

DAYS OF GRACE

RETIRED CLERGY ASSOCIATION CALIFORNIA NEVADA CONFERENCE



Via Dolorosa

Have you ever heard about something going on around you and feel like you are too busy to pay attention? Then you realize it keeps coming up and finally you decide to explore it. I have heard about the Via Dolorosa or The Way of the Cross for years but never had the opportunity to find out what it was all about. After reading the email from the Endowment Board I decided to give it a try.



Well, it was one of the best things I experienced during the Easter season. I set aside time to take the trip to the Stations of the Cross. I sat down, cleared my head of all distractions, which is not an easy task but I made up my mind I was going to leave the trials of this world behind even if it was for only thirty minutes.

I wasn't really sure of what I would find and I was pleasantly surprised. I turned on the video and was so happy to hear familiar voices. From the first introduction I was totally enrapt with a peace I hadn't felt for awhile. I loved hearing the Scripture and the reflecting on the Meditations. The music also helped me to feel at peace. When it was finished I didn't want to get up and come back in to the craziness of the world around me. I just sat there for a while and let it sink in.

Thank you to the Endowment Board and the participants who reminded us of what Easter is all about and reminding me that we have to experience the crucifixion in order to celebrate the Resurrection. - Sandy Roberts

PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS - Sandy Roberts

When we were serving at St. Mark's in Sacramento there was a campaign to build a patio on the side of the sanctuary. Most of the people in the church were in favor of building it while some opposed the idea. There was one man that I can distinctly remember who strongly opposed the campaign and was very vocal about his position. He gave all the reasons he did not think it was a good idea. In the end, the motion was passed and everyone was directed to meet on Saturday morning to begin the project.

Frank arrived at the church at eight in the morning and the only one there that early was the man who was opposed to the project. Frank questioned him as to why he came to help when he strongly opposed the project. The man told him that he was taught that if you believe in something you should fight for it and be able to back it up. But when the majority rules everyone needs to get behind the project and get the job done.

He felt that it was more important for everyone to come together for the greater good of the congregation rather than to continue to oppose the majority rule. So often we can only see circumstances through our own eyes when we need to see it through the eyes of our brothers and sisters, supporting them even when we don't agree. We need to find something that we can celebrate instead of looking for the things that separate us.

As we begin this adventure together my vision is that we will come together in many ways, be supportive of each other and lift each other up.

Peace and Joy,

Sandy



THE RETIRED CLERGY ASSOCIATION MISSION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Retired Clergy Association Mission and Justice Committee

The RCA Board, together with the Endowment Board are scheduling a work project **in Paradise, CA October 2-7!** We will be working on a new home for a family that lost everything in the big fire. We will work with the same sponsoring group we worked with for several years in Lake County. If you are interested, please email bettypagett@gmail.com as soon as possible, deadline for sign ups, September 1. Only cost to you is transportation and providing a meal.



Participants in past RCA projects testify to the special fellowship and lasting memories: Donna, Floyd, Sandy, remember how grateful people were for our help, even neighbors as we discovered our lunch out was paid for by someone who found out why we were there. Others remember the special way of getting to know colleagues working side by side and sharing meals, and the sense of achievement, doing our little part, whether it is washing windows, grouting tile, taping dry wall, we all could do something.

Our other emphasis now is FOR YOUR REFLECTION AND ACTION. If you would like to follow our alerts and study opportunities: understanding and responding to Christian Nationalism, listening and working outside of our silos, working for voting rights, arenas for justice in the context of the Gospel, be on our contact list, send your email to Betty Pagett or Marty Murdock: bettypagett@gmail.com or murdocksky@aol.com



Introducing Lauren Chaffee, Retirement Class of 2022

Interviewer: Becky Goodwin

We welcome Lauren Chaffee to retirement in the Class of 2022. She plans to continue residing in Phoenix area of Arizona, where she has been serving as a chaplain.

The last two years in chaplaincy, with the pandemic and other turmoil in our time, have taken a toll on her and others. They have been on the frontlines of emergencies, sorrow and death.

Lauren speaks hopefully of finding a new path in life. She thinks of moving back to her home state, Pennsylvania, where she was ordained as a probationary elder 43 years ago by Bishop Roy C. Nichols. Or perhaps she will take a sojourn in Portugal! We encourage her hopes and dreams, and we look forward to her membership in the Retired Clergy Association.



Introducing Colin Kerr-Carpenter, Retirement Class of 2022

Interviewer: Pam Abbey

Colin Kerr-Carpenter reports that he never served a congregation that he didn't love and enjoy. He has served several varied congregations over the years, as well as doing a bit of teaching at the high school level which gave him great satisfaction.

Although he grew up in the Central Valley of California, Colin was ordained in the Northern New York Annual Conference in 1985. He served within that area for eleven years when he joined us as our Conference Youth Director in 1996. When he turned back to pastoring local churches he was appointed to Chinese UMC, Sacramento, Citrus Heights UMC, Orland UMC and since 2017 has pastored the Walnut Creek UMC.

He says that retiring while the Covid-19 virus is still among is primarily a relief. The pandemic was very hard to navigate, especially in the area of pastoral care. He led his congregation in setting up small circles of parishioners with a leader who kept in touch with each of them. Colin also feels fortunate that his congregation was able to enable virtual worship very quickly. At first that was with pre-taped worship services, but later with excellent live-streamed worship.

Colin and his wife, Kathy (also ordained in the Northern NY Conference) welcomed their first two grandchildren this spring. Currently living in Martinez, they believe a move is in their future, but staying close to the grandkids is their first priority, so the location will depend on where the grandkids are residing, which is also likely to change in sometime soon.

Colin has served well and faithfully, and we're glad to welcome in the fellowship of the Retired Clergy Association!



Introducing Maggie McNaught, Retirement Class of 2022

Interviewer: Kristie Olah



While recent years have brought the pandemic challenges of separation from one another and reframing ministry, the Rev. Maggie McNaught experienced this season as a gift of time for personal discernment. She participated in an online nine-month retreat experience with Abbey of the Arts and came to a sense that it was time to move into new ways of being and doing. Stepping out of the local church and into the retired relationship, she senses that God is calling her to something yet to be revealed fully.

Maggie has filled notebooks with things she wants to learn or witness and places to visit. She is ready for more bike-riding, exploring the outdoors, and self-care. But first, she and her husband Cliff will begin this retirement adventure with their own Baby Tour 2022, traveling to meet the new little ones in the extended family in a summer across the Midwest and West.

Maggie's retirement comes after 40 years in ministry in varied settings in Indiana, the West, and Nicaragua. She served as pastor for a number of churches in the South Indiana Conference, where she was ordained Elder in 1985. Then it was on to Nicaragua in an appointment to the Catholic Foreign Mission Society, working with the Maryknoll religious community there. After a few years in campus ministry at Umitas in Berkeley, then in Bloomington, Indiana, she came to Davis to be in ministry with the Cal Aggie Christian Association. For the last 24 years, Maggie has brought her gifts for justice work, community support, and caring heart to local churches, serving as Associate Pastor at First UMC of Palo Alto and Senior Pastor of Loomis. Now she is finishing a five-year appointment to Carson City First.

When asked what she would share with the UMC community at this time, Maggie wrote: "I have been extremely blessed to have had mentors of different life experiences, ages, and contexts with whom I have received advice, direction, good counsel, great insight and a good laugh. The same can be said for the many laity into whose lives I have been invited as a pastor and confidante and with whom I have worked beside in many ministries. What a privilege to walk beside them all and to know a deep and abiding friendship with them.

The Church gave me the world and opportunities to live and work with Tongans, Fijians, Haitians, Nicaraguans, Salvadorans, Guatemalans, and Kenyans in ways I could not have dreamed possible when I was younger. I have wept as people recounted their stories of God's grace unfolding around them, in the midst of terrible danger, tragedy and death. I have laughed and danced in celebration with them as hope surrounded them, and strength returned to them as they opened their arms once again to embrace the God of Life.

I cannot imagine having lived a more fulfilled and meaningful life than what has been given to me. It is hard to believe that 42 years have passed since I first served a small student charge in rural Indiana while in seminary! I still know their names and see their faces as I do the many I was privileged to serve along this journey. I thank God for this life and I thank you all for all the encouragement, support, inspiration and confidence you gave me along the way and I thank my family for being with me every step of the way. I will retire in joy! Thanks be to God! "

As Maggie enjoys time to try new things, she moves into retirement with hope. "Life just continues in this brilliant way," she has said. An affirmation of faith and promise from a pastor who continues to follow God's call and give her heart to many people and communities with dedication and wisdom.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

LORAN BERCK
 NORMA BETANCOURT
 DIANA BOHN
 DICK BOWMAN
 WALTER BRIM
 JANET BUNJE
 LINDA CALDWELL
 RONNA CASE
 TAE-JOON CHO
 EVA CHOW
 PAUL COLBERT
 MERCEDITA CUETO
 WARREN DALE
 DAN DAMON
 BEVERLY DAVIS JR.
 ROB DUNNING
 DICK ERNST
 JOHN FUGITT
 MEGUMI FUJIMORI
 ELLEN GARIAEFF
 TONI HARTMAN

VICKIE HEALY
 BARBARA HORIKOSHI-FIREBAUGH
 JULIA HORNE
 JAMES HORNE
 MARJORIE HOUSER
 BILL HUGHES
 ARLENE HUSER
 VICTOR IZZO
 CAROL JOHNSON
 ELIZABETH KENNEDY
 MONTEE KENNEDY
 KOOK-HUI KIM
 JEFF KUNKEL
 DON LEE
 STEPHEN LEE
 BOB LOESSBERG-ZAHL
 SHIRLEY MACEMON
 GARY McANNALLY
 CHRIS McANNALLY

DAVID McKEITHEN
 REV DOUG MONROE
 ELEANOR NORRIS
 BOB OLMSTEAD
 TED PECOT
 JUDITH PRUESS-MELLOW
 ROBIN ROGERS
 DIVINA ROSA
 JEANNE SANFORD
 JAN SLORPE
 LINDA SMITH
 CAROLYN STAPLETON
 JOHN TINCHER
 MIKE TURGEON
 SOLINNA VORN
 AUDREY WAR
 BARBARA WEBB
 NAILYA WHITMER
 DONNA WOOD
 ALLEN YAN-CHAMBERLIN
 GRACE YANG



Photo by Deva Williamson on Unsplash

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

CHARLOTTE AKOLO
 AFUHIA AKOLO
 JUAN ARJONA
 MARY ELYN BAHLERT
 DOROTHY BAKER
 EMILY BEALS
 JACKIE BENNETT
 BOB BRAZIE
 LAUREN CHAFFEE
 TOM CLARK
 DORIS DISBROW
 JEAN FADO
 PAM FINE
 NORMA FLORENDO
 EVA FUGITT
 DEBBI GRUNDMAN
 DEBORAH HICKS
 DAWN HORDER
 BOB JOHANSSON

ALAN JONES
 MIKYUNG KANG KIM
 TOM KIMBALL
 MARIT KNUTSEN
 MARLYSS KUBIK
 ROSEMARY LANDRY
 PAULA LESLIE
 NANCY MC CONNELL
 MARJORIE MILLER
 CHERYL MURDOCK
 GILLIAN MURPHY
 SYLVIA OSMAN
 KENT PARR
 LARRY PEARSON
 JOANNE PETERSON
 LINDA PICKENS-JONES
 RICHARD PITCHER
 JANETTE SAAVEDRA
 BEN SILVA-NETTO

MARLYN SILVA-NETTO
 KIM SMITH
 JANNA STEED
 FRANK STONE
 BARBARA STONE
 PAUL SWEET
 TIMOTHY TAM
 DAVE THOMPSON
 BARBARA TROXELL
 CAROLE VINCENT
 MARION WAKE
 PAUL WEBB
 BETTY WEISER
 LAURA WHARFF
 FAITH WHITMORE
 LESTER WOLFE
 HARRY WOOD
 WESLEY YONG
 MICHAEL YOSHII
 SUK-CHONG YU
 MARK ZIER

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

PAM ABBEY & KENT PARR
 MARK & BONNIE BOLLWINKEL
 JOHN CHAMBERLIN & ALLEN YAN-CHAMBERLIN
 TAE-JOON & KYUNGLA CHO
 TOM & PAT CLARK
 DAN DAMON & EILEEN JOHNSON
 PAUL DIRDAK & WENDY POMEROY
 DICK & BARBARA ERNST

DON & JEAN FADO
 SHIM & MISRAK HABTE
 HOLLY & TOM HILLMAN
 TOM & HOLLY HILLMAN
 EILEEN LINDSAY & BILL HUGHES
 KAREN McCLINTOCK & MICK SMITH
 MAGGIE McNAUGHT & CLIFF GASSOWAY
 ANTHONY & MARGARET OROPEZA
 GAYLE PICKRELL & JOHN DAVENPORT
 VICTORIA & GERRY SCHLINTZ
 DANTE & VIVE SIMON
 PAUL SWEET & SHEENA McKENDRICK
 TED & CHARLIE VIRTS
 BENTON & MARY LOU WHITE
 FRANK & GRACE YANG



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AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

AFUHIA & CHARLOTTE AKOLO
 DIANA BOHN & GRADY KNOWLES
 BOB & DEBORAH BRAZIE
 JAN & WALTER BRIM
 ESTAN & MERCEDITA CUETO
 DARRELL & KAREN DARLING
 NYMPHAS & LOIS EDWARDS
 JOHN & JANICE EMERSON
 JUDSON & BETTY GEARS
 DOUGLAS & SUSAN JOHNSON

STEVE & CAROL JOHNSON
 TOM & CONNIE KIMBALL
 GARY & CHRIS McANNALLY
 BILL & MARLEBA McCORD
 JOHN & MARTHA McCORKELL
 NORM & LINDA MOWERY
 DOUGLAS & ELEANOR NORRIS
 JOANNE PETERSON & DAN NEUMANN
 DON & DONITA ROULSTEN
 BERT & LINDA SCHNIEPP
 JIM & TERI SCOTT
 DAVID & JAN SLORPE
 BILLY & CAROLE SPARKMAN
 FRANK & BARBARA STONE
 DAVE & PAT THOMPSON
 CLARENCE & DOLORES WAGER
 DAVID & RUTH MARIE WOLF



New Group Forming!

The Spiritual Exercises—Strength for These Days

- A 30-week small group experience of Ignatian Spirituality, September 21, 2022-May 3, 2023
- 2 hours/week from 2-4 pm on Wednesdays, on Zoom, in-person, or hybrid, depending on the needs of the group of 4-7 people. \$1000 negotiable
- Led by Christine Shiber, retired United Methodist pastor and experienced spiritual director
- Want more information? Please email me!

~Chris Shiber

chris.shiber@gmail.com

Per Diem Update

We are aware that your per diem checks are delayed. Unfortunately, the treasurer you all confirmed in election on Friday of ACS, was injured within the following week. Gregory will no longer be able to serve as treasurer. We have been able to find another person willing to serve and she will be brought up to speed as quickly as possible. We thank you for your patience. Please keep Gregory Floyd and his wife Caryl in your prayers.

And of course....give **Alice Oberg** a big RCA welcome as she joins our Board of Directors as our new Treasurer. The Board was able to elect her to the board to fill the vacancy as provided in our By-Laws.

Have You Moved?

Oh July..... Pastor Moving Season! I realize that most of you aren't appointed to a church and are free to tell the Cabinet that nah.... you don't want to move, but thanks anyway. Alas, you now move whenever the mood strikes! Please remember to let the RCA know when you make those moves. Or when you get a new phone number. Or when you change your email address. We want to keep in touch! Just email the new details to: nancydaley@ca-nv-rca.org.





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

\$_____ Membership **July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023**
Individual Couple (circle 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 _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

LEVEL	INDIVIDUAL	COUPLE	BENEFIT
BASIC: <i>Sing all... Sing lustily and with good courage</i>	\$25	\$40	
SUPPORTING: <i>Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience</i>	\$60	\$75	5% discount Spring Fling 25% discount ACS Luncheon
SUSTAINING: <i>Give all you can... In all ways you can</i>	\$100	\$150	10% discount Spring Fling 50% discount ACS Luncheon
SPONSOR: <i>Hearts Strangely Warmed</i>	\$250	\$350	15% discount Spring Fling ACS Luncheon Included for Current Year
LIFETIME: <i>Going on to Perfection</i>	\$1000	\$1500	20% discount Spring Fling ACS Luncheon for Life

The RCA tries to make sure we are reaching members and engaging with members in the most relevant ways. This short survey will help us do just that. Fill it out and return it to: RCA 9328 Elk Grove Blvd. #105-141 * Elk Grove, CA 95624

MEMBER NAME _____

FELLOWSHIP INTEREST SURVEY

Travel with other retirees _____

Meet with a retired clergy & spouse & surviving spouse group in your area _____

Participate in a Volunteers in Mission (VM) trip _____

Attend an RCA retreat _____

Participate in Zoom based book study or webinar _____

Please indicate areas of interest:

Social Justice Issues _____

Spirituality - Bible study, Lenten study, etc. _____

Practical matters for retirees (downsizing, deciding where to live, etc) _____

Additional Ideas? _____

Contact Info: _____

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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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Sandy Roberts

Vice President: Barbara Hirokoshi-Firebaugh

Treasurer: Alice Oberg

Secretary: Dave Bennett

ACS Commission: Dave Thompson

Relational Care: Carolee Catterall

Fellowship and Spiritual Growth: Floyd Quenzer and Donna Hougland

Scholarship Program: Alice Ann Glenn

Mission and Justice: Betty Pagett and Marty Murdock

Class of 2023: Alexis Easton, Becky Goodwin, Kristie Olah

Class of 2024: Hubert Ivery, Peter Lau

Class of 2025: Mary Elyn Bahlert, Bob Loessberg-Zahl, Toni Hartman

RCA CONTACT INFO

Nancy Daley - Executive Officer

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

916-539-4249 nancydaley@ca-nv-rca.org www.ca-nv-rca.org

Haniel Garaby - Mission Research

757-354-9903 hanielrg2011@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Fling

April 18-20, 2023

>Christ The King
Citrus Heights

Annual Conference Session

June 9-12.2023

> Sacramento Convention
Center

Annual Luncheon

June 9, 2023

>Sheraton Hotel