

Reflecting the Love of Jesus Christ

The Rev. Nancy Miller



Nancy Miller grew up a “P.K.” – a preacher’s kid – the daughter of Edwin A. Randle, a minister in the United Church of Christ. Growing up, she witnessed first-hand the stress of pastoral ministry. She informed her father that she wasn’t enough of a masochist to be a minister and chose a career as a botanist instead. When she at last accepted her call to ministry, her father reminded her of that long-ago conversation. “You mean after all these years you’ve become a masochist?”

Nancy received her Master of Divinity degree in 1983 from the Starr King School for Ministry in Berkeley, California. She was called to serve Trinity Congregational UCC in Weaverville, California, where she remained until her retirement in 2000.

In the beginning of her time at Trinity, Nancy encountered some resistance to her ministry because she was a woman—this was the early 80’s, when female pastors were a rarity. But over time, acceptance grew, as Nancy’s presence impacted the church and community in positive ways. Along with colleagues, she formed a youth group with Weaverville’s Lutheran and Roman Catholic churches, helped to start a food pantry, and was instrumental in establishing the first hospital chaplaincy program and the first ministerial association in the area.

Nancy has long been familiar with the Christmas Fund. She remembers her widowed mother receiving Christmas “Thank You” gift checks. “She would call up excited to tell me about it,” she says. Nancy’s own Christmas check “arrives just when it starts to get cold and the fuel bills go up. It’s a real Godsend.”

Now living in Redding, California, Nancy remembers the people who touched her life along the way, especially people like Wendell Miller, a retired minister who preached in her place for a month each year so that she could take time off. People like Wendell, she says, were “lights” in her life, reflecting the love of Jesus Christ. She continues to experience that love through the Christmas Fund. “It is kind of like a light that goes on through time,” she says, reflecting on the steadfast generosity of those who faithfully support the Christmas Fund each year with their gifts.

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund



In 2017, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled

- Small pension supplementation for 424 retired clergy, lay employees, and surviving spouses/partners, totaling \$1,513,602
- Health benefits supplementation for 210 retired clergy, lay employees, and surviving spouses/partners, totaling \$492,863
- Emergency grants for 384 servants of the church, totaling \$136,012
- Christmas “Thank You” gift checks to 477 retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses, totaling \$228,300