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RETIRED CLERGY ASSOCIATION

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA CONFERENCE

# Find us on

### RCA is on Facebook

The Board of Directors decided last fall that the RCA should have a presence on Facebook. So with that in mind, a Facebook group has been created. Simply search for "Retired Clergy Association - California Nevada" and choose the group that should be your first option. In order

STAY

to be sure that we don't get random trolls and bots, questions will need to be answered. These should be easily answered by any member! Once you answer the questions, your answers will be reviewed by the Admins of the group and your join request will be approved. Give us a day or so to approve your request. Currently, there are two Admins; Nancy Daley and Heather Leslie Hammer.

There are some rules to abide by as well. Please read these rules! We simply ask that everyone remember that we are all colleagues and behave as we would if we were conversing in person.

Do feel free to invite other retired clergy, spouses, and surviving spouses that you know on Facebook. We welcome your conversation and interaction. This is yet another way we can continue to be in connection regardless of where we are or our ability to get out to an event.

### GRATITUDE IN ACTION

The Endowment Board allows you to leave a legacy and continue on in a tradition over 100 years old. Pages 2 & 3

### RELATIONAL CARE

The RCA wants to be sure YOU are connected. Learn how from Linda Holbrook on page 5

### VIM **PROJECTS**

VIM has wrapped up their time in New Orleans. Now on to more local areas that need fire recovery help. Page 10

### SPRING FLING

April 21-22 (TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY) at San Damiano. Greg Bergquist is our speaker. Registration enclosed.

President's Ponderings





When we were active it seems that the answers were always there for us, as we counseled with parishoners caught up in situations like this. Who now do we turn to? Can a solution be found that is going to satisfy everyone involved?

Questions deserve answers, or are they allowed to languish in a dark hole of doubt, frustration, and giving up? Perhaps you have faced or are facing like situations. Can someone from RCA possibly be of assistance? Reach out from your closet of darkness and find light that will guide and sustain you. This is a conversation starter. Will you join in?

~Tom



### 2019 TREE OF GRATITUDE AND REMEMBRANCE

On behalf of The Endowment Board, we would like to thank everyone who participated in our 2019 "Tree of Gratitude and Remembrance."

All tribute donations received in the month of December were added to our "Tree of Gratitude and Remembrance" at our corporate office in Stockton. Each message was crafted by the donor and added to the tree with love or appreciation.



### Gratitude in Action

The ornament tributes ranged from remembering loved ones who have passed on to sweet messages of gratitude to special friends or colleagues of the donors. Honorees were mailed acknowledgement letters of the thoughtful contributions.

With your help, we raised over \$10,000 to assist with healthcare subsidies, pension contributions, relational care programs, and services for the retired clergy and their spouses of the California/Nevada Conference. We are continually astounded by your abundant generosity – thank you for

putting your Gratitude in Action.

We pray that your 2020 is filled with good health and happiness, and we can't wait to see you soon to express our gratitude in person.

Blessings,

Your Endowment Board Family

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### Living Our Gratitude in Action

By Marsha Bryan Legacy Advisor for The Endowment Board

In the fall of 2019, we were blessed by a very generous tribute donation from two devoted United Methodists who wanted to do something special for all those Clergy who have served the churches they have attended. Lloyd and Donna Hall honored 19 pastors with their gift!

It is in that spirit that we begin to tell your story as Retired Clergy in this Annual Conference. We know that you were called by God to serve the Church and your work has not stopped just because you are enjoying your retirement. Many of you have already shared your stories of how you continue to serve in ministry. This column will share those stories.

Please email me at <u>marsha@endowbd.org</u> and describe your ministries and I will contact you to get more information in order to share it in this column. I look forward to hearing from you, and for now, please enjoy Mr. and Mrs. Hall's story of "Living Our Gratitude in Action."



# Living Our Gratitude in Action - Lloyd and Donna Hall

Lloyd and Donna Hall have lived in Merced, CA for many years. In fact, the junior high sweethearts were married 67 years ago at Le Grand UMC, and their children grew up in the youth ministry programs at Merced UMC.

Mr. and Mrs. Hall made a generous gift to The Endowment Board in honor and memory of their beloved United Methodist pastors. The list of names dates back to the early 1950s through today.

"We have always appreciated our pastors and how hard they work," explained Mrs. Hall, "They don't always get the recognition they deserve. From our time serving as lay leaders, we know retirement can be a challenge for clergy, and we hope our gift will help defray some of those costs. We have led a blessed life, and God called us to pay that forward in the form of a tribute to those who have done so much for our family."





Is-Beens (Sacramento)
RCA December Gathering

Having postponed our late October gathering because of the most recent wildfire evacuation, 11 members of our cluster finally got together in early December. After a great polluck lunch, we went around the circle to share news, and then spent some time and conversation about the state of the church, seeking hopeful possibilities.

Jim and Celinda Current are doing a bit less travel this year, but Jim's ear crystals have cleared up, allowing normal balance again. Hooray!

Gil Vieira is finishing his 5th year of leading the fundraising for end of the year gratuities for the staff in his facility. This year they were able to present almost \$500.00 to each one. He was also missing Dottie especially at Christmas, as it has been just over a year since her passing.

Betty Pagett just returned from rebuilding houses in the New Orleans area with other RCA members (as she has done for the past 15 years), and is again busy helping care for her grandchildren who live in nearby Marin County.

Marty and Cheryl Murdock got to do a cruise from Norway to Canada in September and are looking forward to other travel in the new year. They also get to help care for their grandchildren for a few days each month while their daughter has to work out of town.

Gayle Pickerel has been busy taking care of her grandchildren in Southern California after a tragic family emergency there. Her husband, John Davenport, was home briefly and was able to attend our gathering.

Bob and Pearl Simison have been in our area for a few years now, moving from the Kansas Conference to live near their daughter in Petaluma. Bob was present for lunch, but Pearl was home with the cold she had caught from him. He was also remembering past General Conferences and the challenging work of processing the petitions.

Glo Wellman is a lay pastor who recently retired from her assignment as pastor of Christ Church in Santa Rosa. We twisted her arm and told her she needed to be part of our gatherings, and so she joined us!

# North Bay Group

CO -

Compiled by Marty Murdock and Betty Pagett

Norma Jean Powell shared that "it began with me leading worship once a month in the health care unit at Redwoods Senior Residence in Mill Valley. That became two Sundays a month. Once as I closed the worship service a nurse asked me if I would visit a woman who was distraught. I sat with her until she fell asleep. She passed away in a few hours. I realized that the Redwoods had no spiritual support or care for the residents of the health care unit. After speaking with the program director, she was happy for me to come one afternoon a week to visit with those she would designate. I applied to the UMW Beulah Fund and received a grant that makes this ministry possible. The Beulah Senior Adult grans are funded with the proceeds from the sale of the Beulah Home several years ago and is administered by Cal/Nevada UMW.

Recently, Aegis Senior Living Center in Corte Madera asked me to lead Protestant worship twice a week and visit with residents in their hospice unit. Watching a person who is nearly non verbal with dementia light up and sing the old hymns or say the Lord's Prayer with me affirms the need for this ministry and is a joy."

Dave and Jan Slorpe spent two months in Mesa, AZ visiting granddaughter and family.

Sandra Exelby shares "My life continues daily. Nothing exciting by most standards, but enriched by walking meditation and service as simple as sharing food with my neighbors.

Nancy Daley usually drives over to join us whenever we meet (Thank you, Nancy!), and this time she also brought her husband, Norm, with her. Happily he is now working in California rather than Utah, so he can be home more often.



# Retirement and Care

## by Linda Holbrook

I am in my second year of retirement and I have found myself very busy. I have met clergy who have retired and they generally seem to fall into two categories. The first category is people who are busy, whether they are serving a church, found another ministry where they can serve, or found new interests that they

# WE WANT TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE KNOWS THERE IS A COMMUNITY FOR THEM.

didn't have time to pursue while in active ministry. The second category is those clergy that are still transitioning to a new "normal" life.

Sometimes retired clergy need to move when they retire, and moving offers all sorts of things to do. Sometimes retired clergy have health problems themselves or a health problem with a family member that must be dealt with. Sometimes there is a physical and emotion change of being so busy in a church to a life of not enough to

fill the days.

One of the myths about retirement is that retirement is stress free or very low stress. Nothing could be further from the truth. Our personal situation may be the cause of our stress. Living in our society may be the cause of stress. For example, in the week of so a proposal to split our beloved church may have caused some stress or anxiety.

The Retired Clergy Association (RCA) is designed to reach out to every retired clergy and their spouse. One goal

we have to in person meeting or at least a phone call with every retired clergy, their spouse, and every surviving spouse at least once a year. We want to make sure that every retired clergy and spouse know that there is a community of people who are here as a resource. If you haven't been contacted in the last year, please let me know.

If you a retirees that is looking for some small activity to do or just feel you would like to be in service to other retirees and their spouses, please let me know. We have several different ways to be a resource to our retired clergy and spouse community so I am sure that we can find something that will interest you.

It is my delight to lead the relational care committee for the RCA, and I want to make sure that we are reaching out to all of you. Please send me an email at lindaaholbrook@hotmail.com or call me at 408 269 1080.





# Tina and Bill Ballagh

The Ballaghs have finally moved into their new home in Pflugerville, Texas which is about 14 miles from downtown Austin. Bill has joined a local Ukelele Club. Tina continues to teach, facilitate small groups, counsel, preach, and occasionally lead worship. Together they travel and enjoy time with their adult children.

# Bud and Kathy Tillinghast

Because of itinerating the homes of their three daughters for the last dozen years, Bud and Kath Tillinghast have all but lost contact with their Conference friends. They will be in Grass Valley for most of the months of February and March. They would love to be in touch and meet old friends. Also, if they might, they would like to crash any gatherings of retired clergy during that time. They can be reached either by emailing rev.bud@mac.com or by cell phone 425-297-3619. They will be staying at 19813 Casa Loma, Grass Valley.

### Anne Dilenschneider

I learned in early October 2019 that I passed the international transgender health specialty qualifying exam, and I am now a Certified WPATH Provider. (WPATH is the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, and the WPATH Standards of Care are recognized internationally as the best evidence-based practices in the world for the care of transgender persons.)

I am the first healthcare provider in South Dakota to have this status, and one of the first 87 healthcare providers in the world who has qualified for, and taken, the specialty exam.

I have been accompanying transgender/gender non-binary (TGNB) persons since 1992 — first, as a pastor, and then as a mental health professional. The WPATH education and training has included sessions at the University of Minnesota Medical School, The Ohio State University College of Medicine, and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City, and training through the U.S. Department of Justice. I will be attending additional training at Harvard Medical School next month.

With my TGNB patients, I collaborate with primary care, endocrinology, and surgical teams in Sioux Falls, SD and across the U.S., including the University of Minnesota, and the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Other teams are in Chicago, Philadelphia, Scottsdale, Madison (WI), and the San Francisco Bay Area. I provide education in TGNB care for South Dakota's Sanford School of Medicine, regional healthcare systems, and healthcare professionals, universities, businesses, and professional organizations across the state of South Dakota.

# Chico and Beyond



When the Retired Clergy met in December 2019 for their bi-annual check-in with one another, the group was small. Bad weather had kept Karen Watson at her mountain home...it was snowing; and pouring down rain kept Glennis Wilbur from traveling. Others were physically unable to attend so our group was small, but we had such a good time laughing together and listening to how our life journeys had twisted and turned since our last meeting in May. — from Fran Neuenburg

#### WORD FROM:

Georgie Summers reported that Jerry was settled into a nearby memory-care facility. She visits him twice a day and sometimes she reads to him or they sing together. Recently there was a talent show at Terraces where Jerry resides and he sang "Danny Boy". Georgie had a very funny reading she shared with us and at the talent show about a woman who put a "Honk It You Love Jesus" sticker on the bumper of her car. Georgie's reading had all of us roaring with laughter!!!

Joan Wheeler Ash keeps traveling! She recently travelled the Danube with her sister-in-law and is planning to go to France in the near future. Joan is still playing the piano for Sunday services at Maxwell UMC and the small congregation is keeping themselves going by planning their own worship. Joan eventually plans to downsize to a senior living apartment, but all her travels keep her from actually making the change.

Bob Beihler lovingly spends several hours each day with his wife Nadine who has Alzheimer's and is in a nearby memory care unit. The Camp Fire of last year wiped out the city of Paradise!!! Paradise is gradually rebuilding but in the aftermath of the burning of a number of church buildings and the dispersing of congregations because folks lost their homes, multiple congregations are struggling. The UMC building did not burn, but the congregation has moved on. Bob has recently been preaching at nearby Craig Memorial Congregational Church while also trying to bring together a small group of Methodists for meetings. He's enjoying the preaching opportunities, but much remains to be settled in the church community of Paradise/Oroville.

Nancy Daley is always a welcome source of conference information as she attends our Retired Clergy gathering. She brings us news of her family and keeps us up to date on the conference as it pertains to us retired folks. Thanks Nancy for traveling so far to fellowship with us!!!

Neal Neuenburg recently had spinal surgery at UCSF to relieve leg pain. Neal loves to walk the neighborhood and visit with many as he travels. His walking companion for 11+ years has been his collie, Buddy. Sadly Buddy died suddenly this past October so Neal lost his ability walk very far and his beloved companion. Good news!!! Neal's surgery was success and God has given Neal a purebred 6-year-old retriever who is being retired from birthing puppies." Pixi" will become Neal's new walking companion and Neal can now walk without pain!!!

Fran Neuenburg recently retired from choral music ministry at Aldersgate, but she is still keeping "her hand in the music" by occasionally helping to plan worship and recently by leading and accompanying a carol sing at the church ladies' Christmas party.

Bill Jefferies told a most interesting story about his life. When Bill's Mom was expecting his birth, Bill's father was choir director of the Chico Southern Methodist Church. His father was also in a male quartet with the editor of the Chico Enterprise Record, Chico's daily newspaper. Bill's Mom went into labor and the editor held up publication of the newspaper until Bill was born. Bill's birth made the front page of the paper on Jan. 31, 1930!

Bert and Linda Schniepp had a relative quiet holiday season while the weather here in central Oregon was certainly less volatile than in many other areas of the country. Bert has continued facilitating his adult Sunday School class in a study of the Dead Sea Scrolls, assisting at times with worship and pastoral care, and enjoying two weekly bridge groups and a community book club. Linda has enjoyed continuing to be involved in several church and community groups. Both have enjoyed a local discussion group reading The Book of Joy by the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. One highlight was visiting with a college classmate of Bert's and his wife as they came through Florence on a road trip.

### Lillian Cunningham

Don Cunningham wishes to invite all who are able to celebrate Lil's life on January 25 at 2pm at Twin Towers UMC in Alameda. He has been asked how folks can help and he offers up the following:

Tring a dozen of your favorite cookies to the celebration.

Contribute to SaveTheChildren.org in Lil's honor.

Contribute to Gabby Gifford's work for gun control at <u>giffords.com</u> in Lil's honor.

Contribute to the Lil Cunningham Contemporary Music Fund at Twin Towers UMC.

In Lieu of Flowers: Give to one of Lil's causes: the well-being of children; reduction of violence and increase of peace; the spreading of the beauty of music.

# MILESTONE BIRTHDAY!

# Happy 100th Birthday Velma Thornburg!

Velma Thornburg, surviving spouse of Rev. Alfred Thornburg, is celebrating her

100th birthday in April! She would welcome cards and notes as she celebrates this milestone birthday.

Please send your correspondence to:

Mrs. Velma Thornburg 2129 Fort Bridger Road Fernley, NV 89408





# RCA Work Project

Six folks spent the first week in November in New Orleans area, working on a north shore home damaged in the 2016 floods, supporting the work of St. Mark's UMC, Epworth Project, and North Rampart Community Center. The needs are great, the response to our steadfastness is deep, and the week most fulfilling. WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN IN FOR OUR NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WORK PROJECT RESPONDING TO FIRE DAMAGE, March 29 evening through Friday April 3. Hope City, the sponsor with whom we have been working, thinks the Redding area will be the location as the Paradise area is not yet ready for us [yes, I know, paradise will never be ready for us....] DEADLINE TO SIGN UP: February 28. Bettypagett@gmail.com





# Passing the Mantle!

### By Alice Ann Glenn

Last year retired clergy were able to "pass the mantle" by sharing their resources with candidates, newly ordained and local pastors, all of whom were most excited to receive the items.

So, if some of the wonderful resources that you have, and have used for your various ministries, may not being used any more, please consider passing them on to younger and/or mid-career clergy who are still trying to pay for seminary or course of study!

We also have been made aware of needs in seminaries in other countries. Last year the Philippines benefitted from your generosity in passing the mantle.

So, if you have any of the following that you would like to "pass on" as Elijah passed his mantle on to Elisha, please email Alice Ann Glenn at AAlGlenn9@aol.com so we can continue this ministry.

Stoles or Scapulars Crosses to wear Display Crosses Current Books of Worship Current Hymnals or other song books Current UMC Book of Discipline Current UMC Book of Resolutions "Pocket Size" Book of Rituals Visitation Communion Sets Recent Books: Theology, Study materials Recent DVD Studies

Current Reference Books such as Concordances, Biblical Maps or sets of Interpreter's Bible or other sets of Commentaries.

Various versions/translations of the Bible Paraments and Liturgical Banners

If you have robes that you wish to pass on, that is trickier as not one size fits all! My suggestion is that you contact someone that you believe could wear/fit your robes and ask them individually.

In the email to Alice Ann, please indicate what it is that you are willing to share. Be very specific! It is the assumption that these items will be GIVEN to, not paid for, by the recipient/s.

As long as Alice Ann knows what individuals have to share, items can be brought to Annual Conference. Last year we distributed the items at the Retired Clergy Luncheon and at the closing of the clergy session.

Questions can also be directed to Alice Ann if you have something you think you would like to pass on, but it is not on the list!



### **MEMBERSHIP**

While we receive a substantial grant from the Conference Claimants Endowment Board each year to sustain our programs, it is contributions from members that allows us to reach beyond and do more. It with great thanks that we celebrate those who have been able to support the mission of the RCA with their financial gifts.

Lifetime Members 9 (this includes carry over from prior years)

Sponsoring Members 9
Sustaining Members 48
Supporting Members 78
Basic Members 140

Membership forms were mailed out in mid September. If you have not received one, one can be sent to you. Email Nancy at nancydaley@ca-nv-rca.org or contribute online at www.ca-nv-rca.org/donations,

# 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 https://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

# SPRING FLING

APRIL 21-22 Tuesday 10am Wednesday 1pm

thru

San Damiano Retreat Center 710 Highland Dr. Danville, CA

# REV. GREG BERGOUIST

General Secretary General Board of

Higher Education and Ministry Member California-Nevada Conference

Greg Bergquist has served the Cal-Nevada Conference as District Superintendent and as pastor of Los Altos and Santa Rosa First churches. He has been an ordained elder for 34 years, serving churches in Georgia and California in a variety of settings rural, urban, and suburban.

Greg intends to lead the GBHEM into a future that embraces the agency's historic ministry of learning and leadership, while re-imagining GBHEM's core ministry and mission in relation to the changing United Methodist Church, our Pan-Methodist and ecumenical partners around the world.

Greg will discuss with us the future of the Methodist/ Wesleyan tradition, regardless of the decisions made at GC2020.

### Ed Goldfarb Musician

Ed was music director at Trinity Mountain View from 1984 to 2001 and has been doing the same at Fairfield UMC since 2006.

He was Music Director at San Francisco's "Beach Blanket Babylon", 1991-2002. He has scored music for films and TV shows including Francis Ford Coppola's "Apocalypse Now Redux" and for "Pokémon" anime TV shows and movies.

Additionally, he is an adjunct professor of Music Business and Music Technology at Foothill College in Los Altos. He lives in Corte Madera with his wife Karen and their 12 year old daughter, Sydney.

#### 5% (subtract \$16.50 per member) 5% (subtract \$5.50 per member) 0% (subtract \$12 per member) 15% (subtract \$18 per member) 20% (subtract \$24 per member) \$120.00 \$220.00 0% (subtract \$11 per member) 20% (subtract \$22 per member) Mail to: RCA 9328 Elk Grove Blvd #105-141, Elk Grove, CA 95624 50% (subtract \$60 per person) 5% (subtract \$6 per member) 50% (subtract \$55 per person) My roommate and I are not related and are sending our registrations Discount Amount: \$\_ Phone: REGISTRATION www.ca-nv-rca.org/events separately. Please put me in the same room with: Special needs (mobility issues, diet requests): Sponsoring Member Sponsoring Member Supporting Member Supporting Member Sustaining Member Sustaining Member Lifetime Member \_ifetime Member Double Occupancy: 2 x \$110 Single Occupancy: 1 x \$120 First Timer: First Timer: am including a check Emergency Contact: am paying online Person 1 Name: Person 2 Name: Discount: Address:

California-Nevada Annual Conference of the

United Methodist Church

Retired Clergy Association

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### **EXECUTIVE OFFICER & RCA CONTACT INFO**

Nancy Daley

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

916-539-4249

http://ca-nv-rca.org

# **UPCOMING**

### **EVENTS**

### **Gathering of the Orders**

January 28-30, 2020

> Asbury UMC, Livermore, CA

#### **Ecumenical Retreat**

February 4-5, 2020

>San Damiano

### **Spring Fling**

April 21-22, 2020

>San Damiano

#### **Annual Conference Session**

June 12-15, 2020

> Modesto Double Tree

#### **Annual Luncheon**

June 12, 2020

>The Greens on 10th

For: CA-NV RETIRED CLERGY Gathering of the Orders



# Provided to you by:

A Grant from the Conference Claimants Endowment Board and the Retired Clergy Association

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ONE DAY'S attendance for Retired Clergy			(max. \$200)
TWO DAY'S attendance for Retired Clergy			(max. \$400)
THREE DAY'S attendance for Retired Clergy			(max. \$600)
Hotel Expense:			_ Receipts <b>REQUIRED</b>
Parking Expense:			_ Receipts <b>REQUIRED</b>
Food/Meals Expense:			_ Receipts <b>REQUIRED</b>
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(CHECKS WILL BE MAILED **AFTER** THE GATHERING.)

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