georgie Summers

JANNA ADAMSON and her husband are still looking for a place to retire. In the meantime she does supply pastoring which she says is like being a grandparent. She gets to enjoy the people and then leave without any responsibility. She is still very much involved in her Willows community and county in getting a \$35,000 grant from Beulah Home to do a Senior Housing Needs Survey for Glenn County. That money has already been sent, but the county is still waiting for the grant money they have applied for from the government. This will be a pilot program to help keep seniors in their home

community near family and friends when the time comes for a move to a retirement residence. She commented that some people have already had to move to Chico.

BILL JEFFRIES announced that he has retired from three secretary jobs in three Masonic lodges because of his lack of computer literacy, and he has decided not to preach any more because his voice is no longer strong enough. He has now become a mentor for **JOHN MCCORKELL** to help him in his Masonic responsibilities.

ARLEEN MCLANE is adjusting to living alone again because her companion for the last few years got married and moved to England. Her son, who lives next door, looks in on her frequently. She recommends a security system which she wears that has buttons for Police, Fire, and Health Emergency.

NEAL & FRAN NEUENBURG could not attend this gathering but are enjoying retirement very much. Neal says he likes having no alarm clocks and no evening meetings. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Hawaii.

JIM AND NANCY PATTERSON also were unable to attend this meeting, but they had a previously unreported story to relate. For a number of years Jim has been in charge of the Community Christmas Tree lighting in Durham. During this time the baby Jesus has been stolen from the creche scene four times. So this last Christmas baby Jesus was attached to an alarm system and a surveillance

camera. We can only hope that Mary didn't object.

JERRY AND GEORGIE SUMMERS have enjoyed taking a class through Chico State's senior program entitled "America's Wars". As a PBS documentary it gave fascinating information on both the French and Indian and the Revolutionary Wars using letters, diaries, and journals written at the time and spoken by actors along with commentaries by various historians. The class finished with the unnecessary War of 1812, and the Summers hope it will continue next year.

DARRELL THOMAS was asked to preach at the Willows UMC a while back, and while he was holding the congregation enthralled with his sermon he didn't notice that some disruptive activity was going on right down on the front row. It seems a parishioner had collapsed, 911 was called, and when the emergency crew arrived, it was announced that the sermon and the church service had been cancelled. Perhaps some time in the future he will be called back to finish the sermon.

KAREN WATSON, pastor of the Colusa UMC, joined the group for lunch at the invitation of Joan and said she will be retiring in another year and is looking forward to being part of our group officially.

JOAN WHEELER has been traveling all over the place. She drove to Washington State to visit her brother and sister-in-law, flew to New York for a cruise up the east coast, and then last October went with the RCA to New Orleans on a VIM trip. In between she has been going to

grandchildren's graduations and sports events and also babysitting a very active 5-year-old in Fresno. Stay tuned for her next traveling experience in June on a Rhine River cruise.

BRYAN WILBER is experiencing eye problems. He has already lost the sight in one eye, but his good eye suddenly went blurry on him as well. His ophthalmologist

says it's related to his diabetes which caused a stroke in his good eye. He visited the Retinal Institute and was told that laser surgery would do no good and that he is now legally blind. The Low Vision Clinic has fitted him with glasses that enable him to see the TV and do some computer work with the help of a magnifying glass. He has an appointment with another retinal consultant for a second

opinion in mid September. **GLENNIS** has enjoyed accompanying the high school choir in Willows two days a week this year and was also asked to accompany the community sing at Christmas on a 100-year-old pump organ, pumped by two teenagers.

SACRAMENTO "IS-BEENS"

Sue Angove

JOHN and LOIS ALBRIGHT hosted us again in July for the annual Ice Cream Social. The homemade ice cream was superb, the balmy evening pleasant, and their hospitality gracious as always for those who turned out for a GOOD TIME!

JERRY and SUE ANGOVE enjoyed 14 month old granddaughter Gabrielle Marie's first birthday with her, family, and many of her mother's friends at Lake Winnepesaukee, New Hampshire where maternal grandparents have a summer home. They returned home so Jerry could have his second knee replacement surgery. His rehab is going very well, no pain – just some occasional stiffness in the knee. How blessed we feel.

LINDA BUTLER had a wonderful time in Italy during an April trip hosted by Don and Jean Fado.

NORMAN and ARDITH CALLAWAY spent the month of May traveling to their granddaughters' college graduations from Syracuse University, Fresno State and Multnomah University in Portland. Three grandsons are in various undergraduate classes. The oldest two granddaughters received graduate degrees from the University of Delaware and Fresno Pacific University. What an educationally rich family!

JIM and JANE CORSON are thankful Jim is stable and feeling fine. They celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary September 6th sharing a special dinner together. They and their whole family are looking forward to attending the upcoming wedding of their oldest grandchild(grandson) to his long time beau on September 29th.

DICK and BARBARA ERNST are part of the Reconciling Ministry Team at First UMC, Loomis and serve on the Board of Directors of PFLAG (parents, families, and friends of Lesbians and Gays) in Placer County. Barbara continues to enjoy her work as a Spiritual Director and Group Spiritual Director Supervisor seeing clients in Berkeley, Loomis, and at the Mercy Center in Auburn. Dick is in his third year as RCA Treasurer and Board Member. They are looking forward to a three week trip to Italy in October which will include an eleven day Celebrity Mediterranean cruise.

DON and JEAN FADO welcomed their first great grandchild, James Logan Halloran on July 24, 2012. They have already visited him in Phoenix where he lives with mommy and daddy. Don continues involvement in homeless ministries, serving on the Board of Directors at Loaves and Fishes, the major ministry to our homeless in Sacramento County.

LARRY and LYNN GEORGE enjoyed some vacation time this summer with their grandchildren at the Ringlake Ranch and Ecumenical Center in Dubois, WY. This year's

program included a minister-geologist sharing information about creation and geology. 10 year old grandson, Calvin especially enjoyed the experience as he is fascinated with rocks and stones. All had a good time!

GARY and DEB GRUNDMAN enjoyed a cross country trip from PA to CA with their young grandsons this summer. Highlights were swimming pools, windmills in Minnesota, bison in Yellowstone, lots of fun and games! The boys and their dad, Andy are relocating to the Fremont area this fall, making a fresh start in a new place. Two hours away is a much better arrangement for Grandma and Grandpa! Gary and Deb are grateful as they see God's hands in guiding this family.

ED and EVA HERSCHBACH-MARTIN visited their great grandchildren. They celebrated Eva's 75th birthday at Elk on the Mendocino Coast, visited Eva's brother in Felton, CA, and drove through Tioga Pass in Yosemite on their way to visit their daughter in Bakersfield. To avoid the summer heat, Ed and Eva enjoyed a camping trip in Truckee.

MARY McCOLLUM is healthy, well, and doing many things. Her most recent avocation is watercolor painting which she absolutely LOVES! She plans soon to visit Hope Valley, 7000 feet above sea level to paint the aspens there. Next year she wants to travel to Scotland for her 80th birthday to do what? Paint, of course!

FRANKLIN "SCOTTIE" SCOTT was memorialized as a remarkable mentor to many of our conference pastors, caring so marvelously for each and every pastor and spouse on the Fresno District while serving as District Superintendent there, and having a caring and

compassionate concern and love for all he came in contact with during his 65 years of ministry. The service at Lincoln UMC September 1st marvelously emphasized all this shared through the words of family, colleagues, and former parishioners. Wife ALTA greeted many of us as we entered the church. Many spoke lovingly of her traveling the journey with "Scottie" to New York, England, Auburn and Lincoln for 27 years.

CARL THOMAS is feeling well having no further pain from sciatica. He is looking forward to being part of the retired clergy VIM team going to New Orleans once again in late October to rehab Hurricane Katrina ravaged homes.

MARK and ANNE VALE returned March 1st to live in California after spending some retirement years in FLA and Ohio. They are catching up with old friends. They have traveled to San Diego where Mark performed the wedding for a former church parishioner and husband, both in the Navy. He also will perform the wedding for the bride's brother and his fiancée in October. Good to have you two back!

SARGE WRIGHT is enjoying his new "digs" at Crosswood Oaks Retirement Center in Citrus Heights starting January 1st. Now there are no meals to cook, housework to do, or house repairs to make – THANK HEAVENS! Despite some walking difficulties, he remains active in community and church groups. He celebrated his 92nd birthday September 1st. His "present" was taking a glider flight in Williams, CA with a Rotarian friend for excitement! Sarge can be reached at Crosswood Oaks, 6650 Crosswood Circle, Citrus Heights, CA 95621, home phone (916) 729-7079 and cell phone (916) 300-7448.



OUT OF CONFERENCE

Kathleen Kaplan

Phyllis Byrd

Although I am retired from full-time faculty status at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, I am still a Senior Scholar there. Last Spring I taught for three months at The United Theological College in Bangalore, South India, my first visit to the subcontinent.

I have a lovely condo in a 1924 six-flat three blocks from Lake Michigan (where I've lived since '96), and enjoy walking along the lake several times a week (alternating with workouts at the city's senior center). While I love Evanston, I miss the mountains, and try to plan a hiking trip in the Sierra (or Rockies) every summer I'm in the States. I'm training now for a (Sierra Club) base-camp trip at Humphrey's Basin, hoping I can make it over Paiute Pass (with a 2,200' foot ascent) on the first day. But since it's not a backpacking trip, there's no load to carry and I can spend time resting and botanizing around Golden Trout Lake on days I'm not up to hiking. We have good hiking trails here in the Forest Preserves that stretch for miles along the the rivers East of the city.

FUMC is a large church near Northwestern U, with a superb adult education program, where I offer some 4-6 week classes, but mostly participate in others on a wide range of topics. I also preside once a month at the eucharist that follows the main worship service on Sundays when communion is not celebrated there.

My main contribution has been in starting an Earth Care group, which I chaired for the

first 3 years and on which I have expended a substantial amount of time. At my initiative we got the church to begin recycling (and have worked ever since to educate the congregation to use the recycling bins and to separate recyclables from trash; initiated the use of ceramic mugs (donated by church members) for coffee hours and casual meals, and recruit, train and oversee volunteers to wash them; obtained reusable heavy plastic table cloths to use at our weekly soup kitchen, church dinners, and for display tables for our Sunday fellowship hour; prepared a statement on Creation Stewardship that was adopted by the Church Conference in Jan 2009; and developed a variety of programs and displays to educate the congregation and channel environmental activities. I am active in the local Interfaith Sustainability Circle and testified recently on their behalf at a meeting of the city council, advocating 100% renewable energy when the city negotiates a contract for electrical use for a newly approved aggregation of individual and small-business electrical users.

Sandra Hammett

I am now in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. I came March 8th of this year and rented a condo for one year. I could not have landed in a better place for me. Very safe. Very central. I am having a great time. Needless to say, it's also challenging since I came not knowing anyone here. My Spanish is un poquito as they say, but will begin lessons Monday. I love to travel and cannot really afford to maintain a residence and travel, so I call myself an 'immersion tourist'. Since retirement, I've spent time

in France twice, a year in Tampa, Florida (I have a sister there), now here I am. There is no United Methodist presence here so I quickly became part of an Anglican congregation (of Anglos). I robe each Sunday, read the Gospel and assist with Holy Communion and have agreed to preach in the future. Unfortunately, like many of the people here from US and Canada, they all go home next week (it's Nov through April). I will then have to find another group to worship with, but have promised to return when they do.

I'd be delighted to meet and connect to any UMC folks here in Puerto Vallarta, in particular if there is some kind of ministry or mission involved. I have recently begun teaching English to kindergarten kids at a rather impoverished public school that our church helps support.

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. New e-mail drjmccrayjr@sbcglobal.net

Lilia Rahman

Aloha I have lived in Maui since 2004, when I retired. Since then I have written a book about parental kidnapping and emotional domestic abuse. The title is, "For the Sake of Louise." The book has steadily gained readers' attention since it was published.

I am also deeply involved in advocacy for victims of Domestic Abuse. Right now we are in the process of organizing a group called Filipinos Domestic Abuse Prevention and Care. This is going to be a faith based organization aimed to promote reconciliation of estranged families because of domestic abuse. Reconciliation of course does not always mean uniting the family under one roof. It means promoting peace among family members so that the children are protected and nurtured by both parents even if they are separated or divorced. In addition, I am also a court interpreter, and a part time

chaplain at the hospital. On the side, I am also a spiritual guide and I continue to write whenever I can.

Barbara Troxell

Gene and I continue to enjoy living at the lively intentional community that is Pilgrim Place in Claremont, CA. Both of us are involved in music here -- singing in the Pilgrim Place Chorale regularly, Gene playing a double bass in the Pilgrim Pickers singing group, and playing a tuba in a Brass Group. We also enjoy our season's tickets to the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Los Angeles Master Chorale;

both fine musical groups are heard at the Disney Hall in L.A.

This year I am Moderator of Town Meeting, which means overseeing resident governance and serving as one of the resident members on the Pilgrim Place Board of Directors. There is much more here that keeps life lively and thriving. I also co-chair the Creative Peacemaking Committee at our local Claremont United Methodist Church. We have been focusing especially on immigration reform this year.

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Through the generous donations of RCA members we are able to support those in seminary with our scholarship program. We were able to award two Memorial Scholarships and one Bob Cary Memorial Scholarship in 2012. We thank you for your ongoing support of this important program.



L-R: Linda Butler, Suzanne Calhoun, Kevin Webb, Damien Brooks, John Sublett

We also thank Linda Butler for her years of service to this vital program and welcome Judson Gears as our new Scholarship Chair.

We awarded Kevin Webb and Suzanne Calhoun our Memorial Scholarships and Damien Brooks was the recipient of the Bob Cary Memorial Scholarship. We congratulate these seminarians and wish them God's blessings as they continue on in ministry.



EMERGENCY AND TRAVEL FLASH DRIVE

Excerpted from
gizmodo.com....

By **Andrew Tarantola**

You lost your wallet in Jakarta. You got hit by a car in Paris. You need to get online in a sketchy internet cafe in Reno.

Getting stuck in a strange city with no ID, no money, no credit cards, and no medical or insurance documents can be inconvenient. In a medical emergency, it can be life-threatening. So have a backup plan: a secure flash drive loaded with your most vital documents and details. Here's how to build your own.

Choosing a drive

First thing you'll need is a flash drive somewhere in the 1GB range. A conventional stick running [TrueCrypt](#) will work fine. The [Verbatim Tough-n-Tiny](#) looks perfect for this job because it's a) apparently tough, b) objectively tiny, and c) has a cute little eyelet you could use to string it around your neck.

Clearly mark the drive as containing emergency information so that the EMTs/doctors/police will know to look at it. Use a little nail polish to mark it with a red cross, the international symbol for "look here if things go bad." You can even make a white background for your red cross with a piece of medical tape to drive the message home a little harder: THIS IS A THING TO LOOK AT IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.

Organizing the data

Your drive will be split into two halves—open and encrypted. Use universal plaintext .txt files to populate the open section with the following info:

- A file titled "EMERGENCY" (caps is important—you want people to open this first) with your name, address, and nationality. It should have instructions written in English, Spanish, Chinese, and the local language saying, "contact these people". List phone numbers and email addresses for your immediate family, your spouse or partner, and a co-worker.
- A file of "credit card contact info" with details for each card you carry. Use this to quickly cancel your cards if your wallet is lost or stolen. DO NOT include the CC number, CVV, or expiration date. That data is in the secured partition of the drive.
- A file titled "Medical" that lists your medications and allergies to drugs, foods, or bugs, as well as your primary care physician's contact information. This document says "I HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE" at the top of it, just in case some idiot doctor decides not to treat you because he thinks you are uninsured. If you have traveler's insurance, put that info in here as well.
- A scanned image copy or digital photo of your insurance card, front and back.
- A web browser. You can get portable versions of [Chrome](#), [Firefox](#), and other browsers that will run directly from the drive—more secure than using a public terminal loaded with who-knows-what snooeware.

The encrypted section, (again, we like TrueCrypt) should include:

- Scanned copies of each of your credit and debit cards, front and back.
- A file titled "CCNs" that lists the account numbers, expiration dates, and CVVs of your cards as well as the toll-free contact numbers and international collect call numbers for each company.
- The routing and account number for bank accounts, phone numbers to your local bank's branch office. Be ready to have money wired or to freeze accounts.
- Scanned copies or digital photos of your passport, your driver's license, and at least one other form of state-issued photo identification.

Keeping it safe

The final step is figuring out how to secure it to your person. If you're going somewhere extra dicey, just jamming it into a pocket won't work—what if you get robbed? Mount the drive on a sturdy chain and wear it as a pendant. Attach it to a locking carabiner and fasten it to your belt. Heck, you could even hide it in your smuggler's cove if the situation is dire enough. (*That* would make a great story.)

A good flash drive is waterproof, and basically impervious to damage, so it should survive some rough treatment. All that matters is that when you get in trouble, you still have the necessary resources available to get yourself out of it.



2013 SPRING FLING

May 1-2, 2013

(Note later date!)

Christ the King Retreat Center

Bishop Melvin Talbert

and

Bishop Roy Sano

speaking on the opportunities and problems in the global United Methodist Church, plus reflections on their lives and ministry including their episcopal leadership.



with a performance of

Cotton Patch Gospel by the Broadway Playhouse

The Broadway Playhouse of Sacramento will perform the award winning musical, *Cotton Patch Gospel*, which uproots the gospels from a far away time and place to the 20th century U.S. south and set to Bluegrass music by Harry Chapin. *Rolling Stone* says it has "some of Chapin's best songs," and *Christianity Today* writes, "A winner! Drop everything and go see it!" Chapin adapted the play from Clarence Jordan's book, *Cotton Patch Gospel*.

ECUMENICAL RETIRED CLERGY/PARTNER RETREAT

SAN DAMIANO RETREAT CENTER, DANVILLE, CALIFORNIA – January 22-23, 2013

ELIZABETH LIEBERT

SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

Dr. Elizabeth Liebert, the new Dean of the San Francisco Theological Seminary, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Spiritual Life, is the first Roman Catholic sister named as dean at a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) seminary. A professor at SFTS for more than two decades, she is also on the doctoral faculty in Christian Spirituality at the Graduate Theological Union. Her most recent book *The Way of Discernment: Spiritual Practices for Decision Making* (Westminster John Knox 2008) is already in its second printing. Dr. Beth Liebert holds a B.A. degree from Fort Wright College of the Holy Names, a M.A. from Gonzaga University, and a M.A. and Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University. She is a member of the Sisters of the Holy Names, a religious congregation dedicated to the full development of the human person through various educational and pastoral ministries.



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

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

Music & Worship by Jean and Jim Strathdee

REGISTRATION FORM

Ecumenical Retired Clergy/Spouse Retreat - January 22-23, 2013 *(Please Print)*

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____ Denomination: _____

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

Special Needs & roommate request: _____

The Registration Deadline is January 4, 2013. 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: \$112 *(per person)* Single Occupancy: \$127
Commuter (no room) \$70 *(per person)* All meals except Breakfast
(Cost includes overnight accommodations with private bath and 4 meals starting and ending with lunch)

Visit our web site: www.RetiredClergyRetreat.org

California-Nevada Annual Conference the
United Methodist Church
Retired Clergy Association
P.O. Box 980250
West Sacramento, CA 95798-0250

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: *Doug McCoy*
President-Elect: *Bob Schwartz*
Past-President: *John Sublett*
Treasurer: *Dick Ernst*
Secretary: *John Broad*
Scholarship Program: *Judson Gears*
UMVIM: *Nadine DeWitt*
Spring Fling: *Gayle Pickrell & John Davenport*
Relational Care: *Mike Nicolson*
Class of 2013: *Phil Hall, Bill & Kate Johnson, Paul Sweet*
Class of 2014: *Marty Murdock, Bob Schwartz, Dave Thompson*
Class of 2015: *Debbie Grundman, Tom Kimball, Neal Neuenburg, Mark Vale*

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

Calendar
See website for updates
January 22-23, 2013
Ecumenical Retreat
May 1-2, 2013
Spring Fling
June 19-22 2013
Annual Conference Session
Sacramento, CA