

# Days of Grace

RETIRED CLERGY ASSOCIATION OCTOBER 2020



## *RCA in the time of ZOOM... and other technology*

We are certainly living in interesting times. Additionally, it appears we will continue to do so into the foreseeable future. Days of Grace will remain our primary communication tool. The Board of Directors encourage you to venture onto Facebook (we have a page) and learn to use Zoom in order to have greater connection with one another.

## *Inside the issue*

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**DON'T  
GIVE UP**

**YOU ARE  
NOT ALONE**

**YOU  
MATTER**

Photo by [Dan Meyers](#) on [Unsplash](#)

# President's Ponderings

Dear Friends in Christ,

I've been thinking about transformation lately. I usually start my devotional time each day by singing a verse of a hymn or a chorus. When I retired four years ago, one of the songs I began to turn to was *Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be; set your seal upon my heart and live in me* by John Bell, found in Worship and Song.

Retirement beckoned as a time of transformation and what could be more fitting than asking God to guide that transformation.

Now I find myself serving the RCA as we all face a time of transformation together. The Covid pandemic, the invigoration of the Black Lives Matter movement, incredible polarization in our country, and our wildfire season in California all push us to find different ways of being, learning and acting. We often use a butterfly as a symbol of transformation. They are so beautiful and fly so freely. But getting out of that chrysalis is danged hard!! If life seems incredibly tough right now, remember that the challenging chrysalis comes first in the process of transformation.



The RCA will be in the process of transformation this year. Not all of our usual programming will be possible, so we will have to broaden our horizon. Virtual meetings often seem lacking, but they also open up some new possibilities. We will definitely be asking our Lord to 'summon out what we shall be' this year, as we seek to find new ways to serve our retired sisters and brothers. We would love to have your input! If you have ideas and suggestions for how our work on your behalf might be transformed, don't hesitate to get in touch. We've listed the RCA Board members elsewhere in Days of Grace.

Yours in the name of Jesus, the Lord of transformation,

Pam

Nancy



## *From the Executive Officer*

*\*sigh\* I scrolled through the photos of our last, and maybe our truly LAST, cruise to find the above photo and found myself wistful for two weeks of sea air!*

Vacations! Clean Air! Oh how we miss ye! I hope you are all well, physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and any other way-ally. It has been a difficult summer for so many. Be kind to yourself when you find yourself struggling. I have been re-finding my groove in serving you here from home. It's a bit chaotic, but it's getting done!

My husband Norm came home for a visit in March and has not left! He had just transferred from Utah to the Mojave and we were excited to have him home more often. This was not what we were expecting! We have gone from seeing each other every 2-3 months to being together 24/7. My office is in our living room, his is in our dining room, which is

really all the same space. The good news is that we are getting along anyway!

Both of the girls have moved out and now we must clean and paint those rooms to repurpose. Possibly into office space....

We have spent the summer transitioning my parents into Assisted Living. They are now here in Elk Grove and we, along with my sister, have been cleaning out their house every weekend. Hopefully, by the time you read this, it will be on the market!

By necessity, the Board is re-thinking how we can best serve you all. We are mindful that not all are able to access technology based solutions. We are very much open to suggestions. Please feel free to call me (916-539-4249) or snail mail a letter to me or any of the Board officers (listed on the last page).

Also be sure to read the message from Dave Thompson. He is our voice at the table when it comes to Annual Conference Session. Yes, there were a few hiccups this year, but this was our learning year. Expect this to be the format again next year (October!) when we meet again. Depending on CDC guidelines, there may be some in person gatherings but it is expected that the traditional ACS will still not be advisable for the health of all.

We will continue to use Days of Grace as our primary means of communication, but we do have a Facebook page and use email for quick communication when time is of the essence. Please be sure I have your correct email if you wish to be on that list.

Our website is also a place to go for information and feel free to use the "Contact Us" form to communicate with the RCA.

I also accept texts at the above number, but be sure to give me your name!

I look forward to hearing from you!

~ Nancy

# Board of Pensions RCA Webinar



October 21, 2020 10:00 am

As we were unable to join together at Annual Conference Session this year and thus, you weren't able to stop Paul Extrum-Fernandez in the hall and ask your questions... we have partnered up to bring you the next best thing: Paul on ZOOM!

This will be more in the format of Annual Conference than a ZOOM meeting.

**You will need to RSVP/Register with Nancy at [nancydaley@ca-nv-rca.org](mailto:nancydaley@ca-nv-rca.org) in order to get the log in information.**

If you have a specific question, please include your question(s) at that time. All questions will be passed along to Paul so he can give the answer during the Webinar. Remember, if you are wondering, others probably are as well. If it is a confidential question specific to you, please indicate such and Paul will contact you outside the Webinar.

Reservations will be taken until 5pm on the 20th.



*General  
Conference*

The Commission on the General Conference has announced that the postponed General Conference will take place on **Aug. 29 - Sept. 7, 2021** in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



*Cal-Nev Annual  
Conference*

In order to fall between General and Jurisdictional Conferences, California Nevada will hold their Annual Conference **October 28-31, 2021** in Sacramento.



*Jurisdictional  
Conference*

The The Jurisdictional Conferences in the U.S. will now be held **Nov. 10-12, 2021**. The Mountain Sky Conference will still host the Western Jurisdictional Conference.

Last year retired clergy were able to “pass the mantle”, as Elijah passed his mantle on to Elisha, by sharing their resources with candidates for ministry, newly ordained Elders and Deacons and local pastors, all of whom were most grateful to receive the items.

So, if some of the wonderful resources that you have, and have used for your various ministries, may not be 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.

Since we will not be meeting in person in a facility that would make it simple to bring your items and I or we could announce in Clergy Session what was available and where to find it, I am suggesting a process that should be quite simple.

If you have stoles, it is only Elders and Deacons that can use those, so see who is newly ordained and reach out to them. I suggest photographing your items, and emailing the photo/s to those you think might be able to use them.

If you have crosses you have worn, our candidates for ministry and local pastors can use those as they serve. Again, photograph the items, and email the photo/s to potential users. Robes are much more difficult to share, as if you do, you need to spot someone that is the same size as you, and inquire if they are interested in robes.

A costly item are current Reference items such as the following:



Concordances, Biblical Maps or sets of Interpreter’s Bible or other sets of Commentaries.  
Various versions/translations of the Bible  
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  
Display Crosses [wall or stand up—share photos]

A list of items can be emailed to all those you think are interested and indicate it is a first come, first served basis. I was very successful with that earlier this year, with the RCA Scholarship Recipients as I had already been given items to share before we realized there was not going to be a Conference in Modesto. They snatched things up very quickly.

I used USPS Postal Service Flat Rate Boxes to mail the books, as that is usually the cheapest. Or perhaps one of the newly ordained, certified, or local pastors are near you, and this is a chance to reach out and get acquainted by meeting outdoors someplace as you pass on your items.

Be creative in this unusual year and find a way to share with our younger colleagues the riches that have blessed your years of ministry.

# *Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties*

## *Compiled by: Bob Blaney*

**Bob and Laurel Blaney** have been sheltering in place and discovering new programs on Netflix and Amazon and meeting new neighbors in our mobile home park. We are looking forward to vacationing next May with Jane and Pharis Harvey and next fall in Sedona with Jean and Don Fado. Bob will turn 90 next April and the whole family will celebrate in Curry Village in Yosemite. We are both in reasonably good health, but Bob's cardiologist has forbidden him to drive after several vasovagal episodes last year. Bob finished 10 weeks of neurological PT last year and works out for a half hour of exercises for his balance which has dramatically improved. We still are very active at Aptos UMC, co-hosting a Sunday Morning Class on Black Lives Matter on Zoom as well as weekly Bible Study. Laurel continues to enjoy gardening and prior to the quarantine she enjoyed two books clubs and a knitting group. Laurel is chair of SPRC and PACT (Pastors Assistance Team). Bob is a member of the Church and Society and COPA (Communities Organized for Relational Power) an organization of over 27 faith communities', unions, and school boards in Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties working for justice and social change. During these challenging times we are grateful for loving support from our family and friends.

Although stir crazy in the era of 'shelter in place', **Mark and Bonnie Bollwinkel** are doing great. We are finishing up a remodeling of our Monterey home. Both of our mothers (92 and 95) are healthy and safe. Mark has posted video pottery sermons on YouTube for any church's use and continues as a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) member for the City of Monterey.

**Darrel and Karen Darling.** Darrell turned 80 early in May. Since we were still under house arrest we couldn't even go out for dinner. Our daughter put the word out on the internet so

he got lots of calls, cards & on line messages. We went to Davis recently to see past life friends, one who was recently widowed. Other than the "plague of frogs," we are reaping the harvest of winds we have sown these 400 years...and it is quite a whirlwind! As tight a grip as Pharaoh thinks he has, we are still confident that God, by whatever name, will liberate"... Her people! In other words, we are a-OK!

**John and Vicky Dodson.** Vicky and I spent 10 days in Evacuation from CZU Lightning Fire in the Santa Cruz Mountains. We went to our daughter Lara and Manpreet's' home in Hayward. They have set their home up as an Airbnb, so we had exquisite accommodations. When we returned to our home in Mt. Hermon, we found it fully intact and covered in ash. Clean up was a welcome task considering the alternative. Our gardener even went up on the roof for us A task now a bridge to far for either of us. The enormity of the lightning fires was significant, 1.5 million acres.

**Alice Ann Glenn** in Monterey is finding sheltering in place not a difficulty as it has given her time to create collages, get lots of sewing projects finished, and send lots of notes and postcards, many of which she has made from used greetings cards or images that catch her eye. She is also feeling very blessed to have been able to have the recommended pacemaker finally implanted at Stanford in the midst of the pandemic--from the time it was recommended to when it finally happened was Covid-19 interrupted several times. With a large patio, it is easy to physically distance and still have tea with friends.

**Jane and Pharis Harvey.** At a time when the restrictions made necessary by the pandemic are reinforced at a family level by a physician daughter who worries about are reinforced-existing conditions", for the Harveys there is



very little to report in terms of recent activity, except deep gratitude to her and all her medical colleagues who are the “first responders”. Add to that all the firefighters throughout this part of California, because of whom we did not need to evacuate for the CZU lightning complex fire a few miles away. But a couple events, both originating from South Korea, stand out. In June, the chaplain’s office at Korea’s oldest hospital, Severance Hospital made a gift of 10 high-grade Korean-made face masks to each retired United Methodist missionary from around the world. Jane and I received these masks in July and were very grateful for this gesture of gratitude and solidarity from a nation and church that had been the recipient of Methodist missionaries for nearly two centuries, including in the founding of Severance Hospital in 1885. The second event was the announcement on June 10 that I have been awarded a presidential citation for human rights by Korea’s President Mooncake-In. On September 9, Jane and I will go to San Francisco to receive this award from the ROK Consul-General. It is a much-appreciated cap to long period for both of us of working with the Christian community in Korea advocating for democratic restoration in that country. President Moon was himself one of the leading human rights advocates in Korea during the dark days of military dictatorship, and so it is very much appreciated to receive this award from him. Other than that, we have mostly stayed home, worn masks when out in public and socially-distanced for the last six months.

**Tempe Wennerholm** has been Sheltering in Place, in Carmel, for months and, like many of you, have sorely missed in person visits with special dear ones. That changed dramatically for

me when my daughter, granddaughter, and two grandcats were evacuated from their home due to the Carmel Fire and moved in with me for several days. They were able to return to a home and neighborhood spared damage, and they are helping others nearby who were not so fortunate. Living in this time of pandemic and surrounded by unrelenting natural and human loss and brokenness, I am thankful for the reminder by our RCA that these are, in fact, Days of Grace. Blessings to each and every one of you.

**Clyde and Shelia Vaughn.** A very strange winter for Clyde. An infection set in to my artificial knee and I had to have the implant removed, replaced with a cement spacer. It meant almost four months in a wheelchair, then another knee replacement and lots of therapy to get back on my feet. It’s been a very long haul, and I’m not quite back to where I was last year. “Nurse” Sheila has learned new skills in Clyde’s care, and we had to constantly create new systems to deal with the evolving realities of the healing process. Plans for a spring river cruise were postponed by the COVID-19 virus, then the new date of Labor Day had to be put off again. Maybe in 2021? And if all this were not enough, the fire in the Santa Cruz Mountains happened. Most of the members of the Boulder Creek UMC had to evacuate and scattered all over the state. Just now they have opened the town of Boulder Creek and, hopefully, people will soon be able to return to their homes in the community around the towns. Someone asked if the locust were next??? Sheila is busy canning the fruit of the summer, wondering how best to sell it for the Aptos UMC and the Santa Cruz Symphony League. Public events may not happen very soon and she’d like to find effective ways to share her gifts and to support these two local entities. While 2019-2020 has been an interesting time, we have certainly been able to meet the challenges and with the support of family members, neighbors, friends, and our faith in God, we have come through it stronger and more hopeful.

# *Is-Beens (Sacramento Area)*

## *Compiled by: Sue Angove*

Because we have spent our days at home for the most part due to the Covid-19 pandemic following guidelines to keep us healthy and safe, it IS VERY IMPORTANT that now we communicate on the written page to hear from one another giving assurance we are managing as well as possible and are OK.

**ALBRIGHT**, John is home with daughter Mary's assist. More family are there now sharing together the sadness of Lois's passing August 6<sup>th</sup> and the joy of memories that will be long lasting.

**ANGOVE**, Jerry and Sue take a 2-3 hour drive every Saturday morning to leave our four walls and go out to see what's outdoors. Sue's Texas sister Diane had chemotherapy for pancreatic cancer then surgery to remove the tumor August 11<sup>th</sup>. The pathology report showed no cancer in the tumor, lymph nodes or organs in the area. We are praising God for this Miracle. Jerry continues to serve three days per month as dispatcher for the Placer County Law Enforcement Chaplaincy.

**CALLAWAY**, Norman shares that two weeks ago his family gathered for wife Ardith's service placing her urn in the Mausoleum Wall at the Woodland cemetery. Sheltering in place remains the practice at his Woodland residence. Because he stays in, the regular visits from his family have been wonderful for him.

**CORSON**, Jane shares the exciting news of her great grandson Noah's birth in late June. She is thankful baby Noah, brother Luke, and parents live nearby in Citrus Heights!

**HALL**, Phil and Marge Patzer Hall continue to deal with Phil's Parkinson's disease which is limiting in a number of ways. They keep up with exercise and a healthy diet. Together they walk about 3 miles per day when the air is clear. Marge is involved with the League of Women Voters in

Sacramento County registering, educating, and encouraging voters to VOTE!

**KIMBALL**, Tom and Connie welcomed their 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandchild, a beautiful girl into the family. They are very happy she lives nearby in Sacramento!

**MARTIN**, Eva and Ed are just staying home because of the virus. We visit church and our family via Zoom each week. We lost our beautiful kitty last January. We visited Ed's son in his new home in Phoenix during February. Our truck has been sold, the one that took us through 18 years of travel to see 48 states! This was a life changing experience for us. We walk daily for our health. During one of our walks, we befriended a homeless cat. Punkin is now a member of our household! We are doing our best to help with the up-coming election. Eva is now working on her 200<sup>th</sup> postcard encouraging people to vote who live in swing states.

**MILK**, Martha retired in 2019 from ministry and moved here to Sacramento. She was part of 'IS-BEENS' last gathering @ Rancho Cordova church. During this unusual time of being apart, she welcomes our calls or Emails or texts. Please take some time to connect with Martha. Her phone # is 775-443-7986. Her Email address is [MARTEMLK@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MARTEMLK@GMAIL.COM). You will be glad you did!

**PEARSON**, Ginnie and Larry have found a couple of enjoyable activities to keep life manageable; she has been knitting and he bicycling until the air outside has made taking to the road impossible. We hope it will not be long before Larry can get back on his bike. They enjoyed being part of their granddaughter Madison's graduation from Rocklin High School. She will attend college at UC Davis. This is great news!



**SCHWARZENTRAUB**, Betsy and Ken are now great grandparents of Hayes Brooks, born this past March. She is the daughter of their grandson, Daniel. They look forward to seeing her for the first time in September. Ken has done a lot of fire prevention work on their property. He has started to cut up and drag an eight-story tree limb that came down on their back deck (deck repairs soon to begin). Betsy is back to full health after having knee replacement surgery in June. She is actively sorting and tossing out to downsize in the future. Betsy has been "Zoom"ing with her weekly writers' group and is doing presentations on "Marketing Your Writing" and "Writing to Inspire".

**THOMAS**, Carl is part of a class being taught online. He asked the others in the class to share what they had done for fun in the past week. None had an answer to Carl's question. He told them he hopes they each will HAVE an answer during the last class session. (WE DO TOO, Carl).

**WATTERS-JULSING**, Kay says her thoughts and prayers go out to all of those who have lost their homes and loved ones in the fires and/or COVID-19. Her deep gratitude goes to all those fighting the fires.

## *Expanding Our Vision, Opportunities and Reach*

The Volunteers in Mission Committee is now the Mission and Justice Committee, still hoping for volunteer opportunities in the future, and focusing on opportunities now.

We urge retired clergy to follow local news and check with your local League of Women Voters to see if presence is needed at the polls as people vote so that they feel safe. Please also be aware that ICE raids have been ordered before the election, and follow any local sources for information and requests for help, often your local Catholic parish.

Contact us with questions and for resources. Marty Murdock and Betty Pagett, co-chairs.



Photo by Priscilla Du Preez on Unsplash

# Commission on the Annual Conference Session

The Retired Clergy Association has a permanent position on the Commission on the Annual Conference Session. This position is to advocate for the inclusion and participation of retired members of the Annual Conference. It encourages the Commission to find ways to include, not exclude, to improve and not discourage, active engagement in the life of the Annual Conference session.

In the past, as your representative to this Commission, I have made sure that a "respite space" was reserved for the retired members and spouses. The memorial service at Annual Conference session has been a topic of discussion. Some people feel that services had been individually held and that that was enough. They suggested that we not have a Memorial Service at all at the Annual Conference Session.

As your representative, I strongly argued for its continuance. Another discussion about Memorial Services revolved around the inclusion of deceased clergy spouses. The changing role of clergy spouses was a part of this discussion. I argued for their inclusion.

On these and other matters, as your representative, I have made what I hope is our position known. I now wonder if I have represented your interests. If you have any concerns about the Annual Conference session that should be addressed to the Commission, please let me know.

Rev. David Thompson

Email: [revdavethompson@yahoo.com](mailto:revdavethompson@yahoo.com)

Phone: 209-367-5907

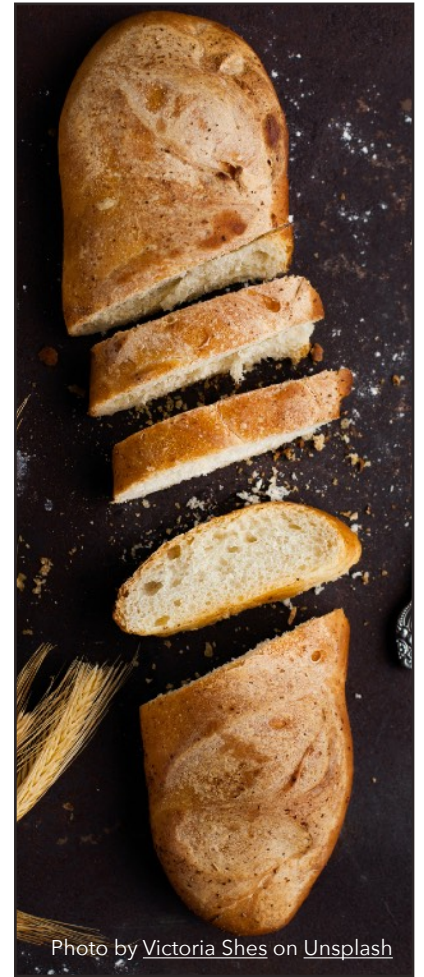


Photo by [Victoria Shes](#) on [Unsplash](#)

**Bert and Linda Schniepp** report a very unusual spring and summer "hunkering down" at home as a virus, almost continuous demonstrations against racism, and near-by wildfires have caused havoc around us. Although we have been well, it has been difficult to maintain anything near our usual social interactions. Our church has been "on line" since mid-March and Bert has assisted in a number of the services. We have been able to maintain some contact with a "coffee hour" on Zoom on Sundays along with a few of the necessary administrative meetings. We are still concerned about some of our fellow RCA members who are living in areas of Oregon being threatened by the fires and with whom we have had not contact. We continue prayers for all the difficulties that have seemed to hit concurrently!



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

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Membership **July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021**

*Individual* ♥ *Couple* ♥ (check one please)

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

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Seminary Student Scholarship Fund Donation

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Health Care Subsidy Fund Donation

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other – Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

My/our special gift is: In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Information:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check out to:

**RCA**

Mail check and form to:

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

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

*Thank you!!! To all who chose to support the RCA with your talents, time, and treasure!*

**14** Lifetime Members (includes carryover from prior years)

**11** Sponsoring Members

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**123** Basic Members

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### EXECUTIVE OFFICER & RCA CONTACT INFO

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Board of Pensions Webinar

*October 21, 2020 10:00am*

> ZOOM Link

### Ecumenical Retreat

To Be Announced

### Spring Fling

*April 14-15, 2021*

>To Be Announced

### Annual Conference Session

*October 28-31, 2021*

> Sacramento/ZOOM

### Annual Luncheon

*To Be Determined*

>To Be Announced