



CSA Fall 2010 Newsletter

MEETING & LUNCH DURING CONFERENCE

CLERGY SPOUSE ASSOCIATION (CSA)
California-Nevada United Methodist Annual Conference
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CalNevClergySpouse/>



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SPRING RETREAT (March 18-20, 2011)

Calling all Clergy Spouses!

Have you marked your calendar yet??? You are hereby and herewith officially notified of the big extravaganza known as THE CLERGY SPOUSE SPRING RETREAT.

The dates are: March 18, 19, & 20, 2011

The place is: The beautiful, tranquil, & scenic Mercy Retreat
Center at Auburn, California in the foothills above Sacramento.

AGAIN: the speaker is our own Holly Hillman, "The Revette." Our theme is:
"Envision Your Possibilities. . . . Realize Your Dreams."

The cost is \$185.00 for the 2-1/2 days. The registration deadline is February 15 and Scholarships ARE available. ~~This is a time for fun, making or renewing friendships, deepening relationships among peers, and for spiritual renewal.~~

There will be singing, praying, soul searching, and dreaming. If you have a special musical talent -- bring it with you. - harps, oboes, banjos, your basso-profundo voice - whatever.

Additional information will be coming - - await it with baited breath!

COORDINATORS:
Norms Buenafe
Diana Greer - 775 425-0169



Joan Wheeler:

Our prayers and thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time of losing Bill. May God comfort you and give you His Peace. His blessings be with you all.

From all your friends at Clergy Spouse Association!!

MORE PICTURES FROM MEETING & LUNCH AT CONFERENCE



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Hello!! My name is Carol Leamy. I'm your new Clergy Spouse Association President. Above is a picture of me, my husband (aka Pastor Pat), and Volley (my guide dog).

My thoughts:

Burr. It's cold in the Nevada Sierra today. I live in Reno (within the Nevada Sierra). Come into my sitting room, we'll warm up. You can join me for a cup of tea, coffee or a tall glass of water. Would you like cream and sugar? How about a piece of cake or cookies? So many choices. I love to share the comfort of my home with friends, family and social groups. Hospitality is my thing. Some say that hospitality is a gift from God. It must be my spiritual gift. It comes naturally.

You know, it doesn't matter to me if you make specific dates to visit my home or just "drop in". What matters to me is that I can share a little part of my life with you and that you are comfortable enough to share a little part of your life with me.

My favorite Bible verse is Hebrews 13:2: "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it."

More about me... I am a listener and, yes, a talker. Most of all, I am intuitive. "God is intuition a spiritual gift?" I can be a trusted, loyal and faithful servant. "Oh my! Do I sound like a dog?"

About now, you may be asking yourself, "What is she rambling on for?" "Isn't she our new Clergy Spouse President?" "Shouldn't she be giving us some words of encouragement to live by?" "Have we put the wrong person in this position?"

While you are asking these questions, let me ask you a few questions. Please, do answer. What does it mean to be a Clergy Spouse? What does it mean to be a Clergy Spouse Association President? I need some help here. "WHAT IS A CLERGY SPOUSE? PRESIDENT? WHAT TYPE OF PERSON BELONGS IN THIS ROLE?"

You see, when I look in the mirror, all I see is an older Carol. Nothing too special. Nothing too out of the ordinary. I have more wrinkles (aka wisdom), and more skin (I've put on some "grandma" weight over the years). However, this doesn't tell me much more than the fact that I am getting older. Really.. What should a Clergy Spouse look like? Is it okay to just look like an average lay person?

Once again I ask you, "WHAT *exactly* IS A CLERGY SPOUSE?"

Could I be the typical Clergy Spouse? Hmm... I love to smile, so no problem on Sunday morning. I like to dress up, no problem there. I can wear more than "one hat" at a time (my head looks a little lop-sided most of the time). And, I'm not "Miss Perfect" by a long shot.

Continued next page. . . .

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN (continued. . .)

Now, I'm wondering, "What does it mean to be *labeled* a "Clergy Spouse?" I didn't go to college to earn the label. I didn't attend "Miss Manners" support groups.

Instead, I'm blessed with a supportive husband. He says "Carol, relax!.. Be yourself, label or no label. Simply, you happen to be married to a Clergy. That's it. Nothing to worry about."

I say, "Are you kidding? ...Nothing to worry about!" Because... Each day I feel differently. No guarantees that I want to maintain that role all of the time. And yet, I've committed to it because I'm committed to my marriage and my community. Oh yes, acceptance. That's what it comes down to. Pure acceptance. And a reminder that it's not a role I play... it's a role **I live**. And like everyone's *lifestyle*.... Well... it's not perfect.

There are times when I feel like I am floating along. Things are going well in the ministry. Those are the days when I *know* that God and I are on the same page.

And then, there are times when I feel like I'm sinking. I found myself thinking, "What am I doing here?" Those are the days when I shout "God, where are you? I could use your help to take my foot out of my mouth!" During those times, my strength comes through my prayer and meditation.

Do you ever wonder? "Why do **I** have the role or label of Clergy Spouse?" Again, it's not just a label, it's a lifestyle. And God gave us this role to support our spouse and our community. And you know, he gave every lay person that label, too (*support your family and community*). So the good news is... we aren't alone.

In His Grip,



Carol Leamy
and Volley, my Guide Dog.

A Note from your Treasurer

At our Annual Meeting this year we discussed the need for annual dues to help cover expenses such as this newsletter. We must pay for the printing and mailing, generally around \$500-600 per year. In the past this has been paid for by the interest earned from our Endowment Fund. This fund was established many years ago primarily as a scholarship fund for the annual retreat and luncheon. All first time retreat attendees are offered 1/2 off of the expense of coming to the Retreat and we must also pay for the leader's expenses. Some years cost more than others and some years earn more interest than others. The Endowment Fund is set at \$10,000 and we may only use the amount over that - currently \$13,149. We are asking for an Annual Dues of \$15 per person.

If you can afford it and feel that it is worth it to keep in touch with other Clergy Spouses through this newsletter. You may also donate directly to the Endowment Fund as a source of continued revenue for the Association. We are all in this Ministry together!

Please sent your donations payable to:
CSA (Clergy Spouse Assoc.)
c/o Cathy Nelson
1529 Hussman Ave.
Gardnerville, NV 89410

Thank you and Blessings to you all!
Cathy Nelson, Treasurer



MINUTES OF MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Clergy Spouse Association of the California-Nevada Annual Conference was held on June 19, 2010 at the Spaghetti Factory in Sacramento. The meeting was opened by President, Carol Leamy, who introduced Lenny and Linda from the Holy Mackerel Praise Band from Reno:St. Paul's UMC. The guitarist and soloist provided wonderful music to begin our time together. In her very meaningful opening remarks Carol shared with us the impact of her mother's death and wardrobe.

Officers:

The Officers for 2010-2011 were introduced. Carol asked that we indicate on the Attendance List that was circulated what office in the Association we would be interested in. (No interest was noted on said list.) See the last page for the list of Officers.

Reports:

- ◆ Cathy Nelson presented her Treasurer's Report. She reported that the Spring Newsletter went partly by E-Mail which cut the cost of mailing in half.
- ◆ Ray Jellison and others reported on last year's Retreat. They had a great time at Villa del Mar and would recommend it as a site for future retreats. The 2011 Retreat will be held at Mercy Retreat Center in Auburn. Kathy Griggs, Historian, reported that she has a scrapbook with pictures of the prior Retreats and other CSA activities.
- ◆ Elizabeth Kuyper read the names of spouses who have died during the year. This was followed by a moment of silence. We also shared names of surviving spouses of Clergy who have recently died. She told of books and resources that might be helpful.
- ◆ Tupou Smith reported on the Newsletter saying that more newsletters can be sent via E-mail and that continued to reduce the mailing & printing expenses. We have a link on the Conference Website under "Ministries". Here is the link: <http://www.cnumc.org/pages/detail/1591>
- ◆ Dottie reported the Relational Care Committee of the Retired Clergy Association can provide help in getting and keeping in touch with other Clergy Spouses.
- ◆ It was pointed out that the Endowment Fund could be increased through contributions and that First-Time Retreat Attendees should be given half of their Registration Fee from the Endowment Fund.

Under New Business:

- ◆ The By-Laws are to be reviewed by Cathy Nelson, Elaine, Tupou and Diana.
- ◆ The 2011 Luncheon will be chaired by Elaine Schmidt and Nadeen Biehler.

Minnie Brown closed our wonderful day together with the Installation of the new officers and the closing prayer.

*Submitted by the CSA Secretary
Elaine Schmidt*



TRANSITIONS (Deaths)



Retired pastor Elbert Hoffman died on Monday, October 18, 2010. He is survived by his wife, Louise Hoffman, who resides at 1354 Oak View Circle, #126, Rohnert Park, CA 94928; by a daughter, Eileen Dabbs of Santa Rosa, California; and by one grandchild. The memorial service will be held on Saturday, November 6 at 2 p.m., at the Central United Methodist Church in Stockton. The Revs. David Bennett and Doug Hayward will preside.

Mrs. Waunita Walker, surviving spouse of the Rev. Carl Walker, died on Friday, October 1, 2010. She is survived by two daughters: Leila McGowan of Sunnyvale, and Doris Britschgi of Campbell; and by two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Condolences to the family may be sent to 763 Bamboo Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. A memorial service is planned for Friday, November 5 at 1 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church in Chico. Memorial gifts may be sent to the Waunita Walker Memorial Fund, Trinity United Methodist Church, 285 E. Fifth Street, Chico, CA 95928, or to the International Peace Scholarship, 3700 Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA 50312, w/ "IPS Waunita Walker" noted in the memo line.

Retired pastor William Wheeler died on Thursday, September 30, 2010. He is survived by his wife, Joan Wheeler, who resides at 159 Caldwell Circle, Colusa, CA 95932; four daughters: Lisa Weir of Marysville, Linda Wright of Fresno, and Suzie Hargadon and Nancy Careaga, both of Woodland; and by 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. The memorial service will be held on Saturday, October 16 at 11 a.m., at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Colusa. The Rev. Karen Watson will preside. Memorial gifts may be sent to Trinity United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 681, Colusa, CA 95932; Habitat for Humanity International, 121 Habitat Street, Americus, GA 31709 (www.habitat.org); or to a charity of one's choice.

Mrs. Harlean Parshall, spouse of the Rev. Joseph Parshall, died on Sunday, September 5, 2010. She is survived by her husband, who resides at 1092 Highlander Drive, Seaside, CA 93955; by 3 daughters: Jamie Moore of Palmdale, Lori Gompers of Rocklin, and Diana Cambas of Temecula, California; & by 8 grandchildren. The memorial service is planned for Saturday, Sept 11 at 11 a.m., at the Church of the Oaks, 841 Rosita Road, Del Rey Oaks, CA. Rev Charles Anker and Bob Hellam will preside.

Retired pastor Donald Kuhn died on Thursday, August 26, 2010. He is survived by two daughters: Kathleen Prokupek of Pt. Reyes Station and Karen Kuhn of Oakland. Condolences to the family may be sent to P.O. Box 371, Pt. Reyes Station, CA 94956. The memorial service is planned for Saturday, September 25 at 3 p.m., at Lake Merritt United Methodist Church in Oakland.

The Rev. Mary Elyn Bahlert will preside. Memorial gifts may be sent to the Salem Lutheran Home, 2361 E. 29th Street, Oakland, CA 94606.

Mrs. Janet Engle, surviving spouse of the Rev. Irvin Engle, died on Thursday, July 15, 2010. She is survived by her niece, Phyllis Lauper, who resides at 2908 Oxbow Drive, Carson City, NV 89706. The memorial service will be held on Sunday, August 1 at 3 p.m., at the Los Gatos United Methodist Church. The Rev. Lee Neish will preside.

Retired pastor Orville Coats died on Tuesday, July 6, 2010. He is survived by three daughters: Donna Lindsay of San Mateo, Debbie Payn of Florence, Oregon, and Elaine Drake of Loveland, Colorado; and by six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Condolences to the family may be sent to 1070 Bay Street, #22, Florence, OR 97439. Memorial gifts may be sent to Habitat for Humanity International, 121 Habitat Street, Americus, GA 31709 (www.habitat.org) or to the Heifer Project, 1 World Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72202 (www.heifer.org).

Mr. Bill Earnhardt, spouse of the Rev. Judith Donaldson, died on Tuesday, May 25, 2010. Condolences may be sent to Rev. Donaldson at P.O. Box 758, Carlin, NV 89822. The memorial service will be held on Tuesday, June 1 at 11 a.m., at the Carlin United Methodist Church. The Rev. Patrick Meachem from the First Presbyterian Church in Elko, Nevada, will preside. Memorial gifts may be sent to either the Carlin United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 246, Carlin, NV 89822, or to Battle Mountain United Methodist Church, 152 W. Second Street, #90-8, Battle Mountain, NV 89820.

Pastor Dennis M. Taber died on Tuesday, April 27, 2010. He is survived by his wife, Kay Harrison Taber, and by two daughters: Joanna Taber of New York City, and Caroline Taber of Sacramento. Condolences to the family may be sent to the Taber home at 5840 Da Vinci Way, Sacramento, CA 95835. The memorial service was held on Friday, May 7, 2010 at 11 a.m., at the St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Sacramento. The Rev. Faith Whitmore presided, along with the Rev. Blake Busick and the Rev. Jerry Haas of the Upper Room. Memorial gifts may be sent to the Wesley Foundation at Berkeley, P.O. Box 4536, Berkeley, CA 94704, or the Wesley foundation at Merced, 899 Yosemite Parkway, Merced, CA 95340.

Charles Tanner-Dorn died on Friday, April 16, 2010. He is survived by his wife, Susan Tanner-Dorn, who resides at 1201 Woodlawn Avenue, Clinton, IA 52732; by four children: Krista Othon and Eric Krenz, both of Clinton, IA, Rainbow Odell of Fresno, and Gloria Jones of Temecula, CA; and by six granddaughters. Memorial gifts may be sent to Hearts and Hands, First United Methodist Church, 621 S. Third Street, Clinton, IA 52732.

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

COLLECTIVE ARTICLES



Remaining Focused

(By Carol Leamy,
President of CSA)

Let me begin this message by thanking everyone who attended this year's Annual CSA Meeting and Luncheon.

It was a joy to share with you my story, "Afflicted but Not Crushed." It was an additional joy to have my daughter and granddaughter at our Luncheon.

Webster's Compact Dictionary describes the word "Focus" as 1: point at which reflected and refracted rays meet. 2: Adjustment (as of eyeglasses) for clear vision 3: Central point brings to focus.

I visited my eye doctor a few weeks ago because my right eye was bothering me. He said that I have a bacterial infection in my right eye. Dr. Stanko gave me strict orders to use antibiotic eye drops six times a day. That meant I had to use the eye drops in the middle of the night. Eeeeks! He also insisted that I return each week for a checkup.

I explained to him that I would **focus** on the healing of my eye. However, I could not commit to seeing him each week for a check up. I would skip an appointment to **focus** on my Step-mother's 80th Birthday party in Los Angeles.

After the nine day trip, I returned to the Doctor's office. My eye was a mess. He said, "Carol have you been using your eye drops?"

"Oh yes," I replied.

"Well, I just don't understand.

Your eye was healing so well before you left. Continue using eye drops and please make sure you

follow my directions carefully." Of course, I thought I was.

My **focus** was now in high gear. I knew that I had three bottles of the eye drops. One bottle was in my purse. One bottle was in my travel bag. And one bottle was in my basket next to my bed.

As I laid down that night, I located my eye drops in the basket. I inserted one drop and closed my eyes for three minutes. Getting up, I went searching for the other two bottles. Now this is the truth.... I could not make up such a story. While **focusing** on the matter at hand, I discovered that the bottle in my travel bag and the bottle in my purse did not match the color of the lid on the eye drops I had been using on my trip. Oops!

During my trip, I was using a 2005 eye drop prescription for Glaucoma. Not my Doctor's prescription for the antibiotic. Eeeeks!

Was I so **focused** on other priorities that I made such a devastating error? I believe that God sends us messages to remind us to slow down and stay **focused**. My eye will eventually heal.

I threw out the old bottle of eye drops that I used on my trip. (by the way, the eye drops were so old that they did not cause harm) and I began using my prescribed antibiotics.

I'll see my Doctor next week. My eye should look much better by then. I know with God all things are possible!

Continued page 9. . . .

COLLECTION ARTICLES

My questions to all of my Clergy Spouse sisters and brothers are:

- ♦ What is keeping you from focusing on your priorities?
- ♦ Where do you need to slow down?
- ♦ Have you thanked God recently for giving you messages lately?

I always learn the hard way. However, I know God is in control and that He understands even when my **FOCUS** is a bit off the mark.

My Heartfelt Blessing to each of you as we go into the Holiday Season.

In His Grip,
Carol and Volley

The Beginning

(Stories of a pastor's wife)

We were married eight years when the call came. It was in the early 80's, my husband was called into the ministry. We had a beautiful life together serving the Lord at our local church. My husband was the Young Adult Sunday School teacher of our church. We lived in our own home with our sons. As far as we were concerned, our life was mapped out. It was wonderful. We had a strong Christian support group within the church. We celebrated much of life with this group. Our children were all about the same age. I felt like I knew what our life would be like within this community. We were comfortable, but God had other plans for us in calling my husband into pulpit ministry.

After debating with God for four years, my husband accepted God's Call. In preparation for our first appointment (two churches in the back hills of Kentucky), we stepped out on faith by selling our home and furniture and moving with our three sons (ages four months to five years). It was our first experience in being pulled in different directions between church and school. Both were absolutely necessary because one can not go to seminary unless first completing college. I was so sure that I would be received in the new churches as one of the girls, just the one married to the pastor.

Never in my wildest dreams did I think that I would be so set apart. It's as if "Pastor's Wife" was a universal label which shouted through the speaker system, "*Pastor's wife coming! Everyone! Stay clear!*" The daily routine was to treat the "Pastor's Wife" with some respect but to keep the mandatory distance away. This ensured that no actual-honest-to-goodness relationship bridges were extended to the "Pastor's wife" ("*Pastor's wife coming! Everyone! Stay clear!*") Has it actually been twenty six years since those first student churches? I laugh about those true experiences now-ok, I chuckle about them-ok, I giggle-ok, I grin-ok, you got me. I still shake my head in bewilderment. I wanted so much to be part of their lives as one of them. I have accepted that I will not be one of them. I am a "Pastor's WIFE!" ("*Pastor's wife coming! Everyone! Stay clear!*")

Submitted by Tupou Smith

The Pilgrims Came

The Pilgrims came across the sea,
And never thought of you and me;
And yet it's very strange the way

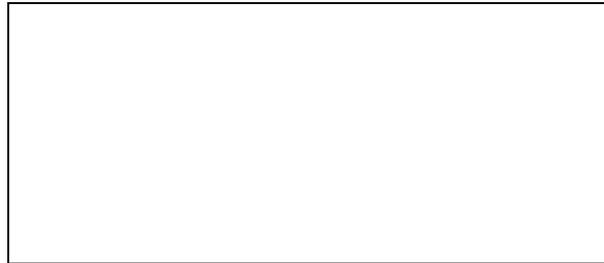
We think of them Thanksgiving day.
We tell their story, old and true
Of how they sailed across the blue,
And found a new land to be free
And built their homes quite near the sea.

Every child knows well the tale
Of how they bravely turned the sail
And journeyed many a day and night,
To worship God as they thought right.



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P. O. Box 980250
West Sacramento, CA 95798-0250

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CLERGY-SPOUSE OFFICERS (2010-2011)

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President Designate	TBD
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Retreat Coordinators 2011	Norms Buenafe Diana Greer
Display Table Coordinator During Conference	Ellie Lubiano
Newsletter Editor	Tupou F. Smith