

Days of Grace

"Peace cannot be achieved through violence, it can only be attained through understanding" - Ralph Waldo Emerson.



Annual Conference Session 2012

Annual Conference Session is once more upon us! The time we gather as United Methodists of the California-Nevada Conference and do the business of the Conference and worship together as one body.

We will also welcome new clergy through the ordination ceremony and congratulate those who come to the end of their years of active ministry as they retire. We, the Retired Clergy Association, will then welcome those new retirees into OUR presence at our annual luncheon on Friday of Conference.

We will also remember those who's work on earth has come to an end and join all the Saints who have gone before at our Thursday afternoon memorial service.

The items that will come before the Conference will be posted on the Conference website in advance of ACS so you can review the items beforehand. The date of that availability should be in mid-May. A link on the RCA website will be made when those items are available.

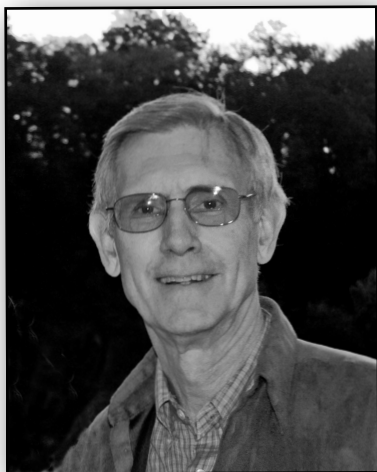
Registration for the luncheon is on page 11 of this issue. Please note the deadline for registration and there are **NO AT THE DOOR REGISTRATIONS**. You will receive a confirmation when your registration is received. If you have not received a confirmation email or letter, please contact Doug McCoy.

Please plan to join us for food, fellowship and a presentation from the VIM team.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Colleagues and Friends,

“And are we yet alive?” We’ve sung that hymn at conference many times. It celebrates our coming together in covenant and conference. This edition of Days of Grace focusses on the coming session of the conference. As retirees we are still members of the conference with voice and vote. Yet as we sing that hymn I will be aware that the church has



changed since we began to come to conference. Our active colleagues are facing challenges and struggles that we did not in most of the years of our ministries. They have new demands, new ways of worship, new calls to be in mission and ministry.

I hear more and more about pastors struggling with depression and burn out.

We who are retired have a role to play in our churches and our conference. We can be those who

encourage or mentor where we are invited. We can be available helpers along the way. We can be the understanding listener who can hear the struggles and lift up the vision. And we can be careful never to add to the pastor’s burden by getting in the way or forgetting our “retired” status.

I celebrate the varied ministries of our brothers and sisters in retirement. We are yet alive in a world that hurts and is dying for a new vision. I believe we have a vision of an alternate way of life which can be a source of hope in our world. In retirement we are free to proclaim that vision, to speak and act for justice, to serve and bear witness to God’s love.

So, let’s gather again and sing “And are we yet alive?” Let’s enjoy our fellowship and share our vision and do all we can to strengthen the life and ministry of our church. Come to the lunch at conference and join me in welcoming those who will be retired at this session.

See you at conference,

~John Sublett

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 direct 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

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

Oh... the busy season is upon us!

A very successful Spring Fling has just wrapped up and preparation for Annual Conference Session is underway. Not to mention, this year we have General Conference consuming our thoughts and prayers.

You will read about Spring Fling elsewhere in this issue, but please make sure you mark your 2013 calendar for Spring Fling at a slightly different time... May 1-2, 2013. We will welcome Bishops Talbert and Sano at Christ The King Retreat Center.

Annual Conference will be in session June 20-23. We will welcome new retirees and remember those we have lost in the past year. The Journey of the Saints Memorial Service will be on Thursday June 21 at 4pm according to the published preliminary schedule. Please check the schedule in the first day packet for confirmation of this time. The Memoirs Committee is still in need of Shepherds. Please contact Memoirs Committee Chair, Debbie Grundman to volunteer for this important and meaningful ministry. For many families, Annual Conference is a confusing place full of hustle and bustle. For surviving spouses, it may have been years since they attended. For the adult children, they may not have attended since they were small children, if ever. Having a Shepherd to assist them through this time of remembrance is of great comfort.

Finally, we will have our Annual RCA luncheon. We eat. We visit. We elect new officers and approve the budget. This year we will be gathering at THE HYATT in the same space where Clergy Session will be held. Registration is in this newsletter.



As we begin the new church year, I would like to encourage you to connect with other retired clergy & spouses in your area. Several areas already meet, usually over a potluck lunch, several times a year. I am happy to help you organize such an event. You can give me a call (916-539-4249) or catch me at Annual Conference and we can get things rolling.

One final update on our daughter Emma... All of her scans and bloodwork have come back negative for cancer. All indicators point to complete eradication of any lurking cancer cells. Praise be to God! Your prayers have been felt and deeply appreciated.

Peace,

Nancy

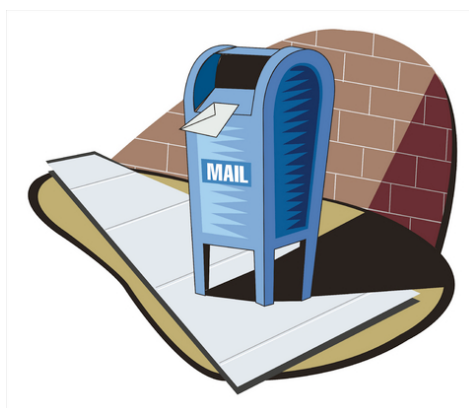
Help Wanted!

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.

FROM THE BOARD OF PENSIONS

Dear CNUMC retiree,

It has come to our attention that some individuals are having difficulty enrolling in Virgin HealthMiles – a denomination-wide physical activity program aimed at supporting your commitment to health and well-being. We have learned that the list of eligible participants sent by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits to Virgin HealthMiles did not include the names of all our eligible retirees. The only option we have is to address the problem on an individual basis. If you find yourself unable to enroll, please contact the Board of Pensions office at 510-839-8538 or at bop@bopumc.net. It can take up to 7 business days to enable the online login feature.

Remember, this new benefit is available to all clergy members (active and retired) and their spouses as well as conference lay employees and their spouses. You do not need to be enrolled in any of our conference health care plans to join the program. And you can earn cash rewards along the way! Participants engage in walking, jogging or other exercises and measure those activities through the use of an advanced pedometer that you periodically connect to your computer.

A low fee of \$10 covers the cost of the pedometer. The rest is up to you and your feet! You can login to the Virgin HealthMiles California-Nevada Annual Conference site at the following url: www.virginhealthmiles.com/cnumc

Cash rewards up to \$150 per participant can be earned per calendar year.

So sign up and let the walking begin!

Paul Extrum-Fernandez
Conference Benefits Officer
California-Nevada Annual Conference
300 27th Street
Oakland, CA 94612
510-839-8538

P.S. Again, if you have questions regarding the enrollment process, please contact me at 510-839-8538 or by email at paul@bopumc.net



RETIRED CLERGY IN NEW ORLEANS SIXTH ANNUAL UMMIM PROJECT

Nadine DeWitt, VIM

When: October 26-November 3, 2012

Cost: About \$700-\$800 (incl. flight, housing, most food, ground transportation, insurance & mission project money)

Why: Because the people of New Orleans still need help to get back into their Katrina ravaged homes.

How: Sign up before August 1, 2012 with a \$100/person deposit. We are limited; first come, first served.

Lodging: North Ramparts Community Center next to St. Marks UMC on the edge of the French Quarter. Dormitory sleeping, kitchen, meeting space, showers & laundry.

And... A guided tour of the French Quarter, worship at St. Mark's, see first hand what has been done and still needs to be done. Plus develop a stronger bond with your colleagues.

For more information:

Nadine DeWitt

775-354-2723

nsdgrandma@charternet

BOOK REVIEW

BENEATH THE LINDEN

Rev. John Emerson's new novel, [Beneath the Linden](#), is based on a true story that features three Cal-NeV Conference clergy families - the late Rev. Dr. J. Wesley and Esther Farr, the late Rev. J. Richard Hart and Doreen (now Hinshaw), and Rev. John and Janice Emerson. At the request of the story's protagonists, names of principal characters are fictionalized.

Set in the international conflicts of 1960s Eastern Europe, [Beneath the Linden](#) tells about love and courage in spite of impossible odds. Marlo, an American student overseas, meets and falls in love with Karl, an East German medical student. Karl tries to escape the Iron Curtain for the West to start a new life with Marlo. But Warsaw Pact troops mobilized in August of 1968 create an unexpected obstacle, and the couple's future appears doomed. The story reveals little-known realities about life in former Communist East Germany; but, even more, discloses the indomitable human spirit.

An editorial board has deposited Emerson's literary piece in the Hollywood Database, recommending adaptation for a full-length motion picture. The board's critical review stated, in part, that the novel "is well-written and engaging, with a historically-rich setting and believable characters...Though told from a third-person perspective, Emerson still manages to get inside his characters' minds and convey their suffering and devotion...The conflict and tension of the plot is very well sustained throughout the novel and described in vivid and painful detail...Emerson has created an entertaining, emotionally resonant and unique piece of work that deserves to be viewed by both readers and future audiences alike."

John is writing a sequel, [The Sun Rises in the West](#), about the exploits of Hans Heinrich, who is introduced in [Beneath the Linden](#).

The book may be obtained through his publisher, [Xlibris.com](#), Amazon, Barnes and Noble, or your local independent bookseller. John will have copies available at the Annual Conference Session and will do book signing.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Registration to attend Annual Conference Session is just a bit different this year.

All members, Clergy and Lay, to Annual Conference will be automatically registered. Just show up at the registration tables to get your first day packet and name tag.

The only persons needing to go through the registration process are observers. This would include Clergy Spouses who are not serving as Lay members in some capacity.

Please see the registration process on the Conference website at cnumc.org. If you need assistance, you can contact Jane Horstman at the Conference office or RCA Executive Officer, Nancy Daley.

ANNUAL RCA LUNCHEON CHANGES LOCATION

This year's the Annual Luncheon will be held at the Hyatt Regency. Our usual location was not available due to another convention held during the Annual Conference Session. The Hyatt is south of the Sheraton, and has been the location of the Executive (clergy) Session. We will be on the main floor, ballrooms DEF, which can be accessed from the K Street entrance.

All luncheon tickets **MUST** be reserved in advance and there will be no tickets available for sale at the Annual Conference session. Deadline for pre-registration is June 1, and late registrations will be accepted if postmarked no later than June 10. You will receive a written confirmation that we have received your registration, either by e-mail (preferred) or by mail. If you have not heard from RCA, please call Doug McCoy at 541-482-0673 or contact him at divenome@aol.com.

SCAM ALERTS!

With the progression of technology, thieves have found new and more insidious ways to separate you from your money.

There are more well known scams such as the “Nigerian Prince” scam. This is when you get an email, often from a “Nigerian Prince” but it doesn’t have to be, claiming this poor soul has come into a great deal of money. Unfortunately, this poor soul needs help accessing the money and would like to enlist your help. He will gladly pay you for your troubles from the proceeds.

The victim is then required to put his or her own money into play and this so-called prince disappears along with that money. This scam is also run as a lottery that the victim has supposedly won.

The hallmarks of this scam are often easy to spot. The spelling, grammar and general syntax and sentence structure is bad. Plus, the victim is being asked to be trusted with a great sum of money by a complete stranger.

As people got wise to this scam, new ones popped up. The “distressed traveler” scam began to make the rounds. Scammers managed to hack into email accounts and send an email from the account to that person’s entire email list. The email states that the person, a friend of the target, is stranded in some foreign country without wallet or passport and would you be so kind as to send money to some address to help a friend?

The friend, meanwhile, is at home

blissfully unaware his or her friends are being asked to send money for the rescue! In the case of all of these scams, simply hit delete. Never ever reply.

The variation on the “distressed traveler” scam is the “distressed grandchild” scam. But this one comes as a PHONE CALL. Grandparents, as a general rule, aren’t aware of their grandchildren’s day to day routines and often are hard of hearing. So when a muffled phone call to “grandma” or “grandpa” from someone claiming to be “mumblemumble, your GRANDCHILD” and that grandchild is: in a foreign country, in jail, abandoned by friends while visiting them at college... whatever the story may be, a grandparent wants to help.

If you receive such a call, hang up and call the grandchild’s PARENT. Or the grandchild! You will find the grandchild is perfectly fine.

Your number one line of defense for these scams is a healthy dose of skepticism. Be suspicious of ANYONE who calls or emails with a need for you to send money.

DNS CHANGER MALWARE

This alert is a big one and if you have a computer, you need to check your computer to see if this malware has been surreptitiously loaded onto your computer. This alert comes from the FBI and they are working to eradicate this malware and find the perpetrators.

There is a downloadable pdf (you need to have Adobe Acrobat to read it) available on the FBI's website that goes into detail as to what this is and how to see if your computer is affected. The FBI website is:

<http://www.fbi.gov>

The page where the DNS Changer Malware information can be found is:

http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2011/november/malware_110911

On that DNS Malware information page there are three links. One is to learn about the DNSChanger (the name of this malware) and download the pdf mentioned above. The second is to do a SAFE check of your computer. In essence, the FBI is doing the check for you. You will get a green screen if your computer is infection-free; a red screen if your computer is infected. The third link is to register as a victim of the DNSChanger Malware if your computer indeed has been affected.

THE IRS, SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS AND TAX RETURNS

This one is more pain in the patoot than anything. But, it is not to be trifled with. Your Executive Director's daughter became of a victim of this one this year.

Social Security numbers are being used to file fraudulent tax returns. The reason this is a lucrative endeavor is the numerous tax credits, money from the government, that surrounds children and low income workers. These credits are

tremendously helpful for those who are truly the working poor. They line the pockets of those who pretend to be the working poor.

Your social security number should always be protected. Keep your card in a secure location. Do not carry it with you. Do not give it out to anyone who doesn't have a legitimate need for it (like your tax preparer!).

Your number can be compromised simply by someone coming up with a three-two-four number combination. You can keep your number secure and someone just guesses well.

Your tax return will be rejected if you e-file, and someone has already used your SSN. If you paper file, you will eventually hear from the IRS.

Fortunately, the IRS does have systems in place to deal with this issue. You will need to file an Identity Theft report with your local police and then with the IRS. Alerting the Social Security Administration and the three major credit reporting agencies are your next steps.

You are not alone. This type of theft is on the increase. But the good news is that because this is so common, dealing with it is pretty straightforward. The IRS, Social Security Administration and credit agencies are able to walk you through the process easily.

And remember the IRS will NEVER send you an email. They ONLY use the US Mail.

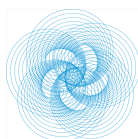
Be careful out there! Protect yourself! Be aware! **You** are your first level of defense.

2013 SPRING FLING

May 1-2, 2013

(Note later date!)

Christ the King Retreat Center



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*.

PLUS

a **panel** of former Bishops

(Melvin Talbert & Roy Sano)

and retired CNUMC Pastors

responding to questions such as:

How has your theology evolved over the years?

How have your views on social issues and/or evangelism changed during your ministry?

What ideas have grabbed you and impacted your life?

Annual Conference Luncheon

“CONTINUING OUR MINISTRY”

FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 2012

Hyatt Regency – 1209 L Street

Gathering 11:30 a.m. Program and Lunch – noon-1:30

Pre-registration REQUIRED. No non-reserved tickets available at the door.

Registration DEADLINE is June 10, 2012

Please join us for fellowship, food and celebration of our continued ministry as retired clergy and spouses.

We will welcome our new class of retirees, celebrate five years of volunteer service in New Orleans, meet our scholarship awardees, elect new board members, and learn about the work of RCA.

This is a time to renew friendships from years past and catch up on the lives of friends and colleagues

RCA LUNCHEON REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address (for confirmation) _____

You will receive a written confirmation. If you have not heard please call 541-482-0673

LUNCH CHOICE: Chicken _____ Salmon _____ Vegetarian Pasta _____

Cost: Postmarked by **June 1, 2012** \$ 25.00

Postmarked after June 1 (**but no later than June 10!**) \$ 30.00

Number of lunches _____ Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

NO TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR.

Make check payable to “**RCA**”. Mail to Dick Ernst, 7930 Crystal Springs Way, Loomis, CA 95650

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

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

<p><u>Calendar</u></p> <p>See website for updates</p> <p>June 19-23, 2012 Annual Conference</p> <p>June 22, 2012 Annual Luncheon HYATT HOTEL</p> <p>July 26, 2012 Is-Beens Albright's Ice Cream Social</p>
