

Days OF GRACE

MAY 2018

STOCKTON AREA CLUSTER GROUP

The Stockton Area Group is a relatively new group to meet. They have found that a brunch is what works well for them. The assortment of breakfast casseroles, breads, and fruit arrangements provides a hearty and bountiful meal for all.

This group has been well connected throughout their ministries together and now in retirement. Many of them served the Greater Stockton community in some way during their careers and so they have great affection for this place and these people. Some have been retired for over a decade and others more recently.

As with all our Cluster Groups, the Stockton group supports one another in all aspects of life. Our Cluster Groups are our first line of connection to one

another. They are the ones closest both in geography and in spirit.

If you are not connected to a Cluster Group, please consider starting one! A list of folks nearest to you can be provided. Your home. A restaurant. A church fellowship hall. It just takes someone to make the arrangements. Is that you?



ANNUAL CONFERENCE MODESTO, CA

It's that time of year, once again!

This year, and next, we will be gathering at the DoubleTree Inn in downtown Modesto, CA. Registration is open and is only available online. If you need

assistance to register, your pastor can assist you, or call Nancy at 916-539-4249 and she can register you while you are on the phone.

Our Annual Luncheon will be held at an offsite restaurant called, The Greens on 10th. It is one block up and one block over from the Conference site. The Conference Claimants

Endowment Board will provide a golf cart for those who are unable to make the walk. Watch for signs in front of the hotel.

Luncheon Registration is now up on the website and included in this issue. Please note the deadline. If you don't know your Membership Level, contact Nancy. (continued on p. 3)



PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

Dear Colleagues,

It's hard for me to believe that my two years as president of the RCA are almost completed. It's been a lot of work, but I have gotten to share it with colleagues whom I cherish. While many of you wonderful colleagues live nearby in my own county, the rest of you are scattered all over two states, and beyond. I have gotten to span that distance and spend much more time with you than I would have just going to the basic events of Spring Fling (always delightful) and the Annual Conference luncheon (always a grand time--oh, was there supposed to be dessert?).

Whenever I was working on nominations each year, I asked myself not only who is talented and dependable, but who are the ones I don't see enough? With whom would I like to share time with at a meeting every month or two? Not all of you were available, but that's how I went about it. Thanks for agreeing to be on the team, so we could spend some good time together.

A big part of our work has been to support the momentum and heritage of programs that were already going. We continued our

support for the Interdenominational Clergy retreat and the grants to attend the Gathering of the Orders. We supported the November UMVIM trips to New Orleans the new ones to Weed and Middletown. We were part of the PRT second annual retreat in September and the Spring Fling retreat for everyone in April. We will all be together for the Annual Conference luncheon as usual, just in a new town this time.

We also tried a couple new things, which will be worth repeating: the New Retirees' luncheon in September, and the Surviving Spouses luncheon, this year in February. We also tried a new tiered system for memberships with cute Wesleyan categories, and you almost doubled your contributions. Thank you very much, all you generous people!

One more new program we hope to have ready to roll out by July we have called our Parish Visitor or Circuit Rider program. There will be one or more retired colleagues going around the Conference, calling on all our retired clergy and spouses, and surviving spouses. No salary, but expenses are covered. Funding details are still being worked out. Interested? Perhaps calling to you? Let us know.

Moving forward, we also need some special greeting card

writers. Probably some of you who already know that you are called to that ministry? You've been doing this all your life? You know how much it raises people's spirits? We will buy your cards and stamps. Call me or call Nancy. Thanks.

And how about a correspondent from each cluster or area? People who like to stay in touch and could gently share the news of what's going on? It would help guide our prayers of support or celebration. It would help people with related stories to reach across the miles to share their discoveries and hopes. And it would warmly fill the pages of "Days of Grace" with the lovely glue that binds us together in God's love. Please call me or call Nancy. Thanks.

I am grateful for your confidence and your trust. It has been my privilege to serve among you, seeking to move the work of the Kingdom a bit further along in this corner of the world entrusted to us.

Love and blessings to you all,

~ Marty

ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION

We will be electing a new slate of officers and welcoming TWENTY FOUR (as of this writing) new retirees plus their spouses, into our ranks.

Watch for video of retiree speeches interspersed throughout plenary to hear more from and about our newest class of retirees.

It is expected that medallions will be presented on Thursday, but watch for a detailed schedule for confirmation.

The Memorial Service is expected to be held Thursday afternoon. Again, check the schedule for specific times.

CALLING ALL AUTHORS!

We will be having a table available at THE LUNCHEON for you to display and sell what you have written!

Please let Nancy know by JUNE 10 if you will be bringing books. You will be responsible for payment collection (envelopes will be provided). Nancy will need to know:

- Title
- Author
- Forms of payment accepted

No books can be sold in the ACS display area, this is only at the luncheon.

A Per Diem will be available thanks to a grant from the Endowment Board. The Form is included in this issue and will be available at the luncheon, in the Temporary Conference Office and at the RCA Table.

The RCA will have a display table along with The Board of Pensions and Endowment Board. Be sure to stop by! We will have some goodies along with your Per Diem form!

The Endowment Board and the Retired Clergy Association Present

Rides For Retirees



Need a ride to the RCA Annual Conference Luncheon from the Hilton DoubleTree? We've got you covered!

Beginning at 11:00 a.m., we will be providing transportation to and from the restaurant (Greens on Tenth). Look for our tent in front of the hotel to hitch a ride!

"Providing Support and Financial Security on the Road of Retirement."

Retired Clergy Association Annual Report 2017-2018

Adopted by Executive Committee March 14, 2018, and by Board vote through e-mail

The Retired Clergy Association, a Conference affiliate organization, represents and serves more than 600 retired clergy and their spouses. Founded in 1992, the Retired Clergy Association (RCA) maintains communication, offers care, and provides programs for these who have served among us. We also interact with the boards and agencies of the Annual Conference on their behalf.

Our Executive Committee and Board each meet 3 times during the year; our annual meeting for the membership is held at the Annual Conference luncheon, where we elect officers and adopt budget for the coming year. Various committees also meet during the annual cycle. Our goal is to provide programs spread across the Conference year for a diversity of opportunities to connect and to serve our members. So, here's a chronological narrative of the past year:

In September we offered our first ever New Retirees luncheon, held at the Conference Center. Our goal was to see how the first few months of retirement were going and offer resources and ideas if needed. We paid for lunch and mileage. This gathering was met with appreciation by the many who attended and it will be offered again September 17, 2018.

The Pastoral Response Team (PRT) met for their annual overnight enrichment retreat, also in September. This program, now in its second full year of operation, follows a Stephen Ministry model, offering someone to come alongside any of our members for a

time, during periods of life involving grief, illness, or other challenging circumstance. Dr. Tom Smith led us on systems theory last September; Rev. Debra Brady is scheduled to work with us on the Enneagram for our gathering in September of 2018. Meals, lodging, and mileage are covered.

In November a team of retired clergy and spouses worked in the New Orleans area, rehabilitating houses from hurricane and flood damage. This was our 12th year there, and we had the homeowner back in her home by the time we left. We work as a VIM team, and it is a wonderful way to spend time with cherished colleagues, making the world better at the same time. We cover our own plane fare, but a grant from the Endowment Board makes this a very affordable mission trip, which happens also to be in a fascinating area of the country.

December finds most of our various cluster groups having a Christmas gathering (in addition to other periodic potlucks and meetings across the year). It's an especially busy time of the year for our Executive Officer, Nancy Daley, as she usually attends all of these gatherings.

January each year brings the Interdenominational Clergy and Spouse Retreat, usually held at San Damiano Center in Danville. We provide a grant to help with program expenses, and we distribute publicity, but the retreat has its own board for planning and operations. The speaker this year addressed international political policy and what the church's role could be.

ANNUAL REPORT

February of this year we explored another new conversation, inviting surviving spouses from across our Conference to come for lunch and to share with a small group of us. Our concern was that they may be an especially invisible and underserved group within our membership—and unfortunately, we found that to be largely true. The conversations were helpful, and the plan is to do this again in the coming program year, going out to some areas more distant from the

Total membership giving was \$6,940 during our 2016-2017 giving cycle. Already through January of 2018 the giving total comes to \$13,576.10, with at least 3 lifetime memberships.

Conference Center and thus making the conversations more accessible. Again, we covered the cost of lunch and mileage to make it possible.

April brings our second annual VIM trip scheduled within the Conference, rebuilding houses destroyed by wildfire in Lake County. Again, this is a very reasonable mission opportunity, with dorm rooms and meals provided for \$150.00 for the week, and nearby motel rooms available at reduced cost. RV sites and hook-ups are also provided for those needing them. (Our first UVMIM mission trip within the Conference was last year in Weed, again rebuilding houses lost to wildfire destruction.)

Our annual retreat for retired clergy and spouses we call Spring Fling, and it is held in April of each year, usually a week or two after Easter. More than 100 of our membership show up for this 24-hour event, featuring a guest speaker, a guest musician to lead our singing, and a memorial service for those who have died in the past year. The costs are reasonable, because of a grant from the Endowment Board, and first time attendees actually get to come at half price! Last year we learned about Pope Francis, this year we learn about Islam, and next year we learn from Biblical scholar Pamela Eisenbaum. The event moved this year from Christ the King to San Damiano retreat center.

Our biggest event of the year is the luncheon for retired clergy and spouses at Annual Conference. Last year in Burlingame there were a record 165 present, and we expect even more to show up this year in Modesto, which may be more geographically accessible. At this gathering we elect officers, set budget, and present scholarships to those attending seminary or the Course of Study. The cost of the meal is subsidized, and new retirees attend as our guests, again thanks to a generous grant from the CCEB.

Our most expensive event of the year is turning out to be Annual Conference, not only for the luncheon, but for the cost of the per diem provided to retired clergy and spouses so they can attend. Requests have grown from \$11,000 in 2013, to \$34,000 budgeted for this year. Our bishop is pleased that we have such a good showing of retired clergy at Annual Conference, but we had to ask for an increase in our funding from the Conference Claimants Endowment Board last year, and probably will need to do so again.

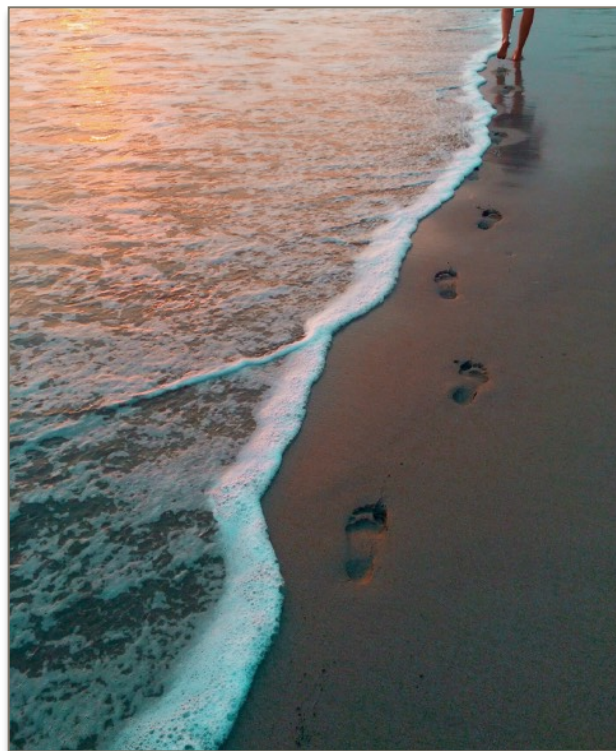
Speaking of funding, we almost doubled our membership donations this year, through offering new, tiered giving levels, and some cute Wesleyan categories of giving. Total membership giving was \$6,940 during our 2016-2017 giving cycle. Already through January of 2018 the giving total comes to \$13,576.10, with at least 3 lifetime memberships. Higher giving levels offer reductions on the cost of the Annual Conference luncheon and the Spring Fling, with larger discounts for higher levels of giving. It's fun to see the success of the new approach.

A new program idea we hope to fund is for a team of "Parish Visitors" who will do some travel within the Annual Conference, to see that every retired clergy and spouse, or surviving spouse, gets a personal visit, either at home or as part of a cluster gathering. These will be volunteer positions, but lodging, meals and mileage will be covered.

Working with the Board of Pensions and the Conference Claimants Endowment Board, the Retired Clergy Association continues to seek new and creative ways to increase its support of and communication with retirees and surviving spouses. The association continues to work with the Conference leadership to determine the ministries in which retirees might participate, such as volunteering as mentors or coaches with active clergy when asked.

The RCA is grateful for the work of our Executive Officer, Nancy Daley. Nancy fills many roles in her ministry, including serving as the editor of our newsletter, "Days of Grace." We noted last year that her office is now in the complex occupied by the Board of Pensions on Howe Avenue in Sacramento. We are grateful for this good space and the easier cooperation and communication it facilitates.

The RCA is very appreciative for the ongoing support of Cory Parish and the Conference Claimants Endowment Board, as well as Paul Extrum-Fernandez and the Conference Board of Pensions.



Respectfully submitted,

Marty Murdock

President

EVENTS ON THE HORIZON

Please note the dates and mark your calendar!



GATHERING OF THE ORDERS JANUARY 29-31, 2019

Please watch official announcements from the Conference for details as to location and registration.



ECUMENICAL RETREAT FEBRUARY 4-5, 2019

Watch your mail and the RCA website for more information in the fall. If you have questions, please contact Jerry Fox at 408-607-7160 or revfox7@gmail.com



SPRING FLING APRIL 24-25, 2019

PAMELA EISENBAUM

Pamela Eisenbaum is professor of Biblical studies and Christian origins at Iliff, and is associate faculty of the Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Denver. One of four Jewish New Testament scholars teaching in Christian theological schools, she is the author of *The Jewish Heroes of Christian History: Hebrews 11 in Literary Context*, *Invitations to Romans*, and most recently, *Paul Was Not a Christian: The Original Message of a Misunderstood Apostle*. She has published many essays on the Bible, ancient Judaism and the origins of Christianity, and is an active member of the Society of Biblical Literature.

She will be speaking to us on "Paul Was Not a Christian". Please plan on joining us!

RCA VIM TRIPS



The RCA VIM Team is fired up and ready to go!

Two trips are planned for the next year.

New Orleans, LA November 2-10, 2018

The need is still great and we are one of the few groups returning annually. Please consider joining us for this amazing experience in a community forgotten in the national narrative. We stay at the North Rampart Community Center, located on the edge of the French Quarter. We always join St. Mark's UMC for worship with this unique faith community.

Northern CA April 1-6, 2019 (tentative)

Work right here in our own backyard with fire recovery. Travel by car and bring your RV if you can. Work alongside fellow CA-NV UMC folks as we assist those right next door.

Contact Betty Pagett for more information: bettypagett@gmail.com
707-981-8636

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY PAULA LESLIE

If you wish to send Paula greetings on this auspicious occasion coming on August 14 , please send them to:

Paula Leslie
1800 Atrium Parkway #438
Napa, CA 94559



WORD IS HEARD FROM... SONOMA COUNTY



Thanks to Gayle Pickrell for compiling information from our colleagues in Sonoma County and the general North Bay Area.

In December, there were 18 people who attended the Sonoma County Retiree gathering. In March the group hosted Pastors Matt Pearson (Sonoma UMC) and Lindsey Kerr (1st & Christ Church, Santa Rosa), asking them to share their thoughts about the UMC "Way Forward" proposals. A very meaningful time.

Bill & Noreen Marx moved to Paulin Creek Residential facility in Santa Rosa and are enjoying having everything taken care of for them. Bill gave his viola away during the move, but kept his violin. The whole facility had to evacuate to a Rohnert Park shelter in the middle of the night during the October fires.

Gil Vieira reported that Dottie had fallen again; she is currently in a care facility. He continues to practice "patience."

Betty Pagett and **Marty Murdock** went on a Retiree VIM trip to New Orleans. Another New Orleans trip will take place next November. There will also be a VIM work project to Lake County the week after Easter.

Bob & Pearl Simison (*transplants from Kansas*) are realizing there are good people everywhere. Bob is missing the friendships and contacts from his former conference and is interested in what our conference is doing with LGBTQ issues.

Evelyn Schlager still enjoys the piano group that meets once a month, and is working on a Chopin piece. She is hoping to stay in her home for as long as possible.

Alice Friesen evacuated to a shelter in Petaluma during the fires. Last May she had a wonderful trip with her daughter to Iceland, enjoying concerts, waterfalls, geysers.

Sandra Exelby "sheltered in place" during the fires, and shared it was a scary time. She enjoys meeting the neighbors with her regular walks, but does have issues with mobility. She serves on the Immigration Task Force for the conference, and is struggling with "white racism."

Dave & Jan Slorpe go to Mesa, AZ every couple months to visit their granddaughter.

Gayle Pickrell & John Davenport went to Michigan in October to be with John's family, including 3 great-grandchildren. They flew to Japan in November to be with Gayle's daughter and family. They also enjoy spending time at a friend's beach house in Ventura.

Jim & Celinda Current were quite involved with their Novato UMC church when it became a shelter for fire evacuees. Many people, especially Latinos, were grateful that it was a safe, secure environment. They had a several-week stay in Edinburgh, Scotland and also in England as part of Jim's brother's house exchange program. Currently their daughter is living with them. Celinda is enjoying playing the ukulele.

Marty & Cheryl Murdock enjoy taking care of 2 grandchildren 4 days each month. They have had several wonderful trips this year: Ireland in May, France in October, and Cheryl went with a friend to Germany as well.

Days OF GRACE



KEEP IN TOUCH.....

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

Days of Grace is published three times per year (October, February, and May). It is automatically delivered to your mailbox. If you prefer to opt into a paperless version, please visit the RCA Website at <http://www.ca-nv-rca.org> and sign up on the front page on the lower right.

It is important that you keep the RCA up to date on your contact information. Not only do we use it to send Days of Grace, but also for all our gatherings and events. We don't want to lose you! Just drop a note in the mail or email your updated information.

RCA MAILING ADDRESS

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

RCA EMAIL CONTACT

nancydaley@ca-nv-rca.org
www.ca-nv-rca.org

June 2018

**For CONFERENCE CLERGY CLAIMANTS
(Retired Clergy, Spouses, Surviving Spouses -
Cal-Nevada Conference)**



**ALL PAPERWORK MUST BE
RECEIVED BY:
SEPTEMBER 1, 2018**

**Provided to you by:
A Grant by the Conference Claimants Endowment Board
and the Retired Clergy Association**

Date: _____

Name _____

Name of Spouse (if attending) _____ Spouse is Clergy: yes _____ no _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

***I hereby request reimbursement in the amount of \$ _____ for expenses incurred
at the 2018 Annual Conference Session for food, lodging, parking and incidentals**.***

****Please attach your hotel bill receipt and any expense receipts.**

Maximum Reimbursement:

ONE DAY'S attendance for Retired Clergy/Surviving Spouse	(max. \$200)
ONE DAY'S attendance for Retired Clergy and 2 nd Clergy/Spouse	(max. \$250)
TWO DAY'S attendance for Retired Clergy/Surviving Spouse	(max. \$400)
TWO DAY'S attendance for Retired Clergy and 2 nd Clergy/Spouse	(max. \$500)
THREE DAY'S attendance for Retired Clergy/Surviving Spouse	(max. \$600)
THREE DAY'S attendance for Retired Clergy and 2 nd Clergy/Spouse	(max. \$750)

Hotel Expense: _____ Receipts **REQUIRED**

Parking Expense: _____ Receipts **REQUIRED**

Food/Meals Expense: _____ Receipts **REQUIRED**

Incidental Expense: _____ Receipts **REQUIRED**

Signed _____

After you fill out this form (**attach all receipts**) return it to the **RCA Mailbox** in the temporary Conference Business Office in the DoubleTree Hotel.

CHECKS WILL BE MAILED AFTER CONFERENCE.

**PLEASE NOTE
NEW ADDRESS**



Or mail to: Retired Clergy Association
9328 Elk Grove Blvd. #105-141
Elk Grove, CA 95624

Annual Conference Luncheon

Wednesday June 20, 2018

The Greens on Tenth * 953 10th Street Modesto* Phone: 209-324-6880

Gathering 11:30am Program and Lunch – at Plenary Lunch Recess

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

Registration DEADLINE is June 10, 2018

Please join us for fellowship, food and celebration of our continued ministry as retired clergy and spouses. This is a time to welcome new retirees, renew friendships from years past, congratulate our scholarship winners, and catch up on the lives of friends and colleagues. Each meal includes Baby Lettuce salad, Parker House Rolls, Lemon Tart for dessert, and beverage.

RCA LUNCHEON REGISTRATION FORM

Member 1

Name _____

Food Choice: Tuscan Chicken Shrimp Scampi Vegetable Napolean with Grilled Vegetables

Membership Levels: Basic \$30.00 Supporting \$22.50 Sustaining \$15 Sponsoring & Lifetime FREE

Member 2

Name _____

Food Choice: Tuscan Chicken Shrimp Scampi Vegetable Napolean with Grilled Vegetables

Membership Levels: Basic \$30.00 Supporting \$22.50 Sustaining \$15 Sponsoring & Lifetime FREE

Non-Member

Name _____

Food Choice: Tuscan Chicken Shrimp Scampi Vegetable Napolean with Grilled Vegetables

Non-Member \$60.00

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address (for confirmation) _____

You will receive an email confirmation. If you have not heard please call 916-539-4249

Number of lunches _____ Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

***PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED.
NO TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR.***

Make check payable to “**RCA**”

Mail to:

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

OFFICE USE ONLY: CK# _____ EP \$ _____ DATE _____ CONFIRM _____ PM _____

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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ACS Commission: *Dave Thompson*

Relational Care: *Carolee Catterall*

Spring Fling: *Floyd Quenzer and Donna Houglund*

Scholarship Program: *Judson Gears*

UMVIM: *Betty Pagett*

Class of 2018: *Pam Abbey, Jerry Angove, Debbie Dillon, Miklos Nicolson*

Class of 2019: *Jim Current, Bill & Kate Johnson, Sandy Roberts, Ben Silva-Netto*

Class of 2020: *Heather Hammer, Jim Luther, Kristie Olah, Susan Kemper*

EXECUTIVE OFFICER & RCA CONTACT INFO

Nancy Daley

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

916-539-4249

nancydaley@ca-nv-rca.org

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 20-23, 2018

Annual Conference Session

> Modesto DoubleTree

Annual Luncheon and Meeting

June 20, 2018

>The Greens on 10th.