

Days

OF GRACE

RCA WORK PROJECTS UPDATE

a week of work, friendship, worship and fun!
Questions? Contact Madi Elsea

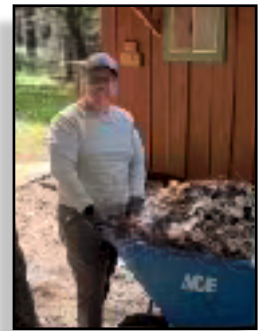
(madielsea@aol.com;
661-549-2391) or Marty
Murdock
(murdocksky@aol.com;
530-355-6226)

Lodestar Campground

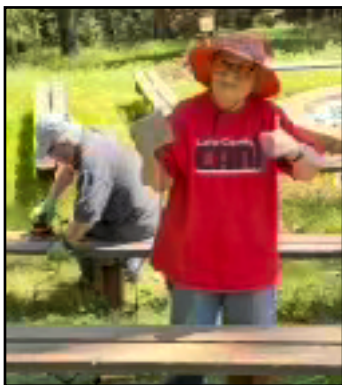
RCA work teams have partnered with the Conference Claimants Endowment Board for three different work weeks at our United Methodist campground over the past 18 months. Many thanks to the 13 faithful retired clergy and spouses who have been a part of one or more of these



October 2025 RCA work team (L-R): Rod Lee, Madi Elsea, Marty Murdock, Gary Pope-Sears, Eric Dale, Monique-Cherie Pierre, Bonnie McGraw



Mark Ramorino, CCEB
Executive Director



Norm Mowery and Linda
Caldwell sand benches

work teams along with staff of the Endowment Board. RCA will once again be working with the Endowment Board later this spring as we continue to tackle renovation and enhancement of this wonderful property in the Sierra foothills...

one that has touched the lives of countless United Methodist campers over the years!

Look for an email update coming soon to your inbox announcing the date and join us for

Eaton Fire Recovery

Volunteer teams will soon be welcomed in ALTADENA as part of the Eaton Fire recovery effort. The Eaton fire was the largest and most destructive of the eight wildfires in the LA area one year ago, in which nineteen people lost their lives and 9000 home destroyed.

Several non-profits have launched an effort to rebuild homes in this area, one of which is the Hope Crisis Response Network (HCRN). Our Conference Volunteers in Mission program, including RCA, has worked with this faith-based non-profit in various locations around California, including the 2 years RCA sent teams to do home rebuilding in Paradise

CA following the devastating Camp Fire of 2018. HCRN is an excellent organization to work with and we are looking forward to working with them again.

Housing for volunteer teams has finally been secured, so teams are being scheduled for this fall and into 2027. RCA is contact with HCRN about dates that might work for us, possibly October-November. We will announce a date as soon as possible so look for an announcement by email in the coming weeks. In the meantime, contact Madi or Marty (see contact info above) if you have questions.

Please note...all skill levels welcome...meals provided...all you need to do is provide our own transportation...join us for meaningful service and a rich time of sharing with colleagues!




Photo of Eaton Fire Destruction by Marcus Jones



A New Opportunity to Support Retired Clergy While Designing Your Summer Garden!

This spring, The Endowment Board invites you to support retired clergy and their spouses in a simple, joyful way—by planting your garden with purpose. Through a special online storefront, you can purchase beautiful bulbs, perennials, herbs, and more for your summer garden. Up to 50% of every purchase benefits The Endowment Board’s Wisdom in Scholarship and Education (WISE) Fund, which provides financial support for retired clergy and spouses seeking continuing education and spiritual direction opportunities during retirement. These premium, eco-friendly plants are grown in Holland and across the U.S., and offer a meaningful way to honor faithful service while adding beauty to your home. Products will begin shipping in April, and the last day to order is May 15, 2026.

 Plant with purpose and order yours today. To receive the storefront link, contact Jenny Copello at Jenny@endowbd.org or (209) 390-0989.





FEBRUARY

SUE ANGOVE
 CHARLES ANKER
 ADRIENNE BEASLEY
 GREG BERGQUIST
 LAUREL BLANEY
 BONNIE
 BOLLWINKEL
 CRAIG BROWN
 CARIETA CAIN-GRIZZELL
 SAMUT CHHENG SREY
 ESTAN CUETO
 LOIS EDWARDS
 MADI ELSEA
 BARBARA ERNST
 TEVITA FANAIIKA
 MINERVA FONG
 GINGER FOSTER
 CLIFF GASSOWAY
 MARTIN GRIZZELL
 AYAKO HANAOKA
 LINDA HOLBROOK
 LYNDA JAMIESON
 SUSAN KEMPER
 COLIN KERR-CARPENTER
 DALE KURUHARA
 GEORGE LAYTON
 STEVE LUNDIN
 STEVEN MC COLLOM
 JOHN McCORKELL
 TANA McDONALD
 SHAN McSPADDEN
 JACQUIE MEADOWS
 ROSENDA MIZUNO
 ROGER MORIMOTO
 DAVID PARK
 WENDY POMEROY
 FLOYD QUENZER
 MATI RAHMAN
 KATHLEEN SMITH
 KIEN SREY
 B.J. STILES
 DANTE TANGONAN

RICHARD THOMPSON
 SHEILA VAUGHN
 NORA YAMASHIRO

MARCH

DEBBIE
 ABRAHAMSON
 GAYLE BASTEN
 JEANIE BEHREND
 DAVE BENNETT
 NANCY BOWMAN
 BOB BUCKNER
 SARA CARTER
 JOHN DAVENPORT
 MARK DEW-HIERSOUX
 GAIL EATOUGH-SMITH
 PED ESTOLAS
 DENIS EUCALYPTUS
 PAUL EXTRUM-FERNANDEZ
 SAMUEL FABILA
 DONNA FADO IVERY
 JOHN FIREBAUGH
 MIKE FRIEDRICH
 JOHN FUJIMORI
 PAUL HENSHAW
 NORMA HORTON
 VALERIE JENKINS
 ROB JENNINGS-TEATS
 DIXIE JENNINGS-TEATS
 LOU JOHNSTONE
 MABEL KAZATO
 PHILIP KIM
 WE-WOONG KIM
 LIZABETH KLEIN
 LEA LOUMOLI
 LORRAINE McNEAL
 JIM MISHLER
 SHEILA MORGAN
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 JOHN SUBLETT
 OLIVE TANGONAN
 MAGGIE TAYLOR
 DELORES TIBBS
 DONNA VAN MAANEN
 JOAN WHEELER-ASH
 POYEE YANG
 SUZANNE YOSHII

APRIL

ELLIOT BERNADEL-HUEY
 JUDITH BITHER
 NIDE BOUCK
 ARLAINE BRYANT
 JOHN CHAMBERLIN
 GRACE CHEONG
 BOB CHICOU
 CAROL DAMONTE
 NADINE DeWITT
 GREGORY FLOYD
 KATHY FOX
 KATE JOHNSON
 HOPE KAWASHIMA
 HONG KI KIM
 MAILE KOLOTO
 KATHY LA POINT
 CAROL LEAMY
 FRANCES LEIBERT
 KARLA LUNDIN
 JON MARCUS
 BARBARA MARK
 MACY McCALLISTER
 MARLEBA McCORD
 JAMES McCRAY
 JOHN McLAUGHLIN

KATHI McSHANE
 ELVIRA MENDIOLA
 KERRY MIXIE
 DAVID MOSS
 LINDA MOWERY
 MARTY MURDOCK
 DOUGLAS NORRIS
 PAMELA ODO-GOTO
 KATHY PARSONS
 KAY PRITCHARD-WARD
 DAVID RABENAU
 GARY ROBBINS
 ARDYS SANDELL
 DAVID SCHILLING
 DAVID SCHLESINGER
 KLARA SCOTT
 SIOSIFA SETOKI
 DOROTHY STRAKS
 BUD TILLINGHAST JR.
 CHRIS TURGEON
 GARRET WALTHER
 ROSE WHITE
 HERB WHITE
 ARLENE
 WILLIAMSON
 MARGARET YOUNG



Happy Anniversary!



February

RICHARD & MARILYN BASTEAR
BOB & CHERYL COLLINS
SAMUEL & CAROLINA FABILA
JERRY & KATHY FOX
DANNY & PEGGY HUANG
HEE-SOO & MIKYUNG KANG KIM
PAT & CAROL LEAMY
SHIRLEY MACEMON & JON MARCUS
LEE & JO NEISH
JANETTE & JUAN SAAVEDRA
STANLEY & NANCY SIMPSON
TONY & CAROL UBALDE

March

DAVID & SHERRY ATKINS
MARY ELYN BAHLERT & JEFF KUNKEL
TOM & CAROLYN BUTLER
PAUL & VIRGIE CABOTAJE
ANNE & LANCE CHOY
JIM CRAWFORD & DIVINA CUNLTA
KATHRYN & ROB DUNNING
SUSAN & STAN GARMENT
VICKIE & JIM HEALY
LEA & MELE LOUMOLI

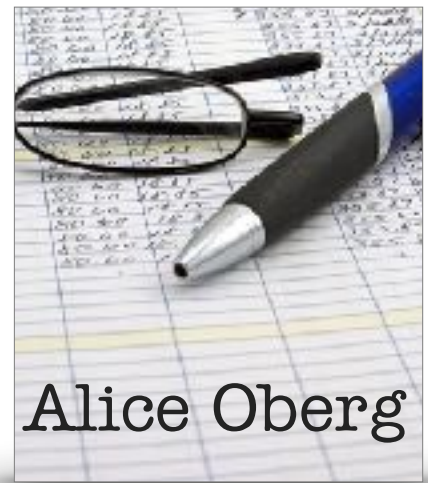
JOE & JULIA MAJOR
DOUG & EDIE McCOY
LARRY PATTEN & JEANIE BEHREND
GARY & SYBELLA POPE-SEARS
CHUNG-MYUNG & NAM HEE SONG
BUD & KATHLEEN TILLINGHAST

April

LISA CARTER-NORDLANDER & JEFF
NORDLANDER
GAIL CHIEW & JASON ONG
RON & SUSAN DUNN
MIKE FRIEDRICH & LEE MARRS
ALAN JONES & LINDA PICKENS-JONES
ERNEST & CELIA KAN
PETER & JASMINE LAU
MICHAEL & DOLLY LOVE
JIM & JAN MISHLER
ANDREW PARK & SUN OK MYONG
MARK & KATHY PARSONS
LINDA & BOB PRENDERGAST
JUDY & GARY ROBBINS
KAREN STOFFERS-PUGH & JIM PUGH
WILL & JUDY TRAVELSTEAD



REPORT FROM YOUR TREASURER



Alice Oberg

I have been the treasurer for the Retired Clergy Association since July 2022. This past year I have come to learn through scripture, life experiences and listening to the voice of God, that I need to simplify my life in all areas, including the RCA accounting system. With the staff at the Endowment Board, they are helping to clean up the accounting system by correcting the mistakes that have been made over the years. They have created an accounting system that is proper for the RCA system according to accounting standards and simplified for me with their help. This is an ongoing process with the staff and I am truly grateful.

This is what I need you to know right now. For the proper accounting of money in and money out there is a form that you are responsible to fill out when sending the RCA a check (money in) for donations. The first form is Membership Donation. It also includes areas to donate to the Scholarship and Healthcare funds, as well as Other if you want to donate to a certain ministry of the RCA. The other form for money that you are paying the RCA is for the luncheon reservation at the Annual Conference Session. All forms include whom to send the form and payment to. All forms can be found here: <https://ca-nv-rca.org/events/>

The other forms are where we write your checks (money out) are for reimbursement. There are three forms: Per Diem Annual Conference Session Form, Per Diem Spiritual Leaders Gathering Form and the General Reimbursement Form. The General Reimbursement Form are for expenses such as food, travel and mileage for a particular ministry within the RCA approved budget. These forms must include the attached receipts to verify proof of expenditure. All the forms include whom to send the form and receipts to. All forms can be found here: <https://ca-nv-rca.org/events/>

Please take care when filling out the forms that we use for proper accounting. Please make sure that your writing is legible and completed fully, including your address. If you have any questions, you can email me at revoberg@gmail.com or by phone at 661-203-8749.

May your new year be filled with blessing, joy and peace from God, family and friends.

CORY PARISH RETIRES FROM CONFERENCE CLAIMANTS ENDOWMENT BOARD

The Endowment Board's Board of Trustees is proud to commemorate the beginning of a new chapter in our 135-year legacy of service and stewardship. After 20 plus years of faithful service and on the 135th anniversary of The Endowment Board's inception, Cory, our beloved Executive Director, is retiring. Cory's leadership has been a blessing to our organization and to the retired clergy and spouses of the California-Nevada Conference. His vision and unwavering dedication have shaped a legacy of care and innovative support to address the evolving needs of retired clergy and spouses of the CA-NV Conference. He is the longest serving executive director in the 100+ year history of our organization, and has significantly grown the value of our assets, which has meant more funds for our retirees in the form of fully funded Pre-1982 liability, the creation of the Shepherd Fund, the Wisdom in Scholarship and Education (WISE) Fund, the Healthcare Premium Assistance Fund, and the new Norton LifeLock identity and cyber theft protection benefit. The combination of his real estate acumen and people before profit made him a force, as proven by his desire to serve in a consultive role to ensure a smooth transition with his successor.



Rev. Jim Current, past-president of The Endowment Board, reflected on Cory's tenure with great admiration... "Under Cory's inspired leadership, our doing and being became surrounded by 'Amen' (To use a figure of speech from Lona Fowler). Specifically, 1) Cory integrated the staff and the retirees they serve. We got to know them, and they got to know retired clergy who weren't on the board 2) Cory made it a point to personally meet as many active and retired clergy as possible. He knew who he worked for, and it wasn't

just the board members 3) He believed in the cause and pitched it with passion. He is the real thing! 4) Cory grew his staff, not in size but developed their management skills. We were looking for an executive who would train others to do his job. Succession was a concern. Cory shared information and let other staff members contribute their input and then act on it. He set us up for this day. 5) Cory and his wife, April, will always be considered dear friends.”

As the current president of The Endowment Board, I am deeply grateful to Cory for inviting me to join. Prior to my service, I had no idea how much he contributed, not only to The Endowment Board but to the entire conference. Under his leadership, The Endowment Board granted over \$35 million in financial support to retired clergy and spouses, via gifts to The Board of Pensions, and annual grants to the Retired Clergy Association totaling in excess of \$2,000,000. Cory’s vision went beyond easing financial burdens for retirees; he championed several supportive programs that fostered health, wellness, and connection. His ongoing relationships with many of our retired and active clergy remain a blessing to us all, especially as we look to the future and our clergy and conference embrace new and promising opportunities. While his family will surely cherish more ‘Dad and Grandpa’ time, we will miss him greatly. Thank you, Cory, for caring so deeply for our people and this organization throughout your two decades at the helm, you are a visionary and have served the Endowment Board mission in ways that we never knew were possible.

As we begin this transition, we are also very pleased to announce that Mark Ramorino, who has devotedly served as our Treasurer for the past eight years, will step into the role of Executive Director. During his tenure as Treasurer, Mark has played a pivotal role in strengthening our financial stewardship and guiding strategic initiatives. His close partnership with Cory and the Board of Trustees has been marked by mutual respect, shared vision, and a dedication to the long-term vitality of our organization. Mark brings a steady hand in leadership and operations, a deep understanding of our mission, and a heartfelt commitment of service.

Please join us in celebrating Cory’s remarkable legacy and in warmly welcoming Mark as we usher in a new era at The Endowment Board.

If you would like to honor Cory by giving back to the funds he established during his tenure with a tribute donation, please contact Jenny Copello at Jenny@endowbd.org or (209) 390-0989.

Why We Like Where We Live

by Don and Judy Burkhart

We really like our “empty-nest” 1/3 acre ranch in the heart of Fresno with our two bedroom, one bath home, abundant fruit and nut trees, large garden area, and nice neighbors.

Ten years ago, when Don was 81 and Judy was 76, with encouragement from relatives and friends, to consider senior apartment living, which would not tax our limited energy level, we moved into a gated senior apartment complex in Clovis called Harmony Bay.

We miss our fresh fruit and vegetables, and the rent has increased by about \$100 per month over the last five years, but there are many advantages:

1. A large swimming pool and a clubhouse for classes and fellowship, with a workout room which includes three exercise machines.
2. A large outside patio at each apartment, which has room for patio furniture and potted plants.
3. our extra bedroom works as an office to continue Don’s nearly full-time volunteer Jail Chaplaincy work, answer letters and sending out quarterly letters with Bible studies to over 200 prisoners.
4. Two gazebos on the grounds, each with a table, chairs, and a large barbecue.
5. A large dog park for those with pets.
6. Lots of grassy lawn, large trees, and a 1/4 mile marked walking path.
7. Very wonderful, friendly neighbors.
8. Being a gated community brings a feeling of greater safety.
9. A “Community Gardens” just a couple of blocks away, where we rent a plot to raise vegetables (and continue to enjoy the hobby of gardening).
10. Two large shopping centers, with grocery, drug stores, cafes and department stores, just 1/2 mile down the street.



With all the above, we have a 24/7 feeling that we are living at a resort, enjoying all its benefits.

Among the “God-things” since we’ve arrived:

1. a lovely neighbor who moved in next door who was in the same High School class with my sister in Porterville and they were good friends,
2. The widow of our former S. Luke’s UMC pastor, Milla Smith, just moved into one of our apartments a few months ago.
3. Most of our neighbors enjoy sharing extra food and conversation with each other.

4. We are still able to drive to our "home church" (the former St. Luke's UMC - now a community church) for worship and other activities.
5. Nearly half of our 3 children, 9 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren, live within 15 minutes of us and look in on us occasionally, as well as taking us to Family Bible Camp each summer at Redwood Christian Park.

We hope to be here for the rest of our lives on this earth. Even though the rent has risen to more than half our income, the Lord has provided for us in abundance. (Example: the beautiful bonus the first of each year that comes from our Pension Board!)

Love to all,
Don and Judy Burkhart

Amazing Fundraiser Results!

The Endowment Board Tree of Light Raises over \$21,000 for Retired Clergy and Spouses
On behalf of The Endowment Board, we want to express our sincere gratitude for all who supported our 2025 Tree of Light campaign. The generosity of our donors raised over \$21,000 for the retired clergy and spouses of the California-Nevada Conference...THANK YOU!

The Tree of Light stood tall in the lobby of The Endowment Board office from November 25th through January 6th. All tribute donations received during the holiday season were turned into ornaments with a special message crafted by the donor and displayed on the Tree of Light. The honoree(s) also received an acknowledgement letter with a photo of their ornament. Since this annual campaign began in 2018, the Tree of Light has raised over \$119,000 for education, programs, services, and healthcare cost assistance for the retired clergy and spouses of the CA-NV Conference. Thank you to everyone whose efforts have made this campaign a tradition that brings joy and anticipation to so many.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Barbara Horikoshi-Firebaugh



Greetings to all!

I come to you as I finish up my term as RCA President with a request.

The only thing we must do every year for legal purposes is to hold our annual meeting in order to:
Pass our budget
Elect our officers.

This is where I need your help.

First, please come to our annual meeting that is held at our annual luncheon on the first day of Annual Conference Session. The cost of the lunch is \$30 or less (depending on if and at what level you have made a membership donation) and the cost of the lunch can be added to your per diem reimbursement. We had a record number of attendees last year (180!) and we can accommodate more! Our luncheon will be held on June 26 at the Sheraton Hotel, just across the street from the Convention Center. More details will be coming in the May Days of Grace.

Second, please register! As soon as Days of Grace is in your hands, please fill out the paper form and send it in along with your check. It is vitally important that we have an accurate count (we actually went over last year) to give to the hotel. The \$30 cost for you is a subsidized price by 50%. In other words, each lunch costs us about \$60 per plate. We must have this number well before the actual lunch so we cannot accommodate "at the door". Please plan now to register in May. **The deadline to register is JUNE 4, 2026.**

Third, please register! We have had a problem with "gate crashers". This causes problems for the caterer and for our Executive Director, Nancy Daley. She will be sending out confirmation letters, and you will need to show that at the door to be admitted. This is the unfortunate consequence of too many people just walking in and sitting down. If you have not heard from Nancy by June 10, please contact her immediately. JUNE 10! You will have a confirmation letter if your registration has been received.

We look forward to having you at our luncheon and would love to have 200 Retired Clergy, Spouses, and Surviving Spouses!





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

\$_____ Donation Level **July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026**

Individual Couple

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

Additional Donation to Support Designated Programs

\$_____ Seminary Student Memorial Scholarship Fund Donation

\$_____ Health Care Subsidy Fund Donation

\$_____ Other - *Please specify:* _____

My/our **additional** donation is: In Memory Of: _____

In Honor Of: _____

Member Information: (please fill this out so we can keep accurate records)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ (For Receipt)

Make check out to:

RCA

Mail check and form to:

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

Donation 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	25% discount ACS Luncheon
SUSTAINING: <i>Give all you can... In all ways you can</i>	\$100	\$150	50% discount ACS Luncheon
SPONSOR: <i>Hearts Strangely Warmed</i>	\$250	\$350	ACS Luncheon Included for Current Year
LIFETIME: <i>Going on to Perfection</i>	\$1000	\$1500	ACS Luncheon for Life

For Office Use Only: CK# _____ Date _____ \$ _____ DB _____ QB _____ RCT _____

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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Class of 2028: Joe Carmichael, Clyde Vaughn, Betty Weisner

RCA CONTACT INFO

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916-539-4249 nancydaley@ca-nv-rca.org www.ca-nv-rca.org
Find us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RetiredClergyAssociation>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Conference Session

June 26-29, 2026

> SAFE Credit Union
Sacramento Convention
Center

Annual Luncheon

June 26, 2026

>TBA

Deadline for Next Issue

April 15, 2026