



CSA Spring Newsletter

CLERGY SPOUSE RETREAT 2010

CLERGY SPOUSE ASSOCIATION (CSA)
 California-Nevada United Methodist Annual Conference

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CalNevClergySpouse/>



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Do you have a corkboard, calendar or special place where you keep reminders?
Are your *reminders* of special events such as birthdays?
Are your *reminders* little notes that help you prioritize the important things in life? Like praying.
Taking caring of yourself. Helping others.

I have a variety of places where I keep reminders of important events and important "things to do". I update my personal computer and my iPhone calendars to remind me of important appointments, engagements and birthdays. I also update my refrigerator door using post-it notes and a traditional calendar. However, my favorite *special place* to remind myself of important events and "things to do" is my corkboard next to my computer in our study. It's not a typical calendar. Let's just say it's the *best* calendar for me because it helps me prioritize my life.

Let me share some of the notes and articles that I have on my corkboard:

In **bold print** are my husband's name, Patrick Leamy, and our church name, St. Paul's United Methodist Church. That reminds me to pray for him and for our church.

There is a wonderful picture of Jesus hanging on a cross with the quote "*Have You Ever Felt So Alone You Could Just Die*"? The picture reminds me to pray for those who are suffering. It also reminds me of the love God has for me... to allow His Son to die for me.

A beautiful picture of a little girl in a garden with the saying, "*SO! How are the Children?*" It reminds me of the importance of my children, grandchildren and all of God's children. I am also reminded of all the wonderful things our church does in outreach to children in our community.

Also hanging is a rainbow streamer which reminds me of the beautiful colors of our world.

I have many quotes and bookmarks too. I have many pictures of the grandchildren and wonderful pictures of my current guide dog, Volley, and my former guide dog, Freya. The doggy pictures always bring a smile to my heart.

I am wondering what is on your corkboard or hanging in your *special place*? Do you take time to look at your reminders? Do you have your priorities in order?

During our recent CSA retreat, Holly Hillman encouraged us to reflect on those things that are important to us such as nature, family, our relationship with God, and friends. She revealed the beauty of our world through an inspiring National Geographic film. As the photographer took his pictures, he reminded us that our eyes are cameras waiting to capture snapshots of God's creation.

This is the season to be outdoors, to play and enjoy nature.

A quote I once heard is a strong reminder for me "It's not the number of years we live, it is the number of memories we live." Maybe I should put that on my corkboard?! Ha!

May your special place help you prioritize your life to gain a better understanding and appreciation of the snapshots of God's creations in your life.

In His Grip, Carol Leamy & Volley wood!



CLERGY SPOUSE SPRING RETREAT (continued. . .)

“Celebrating what is Right with the World”

Clergy Spouse Retreat 2010

by Norms Buenafe



“Celebrating what is right with the World” was the theme of our Clergy Spouse Retreat on March 19-21 held in Villa del Mar, Santa Cruz. It was a weekend of reconnecting, renewal, sharing, singing, reflecting, learning, listening, praying, laughing, walking, and supporting one another in our role as Clergy Spouses. The retreat facility was facing the spectacular & beautiful ocean. What a gift to spend a weekend of enjoying God’s creation and beauty with other Clergy Spouses who have become over the years my dear friends. The retreat was led by our very own Clergy Spouse member and pastor, Rev. Holly Hillman.

The main goal and the central theme of the retreat was to celebrating what is right, what is positive, what is the blessing, and what are the possibilities and potentials in our lives, instead of finding what is wrong, what is missing or lacking, and negative in our lives.

We did a lot of sharing, reflecting, praying and focusing on what is right in our lives and other areas. Here are the mottos that were shared:

- ◆ Diana Greer – “What Will Jesus Do?” (Sparks, NV)
- ◆ Cathy Nelson – “Live well, Laugh often and Love much (Gardenville, NV)
- ◆ Carol Leamy – “Life is beautiful all the time” (St. Paul’s, Reno, NV)
- ◆ Susan Crawford – “Share God’s Love with Kindness & Joy” (San Jose, CA)
- ◆ Ray Jellison – “We only have time for love” (Mariposa, CA)
- ◆ Peggy Busick – “Love God, Love Others and Love Yourself” (Cupertino, CA)
- ◆ Kathleen Albiston – “Trust in God and Believe in Yourself” (Biggs, CA)
- ◆ Gussie Kidd – “Live each day with joy and enthusiasm” (Mariposa, CA)
- ◆ Tupou Fakava-Smith – “Honestly and faithfully serve Him” (Richmond, CA)
- ◆ Lillian Cunningham – “Living life with the joy of Jesus” (Alameda, CA)
- ◆ Holly Hillman – “Reaching Out with Caring and Daring” (Hughson, CA)
- ◆ Norms Buenafe – “Carpe Diem” “Seize the Moment” (Tracy, CA)



ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCH PROGRAM (Saturday June 19, 2010)

This year we will do something different. Instead of the FUMC Sacramento facility, we have reserved a room upstairs at the Convention Center for the use of the Clergy Spouse Association. We will hold our Official Meeting there, then walk over to the Sacramento Old Spaghetti Factory for Lunch and our Program.

Annual Meeting - 10:30—11:30am (Convention Center upstairs)
Lunch & Program - 12:00 noon (Sacramento Old Spaghetti Factory)

LUNCH ORDER REGISTRATION FORM (\$18)

M E N U



Sacramento
1910 J Street & 19th Street
Ph: (916) 443-2862
Fax: (916) 441-0198

*All orders include a crisp salad with a choice of ONE of the following dressings:
Balsamic Vinaigrette, Creamy Pesto, 1000 Island, Blue Cheese, or Fat-Free Honey Mustard.*

Also included is fresh sourdough bread, and your choice of coffee, tea or milk. Dessert is a dish of spumoni or vanilla ice cream.

Main Entrees: Check one of the following:

- Tortellini with Alfredo Sauce
- Spaghetti with Meatballs
- Baked Lasagna
- Chicken Parmigiana
- Other (for special diet; we will order directly at the restaurant)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please mail your Lunch Order form with \$18 payment to:

Cathy Nelson
1529 Hussman Avenue
Gardnerville, NV 89410

PAST PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

WOW!!! What a Retreat !

We had it all; balmy weather, the beach, going to sleep listening to the waves hitting the shore, helpful Sisters hosting us at the Center, thought provoking discussions, good fellowship with friends, and great food, drawing nearer to God and singing the Father's praises together.

All of these things are what CSA Retreats are all about. We encourage you to take time out to refresh and renew yourself and to re-center yourself as the spouse of a minister. Whether you have felt called to this task, or stumbled into it by falling in love with someone who has dedicated her or his life to Christian Service, you are in a unique position with its own challenges and rewards. Believe me when I say, "You can grow in your own faith and in all your relationships as you covenant with brothers and sisters in the 'same boat.'" Speaking for your CSA officers, we encourage all of you to mark your calendars for our next retreat and join our happy band.



WHEN: March 18-20, 2011

WHERE: Mercy Retreat Center in Auburn in the foothills of the Sierras
Lovely gardens, and outstanding vistas.

SPEAKER: (The Rev.) Holly Hillman - One of us!

THEME: "Vision of Possibilities"

Wouldn't it be great, and a novelty, if there were clergy spouses, brothers and sisters, from all the Districts and from all corners of the great California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in attendance at this special time.

The Retreat Coordinators for 2011: Diana Greer - Sparks UMC
Norms Buenafe - Marina UMC

PRAYER REQUEST

A Note from Kathy Griggs:

I don't know if you know that I had a below amputation of my right foot last year. I am doing very good and wear a prosthesis. I now have another health problem. Kidney Stones. On February 23rd I had a cat scan and they found a kidney stone in my right kidney. On March 15th my doctor tried to crush the stone but it failed. On April 6th I had to have surgery to remove the kidney stone in my right kidney because it was too large for me to pass it. My doctor used a scope to remove the stone but during that procedure my doctor found a larger stone on my left kidney. On April 22nd I had surgery to remove that kidney stone with a scope but then there was complications. When the kidney stone was removed it took tissue off of my kidney. My doctor is just watching to see if it will repair itself. I have been having trouble with my kidney function. My kidney function has been bad but this week it is finally back to normal.

I am still keeping our album current but don't have much news. I'm also Director of Lay Speakers for the Delta District so have been busy. I hope now that I'm starting to feel better I can do more. I really don't know about continuing being the Historian for the Clergy Spouse. I am going to have to pray about it.

*Blessings,
Kathy Griggs*



ANNOUNCEMENT

DISPLAY TABLE AT CONFERENCE

Our Display Table Coordinator, Ellie Lubiano will set up our table during conference. You are all invited to stop by the table to say hello and check out our display materials. There will be flyers for the 2011 Retreat, Newsletters, photo album and other reading materials & information.



If you have any materials from prior CSA Retreats or other events that you would like to show off at the Display Table, please bring it with you!!



Saturday, June 19, 2010
6:45 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Denny's Restaurant
925 3rd St (at J St.)

For carpools/more info:

Ray Jellison
(jellysonr@netzero.net)

Restaurant Phone: (916) 443-1951

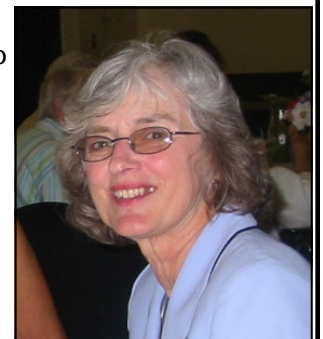
FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Greetings to all of you in the name of Christ, the Great Healer. Whenever we have gone through a tough time, such as loss of a loved one, serious illness, or other hardships, we know how supportive a short note can be. Let our organization be noteworthy for our expressions of concern within the conference. I hope you will send a note when you know a clergy family is going through a tough time, even if you do not know them personally. They can read and re-read the notes, and know that they are not alone. Isn't this what clergy family support is all about!

I do send notes to surviving spouses whenever there is a death of a clergy person or the spouse. Once in a while I send notes for other concerns. Wilma Weber whose husband George died, Rev. Al Chandler whose wife Madolyn died, Marian Nelson whose husband Edgar died, Shirley Gunchel whose husband Vernon died, Gladys whose husband Wayne died, Rev. Ralph Pederson whose wife Marilyn died, Ann Lacy Alexander whose husband Rev. James Alexander died, and Susan Tanner-Dorn whose husband Charles died. Also I recently received word that Mele Hingano has been hospitalized with a serious illness. Her husband Siosifa Hingano is the pastor of the Genesis UMC in San Jose. **Please keep Kathy Griggs, our CSA Historian, in your prayer. See her latest health update on pg. 4.**

Did you know that SpouseConnect is another place for Clergy Spouses to find community & support? Check out <http://spouseconnect.blogspot.com>. I found this in the May-June, 2010 "Interpreter" that came in the mail today.

By Elizabeth Kuyper
Chair of Family Support Group



TRANSITIONS (Deaths)



Mrs. Marilyn Pedersen, spouse of the Rev. Ralph Pedersen, died on Tuesday, March 2, 2010. She is survived by her husband, who resides at 3400 Wagner Heights Road, #305, Stockton, CA 95209; by four children: Earl Pedersen of Messina, Sicily, Paul Pedersen of Tracy, David Pedersen of Lewisville, Colorado, and Don Pedersen of Tulare; and by nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Dorothy Miller, surviving spouse of the Rev. Melvin Miller, died on Thursday, February 25, 2010. She is survived by three children: John Miller of Pella, Iowa, Richard Miller of Borden, Indiana, and Barbara Olson of Citrus Heights; by a son-in-law, Ralph Gousha of Napa; and by many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Hazel Robertson, surviving spouse of the Rev. Thomas Robertson, died on Wednesday, February 17, 2010. She is survived by three children: Charlotte Bertrand of Volcano, California, Carolyn Giuliani of Richardson, Texas, and Dwight Robertson of Bakersfield, California; and by eight grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Madolyn Chandler, the spouse of the Rev. Alfred Chandler, died on Friday, February 5, 2010. She is survived by her husband, who resides at 750 Auburn Ravine Road, Auburn, CA 95603; by two children: Stephen Chandler of Auburn and Elaine Chandler of Aurora, CO; and by two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Retired pastor Edgar Nelson died on Saturday, January 23, 2010. He is survived by his wife, Marian Nelson, who resides at 1075 McCollum Avenue, Yuba City, CA 95991. A memorial service was held on Friday, January 29, at 12 p.m., at the First United Methodist Church in Yuba City. The Rev. Lois Black presided. Edgar and Marian Nelson served the Oakland: Pioneer Memorial, Del Ray, Sonora, San Jose: St. Paul's, Mill Valley, and Yuba City:

Mrs. Elva Busher, surviving spouse of the Rev. Fred Busher, died on Wednesday, January 20, 2010, at age 100. She is survived by three children and three stepchildren: James Busher of Vacaville, John Busher of San Francisco, Peter Busher of Newburyport, MA, Gareth Busher of Concord, Frederick Busher of Stockton, and Dorothy Carpenter of Oakley; and by 12 grandchildren.

Mrs. Seda Suzuki, the surviving spouse of the Rev. Lester Suzuki, died on Saturday, January 9, 2010. She is survived by three daughters: Irene Tekawa of Berkeley, Janet Brockmann of Hayward, and Marisa Suzuki of El Cerrito; by three grandchildren; and by four great-grandchildren.

Retired pastor Wayne Kessel died on Thursday, December 3, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Gladys Kessel; by two children: Donald Kessel of Morgan Hill, and Linda Kessel Solis of San Jose; and by one grandchild. Condolences to the family may be sent to 359 Mayellen Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126.

Retired pastor Vernon Gunckel died on Monday, November 30, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Shirley Gunckel, who resides at 109 Olde Towne Place, Thornhill, Ontario L3T 4K9, Canada; by a child, Coretta Gotten; and by four grandchildren.

Mrs. Louise Iles, surviving spouse of the Rev. Dwight Iles, died on Saturday, November 28, 2009. She is survived by four children: John Iles of Phoenix, Arizona, Martha Worcester of Seattle, Washington, Mary Jane Hershey of Sonoma, California, and Sharon Sauer of Richmond, Virginia; and by 17 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Charlene Barnes, surviving spouse of the Rev. Melvin Barnes, died on Friday, November 27, 2009. She is survived by seven children: Cynthia Myers of Sonora, Brenda Trapasso of Shingletown, Bill Barnes of Klamath, Cathy Gill of Linden, and Sandra Wright of Lodi, California, Claudia Kelley of Sisters, Oregon, and Patti Aslakson of Grants Pass, Oregon; by 22 grandchildren; and by 29 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Doris Ham, surviving spouse of the Rev. Chester Ham, died on Sunday, November 22, 2009. She is survived by three daughters: Doris Jarvis of Marysville, California, and Marilyn Gnehm and Theo Dumars, both of Wildwood, Florida; and by nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Velma Lord, surviving spouse of the Rev. Charles Lord, died on Friday, November 20, 2009. She is survived by three children: Robert Lord of San Jose, Jane Price of Alamo, and Richard Lord of Fresno, California; by six grandchildren; and by four great-grandchildren.

Retired pastor George Weber died on Monday, November 9, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Wilma Weber, who resides at 4869 N. Harrison, No. 104, Fresno, CA 93704; by two children: Joel Weber of Clovis and Julia Kyger of Bahrain; and by four grandchildren.

Mrs. Jeannette Thurman, surviving spouse of the Rev. Arthur Thurman, died on Sunday, October 4, 2009. She is survived by two children: Rachel Cowden of Citrus Heights and Janelia Thurman of Albany, and by five grandchildren.

Excerpt taken from CalNev UMC Annual Conference Home page. . . .



Clergy Spouse Association
C/o United Methodist Center
P. O. Box 980250
West Sacramento, CA 95798-0250
Phone No. (916) 374-1500

May 2010

Dear Pastor, Chair of Finance Committee & President of UMW:

As the newly elected president of the Clergy Spouse Association (CSA), I am writing to discuss some concerns and to propose some possible solutions. As we try to connect with each other as Clergy Spouses, there are three special times when we try to come together each year. The Male Clergy Spouses (MCS) usually meet for breakfast, often at Denny's, during the Annual Conference; the Clergy Spouses luncheon held during conference, and the Clergy Spouse Retreat once a year either in the fall or spring. This is an open event with all Clergy Spouses urged to attend. There were twenty-five men at the Annual Conference breakfast, and thirty-five women and men at the luncheon at First United Methodist Church of Sacramento on the Saturday of Conference.

We would like to see more, if not all, Clergy Spouses attending and actively participating in this association. As a group, we have asked ourselves, "What prevents this from happening?" Some spouses undoubtedly have jobs and responsibilities from which they cannot get away. For others it's a matter of the prohibitive additional costs involved. Sometimes it may be something that cannot be fit into the clergy family budget. As we look forward to the spring retreat in Santa Cruz, there are going to be costs for meals, housing and travel, and for many, arrangements will be needed to provide childcare. There is some scholarship money available, but CSA itself has very limited reserve funds. The truth is, few avail themselves of scholarships. We wonder if this does not involve a reluctance to ask. This is where you come in as Pastors and Finance chairpersons. We are asking you to support your local clergy spouse in a tangible way.

1. Encourage them to participate in the programs of CSA. Clergy Spouses need support, understanding, and respite as well as Pastors.
2. Offer to pay for your Clergy Spouse(s) to attend the specific events previously mentioned.
 - a. The men's breakfast is ordered from the restaurant menu, and the cost will vary.
 - b. The luncheon at Annual Conference runs about \$15 - \$20.
 - c. The Clergy Spouse Retreat this year will cost \$195 for the two & a half days, Fri-Sun.
3. We are requesting that each local church allocate a specific amount in your church budget toward enabling Clergy Spouse participation in the association. Please consider the cost of meals, housing, transportation, etc. as we have outlined above. It is not a large amount, and it will be money well spent in caring for those who care for your Pastor.

We recognize that there are many small struggling churches in our conference. If your church cannot pay for all the costs, at least make a token start; prayerfully considering what you can do and need to do. I am sure that the recipient spouse, and we, would gratefully receive it.

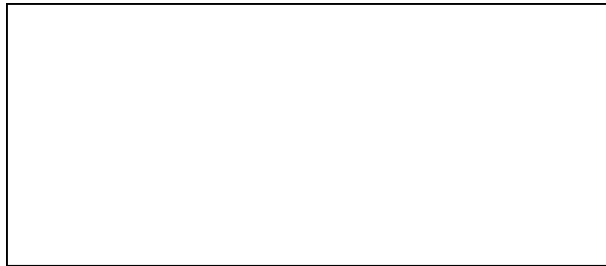
Your Sister-in-Christ,

Carol Leamy
CSA President



Clergy Spouse Association
 C/o United Methodist Center
 P. O. Box 980250
 West Sacramento, CA 95798-0250

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CLERGY-SPOUSE OFFICERS (2010-2011)

President	Carol Leamy	CSA Yahoo Webmasters	Norms Buenafe Tupou F Smith
President Designate	TBD	CSA Luncheon 2010	Golden Gate District Peggie Huang
Past President	Diana Greer	CSA Luncheon 2011	TBD
Nomination Committee Chair	Nadeen Biehler	Retreat Coordinators 2010	Susan Crawford Cathy Nelson Ray Jellison
Committee Member	Peggy Busick Pat Thompson	Retreat Coordinators 2011	Diana Greer Norma Buenafe
Secretary	Elaine Schmidt	Display Table Coordinator	Ellie Lubiano
Treasurer	Cathy Nelson	During Conference	
Family Support Chair	Elizabeth Kuyper	Newsletter Editor	Tupou F. Smith
Historian	Kathy Griggs		
Installation Officer	Minnie Jones Brown		
Male CSA Coordinator	Ray Jellison		