

Days of Grace



OCTOBER 2017

SPOTLIGHT ON:

IsBeens Sacramento Cluster

They aren't HAS beens, they are IS beens! They are still vibrant and active, just retired! Many of the IsBeens are still serving churches in formal and informal ways. The IsBeens are the more formal of the Cluster Groups. They have been meeting regularly with a formal program for years. Past programs have ranged from meeting with the local Congressman (Dr. Ami Bera) to touring the old Sacramento City Cemetery to hearing the history of a local church. The year always kicks off with the annual Ice Cream Social at John and Lois Albright's home. The December gathering is famous for the simple program of singing Christmas carols. They meet in each other's homes and in local church social halls. Potlucks are the hallmark of this group wherever they gather.

Geographically, the group draws from a large area. They have had folks join them from as far south as Lodi, as far east as Placerville and Auburn, as far northeast as Woodland. This makes some large gatherings of 20-30 people!

Attending an IsBeens gathering guarantees you will come away with your heart, soul, and belly full! They live the saying "Friends double your joy and divide your grief" and have faithfully done both through the years.

This is the fourth in a series spotlighting the various groups that gather together for fellowship and, of course, food. They each do their gatherings a bit differently but we want to celebrate the vitality and joy that comes with these get-togethers.

If you are not part of a group and would like to find one or start one, please contact Nancy Daley at 916-539-4249 or nancydaley@ca-nv-rca.org

In This Issue

- Scholarship Awardees
- Spring Fling is coming!
- Book review
- Membership Drive

President's Ponderings

~Marty Murdock



Dear Colleagues,

Even in this retirement chapter of our lives, your Retired Clergy Association is still doing new things.

1. By the time you read this, we will have had our first "brand new retirees" luncheon. We invited the July 1, 2017 retirees and their spouses to join us for a free lunch, at the Conference Center. The program is for us to listen. How is retirement going? What do you wish you had known? How are your plans shaping up? Has the dust settled a little?

How are you handling more time together? Are there ways we could be helpful? Should we have had this gathering in February instead of September, or not at all?

2. We will have also had our second annual training for the Pastoral Response Team. This growing group of folks stand ready to assist our retired clergy and their families in times of special need. Coming together for reflection and training sends us home fortified with new wisdom and insight to be more useful to others. An unexpected side benefit has been an opportunity to hang out with cherished colleagues who are normally scattered across many corners of the Conference. For almost 24 hours, we find ourselves in the same place together. Pretty cool.

Our next training gathering for this group will be in March. Please let Nancy Daley, or Carolee Catterall, or myself know if you would like to be in the next session. Dr. Tom Smith, DPsy, is our presenter. It's a different segment of the group that gathers each time.

3. We are also exploring ways we can coordinate the talents and skills of retired clergy to serve the rest of the church. Do you do long-range church planning? Are you a retreat leader? Have you thought about what you didn't learn in seminary, but which you could now share about helpfully with a new pastor? Are you available to preach or lead a class? What are your special areas of interest? Do the folks in your Circuit area know you are there, if you wish them to?

At this stage we are gathering information and putting together categories of possible offerings. We will need to develop a contact or deployment system of some sort. We will likely send out a questionnaire to gather your possibilities which you might wish to share. (Some of you carry some history from a similar effort 30 years ago, when the RCA was new, yes?)

There are also established programs already in place. An RCA team will be in New Orleans again in November, to help with the continuing rebuilding after hurricanes there. The ecumenical clergy and spouse retreat comes in January, and our own Spring Fling retreat is in April, at a new location at San Damiano. We will have our annual luncheon at Annual Conference, likewise with a new location at Modesto next June.

In the meantime the RCA Board or the Executive Committee meet most every month during the program year. The program committees meet in between. We represent you on the Annual Conference Session Committee and at the Board of Pensions.

Our goal is to offer many opportunities for those who wish to be connected and involved. Let us know where you would like to plug in and let us know what you see that feels like it is missing.

It's good to share this part of the journey with you all. Thank you.

Shalom,
Marty

Board of Pensions News

Keep up with what is new with the Board of Pensions with their new version of the Newsette called "The Comp@anion"!

Paul, Brian, and Andrea are always be available by phone to answer your questions at 916-913-1049.

Executive Officer's Message

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



The weather has taken a definite turn towards Autumn as I write this...Hopefully, the heat of this summer is behind us!

There is a lot to look forward to this coming RCA year! We are moving to a new location for Spring Fling... San Damiano's Retreat Center in Danville, CA. Registration with all the details will be in the February Days of Grace. The committee is looking forward to changing it up a bit!

Annual Conference Session is moving to Modesto, CA. More information on our Annual Meeting will be coming in February and March. Details are still be confirmed, but I'm confident we won't be in a tent next to the freeway!

We have a meet and greet/how are things going lunch for the newest class of retirees scheduled for late September. We want to be more pro-active in meeting the needs of the membership, and this is one of the ways we are hoping to do just that.

The Pastoral Response Team is also meeting for fellowship and training in late September as well. They are available to assist with any pastoral needs our membership may need. More information is on page 15.

Speaking of membership, you are all members! Please see how you can support the organization as a member on page 14 and in your USPS mail.

Finally, we have a newly updated website at <http://www.ca-nv-rca.org> Please take a look! Days of Grace archive and payment portals are there for your convenience!

Grace and peace,

Nancy



Have you moved?
New phone number?
New email address?

Please send updates to:

RCA
9328 Elk Grove Blvd. #105-141
Elk Grove, CA 95624

nancydaley@ca-nv-rca.org



Art Gafke, Book Reviewer, Presents.

Refiner's Fire

by Richard Bastear

Those of us ordained Elders in The United Methodist Church had to answer questions John Wesley framed in the eighteenth century. One question is: "Are you going on to perfection?" These days, when the bishop asks the ordinands this question, there is quiet laughter. "Who can be perfect, after all?" However, Mr. Wesley did not mean *performance* perfection. Rather, he meant a person being completely defined by the presence of God's love and grace.

Richard Bastear's memoir, *The Refiner's Fire: An Odyssey of Faith*, is a telling about one person's journey toward being made perfect in love. The book is a confessional about his learning and self-claimed failures. The title of the book refers to the many times he experience intense emotional distress.

John Wesley believed and taught that one is not perfect when first accepting Jesus Christ. Through concerted effort a person strives to shape one's life to be undistracted by all other defining powers until God's presence is the singular power shaping one's life. Bastear's life story demonstrates in detail the ups-and-downs of this pathway. His sexuality is a vexation and distress for him throughout his journey. Each change in his life was like a new beginning accumulating both the burden of failures and the joys of gains in his personal faith.

"In just a few short weeks, I had gone from the ridiculous to the sublime. My life had become a roller coaster ride; highs and lows, risk and consequences, light and dark, dreams and failures. This was the story of my life, and I was on the brink of even more." In the book's final paragraph he writes, "I vowed to learn to love God with my whole heart."

Write Your Memoir!

Help your family! Help the Conference!

What do you want your obituary or memoir to say? You know best! Take the time now to write up what you want in your memoir or obituary and put it with your important papers. You can also send it to the Conference data base manager Renee Tefft to be added to your service record. This will make memorializing you far into the future, easier for everyone. Besides...you really are the expert on YOU!



Wow! It looks like the idea of membership levels is being adopted with some rather good enthusiasm. Thank you very much! You will see our initial good results reported below,, mostly from the envelopes and explanation given at the Annual Conference luncheon.

Watch for updates in future issues of Days of Grace after we receive your responses to the mailing which just went out. Thank you so much for your good investment in all the things we seek to do together!

As of September 15, 2017:

Lifetime Members: 3

Sponsoring Members: 3

Sustaining Members: 13

Supporting Members: 12

Basic Members: 22

*Retired Clergy Association
Volunteers In Mission*



YOUR RCA VIM WORK PROJECT will be in New Orleans November 3-11, working with Epworth Project to restore a damaged home and staying at the edge of the French Quarter in the historic UMC North Ramparts Community Center. If you would like to contribute to the effort, send your donation to RCA. And pray for your team: Floyd Quenzer, Donna Hougland, Kent Parr, Pamela Abbey, Dave and Jackie Bennett, Marty Murdock, Carolee Catterall and Betty Pagett

RCA fire area volunteer week! April 2-7, 2018.

Join us for work with the Hope Crisis Response Network in Lake County. Dorm accommodations; travel days April 2 and 7, work days April 3-6. Cost and details will be available soon. Deadline for sign ups will be February 1. We promise not only an opportunity for service but also a rich time of fellowship with colleagues. bettypagett@gmail.com



For several years, Days of Grace editors have encouraged us “retired” pastors to submit articles telling of our activities. Guess I’ve just been too busy to reply. Though now the Holy Spirit says “Do it.” So, here it is:

In 1979, I “retired” from the “pastoral ministry” of serving appointments to churches in the Calif.-Nev Conference for about 25 years, concluding with my 5 year appointment to the Sonora Church. My wife, Judy, and I received extensive training that year under the board of discipleship and the Upper room, under Dr. Carl Clarke, to become certified leaders of Marriage Enrichment Seminars. We led dozens of couples through Marriage Enrichment weekends in churches and retreat centers throughout California and Nevada over the next several years.

Since the ministry was a “volunteer” ministry, we were involved in several “paying” ministries during the week for our “living expense.” These included: Judy, working as an RN in hospitals where we resided (Porterville for 10 years and Fresno since 1989). I (Don) taught classes for the developmentally disabled at the Porterville Development Center for three years, and was appointed by the Bishop to serve as half-time interim pastor during the 80s and 90s at the Kernville, Springville, and Chowchilla churches, respectively.

We moved to Fresno in 1989 to help my son, Chris, get established in his Christian business following his graduation from Fresno State. A year later, I worked briefly in a group home for the developmentally disabled, followed by 3 years teaching classes for the developmentally disabled in Fresno City College. Then, following my getting a teaching credential in adult education through the California Public School System, I taught English as a Second Language for 3 years at Fresno Adult School. For 7 years following that, I substituted in Senior Adult Classes, teaching various subjects and leading many senior exercise classes in senior centers and other facilities throughout Fresno and Clovis.

Almost 8 years ago, after officially retiring from the above ministries, the Holy Spirit directed me into a volunteer prison ministry. Most days each week, I’m visiting inmates in the Fresno County jails, and going to court with inmates, when requested, to give them moral support, and to sometimes speak to the courts in their behalf. This includes, trying to get the men or women into Christian rehabilitation programs such as Teen Challenge, the Salvation Army, or the Fresno Rescue Mission. I keep in touch by letter and Bible studies (including a personal note) each quarter, sent to over 70 persons who are either in jail, prison, a program, or out on their own.

Moses was 80 years old when he led God’s people out of Egypt. Colonel Sanders was 70 when he began the Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise. I’m only 82 and counting, I’ve never found anything about retirement in the Scriptures; so I challenge all you “retired” people not to rot, daily rocking on the front porch contemplating your navel.

I’ve found that God has lots of volunteer ministries out there to keep us actively serving Him and our fellowmen (and women). My motto and challenge to by brothers and sisters in Christ: “Get out of the pew and into ministry, wherever He leads.” And it was Jesus who commanded each of us to “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel.” For, “The harvest is plentiful and the laborers are few.”

May God bless you with good health and guide each of you as you’re faithfully serving Him.

Your Brother in Christ,

Don Burkhart

SPRING FLING

Mark your calendar for April 18-19, 2018 ! We will fling this year at San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville.

The Spring Fling Committee has invited Dr. Ahmed Nazeer to teach us about Islam and how to be good Christian allies in the current political climate. Dr. John Hillebrandt will be providing our music again this year.

The committee is still finalizing the details which will be forthcoming in the February issue of Days of Grace. But mark your calendar now, you won't want to miss this opportunity to learn about Islam and fellowship with one another!

A NOTE FROM THE BOARD OF PENSIONS

HEALTH INSURANCE RATES FOR 2018

There's good news for retirees this year on the Board of Pensions sponsored health plans: There will be NO increases in your insurance premium costs for the year 2018. This benefit comes as a result in BoP negotiations with our health care providers, along with the faithful and generous assistance of grants from the Conference Claimants Endowment Board.

Stay tuned for important developments in our health care plans for the year 2019. Changes are afoot, and as soon as we know more, the Board of Pensions will be presenting positive new health care options for both retired and active clergy. Watch for further news in our e-newsletter, The Comp@nion, as well as on our website at www.bopumc.org

~Andrea Winchester, Office Manager, Board of Pensions

Sacramento Is-Beens Sue Angove

ALBRIGHT, JOHN and LOIS: had a mini family reunion just after their 71st wedding anniversary. Their 5 children began gathering the family “brownie camera” black and white pictures from many years to be put on thumb drives that each “family” will have for many years to come. Both Lois and John are feeling fairly well and hope to soon participate once again in Is-Been activities.

ANGOVE, JERRY and SUE: spent a week in August with their children, spouses, and grandchildren in Newport Beach. They began the 50th wedding anniversary celebration early with one of the days spent at Disneyland/California Adventure. Labor Day w/e included a celebration with vow renewal and meal, their actual anniversary day, September 3rd having a family brunch, and enjoying 3 days of “each other” time at South Lake Tahoe. Jerry hopes to get back to his railroad hobby while Sue works another year at Kaiser’s Flu Clinic.

CATTERALL, CAROLEE: is looking forward to being part of the Retired Clergy VIM trip to New Orleans this year. Before that happens, she has planned a great program presented by a speaker who has traveled to Peru with a group called SAVE THE FROGS. Is-Been members will NOT want to miss this Friday, October 20th at St. Marks UMC at 12 noon. Bring potluck food and dishware.

DAHL, JAN: continues to receive care in her own home for progressing dementia. She continues to share her sense of humor and wears her beautiful smile.

GRUNDMAN, DEB and GARY: have been enjoying retirement with travel near and far. A Norway/Scotland cruise allowed for lovely spring vistas of gardens and moors followed by a week with a Euro rail Pass in Germany. It was especially meaningful to experience former East Germany in Leipzig and Torgau. Most recently

they were on an Alaskan cruise that marked one evening with a 135 mph wind gust against the ship! Quite an adventure! It’s always nice to return home, as we all know.

HART-HINSHAW, DOREEN: went to be with her sister Margie’s kids, son and his wife and two grand nieces, 51/2 and 2 ½ who live just outside of Heidelberg this past May. She returned in June via Phoenix, AZ. There she attended Desert Southwest’s Annual Conference Memorial Service memorializing husband Larry Hinshaw. After that she and one of Larry’s daughters spread some of his ashes in a favorite mountain location of Larry’s about forty miles from the family cabin.

KIMBALL, TOM and CONNIE: reached their milestone 50th wedding anniversary in late July celebrating with their special family and friends. Two couples attending were honored for marriages of more than 60 years and three couples attending having marriages of more than 50 years. Tom added that his close friend from elementary school pronounced the benediction to complete their marvelous day of celebration.

MARTIN, EVA and ED: spent 3 weeks in Sweden and Norway. We visited with so many of our unknown relatives. We were treated royally by all our relatives and the people of Sweden. Ed was amazed at how flat the country was. We saw the Old Town of Stockholm, the Vasa Museum of the 333 year old ship, many Cathedrals, the Kings Palace and a cruise on the Archipelago. We drove to Norway stopping in Oslo to see the Vigeland Sculpture Park and on to Flam for a cruise on the Sogne Fjord that is 100 miles inland and 3000 feet deep. On our return trip we were awake 27 hours because of the flight.

SCHWARZENTRAUB, BETSY and KEN: have been enjoying lots of produce from Ken’s raised-bed garden. Betsy loves weekly meetings of the Gold Country Writers, where she’s President, and is nearing the end of her first draft of her third book, *Growing Generous Souls*. Ken has been busy on their foothills property getting ready for fall. Their horses enjoy the garden remains and know how to pull up carrots. In Oct.

Ken will fly to Ohio to see his brother and sister, and Betsy will attend the National Association of U.M. Foundations in Denver.

TAYLOR, JACK: celebrated his 88th birthday at the end of August. After subsequently suffering a heart attack, he is now resting at home finding time with family to be most enjoyable. You may want to send greetings to him at 3791 Cothrin Ranch Rd, Shingle Springs, CA 95682.

THOMAS, CARL: Traveled by car in August with Linda Caldwell to western Canada taking in the sights of Banff, Jasper, Lake Louise, and all that beautiful terrain. In October he will travel to Tennessee to officiate at the wedding of his niece and her fiancé.

WATTERS-JULSING, KAY: In June I had the privilege and pleasure of attending the Carter Center Weekend which was held at Squaw Valley this year. It was an awesome experience meeting the Carters, hearing about the service projects their non-profit Carter Foun-

dation is doing to "wage peace, eradicate disease, and build hope " around the world, and meeting people from all over who were there, including Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul, and Mary). I left feeling inspired, encouraged, hopeful, and grateful!

In August, I had a wonderful visit with close family in FL, including my son and his fiancée. I got home before Irma hit, and all of my family in FL survived ok. My prayers continue to go out to all those effected by both recent hurricanes, as well as all of our wildfires.

I've enjoyed spending more time at home with family and good friends this summer, and enjoying my newly landscaped back yard. Thanks

I'm now recovering from varicose vein surgery on both legs a week ago. The surgery was successful, I'm healing nicely, and expect to be back up and fully functioning before long. My daughter has been here and a huge help to me! Love and blessings to all

Northern Nevada Elena De La Peña

Tom and Carolyn Butler traveled to Oregon where they were with family and Carolyn attended a quilt show. She caught a new idea to make for the church's quilting group.

Elaine Schmidt traveled to Texas to see a long time friend.

Velma Thornburgh turned 90 and is doing very well.

Art Gafke bought a new car.

In late April and early May **Nadine DeWitt, John Sublett, Elena De La Pena, Art Gafke** cruised up the east coast from Ft Lauderdale to Montreal, Canada. (Also in the UM group were John/Sylvia Corson; Jerry/Kathy Fox; Chuck/Stella Cordes and Alum Rock UMC members Paul/JoAnn Saracco). Weather was cloudy and rainy but did not deter the group from having a wonderful time.



South Valley News Sylvia Corson

Ray Alderman continues to live at Brookdale Living Center. He is comfortable, no longer has to cook, or take care of a house! His daughter, Susan, comes by every day. He considers her an angel. He has some back pain that is mostly controlled by medication. He attends physical therapy, does it while sitting, and enjoys a creative writing class. Transportation is provided for church. He plans to attend a celebration at St. Mark's UMC consecrating the congregation's new "home space." He is very proud of his grandson, Roman, who is studying architecture at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

Dick Bayard has spent the spring and summer "rebuilding" the bones on his right arm and leg. Both were broken in a fall last December. The journey to recovery has been slow, but steadily forward and he's able to get around okay, now. He substitutes for some of the adult studies at church, and leads a Bible study at Quail Park, an assisted living center. His recovery allowed him to travel to Kansas City for the eclipse. Fortunately, a storm gave way for clear observation.

John and Sylvia Corson celebrated their 60th anniversary in August! In gratitude, they decided to host a personal trip for each of their children (and family). So far, they've spent a week in San Diego, and taken a 7 day cruise to Alaska. One more trip is in the works. In April/ May, they cruised from Fort Lauderdale to Montreal with friends. Sylvia was honored on her 80th birthday, by family and friends, at a luncheon in June! John is still healing a year after foot surgery, but is stronger and able to drive again. Sylvia has

been a wonderful care giver during the year. Thanks be to God for healing and long life!

Anita Dutt reports that trips have punctuated her year. She enjoyed seeing so many colleagues at Spring Fling, and friends at the AC memorial service. Anita went to South Dakota to visit her sister and family. While there, she shared a four day reunion with Harry's siblings, and 23 family members, who gathered for a tribute to Harry. Livestreaming the USC graduation, allowed her to watch granddaughter Brooke in the processional. This was a good alternative when she was unable to attend. She did get to Brentwood to see her grandsons compete - Ryan in football and Landen in baseball.

Don and Donita Roulsten had two special "happenings" this summer. They celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on August 5th with a "journey of a lifetime" on the *American Queen*. They began in St. Louis on the Mississippi River, went north to Hannibal, Missouri, and on to Clinton and Dubuque, Iowa. They stopped in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, ending up in Red Wing, Minnesota. Each town was charming. The other "happening" was Don's prostate surgery on September 7th. At press time, Don, was recovering in the hospital, and his prognosis was excellent. He's had excellent care and support, and is thankful!

Bob and Nancy Schwartz report that Bob has had many medical issues with several hospital stays this summer. Currently, he is doing better and slowly gaining strength at home. Besides caring for Bob, Nancy has spent time assisting her sister in Northern California, who has major health issues, too. Nancy and Bob are grateful for the support they have received. Happily, their

son, Paul, is back to his law practice at his former law firm. Amy, his wife, has an exciting new VIP position with SAP. Grandson Malcolm, now 11, is a brilliant and active young man! Yes, grandparents are entitled to boast!

Sharon Watson has been focusing on her personal health after some recent tests. She has no trips scheduled at this time. Son Johnathan, and his new bride, Cheryl, (who grew up in the Philippines), plan to visit in November. Sharon is going to introduce Cheryl to a traditional American Thanksgiving Dinner! Son Joel, is currently stationed in San Diego with the Navy. He will be home for two weeks prior to his deployment on the *USS John McCain*. The ship

will go to Japan after needed repairs. Daughter Heather teaches and just earned her Special Education degree, and Mom is very proud of her!

Special Note: Alpha Takagi is celebrating his 100th birthday on November 1! He will be honored at the San Luis Obispo UMC after the 11am service with a birthday cake reception. His family suggests that Alpha would enjoy cards and photos from colleagues and friends this fall. He is still active and alert. His mailing address is: *Bob & Corky's Care Home, 2425 Gerda, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.*

Pacific Northwest Bert Schniepp

John and Eva Fugitt write that they “are surviving the thick smoke” from forest fires in their vicinity. “we just now have a shower which washed some smoke out. We can see the mountains again! Our health is some better now.

They also want to share the good news that their son David and family are moving to their area next year. They have survived the flooding in Houston with no flood waters reaching their area. “our daughter, Kathy, will retire from

years of teaching in Pacifica in two years and also will move here.

Bert and Linda Schniepp have been more “home bodies” for most of the last few months with only a couple of weeks in May RVing to some favorite Oregon Coastal spots. They have been enjoying the cooler coastal climate even with some smoky days caused by the widespread forest fires inland. They are planning to head out again mid-fall in the RV. Bert led a small group for their church during lent as well as the Adult Church School class, which began a new study of John’s Gospel on Labor Day Sunday. Both have been active in a variety of activities in the local Florence, OR community.



RCA Memorial Scholarships Connecting the Past to the Future

The RCA memorializes all the Saints that go before with a donation to the Memorial Scholarship Fund. Donations are often made to the fund from our members, often in memory of specific people. We are able to grant scholarships to seminarians to ease the financial burden of their education. This year the RCA awarded \$5000 worth of scholarships to six persons. Two of them went to those in Course of Study in the name of John Foster. It was a privilege to have the Foster family join us when we awarded these scholarships. Our 2017 awardees were:



We are Bethany and Jason Cseh and we've both been slowly working towards our Mdiv over the past couple of years while being appointed as a co-LLP's in Humboldt County, CA. We co-pastor Arcata UMC and another non-denominational church plant we started over 10 years ago. We have three incredible children and we are foster and adoptive parents. In the last few years, both of us have been involved in community organizing through PICO up here. Recently we've been working more intently with the Latinx and immigrant population and have found our lack in the Spanish language creating a barrier. These scholarships will help in our efforts to save money for a month long Spanish emersion program in Latin America making our pastoral education more effective in reaching and making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our world

It is truly a joy and with distinctive appreciation receiving your Scholarship award for 2017. For a few years now as a recipient of your help meant greatly to me and my studies. Being a local pastor and a continuing student at Claremont School of Theology, Course of Study for the 4th year have grown me spiritually and shall benefit God's mission in any parish given to serve. Christ is within me, and your help will not be in vain. Philippians 4:13 I can do everything in Him who strengthens me.

Thank you and Malo e'ofa! Grace, Peace and Justice, Iunisi Tovo





I was so excited to learn that I am a recipient of the Retired Clergy Scholarship. I am writing to thank you for your generous, financial funding towards my theological studies.

I am Tongan and I hail from Genesis United Methodist Church in Milpitas, California. I am on candidacy towards Elder track in the UMC. For various years I've been seeking financial support to facilitate my enthusiasm to further my education, and to fulfill the requirements of the candidacy. Financial was one of my problems of getting into theological studies. But with the help of this scholarship it encourages me to pursue my goal which is to accomplish my degree of MDiv.

By awarding me with the Retired Clergy Scholarship, I am able to focus on what is significant for me, education. Your financial kindness has permitted me to be one step closer to my goal and has encouraged me to help others by giving back to the church. I hope one day I will be able to help other students accomplish their goal just as you have assisted me. 'Ofa atu - Vaitafaa Heimoana

Receiving the RCA scholarship directly impacts my educational journey, furthering my ability to participate in field education opportunities and unique ministry opportunities I would otherwise be unable to afford. I am very grateful for your support and generosity during this time of significant change and growth. While following my call has led me to seminary, and that has been a wonderful path to venture down, it has also been an expensive one. I am so thankful for the support of those who have served in ministry before me, who understand both the joys and challenges in following a calling into ministry as a vocation. As I enter my third and final year at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. I am reminded yet again that I would not have made it this far without the support of people like you. Even though I am attending seminary far from my home conference of California-Nevada, your contribution toward my academics as well as your affirmation of my calling could not be more present. Thank you . - Lauren Michelle Stevens



In the interest of better aligning our mission and ministry with what we do, the Board of Directors has adopted a new membership contribution structure. As you may already know, all clergy, spouses, and surviving spouses, who are retired from the California-Nevada Conference, are members of the RCA regardless of where in the world they choose to reside. We also welcome all retired United Methodist Clergy, spouses, and surviving spouses from other conferences who have chosen to live within the geographical boundaries of the Cal-Nevada Conference. In short, the only 'requirement' to be a member, is to have achieved the status of "retired".

For that reason, the Board felt that "dues" was not the proper description for monies given to support our operating budget. The following levels of membership and benefits were proposed and perfected by Doug McCoy and Betty Pagett. Thanks to them for their work! The Board of Directors approved this structure at the April Board Meeting. (Incidentally, we have learned that membership donations are tax deductible, but dues payments are not -- another good reason for the change.)

Your (now) tax deductible donation helps the RCA continue serving the Cal-Nevada retirees by subsidizing the Spring Fling retreat and the Annual Luncheon, to keep costs as low as possible. Your donation helps print and mail the Days of Grace newsletter and the Memorial Book for the ACS Memorial Service. It provides support for pastors to attend the Gathering of Orders and Spring Fling, and it pays for training and support to the Pastoral Response Team. Along with a very generous grant from the Conference Claimants Endowment Board, your donation also helps provide the per diem reimbursement to ease the financial burden of attending Annual Conference Session.

Your support allows us to continue being wonderfully "connectional" together, even in retirement.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

LEVEL	INDIVIDUAL	COUPLE	BENEFIT
BASIC: <i>Sing all... Sing lustily and with good courage</i>	\$25	\$40	
SUPPORTING: <i>Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience</i>	\$60	\$75	5% discount Spring Fling 25% discount ACS Luncheon
SUSTAINING: <i>Give all you can... In all ways you can</i>	\$100	\$150	10% discount Spring Fling 50% discount ACS Luncheon
SPONSOR: <i>Hearts Strangely Warmed</i>	\$250	\$350	15% discount Spring Fling ACS Luncheon Included for Current Year
LIFETIME: <i>Going on to Perfection</i>	\$1000	\$1500	20% discount Spring Fling ACS Luncheon for Life



California-Nevada Conference * United Methodist Church

Enclosed is my/our check in the amount of \$ _____ Please designate as follows:

\$ _____ Membership **July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018**

Individual *Couple* (check one please)

BASIC, SUPPORTING, SUSTAINING, SPONSOR, LIFETIME (circle level please)

\$ _____ Seminary Student Scholarship Fund Donation

\$ _____ Health Care Subsidy Fund Donation

\$ _____ Other - Please specify: _____

My/our special gift is: In Memory Of: _____
In Honor Of: _____

Member Information:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Make check out to: **RCA**

Mail check and form to: **RCA * 9328 Elk Grove Blvd. #105-141 * Elk Grove, CA * 95624**

For Office Use Only: CK# _____ \$ _____ Date: _____ DB: _____ LTR: _____

Pastoral Response Team

The Pastoral Response Team (PRT), created as a ministry of RCA a little more than one year ago, has been offering a variety of pastoral care ministries to our colleagues across the connection. Far too often—once retired—retirees, their spouses, and surviving spouses, find themselves without support during times of need. The PRT is attempting to fill this void. This ministry lies at the heart of the RCA. In addition to improving the connections we have with one another, this ministry offers support in those times most needed.

This ministry is loosely modeled after the Stephen's Ministry Program with which many of us are familiar. The support is offered on a short term basis by colleagues who have participated in training opportunities. A core team (which meets on a regular basis via video conferencing) offers confidential assistance and guidance to those offering support to their colleagues.

If you have any questions, or feel you might be in need of short-term pastoral care, you are invited to contact the Chair of the PRT, Carolee Catterall at 916-636-4942 or Nancy Daley at 916-539-4249.

Acronyms Explained:

RCA—Retired Clergy Association

VIM—Volunteers In Mission

RCC—Relational Care Committee

PRT—Pastoral Response Team

ACS—Annual Conference Session

DoG—Days of Grace

THE ENDOWMENT BOARD

A LEGACY OF

Gratitude

In 1891, a group of caring and committed members within the Methodist Church realized that their pastors often retired without sufficient resources to live with a sense of security.

They had a vision to establish an endowment to support our retired clergy as they moved into the later stages of their lives. That year, with the very first gift of land in Mendocino County from Mr. Joseph Shepherd and his wife, The Endowment Board was founded.

Since the Board was launched, we have granted over \$44,000,000 to the Board of Pensions (BOP) and the Retired Clergy Association (RCA) to provide much needed healthcare subsidies, pensions and other programs to support our retired pastors and their spouses. For 125 years, we've nurtured a diverse portfolio of trusts, stocks, bonds and real estate holdings. In addition to this investment income, we have been blessed with generous donors who have helped build a robust endowment so that we can serve those who have served us for so many years.

For more information, please visit our new website:

www.endowmentboard.org

California-Nevada Annual Conference of the
United Methodist Church
Retired Clergy Association
P.O. Box 980250
West Sacramento, CA 95758-0250

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Upcoming Events

November 3-11, 2017
VIM to NOLA

April 2-17, 2018
VIM to Lake County

April 18-19, 2018
Spring Fling
San Damiano

June 20-23, 2018
Annual Conference
Session
> Modesto
DoubleTree