



RETIRED CLERGY  
CLERGY SPOUSES  
SURVIVING  
SPOUSES



# DAYS OF GRACE

May 2019

## RETIREE AND/OR SPOUSE RENEWAL AND ENHANCEMENT

In retirement there are so many options for what to do with our time. Making the choices can be fun or it can be overwhelming. Did you ever think about how to make the choices? The Retired Clergy Association is sponsoring a time of renewal and learning something new for our own enhancement.

We will be using Gallup's Strength Finder 2.0. The assessment identifies each person's top 5 strengths out of 34 named strengths. By using those top 5 strengths discover what you naturally do best, and how to develop your talents. Each person will have a book for a more in-depth

look at the characteristics of each strength, and to use the book for future reference.

The other topic of this renewal and enhancement is communication. We live in a world where families have trouble discussing some topics and when we encounter someone with a different view we aren't sure how to approach the conversation. Our goal is always to make a connection with the other person, and sometimes we aren't sure how to do that.

This session will be held Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:30 pm. The session will continue the next day at 8:30 am and we will be finished by 3 pm on Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Everyone involved in the Pastoral Response program or the Parish Visit program is invited to attend. If you are interested and not part of either of these programs, please come. Sign up will be later this year. All are welcome! Clergy, Spouses, Surviving Spouses... everyone!



### ANNUAL CONFERENCE RESPITE ROOM

We will once again have a Respite Room at ACS! We are told it will be in the same place... Look for it beginning at 8am on Wednesday and ending mid-afternoon Friday.



### PER DIEM FORMS

Per Diem Forms will be available at the luncheon, at the RCA display table, and at the temporary conference office. Also look for the form in THIS issue on page 9



### 100TH BIRTHDAYS

When you turn 100, you get an announcement in Days of Grace (so be sure I have your year of birth!) John Moore and Myrtle Findley are reaching 100 in September! See page 8



### ANNUAL CONFERENCE LUNCH

The Greens on 10th will once again be the site of our Annual Lunch and Meeting. The registration form is on page 11. You MUST register ahead of time!

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

Greetings and Salutations!

Once again we come to the end of another church year. Perhaps not quite the time of stress for all of you as it once was.... you know where you will be next year!

Annual Conference is coming up fast! If you have not made your hotel reservations, you may need to look for accommodations at other area hotels. I believe the DoubleTree is approaching capacity if it hasn't already.

The Annual Luncheon Reservation Form is in this issue on page 11. PLEASE make your reservation! We can accommodate a lot of people, but we MUST have an accurate count. The cost of the luncheon remains unchanged at \$30. (discounted depending on membership level) WE SIMPLY CANNOT ACCOMMODATE AT THE DOOR REQUESTS. You can make your reservation and pay online or by mail. The deadline is JUNE 10.

Per Diem reimbursement forms are also in this issue on page 9. They will be at the lunch, at our display table, at the temporary conference office, and on our website. RECEIPTS MUST BE INCLUDED. If you share a receipt, copies are acceptable. Bank statements are not. You will notice that mileage IS included. Please keep track of your mileage within the conference boundaries, but there is no 200 mile minimum. If you commute, you can claim mileage!

See you there! ~Nancy

# PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

Greetings To All In The Name of Christ!

Each year the RCA reports to the Annual Conference achievements of the year. Following is our report to the Conference.

*The Retired Clergy Association of the California-Nevada Annual Conference's purpose is to maintain a supportive relationship with each other and strengthen its relationship with the Annual Conference by continuing to be of service to the church and the world. We do this through various service projects offered to retirees, spouses, and surviving spouses. Retirees serve the churches of the Annual Conference through pulpit supply, short and long term, as well as participating in the Sacraments. Members of the Association participate in mission projects which seek to alleviate hardships suffered by others, locally and globally.*

*Our Executive Officer, Nancy Daley, maintains a database, mailing lists, meeting records, and a website for more than 700 persons, which keeps the membership informed of all aspects of The Association.*

*The Conference Claimants Endowment Board, through its generous support, helps the Association maintain a visible presence in the lives of the membership. Through financial support, the Association is able to send teams on VIM trips, provide a per diem for retirees, spouses, and surviving spouses to attend the Annual Conference Session, and assist clergy to attend the Gathering of the Orders. The Board of*



*Pensions is very supportive of retirees, spouses, and surviving spouses by keeping us informed of, and connected to, quality health care at as reasonable a cost as possible.*

*The Association is committed to offering high quality programs that will benefit the membership, spiritually, physically, socially, and emotionally. The Association is also able to connect to future clergy by providing, through member donations, scholarships to seminarians and course of study students.*

*We are currently developing programs that will further connect each person with a personal visit (within the bounds of the Annual Conference) seeking to find out how it is with each other's soul and to prevent persons from "falling through the cracks."*

*Thanks are in order for all who have answered the call to serve as the Board of Directors of the Association.*

Thank you for your support and commitment to the RCA.

*Tom*



# 202 HOURS!

with a group from South Reno UMC and an Americorps team. We were fed well, and ended the week with the special experience of being part of Hope City's 21st home completion and dedication service, on Cobb Mountain. If you are interested in work project leadership, consider the next VIM training MAY 18 at the Alamo church. Contact VIM to register. And consider joining the 7 already committed to the final New Orleans area work project, the first week in November.

~Betty Pagett  
[bettypagett@gmail.com]



The third RCA work project in Northern California fire areas was the first week in April with Hope City headquartered in Middletown. Floyd, Donna, Bob, Elizabeth, Cory, Frank, Marty and Dennis joined me in putting in a total of 202 hours of labor, mostly on Hope City's first completely accessible home. We stayed in their very comfortable dorms, along



## PALO ALTO RETIREE AND SPOUSE LUNCHEON



Photo by [Casey Lee](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Are you curious about what your fellow retirees, spouses and surviving spouses are doing? Do you want to hear some of the news within the Conference and within the Retired Clergy Association? Join us on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 at Pacific Catch located in the Village at San Antonio Center. The address is 545 San Antonio Rd Suite 34, Mountain View, CA. Please RSVP to Linda Holbrook at [lindaaholbrook@hotmail.com](mailto:lindaaholbrook@hotmail.com) or at 214 478 6945 by May 3<sup>rd</sup> so we can make a reservation. Each person is responsible for their individual lunch. If you know of anyone who is in the area and wants to come, please invite them and have them RSVP. I look forward to seeing you there.

~Linda

# CONFERENCE CLAIMANTS ENDOWMENT BOARD.....



*The  
Endowment  
Board*

*Welcomes Ms.  
Marsha Bryan to their  
Team!*

The Endowment Board is pleased to welcome Ms. Marsha Bryan to their staff. Ms. Bryan will serve as the Legacy Advisor, spearheading the revival of their Fund Development program; harkening back to the days of Harry Shaner, Al Thomas, and John Espie. Ms. Bryan will focus on creating a culture of philanthropy, and

generating funds to further the mission of The Endowment Board (CCEB).

She comes to CCEB with over two decades of experience in the non-profit industry, a wealth of knowledge in planned and major giving from her time as the Director of Development for various organizations, and a lifetime of service in the United Methodist Church as the wife of late pastor, Rev. A. Allen Bryan.

As the past Executive Director of the California-Nevada United Methodist Foundation, she has a deep understanding of the

conference, as well as a personal appreciation and passion for the mission of The Endowment Board. "After the death of my husband, I was searching for God's calling, and I believe I have found it in my new role with The Endowment Board," says Ms. Bryan, "I look forward to providing our donors with the opportunity to create a lasting legacy through our Planned Giving program." Ms. Bryan is blessed with two children and three grandchildren.

Please give a warm welcome to Ms. Bryan when you see her at the RCA luncheon in June!

Back by Popular Demand,  
The Endowment Board Presents

# 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."**

# A HOLY WEEK REFLECTION

-NANCY DALEY

As I reflect on the burning of Notre Dame Cathedral, I am struck by many things. The timing. The damage. The lack of damage. The response to rebuild.

We are in Easter week, this time in the Christian calendar that we mourn death and look towards resurrection, the death of the Cathedral as we have known it seems especially symbolic. This is a death, but we look towards the rebirth of a restored Cathedral.

I have been feeling that there is a bigger message for us to derive. Not just for Christians, although maybe in particular for those that claim the

title, but for humankind in general. Regardless of where you land on the globe, there is great strife. Strife of our own making. We are feeling it here in the US through the divisive politics of hate. When we have our government dividing families who seek safety and a better life. When we have our president equating a member of congress with the attacks of 9/11. When we debate whether or not children deserve to be fed, housed, or given health care because of decisions and circumstances beyond their control. England is struggling with dividing themselves from the European Union. France is struggling with issues around refugees and those darn Americans and British folks.... as well as their own internal issues. Korea has been divided for years. Israel and Palestine are divided over religion and geographical claims. The mid-east is divided over theological interpretation. Everywhere is divided between the haves and have nots.

Regardless of where you land on the globe, there is great strife. Strife of our own making.

We have, as citizens of this planet, lost our ability to see beyond ourselves. We only care about enriching ourselves, be damned The Other. \*I\* am right and \*you\* are wrong. We seek to build walls (figuratively in most places, literally in a few) rather than bigger tables.

*Christ did NOT give his life for us to behave like this.*

This great symbol of Christianity has burned. The good news is that has also survived. God's love for us and the sacrifice that Christ made for us, survives through all manner of separation. When we have separated ourselves from one another, from our Earth, from God, and from Christ, we are still beloved children of God.

Already people across nations have pledged money to rebuild Notre Dame. As of this writing, a billion dollars has been pledged to rebuild.

(happily, the three black churches in Louisiana have also seen a surge in donations after the Notre Dame fire!) It is those with great wealth who have led the effort and done so with very large donations. Many of those are French, naturally, but the wealthy in the United States and United States companies (Apple, Disney) have also stepped forward with pledges.

Perhaps that is the message that we need this Holy Week. It's right there in the Bible. In Leviticus and Deuteronomy we are told to leave some of our wealth for the poor to glean and to lay aside for the orphans and widows. In Matthew we are told by Christ, "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." In Mark, he tells us to "render unto Caesar what is Caesar's." Psalm 72 can argue that a righteous government assists the poor. Christ, in Luke 6:36-42 even manages to appeal to our modern sensibilities with ""Be merciful, even as your Father is

*(continued on page 6)*



## SAN JOSE AND SUNNYVALE AREA RETIREE AND SPOUSE LUNCHEON

Are you curious about what your fellow retirees, spouses and surviving spouses are doing? Do you want to hear some of the news within the Conference and within the Retired Clergy Association? Join us on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 at Fiorillo's Restaurant located at 638 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA. Please RSVP to Linda Holbrook at [lindaaholbrook@hotmail.com](mailto:lindaaholbrook@hotmail.com) or at 214 478 6945 by May 10<sup>th</sup> so we can make a reservation. Each person is responsible for their individual lunch. If you know of anyone who is in the area and wants to come, please invite them and have them RSVP. I look forward to seeing you there.

~Linda



*(continued from page 5)* merciful. Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you." Those with great wealth have a duty....a Christian duty.... to give. There is an obligation to make sure those without are cared for. We do this both through our gifts to the church, and through our taxes. For it is through taxes that roads are built and schools are funded; the hungry are fed; our seniors can live out their years safe, clothed, fed, housed. It is with our taxes that we could make sure all are able to maintain their health and not face fiscal ruin if illness or accident happens along. We as Christians ought to be the first to give our taxes and the last to complain. Christians ought to be at the forefront for social programs and the funding through taxes to create safety nets. Safety nets that could be there for any one of us. It is biblical to require more from those who have more.

We are a damaged people. We have lost our way. Like the Cathedral, our outward appearance is charred and ugly. Also, like the Cathedral, are not destroyed. Our foundation holds. Our own flying buttresses still hold us firm. We too can be resurrected. We too can be brought back from the ashes. We too can be washed clean. We just need to get our priorities in line with what Christ commanded us to do: Love one another. We need to clean up the ashes. Wipe away the water damage. Find our way to rebuild and bring ourselves, like we will the Cathedral, back to the Glory to God that we are called to do.

### **WORD HAS BEEN HEARD FROM.... BETTY BOSWELL**

Betty turned 96 on January 4th 2019. Her children, Bobbie, Craig, and Beverly, grandchildren, and great grandchildren gathered to celebrate this very special day in our family.

Betty lives in a Residential Care Facility in Clovis, CA. She is a Warrior's fan and loves taking scenic rides that end with a milkshake!

Submitted by Betty's daughter, Bobbie Vivian

# 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](mailto:nancydaley@ca-nv-rca.org)  
[www.ca-nv-rca.org](http://www.ca-nv-rca.org)

# HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAYS!

John Moore  
September 6

Myrtle Findley  
September 9



Wow! Two Centarians in the same week!  
You are invited to send cards and notes  
to celebrate these grand birthdays!

John Moore  
543 Spring St. #120  
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

Myrtle Findley  
P.O. Box 1480  
Colfax, CA 95713

## RETREAT INSPIRES CONNECTION CLERGY SPOUSE ASSOCIATION

"When I am by the ocean, I immediately breathe easier - losing stress with each breath," reported Ray Jellison, an attendee at the Clergy Spouse Retreat in mid-March at Villa Del Mar Retreat Center in Santa Cruz.

More than a dozen clergy spouses from the California-Nevada Annual Conference attended to build connections with each other and to be refreshed spiritually. "It's so wonderful to share, relax, listen, walk, laugh, and eat!" noted Sue First.

The guest speaker, retired pastor Dave Thompson, pointed out similarities between the biblical story of Ruth and the experience of being a clergy spouse citing the them of

"where you go." Discussions were both lively and contemplative.

"So great to be able to reconnect with my sister and brother clergy spouses - being with people who understand..." said one. "So awesome to be with my own kind!" laughed another.

Time was also spent walking on the beach, singing, praying, and being silent. Losa Toetu'u was especially glad to have her 7am meditation include watching ocean waves out the window of her room. After an evening session, spouse Joseph Jacobs (aka "Joe Chaplain") was inspired to compose a song, "Open Unto You" (Lenten Song), and share it with the group (and special permission to share on the conference website as well).

Retired spouse, Norma Florendo summed it up as a "very rewarding retreat!" and she encouraged more spouses to attend in the future. Upcoming retreats include November 10-11 overnight in the Sacramento area and March 27-29, 2020 at Mercy Center in Auburn, CA. For more information, contact Ray Jellison at 916-783-8793 or Tupou Fakava-Smith at [tfakava@tjeg.com](mailto:tfakava@tjeg.com).





June 2019

**For CA-NV CONFERENCE CLAIMANTS  
(Retired Clergy, Spouses, Surviving Spouses)**



**ALL PAPERWORK MUST BE  
RECEIVED BY:  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2019**

Provided to you by:  
A Grant from 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 2019 Annual Conference Session for food, lodging, parking and mileage\*\*.***

**\*\*Please attach your receipts. Receipts are REQUIRED for reimbursement**

Maximum Reimbursement:

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

Hotel Expense: \_\_\_\_\_ Receipts **REQUIRED**

Parking Expense: \_\_\_\_\_ Receipts **REQUIRED**

Food/Meals Expense: \_\_\_\_\_ Receipts **REQUIRED**

Mileage: \_\_\_\_\_ (20 cents per mile)

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**

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



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# Annual Conference Luncheon

Wednesday June 19, 2019

**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, 2019**

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 Four Seasons Farm Salad, Parker House Rolls, Lemon Tart for dessert, and beverage.

## RCA LUNCHEON REGISTRATION FORM

Member 1 Name \_\_\_\_\_

Food Choice:  Chicken Marbella  Tilapia  Vegetable Napoleon with Grilled Vegetables

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

Member 2 Name \_\_\_\_\_

Food Choice:  Chicken Marbella  Tilapia  Vegetable Napoleon with Grilled Vegetables

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

Non-Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

Food Choice:  Chicken Marbella  Tilapia  Vegetable Napoleon 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 by June 15 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  
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Retired Clergy Association  
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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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

Class of 2018: *Judson Gears, Jinsik Lee, Juan Saavedra*

### 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](mailto:nancydaley@ca-nv-rca.org)

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Conference Session

June 19-22, 2019

> Modesto Double Tree

Annual Luncheon

June 19, 2019

>The Greens on 10th

Gathering of the Orders

January 29-31, 2019

>Modesto Double Tree

Spring Fling

April 22-23, 2019