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DAYS OF GRACE



We Have A Website!

Did you know we have a website? More to the point, do you know what wisdom it contains?

Our website, which will be undergoing some changes this year, has all the information you need at your fingertips!

At Annual Conference time, it has the lunch registration form and the Per Diem form. Gathering of Spiritual Leaders? Per Diem form! Say you want to apply for the Parish Wisdom In Scholarship and Education Grant (WISE Grant). The application is available for download! Right with that, is the follow up to the grant that each awardee is asked to fill out.

There is information on the Norton LifeLock program offered by the Conference Claimants Endowment Board (CCEB) and a guide for your beneficiaries for estate planning purposes.

If you do work on behalf of the RCA (I'm looking at you Card Ministry!) there is a form for reimbursement (General Reimbursement Form).

The form to make a donation is also on the website, but that one's under "Membership and Donations".

Is there something you wish you could find on the website? Now is the time to ask, no guarantees we can, but ask away! What happened was the “skin” suddenly was no longer supported. Our data was there, but no way to display it. I was able to create a “lifeboat” as it were but needed to put off making it pretty until some other things (like ACS!) were over. I will be working on the “make it pretty” aspect over the next few months. I know many of you would like to pay for things through the website. We would like you to be able to do so as well! We need to work with the conference and our bank and maybe the IRS to make that possible again. Everything continues to be more and more stringent on handling money so there are more and more hoops and checks that go into making that possible for us.

It's an exciting time for the RCA. If there is something YOU want to see the RCA do or sponsor, let us know so the Board can take it under consideration! You can contact Maggie McNaught, President, via email: mcnaughtmaggie@gmail.com.

Greetings from the RCA President

Cheers, Friends!

May your summers be filled with family and/or friend time, alone time, time to be outside, traveling, and rest. Thanks to all of you who attended the RCA Annual Luncheon at ACS in June—giving us all time to reconnect, share, and hear what's new in people's lives.

My partner, Cliff Gassoway, and I are only recently back from 3 weeks spent in London. This visit was very different than the other 4 times we've spent in this wonderful city on previous occasions and especially as a retiree. Neither of us wanted to do the typical tourist things. We chose a VRBO in a neighborhood we'd never been to and began exploring all around us. We landed on the very night that our neighborhood's Premier League Football Team, Arsenal, won the League

championship! Not a quiet night. Next day we participated in the celebratory parade as Americans who know nothing about soccer. I had to ask someone to explain “off-sides” to me because I didn't get it on *Ted Lasso*.

My favorite thing to do when I'm traveling to a new place is engage in as many conversations with the locals as I possibly can on mass transit, sitting in parks or pubs or when we'd enter shops looking to purchase something. I'm infinitely curious about people, both individuals and cultures, all ages, and during this visit, we found people just as curious about life in the States as we were about London.

In fact, we were so surprised by the warm welcomes we received that we stopped mumbling that we were Canadians when politics were raised! (Apologies to my Canadian friends for posing but we really needed a break from in-your-face kinds of political debates. We didn't want to represent

a US opinion on President Trump's policies) Londoners wanted to know who would win the mid-terms, and the general election two years later, the status of political violence and hate groups, even how the poor were faring. We experienced these questions as a genuine kind of curiosity these random Londoners wanted to explore with us.

In turn, we asked about their economy, the status of young adults' jobs and living situations, and churches and where to find those long, narrow boats on canals and of course, who is going to win the Fifa World Cup? I always ask people about their life dreams and what individuals are intentionally doing to make their dreams a reality in day to day living as well (something I learned from Mike Slaughter) It wasn't long before the conversations became spiritual ones.

Conversing respectfully at these deeper and deeper levels enabled all of us to realize together that we have far more in common as human beings than we do differences. Our curiosity about one another ushered the Spirit in, creating an O, SO BRIEF experience of shared community. It's a simple observation really but I experienced a Holy moment! I wonder if we as retirees, as Americans, as people of faith became more curious about

one another's' lived experiences, dreams, and values would there be more holy moments together? Could this be another pathway to peace and understanding? Seems like Jesus was saying Yes when he said something like: "where 2 or more are gathered, there I am."

Blessings,
Maggie



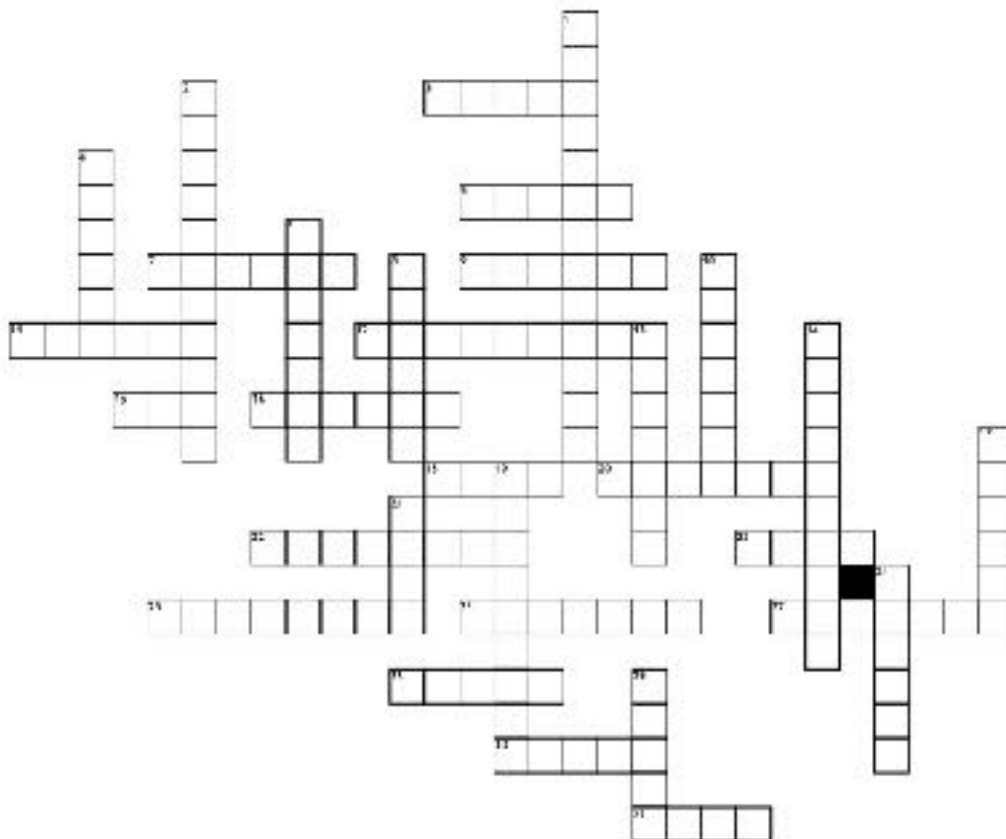
CONVERSATION STARTER.....

Who is your earliest ancestor that you know something about?

(Did your great grandfather try to blow up his family with dynamite? No? Cool!)

(Conversation starters are for you to just contemplate or to ask others as you have conversation with them)

People of the Bible



Across

- 3. Sarah's servant who gave birth to Abraham's baby
- 5. Hebrew (humble) Prophet of the 8th Century
- 7. Leah's maidservant who had Gad and Asher with Jacob
- 9. Prophetess consulted during King Josiah's reign
- 11. Faithful mother of Timothy
- 12. Woman who worked with Paul in Corinth
- 15. First woman created by God
- 16. Abraham's son
- 18. Oldest of Noah's sons
- 20. Second son of Noah
- 22. Esther's cousin
- 23. Son of Adam and Eve
- 25. King of Judah

- 26. One of the twelve disciples; former tax collector in Capernaum
- 27. Woman who supported Jesus' ministry from her own means
- 28. Led Israelites out of Egypt
- 30. King who took the life of all the babies to try to take the life of baby Jesus
- 31. Eighth century Hebrew prophet

Down

- 1. First person to see the risen Christ
- 2. Priest/king who blessed Abraham; prototype of Christ's priesthood
- 4. Son of Jacob and Leah
- 6. Athenian woman who believed after Paul preached in Athens
- 8. Prophetess sister of Moses and Aaron

- 10. Hebrew midwife who refused to kill baby boys
- 13. Nabel's wife who helped David
- 14. Short tax collector
- 17. Disciple and successor of Elijah
- 19. Mother of John The Baptist
- 21. Adam and Eve's third son, given by God in place of the life that was lost, Abel
- 24. Herod's stepdaughter who took John The Baptist's Head
- 29. Wealthy God-fearing woman

Message from your Executive Director

Greetings and Salutations!

It was so great to see all of you once again at Annual Conference! Good news! ACS will be held June 11-14, 2027! Probably not quite the big deal for all of you as it is for me and our Treasurer, but we are hopeful that your Per Diem checks will be to you by the end of June (presuming your request is in!) Twas impossible to do so this year with ACS ending on June 30! So mark your calendars for June 11 for our annual luncheon. ACS will be at the Sacramento Convention Center. The lunch location is TBA.

If you didn't get to see the Conference Claimants Endowment Board (CCEB) Healing Lounge, you missed out! If you did, let them know how much you enjoyed it and look forward to having it again in the future! Kudos to Jenny Copello for creating such a fantastic space! Also, congratulations to her for her promotion...details later in this issue.

We also owe a huge **thank you** to Syed Bukhari under the direction of Mark Ramorino at the CCEB in all of his work getting our accounting more easily understood, organized, and useable! Treasurer Alice Oberg has worked closely with Syed and is now much more able to keep the Board of Directors up to date on exactly where we are in our finances.

Speaking of which..... YOU are a critical part of our finances. Your donations help keep our programs going and allows us to reach out beyond the RCA to give assistance to such things as the Child Care

at ACS and fund our Memorial Scholarship program. If you are in the position to support the RCA with your treasure, we welcome it and thank you.

Did you move??? If you did, please remember to let me know so we don't "lose" you! Also if you have a change in email address or phone number, just drop me an email or even a note in the USPS mail. I will be sure to get our records updated!

Days of Grace content? I LOVE Days of Grace content! I just ask that you help me out a bit! Please keep these guidelines in mind:

- 300-400 words Formatted in Word, Pages, or PDF.
- PLEASE do not put your contribution in the body of the email. Email formatting is messy and there is a lot of extraneous returns and the like I have to remove.
- Include a photo or other graphic if you have one. I endeavor to include as much visual interest as possible and break up the "sea of text"!

I look forward to all we can do together as I begin my NINETEENTH year with all of you. There have been so many changes since I began here in 2008 and we can continue to do so much more.

Nancy Daley

Conversation Starter:

What movie do you quote from regularly?

("You want a rainout? I can get you a rainout")

Dear RCA members,

I have an idea.

Over the years, we have benefitted from the connections we have made. I want to help clergy spouses who are new to the conference make positive connections that will bless them for a lifetime. You can help me. **By inviting clergy spouses to CSA events.** These can be **from your church or others you know across our conference.** Better yet, invite them to come with you to events. Yes, you can still be part of CSA activities. Younger spouses are interested in connecting with you, too!

Email, text or just pick up the phone and call them NOW to **save the date** for our upcoming **RETREAT: April 23-25, 2027** at Zephyr Point Presbyterian Retreat Center, Lake Tahoe with Bishop Olewine as our guest speaker. We have scholarships, so new spouse attendees are free...you can afford to "pay" their way! Let Ray Jellison (CSA treasurer) know to confirm registration. (see flier below)

Also, invite them to our **ACS LUNCH MIXER** on **Sunday, June 13, 2027** at the conference center (room TBA). If you can't be there with them, donate \$20 towards their meal to help incentivize them to attend. Male Clergy Spouses are invited to a breakfast on Saturday, June 12.

Invite them to our quarterly **ZOOM John Wesley Check-in** by signing up for our [e-news](#).

Share our **WEBSITE** at www.cnumc.org/clergy-spouse-association; our **EMAIL:** cnumc.clergyspouseassociation@gmail.com; and where to sign up for our **e-news** by clicking [HERE](#).

My idea is built on the hope that your encouragement will help spouses join together and make the first step to connect with like-minded, upbuilding peers who will be there for them on their journey. I hope you will support the CSA ministry by making spouses aware of the opportunities and doing what you can to help them participate.



"Walking Together Through Every Season of Ministry" is the theme of the Clergy Spouse Association (CSA). Our group focuses on building community, connection and faith. Life is not meant to be lived alone. While spouses have the support of the local church family, the CSA is here to walk alongside them through every season of ministry—celebration and challenges,

appointments and transitions, wherever life may lead. We are a welcoming community where clergy spouses and partners can find friendship, encouragement, understanding, and a true sense of belonging. In a supportive, confidential, and joy-filled environment, you are free to share openly, build meaningful connects, and simply be yourself. The purpose of CSA is to foster relationships among clergy spouses, encourage personal and

spiritual growth, strengthen fellowship and provide caring support throughout the ministry journey. Membership is open to spouses or partners of elders, deacons, licensed local pastors, certified lay ministers and retirees. We offer e-newsletters, annual retreats and gathering during Annual Conference. We also provide access to free, confidential one-on-one pastoral care and a prayer hotline. We invite spouses to join us and discover a community that understands the unique blessings and challenges of clergy life—a place to, be encouraged, and find a home wherever your journey takes you.

Again, thank you for reading about this idea I have and supporting this ministry in every way you can.

Blessings and Peace,

JB Brayfindley

CNUMC Clergy Spouse Association
cnumc.clergyspouseassociation@gmail.com



Life is not meant to be lived alone.

Discover a community that understands the unique blessings and challenges of clergy life - a place to connect, be encouraged, and find a home wherever your journey takes you.

Relational Care Committee

The Relational Care Committee continues to reach out to RCA members through a variety of ways.

Our card ministry is now headed up by Debbi Grundman. If you wish to join this effort, either as a regular (one month a year, shared with another) member or as a substitute, please contact her.

penryn53@gmail.com

Our Connectional Care Committee is still expanding and in need of volunteers. Helmed by Kathryn Dunning, this committee has a small list of RCA members to contact via phone through out the year. If you have questions, Kathryn has answers. kitdunning@hotmail.com

Finally, we welcome Mark and Laura Wharff as co-chairs of the Relational Care Committee and can be reached via email mark.wharff@cnumc.org or laurawharff@gmail.com



Continued Commitment to Retired Clergy and Spouses

The Endowment Board continues to strengthen its commitment to retired clergy and spouses across the California-Nevada Annual Conference through increased funding and expanded benefits designed to support your well-being in retirement. At its annual meeting, the Board of Trustees approved a \$2.3 million grant to the Board of Pensions, a \$100,000 increase over last year and the second consecutive year of increased support. These additional funds help offset rising healthcare costs and ensure that retirees and spouses continue to have access to the benefits and care they depend upon. Trustees also approved a \$25,000 increase to the annual grant provided to the Retired Clergy Association, bringing total support to \$161,000 each year. This investment helps the RCA continue its important work of fostering fellowship, communication, advocacy, and connection among retired clergy and spouses throughout the conference.



In addition to these funding increases, the Board approved expanded funding for the complimentary Norton LifeLock Cyber and Identity Theft Protection benefit. The benefit is now available to both retired clergy and their spouses, regardless of whether the spouse is clergy. The Endowment Board is covering the cost in perpetuity, providing an added layer of protection at a time when identity theft and cybercrime continue to rise. Enrollment is available at any time. Endowment Board Trustee Siteri Maravou recently experienced the value of the benefit firsthand when LifeLock alerted her to suspicious credit activity. The notification led to the discovery of a credit card fraudulently opened in her name and unauthorized purchases being made across the country. Thanks to the early warning, the fraudulent transactions were stopped before further damage could occur. "I am extremely grateful for LifeLock's support and highly recommend their services to all retired clergy and their spouses," Maravou shared. To enroll or learn more, contact Jenny Copello at (209) 390-0989 or Jenny@endowbd.org, or visit the Norton LifeLock page at EndowmentBoard.org.

Your service will never be forgotten.

The Endowment Board continues to invest in your health, security, fellowship, and future.

Thank You for Joining Us at ACS



Mary Popish, CCEB Board President & Gary Grundman

Thank you to everyone who stopped by the Hands of Healing Lounge during Annual Conference Session. It was a joy to welcome so many retired clergy and spouses for a time of relaxation, fellowship, and conversation. We hope you enjoyed reconnecting with friends, learning more about The Endowment Board's ministries, and experiencing one of the many ways we seek to support you in retirement. If you reserved a complimentary scooter



George Carter with Celinda Current and Carol Ubalde

through The Endowment Board for ACS, we would love to feature your photo in our upcoming Annual Stewardship Report. Please send any photos to Jenny Copello at Jenny@endowbd.org.

August

AFUHIA
AKOLO
CHARLOTTE
AKOLO
JUAN
ARJONA
MARY ELYN
BAHLERT
DOROTHY
BAKER
EMILY BEALS
JACKIE BENNETT
CONNIE BERGQUIST
LOIS BLACK
BOB BRAZIE
FEL CAO
LAUREN CHAFFEE



TOM CLARK
TOM COTA
JEAN FADO
PAM FINE
NORMA FLORENDO
DEBBI GRUNDMAN
DEBBY HICKS

LANDRY
NANCY MC CONNELL
MARJORIE MILLER
CHERYL MURDOCK
GILLIAN MURPHY
KENT PARR
LARRY PEARSON

DAWN
HORDER
VIKI INOUE
ALAN JONES
MIKYUNG
KANG KIM
EUN-YOUNG
KIM
TOM KIMBALL
MARLYSS
KUBIK
ROSEMARY



JOANNE PETERSON
LINDA PICKENS-JONES
RICHARD PITCHER
JANETTE SAAVEDRA
BEN SILVA-NETTO
MARLYN SILVA-NETTO
KIM SMITH
JANNA STEED
BARBARA STONE
FRANK STONE
PAUL SWEET
DAVE THOMPSON
SHINE VANG
CAROLE VINCENT
MARION WAKE
TAMARA WARREN
PAUL WEBB
BETTY WEISER
LAURA WHARFF
FAITH WHITMORE
JAMES WOFFINDEN
LESTER WOLFE
HARRY WOOD JR.
WESLEY YONG
MICHAEL YOSHII
SUK-CHONG YU
MARK ZIER

September

IZURU ARATANI
JOLA BORTNER

DENISE
BOWMAN-
WYLIE
DAWN BOYD
ROD
BRAYFINDLEY
DAVE BUNJE
CAROL
CARTER
JANE
CORSON
BOBBIE
CORSON

JOHN CURRENT SR
MARY ANN DE OCERA
DONALD DONIHUE
PAUL DREHER-WIBERG
JUDI DREHER-WIBERG
RICHARD EDDE
RENAE EXTRUM-
FERNANDEZ
SHIRLEY FELLERSEN
CARYL FLOYD
LYNN GEORGE
GEORGE GOLDEN
BECKY GOODWIN
JOYCE GREEN
JIM HAMMER
LANA HARKNESS
BARBARA HENSHAW
JEFF HOLDER
PEGGY HUANG
CHUCK JOHNSTONE
ROGER KIMBLE III
YANG JA KYE
MELE LOUMOLI
MICHAEL LOVE
DOLLY LOVE
HELEN MANSFIELD
LORI McLAUGHLIN
YURI MORITA
LEE NEISH
AURA-LILA OCHOA
CAROLE PATERSON
KAREN PAULSEN

NANCY PHARIS-CURIE
NANCY PHILLIPS
JAY PIERCE
SHARON PITCHER
MARLENE PLAIN
VIVE SIMON
STANLEY SIMPSON
NANCY SIMPSON
DEANNA SMITHA
CATHY SMITHA
CHUNG-MYUNG SONG
PETER SUHN
STEVEN THOMPSON
JUDY TRAVELSTEAD
TONY UBALDE JR.
MARK VALE
LISA VO

October

DAVID ATKINS
ANGELA BROWN
JERRY BRUCE
MARSHA BRYAN
CAROLYN BUTLER
VIRGIE CABOTAJE
LOUISE CARTER
PAMELA CHICOU
GAIL CHIEW
BOB COLLINS
CORAZON CRUZ
PAM CUMMINGS
DENNIS CURIE
DIRK DAMONTE
DONNA DECAMP
RAY DOWDY
JIM DUFFY
RON DUNN
STEVEN EATOUGH-
SMITH
JAN EVERHART-
HARTLIFF
CAROLINA FABILA
LITIA FANAIIKA
MAY FINAU
STAN GARMENT

NANCI GOODYEAR
COLLETTE GORDON
TOM GOULD
SHIRLEY GUNCKEL
NEAL HARRIS
HOLLY HILLMAN
TOM HILLMAN
TONY HOEFNER
CELIA KAN
HEE-SOK KIM
ALAN KIMBER
ELIZABETH ANN
KUYPER
BOB KUYPER
CINDY LAWLER
ROD LEE
FRANK LEIBERT
REYNALDO LETANA
BRIAN MARK
VICTOR MATSON JR.
KAREN McNEILL
MARK MOON
SUN OK MYONG
KRISTIE OLAH
NANCY PATTERSON
MACK PHILLIPS
SYBELLA POPE-SEARS
STEVE PUDINSKI
VICKI RESCH
SYLVIA ROBERTS
RON SAYLOR
ANNE SCHLESINGER
NAOMI SOUTHARD
DAN STURDIVANT
GLENDA THOMAS
ANNE MARIE VALE
SAMUEL VORN
TEMPE WENNERHOLM
DOROTHY WILLIAMS
EMILY WOUTENBERG



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

VINCENT & KERRY MIXIE
MICHAEL SWARTZ & NANCY MC CONNELL
MIKE & CHRIS TURGEON
PAUL & BARBARA WEBB
HERB & ROSE WHITE

October

JUAN & DEBBIE ARJONA
GREG & CONNIE BERGQUIST
PAUL & GRACE CHEONG
BOB & PAMELA CHICOU
WARREN DALE & GEORGI LaBERGE
DIRK & CAROL DAMONTE
BARBARA HORIKOSHI-FIREBAUGH & JOHN
FIREBAUGH
HEE SOON KWON & HONG KI KIM
ANNE & DAVID SCHLESINGER
PATRICIA SPOONER-WALTHER & GARRET WALTHER
B.J. STILES & STEVEN MC COLLOM
RICHARD STINSON & YURI MORITA
JOHN SUBLETT & NADINE DeWITT
DANTE & OLIVE TANGONAN

August

AFUHIA & CHARLOTTE AKOLO
DIANA BOHN & GRADY KNOWLES
BOB & DEBORAH BRAZIE
JAN & WALTER BRIM
TEVITA & LITIA FANAIIKA
GINGER FOSTER & RAY JELLISON
JUDSON & BETTY GEARS
DOUGLAS & SUSAN JOHNSON
STEVE & CAROL JOHNSON
TOM & CONNIE KIMBALL
STEVE & KARLA LUNDIN
GARY & CHRIS McANNALLY
JOHN & MARTHA McCORKELL
NORM & LINDA MOWERY
DOUGLAS & ELEANOR NORRIS
JOANNE PETERSON & DAN NEUMANN
DON & DONITA ROULSTON
BERT & LINDA SCHNIEPP
BILLY & CAROLE SPARKMAN
FRANK & BARBARA STONE

September

JERRY & SUE ANGOVE
DAVE & JACKIE BENNETT
BOBBIE & DICK CORSON
DICK & BOBBIE CORSON
NANCY & NORM DALEY
PAUL & JUDI DREHER-WIBERG
JAN EVERHART-HARTLIFF & JAN RATLIFF-HARTLIFF
ALPHA GOTO & PAMELA ODO-GOTO
LEE & LINDA HAYWARD
BILL & KATE JOHNSON

