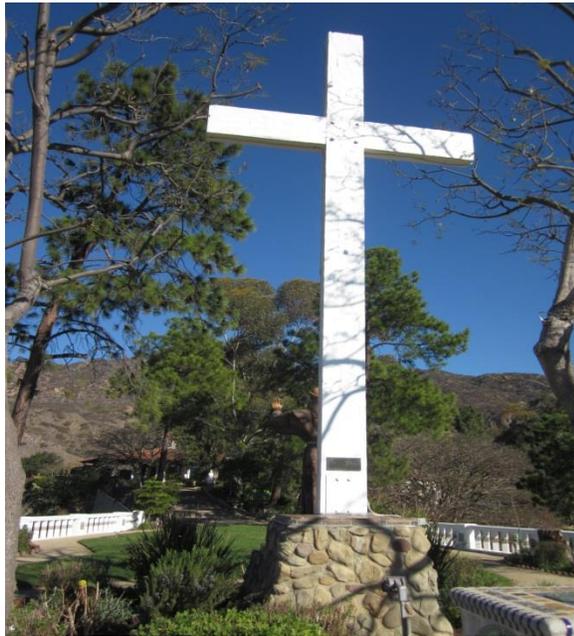


**UPDATE**  
**Missouri/Arkansas District**  
**Church of the Brethren**  
**February 5, 2014**

**Becky Crouse Attends 2014 Church of the Brethren Clergy Women's Retreat:**



Sunshine, Santa Ana winds and the Holy Spirit brought together 40 plus clergy women from across the denomination in Malibu, California, Jan. 13-16 for a time of rest, renewal and sharing the journey together. Hand in hand and heart to heart was the theme along with the verse from Phil. 1 where Paul says, "And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best."

Having just worked with several children who had died the Friday before the retreat at Children's Mercy Hospital where I minister as a chaplain, I needed time and space to reflect and be strengthened for the journey. Our retreat leader, Melissa

Wiginton of Austin Seminary, led our morning sessions on the topic of friendship. We each made a friendship timeline remembering our significant friendships and the new worlds these persons opened for us. Laughter and tears pervaded our conversations.

Afternoons were spent exploring the Serra Retreat Center labyrinth, meditation garden, and many of us walked a mile down to the Malibu beach. I traced and colored in a Mandela which is an artistic form of prayer. We shared in meaningful worship each evening and had wonderful meals provided by the retreat center. I enjoyed the free time just to "be" and realized how wonderful it is to slow down and listen to God's still small voice.

The next retreat is planned for 2019 and I hope many of our clergy women will plan to attend! I am deeply grateful to the Warrensburg Church and the District Building on the Foundation funds which made attending this retreat possible. It was a wonderful experience which helped empower me for the journey!

Becky Baile Crouse



Becky Enjoys the Beach

**New Hope Reaches Out:** January 5th started off with a bang—we had three visitors. We reaped a reward from the marathon held in October on Sunday, January 8th we had three visitors. The last runner of the day was