

AVUCC KALOS

Newsletter for the
Almaden Valley
United Church of Christ

Interim Pastor's Reflections

Lent - that long season of the Church year that begins in mid-winter or early spring (in some years), that season which in today's culture seems archaic, that season that maybe the really religious follow but doesn't have much meaning for most of us. Lent begins early this year, on February 9th, Ash Wednesday. What is Lent all about, and does it - can it - have any special significance for us today?

Lent is a season of forty days before Easter, not including Sundays. The term Lent is derived from roots that mean *to lengthen*. The Lenten season points to the spring of the year and to the increasing daylight hours which spring brings. Lent has been a significant part of the Christian faith since the early 4th Century, but its beginnings go back even earlier. Lent has been used since earliest Christianity as a time of preparation for those who were to be baptized on the eve of Easter.

As the years went by, the practice and discipline of Lent became more structured. Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of Lent, and as a day of penance and fasting, it became customary to mark the forehead of Christians with ashes on this day.

The forty days of Lent were designed to be a time of prayerful reflection, spiritual discipline and fasting. The Sundays in Lent provided a break from the fasting, but it was expected that the faithful would attend services on that day. Over the years the practice of the Lenten disciplines have evolved and changed. Each Christian tradition has developed its own Lenten traditions. Some are more stringent than others, but most denominations do recognize Lent as an important part of the Church year.

When I was growing up, it was not unusual to be asked, "what are you giving up during Lent?" For young people it was expected that we would "give up" desserts, candy, maybe listening to a favorite radio or TV show. For my Roman Catholic friends it meant not eating meat on both Fridays *and* Wednesdays. In a few instances

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KALOS

Monthly Newsletter
Almaden Valley United Church of Christ
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February 2005

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Pastor Paul, continued

no meat was served in the home except on Sundays. Lent seemed to drag on forever. We all looked forward to the coming of Easter. It meant that spring had almost arrived and the snow was gone or almost gone (especially when Easter fell in mid to late April).

We still recognize Lent today. It still can have meaning for us. We have special services, special study groups, and yes, some folk still will "give up" something during Lent. Lent is a time of preparation, and time of reflection, and a time to remember the life and work of Jesus the Christ.

As we move into this Lenten season it may be that each of us will want to be doing something a bit out of the ordinary as we prepare for the great celebration of Easter. Just maybe we'll discipline ourselves to read more scripture, or maybe find a good meditative guidebook to assist us in our Lenten discipline. Maybe we'll find a project to help those who may need special attention. Whatever discipline you chose to mark this Lenten season, may it be one that will help you grow, and may it be a blessing to and for you in this special time of the year.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Paul

Moderator's Note

As I write this, we have just finished our council retreat and I am looking forward to the joys and challenges of serving the church as Moderator this year.

We have some challenges to face. We have a significant budget gap between pledges and expenses. The stewardship committee is working on collecting any remaining pledges which may be out there, and the council will seek out areas in which we can lower our expenditures.

Also, I hope that we will learn to listen to each other with respect and grace and to accept each other as family even as we disagree on topics about which many of us are passionate.

We have much to look forward to as well. We have a number of young families becoming increasingly active in church life. We are moving forward in our search for a new pastor.

I appreciate all the support and advice I have received and I look forward to the coming year.

Melanie Click
Moderator

Church Council Notes

Every month, the official minutes from the Church Council meetings are posted on the AVUCC bulletin board after they've been approved. In another effort to let everyone know what's happening, a brief summary of the council's monthly meeting will appear in the *Kalos*. Here are notes from the first meeting of 2005 that took place on January 15th following the council retreat.

Treasurer's Report

-Focused on results from the pledge drive, which brought in \$114,000 from 55 pledge units, substantially less than the \$168,000 that had been budgeted. Council decided to ask Stewardship Committee to verify that all pledges have been received. 2005 budget was approved and will be revised as necessary at February meeting after all pledge information is received.

New Business

-A new At-Large Member will be appointed by moderator Melanie Click to replace Ron Evans, who has had to resign.

-Council members agreed to serve as liaisons to the different church committees as follows: Pastor Relations-Steve Coutinho; LRPC-Melanie Click; Christian Ed/Youth-Phyllis Chai; Membership/Fellowship-Bart Smith; Outreach/Caring-Bee Mannia; Music/Worship-Al Nieders; Endowment-Jay Caturay; Technology/Web-new member.

-A proposal to increase weekly hours for AVUCC's administrator, Lorraine Zeller, was put on hold until the budget for 2005 is finalized.

-The idea of a series of discussion forums was proposed by LRPC and will be further examined by the council at the next meeting.

Carolyn Dingman
Recorder

Pastoral Search Committee Report

When I was discussing pastoral search committees with my brother, a Presbyterian from North Carolina, he told me that they have a similar system to ours, except that their Presbytery (read Association) has facilitators from other churches assist the local search committees. He is one such facilitator and said that against his advice the church he was working with called their interim pastor. It is not against their practice to do that. Within one year the church was in a bitter dispute over the decision that had been made, and a number of families left the church. I'm sure such problems don't always happen, but I'm glad we don't have to deal with that issue.

Here at AVUCC our church profile is written and in the final typing phase, and on Jan 30th we will be presenting it to Deborah Streeter, our Associate Conference Minister. We will also give a final copy to each church council member, and there will be copies available in the church office after the 6th of February. After that, the long process of reading profiles begins, and we will be trying to find a good match for our church. If we are lucky we will find a match soon, and the person we choose will also like us. But if the process takes longer than we expect we will ask for your prayers and for your trust that we will do the very best that we can to find the best match, both for AVUCC and for the minister we recommend.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Your Search Committee,

Sandy Baldwin, Steve Coutinho, Joan Curtice, Marian Henderson, Terry Shoup and Dennis Widman

Ash Wednesday Service

On Wednesday, February 9, 2005, Pastor Paul will conduct a service of Penance and Holy Communion at 12:15 pm, in the Sanctuary. This service is based on an ancient sixth century service and will include the imposition of ashes on the foreheads of those who wish to receive them.

While the imposition of ashes has not been part of our congregational tradition, it has been used more recently in some of our churches. Many folk have found this to be a very meaningful experience. The service of penitence and confession is used in most UCC churches and this service provides for extended periods of silence for personal prayers and reflection. All who wish to attend are invited to this service that marks the beginning of Lent.

Lenten Study Opportunities

ECA and AVUCC are jointly providing two Lenten educational opportunities. The first of these is a Lenten Study Series for adults. We will meet on Monday nights from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.. The theme this year is Stewardship. No, this is not an attempt to get you to give more for the church. It is a spiritual exploration of our lives and how we live them, and it is designed to give us an opportunity to live out our lives more closely in accordance with our ideals as shaped and formed by God's kingdom. These classes are offered to members of both congregations and will be jointly taught by Stephen Mills and Paul Smith-Telfer.

The classes and topics are as follows;

- February 14th: Stewardship and me?
- February 21st: Stewardship of time.
- February 28th: Stewardship of talent.
- March 7th: Stewardship of treasure.
- March 14th: Stewardship of creation.

The second offering is for youth in the 8th Grade and above. This will be a class leading to Confirmation. We will meet on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The dates and topics are:

- February 16th: Basic beliefs (God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit)
- February 23rd: Music and the church
- March 2nd: The Bible – what it is and what it isn't
- March 9th: History and Polity
- March 16th: Faith and Questions – ethics and decision-making.

These classes will also be taught by Stephen and Paul, as well as by John Leslie. They will be taught from both a UCC and an Episcopal perspective. The youth from ECA wishing to be confirmed may do so on Palm Sunday (March 20th) when Bishop Romero will be at the Joint Venture Churches. No date has yet been set for AVUCC confirmation, but it could also be on Palm Sunday.

Pastor Paul and Reverend Stephen are looking forward to facilitating both of these special Lenten Study opportunities. We hope that you will take advantage of them.

Some Thoughts on Acceptance - A Goal for Christians

“Everything has its beauty, not everyone sees it.” -
Confucius

As members of the United Church of Christ, we are asked to celebrate the diversity of our members and friends. But like all the goals we seek to achieve as Christians, we sometimes need a “spiritual check-up.” Are you sensitive to the special qualities and needs of our members, friends, neighbors, and acquaintances? Is there a chance we may be confusing tolerance with acceptance? Why? Because there is a significant difference between tolerance and acceptance.

Tolerance by its very nature contains an implied judgment. To “tolerate” someone or something defines that person, activity or thing as “bad” or “wrong.” When we say we “tolerate” a specific behavior, what we are really saying is that we think what you are doing is wrong, but that out of our generosity we will tolerate it. If we can embrace acceptance, than we free ourselves of the human desire to be judgmental, free ourselves of burdens and enable ourselves to love more of God’s creation.

All of God’s creations have a gift to contribute to the world. Through acceptance we no longer have to worry about what is right or wrong in God’s eyes. When all of the world can see and recognize that everyone has something to contribute – when all of us can see the value of diversity – the earth truly becomes a better place to live, and a society without war and conflict has a much better chance for success.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Rose

THANK YOU . . .

. . . to Kendrick Hough, who stepped forward last year to serve as Vice Moderator and later as Youth Rep to the AVUCC Council.

. . . to Sue Scaff who has stepped down as head of the Caring Committee.

CONGRATULATIONS...to Eric Gaydon, age 5, who won first place in the 2004 Meriwest Holiday Card contest, ages 3-10. Way to go, Eric!

Church Dinner Groups for 2005

The Church Dinner Group poster for 2005 is now up on the bulletin board located in the hallway near Fellowship Hall. You can sign up for a Home Dinner Group or a Restaurant Dinner Group, or you can sign up for both. Dinner groups are a great way of getting to know one another better.

The first person to sign up for a home dinner group or a restaurant dinner group is responsible for hosting the first dinner in their home or in a restaurant. This is very important - in the past some dinner groups never got together because no one organized the first dinner.

The Home Dinner Groups are made up of 8 people (more people can be added if the host/hostess home has room). Each dinner group can decide how often they want to meet, but most groups meet every other month. The host/hostess decides when to meet, plans what to do for the evening, and provides the main course and beverage. That person then calls the other members of the dinner group and asks them to bring an appetizer, a salad, a dessert, or other dish. Please let your host/hostess know if you have any food allergies.

A Home Dinner Group gathering can be either a dress-up evening or a casual get-together. In the past we attended an Oscar Night dinner where we dressed as if we were going to the Oscars; we’ve also attended dinners where we sat on the floor eating pizzas, enjoyed backyard cookouts, and gotten together for picnics in the park. Over the years, there have been dinners in the host home followed by plays, movies, San Jose Giants games, or the I-Max Theater in the Technology Museum. Playing games after dinner is always fun, and we’ve also enjoyed many evenings just sitting around visiting with the people in our dinner groups.

The Restaurant Dinner Groups are made up of 10 people. The host/hostess decides when to meet and the restaurant where he/she will host. (Of course all dinner group members pay their own way!) These dinner groups meet either monthly or every other month.

Dinner groups, continued

We have found that the best way to keep the Dinner Groups going is to make plans for the next get-together before the evening comes to an end.

If you feel that you do not have the time to join a Dinner Group but would like to fill a vacancy once in a while, there will be a place on the poster where you can sign up to fill in for either the Home or the Restaurant dinner groups. If you are hosting a dinner group and have a vacancy, you can call one or more of the people on this list.

For further information, call Jan Day @ 268-6690.

Ballroom Is Back!

"Dancing is play . . . an elixir for the heart, mind and body!" (Cindy Ahlquist, 1990 DANCE ACTION Magazine)

Join us for two evenings of light-hearted activity as we learn how to two-step, swing, foxtrot and rumba:

February 26, 7:30 to 9:30 PM, with Jason Esswein (If you want to know more about Jason, check out his website – www.borntoballroom.com.)

March 12, 7:30-9:30 PM, with Judy Martin, Dennis Elliott and friends.

All are welcome . . . singles, couples, high-schoolers - the young at heart. Bring your friends, too! Sign up in Fellowship Hall. There will be a minimal charge to cover instructor fees and refreshments. Any questions, call Janey Sanders at 997-0875.

Book Club News

The Book Club will meet at 7:30 PM on February 17th at the home of Robyn Dorsey. The reading selection this month is *The Monk Downstairs* by Tim Farrington.

Robyn Dorsey

323-9230

Men's Breakfast

A wonderful Men's Breakfast was served in January by our great cooks, Stan Yumen, Dave Crowley, Dick Shipe, Jim Wright, Bill Allfrey, and Dick Okumura, to a large and enthusiastic crowd. Our speaker, Pastor Paul A. Smith-Telfer, gave an exciting and interesting talk titled "Wisdom and Humor." Humor, which makes us laugh and teaches at the same time, can come in a variety of forms. It can be intellectual, political, religious, physical, angry, or sometimes silly. It can be used to relieve tension, but most often it is witty and funny and meaningful, like the following:

"You can't depend on your eyes when your imagination is not in focus."

"If you tell the truth, you don't need to remember anything."

"Anything for free is worth what you paid for it."

"When I was a boy of 14 years, my father was so ignorant I could barely stand to have him around; but when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years."

Jesus used humor in many of his parables. He especially used irony, defined as "a holding up to public view of either vice or folly, but without a note of bitterness or attempt to harm. The ironical is marked with a subtle sharpness of insight, free from the desire to wound. This is what distinguished it most clearly from sarcasm."

We are fortunate today in that we can find great wisdom every day in the comic sections of our newspapers. Charles Schulz, the greatest cartoonist of our times, creator of the "Peanuts" comic strips, fused adult ideas with a world of small children. Schulz reminded us that although childhood wounds remain fresh, we have the power as adults to heal our selves with humor.

Another famous cartoonist, Bill Watterson, creator of Calvin and Hobbes (named after John Calvin, the Protestant Reformer, and Thomas Hobbes, a 17th century English professor) made many people laugh but even more people think, experiencing a wry slice of life to which one can't help but relate introspectively. It is a comic strip drawn with simplicity and grace.

Other favorites include, Walt Kelly, creator of "Pogo;" Jim Unger, "Herman;" Frank Ketchem, "Dennis the Menace;" Dick Browne, creator of "Hagar the Horrible;" Gary Larson, "The Far Side;" Jim Davis, "Garfield;" Gary

Men's Breakfast, continued

"Doonesbury;" Scott Adams, "Dilbert;" and Morrie Turner, "Wee Pals."

"Humor is the great thing, the saving thing. The minute it crops up all irritations and resentment slip away and a sunny spirit takes their place" - Mark Twain

"Time spent laughing is time spent with Gods." - Japanese proverb

Humor is a trait that like creativity breaks us out of ruts and routines and creates a crackle of excitement or aliveness. It often breaks the tension and gives us something new, a funny angle, a new perspective, a broader view of life. The wisdom in humor has been around for a long time. It touches us as no other kind of wisdom can. We enjoy it, we learn from it, and we find out that we don't have to take ourselves too seriously.

Thank you, Paul, for a very entertaining, witty, and interesting view of "Wisdom and Humor."

*Dick Okumura
Men's Group*

Progressive Dinner Thanks

Thank you to the team of wizards who helped me orchestrate the Progressive Dinner in December – Betty Benson, Jim Ballek, Phyllis Chai, Jan and Al Day, Joan Okumura, Carol Pullen, David Sanders, Ariss and Bob Thomas.

Thanks also to those church members who opened their homes to host – the Bensons, the Gerbers, the Hawes, Kathy Kisabeth, the Okumuras, and the Spechts.

Special thanks to the crew who did the dirty work at the end of the evening!

*Janey Sanders
Fellowship*

Caring Committee

Thank you to Joan Okumura and Mary Kingsley who agreed to coordinate handling the caring needs of the congregation for February and March.

Please note that the Caring Committee is still in need of a new person to act as "chair." If you feel called/able to fill that position, or if you can assist in driving, preparing meals, etc., please notify Joan or Mary, or Lorraine at the church office: 268-0243.

A special thank you to Bee Mannia, Council Liaison to the Caring Committee, for her support.

CONDOLENCES...to Sue Scaff and her family on the passing of her mother, Helen von Rohr, on January 15, 2005, in Portland, OR.

UCC News

Congregational Community Church of Sunnyvale, UCC this year celebrates its centennial. Throughout the year special speakers and musical events are planned. Information may be found on our church bulletin boards or by calling Phyllis Chai at 226-7150.

On Sunday, Jan. 16th our UCC Associate General Minister, Edith Guffey spoke to an appreciative audience after a potluck supper. At that event was one man who had found a local UCC church after seeing the Advent TB ad. There was also a gentleman who saw "Visitors Welcome" in yet another local UCC church phone ad, and attended that church in the morning. He said, at the evening gathering, that he had not been to church in 30-40 years.

Thank You From Adopted Families

Three notes of heartfelt thanks arrived at the church office in early January from the families AVUCC adopted through Friends Outside at Christmas time:

“Our family would like to thank you very much for your kindness and your generosity. Thank you for making our Christmas wonderful. God bless.”

“Dear Friends Outside,

Thank you for helping my family all these years, you and all the people that help with things all the time. Friends Outside brings happiness to our lives.”

“Thank you for the gifts to my children, thank you for everything. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. God Bless Your Family.”

Also enclosed was a letter from Jennifer Tait, Executive Director of Friends Outside describing the scene when families arrived to pick up their Christmas boxes:

“I wish you could have been there to see the excitement and sparkles in the eyes of children as they saw food and gifts being loaded into their cars, and tears of relief for mothers and grandmothers who knew that their families would be taken care of for the holidays. We also got to share the hugs and kisses from delighted families.

“Without your generosity and willingness to ‘adopt’ a family, we would not have been able to process the boxes for 400 families. You touched hearts, lightened sadness, and lit a spark of hope that will burn brightly throughout the year.”

Thank you again to everyone at AVUCC who helped fill the boxes for our three adopted families with food, groceries, gifts, and most especially, with LOVE.

*Carolyn Dingman
Outreach Committee*

The Giving Tree

Thank you to the many people who made donations to the Giving Tree this year. I was overwhelmed by the caring generosity shown by our church community. We delivered 132 pairs of socks, 37 pairs of gloves and 29 hats to the InnVision Homeless Shelter on the 20th of December. In addition, we dropped off two (very) large bags of used warm coats, rain coats and wet weather gear! You have made a difference in the lives of many men, women and children this winter. Thank you!

Namaste

I honor the place in you
in which the entire universe abides.
I honor the place in you
which is of love, of truth
of light, and of peace.
When you are in that place in you,
and I am in that place in me,
We are one...

Beneficio Coffee

Beneficio coffee is more-than-fair trade! At least one person has said that it's better than the Kona brand; another reported that it's much better than Starbucks.

Just a tip or two about Beneficio coffee: One person reported liking it more when she added extra coffee per pot, whereas formerly it wasn't her favorite. Also, the quality of "Beneficio" is better if it is not refrigerated or put in the freezer.

To order, please contact Phyllis Chai at 226-7150.

Junior High Youth Group

Our fabulous JHYG's chefs donned their hats and baked up a storm. They ended up with 46 pumpkin, apple crisp and pecan pies. We made a note for next year concerning the convection ovens at the church. They cook pies in less time than the recipe says! Thank you everyone for buying the pies. We took some of our earnings approximately \$300.00 and shopped for our adopted family. We received a thank you note from them that was very sweet. It's posted down stairs in the Youth center if you'd like to see it.

We're heading to Dodge Ridge for our next youth outing on Feb. 4-6. We are renting two cabins. The SHYG's are staying in Longbarn and the JHYG's are staying in MiWuk Village. We are blessed with many parents willing to drive and around 30 kids who like the snow.

The youth are cooking and serving at our annual Shrove Tuesday dinner on Feb. 8th.

Pancake Dinner is served from 5:30 to 7:30
Only \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children.

We're going with the breakfast for dinner theme again. Sausage, bacon, fruit, pancakes with many different and wonderful toppings. We will have a sign up in the fellowship hall that will give us an idea of how much to buy and the cost per person. If anyone is willing to do some shopping for us please contact me at 838-6143.

Thanks, Katie



Sunday School

We begin the second semester on the first weekend of February. A list of the teachers for the 2nd semester is on the hallway bulletin board. The teachers in each grade need to contact each other to create a schedule for the coming months. Our teachers' celebration potluck will be on February 26th at the McCormick's home at 6

p.m.

The Coming of Age ceremony is the first Sunday in March. All fifth graders will be honored and given a bible during the Sunday School hour on March 6th. There will be no Sunday School lessons that day because all classes will attend the ceremony.

Facility Scheduling and the Joint Venture Calendar

This is the second in a series of articles about communicating with the church office to get your events and ministries on the publicized and on the calendar.

To schedule an event, complete a "Calendar Request Form" (located in the document holder posted on the wall next to the office door AND on the web at www.eca-sj.org and www.avucc.org) and give it to Lorraine. You may also email your calendar request to office@eca-sj.org or office@avucc.org. Note: If you have an event off site, the form is not necessary, but please let Lorraine know in case there are any questions and to have your event noted in the Sunday bulletins.

Calendars (the current month and the next month) are posted on the wall by the mail boxes and are updated each Friday. All building use must be scheduled through the Church Office. Church usage (i.e. Memorial Services) takes precedence over other social events. If necessary, calendaring conflicts will be worked out with the pastors and/or councils and Joint Venture board. Use of the building by community groups requires a contract and approval by the office and/or pastors.

CALENDAR REQUEST FOR JV/ECA/UCC USERS	
Date submitted _____	
Name of Group/Committee _____	ECA ___ UCC ___ JV ___
First name _____ (contact person)	Last name _____ Phone _____ Email _____
Event title and description _____ _____	
Room(s) needed _____	
Date of event _____	List ALL Dates _____ (use back of form if needed)
Recurring Dates: Daily ___ Weekly ___ Monthly ___ Day of week (please circle) M TU W TH F Sa Sun	
Event start time _____	Event end time _____
Set-up start time _____	Clean-up end time _____
Announce in bulletin ___ SHAPE ___ KALOS ___ (please include write-up in "description" above)	
Number of people attending _____	Will food be served? Yes ___ No ___
Name of clean-up person _____	Phone _____
SUBMIT THIS REQUEST TO: The church office by email office@eca-sj.org or office@avucc.org , fax: 408-268-4207, or by leaving it in Lorraine's mailbox.	
Please be sure to notify the office of any changes, adds, or cancellations. THANK YOU!	



**FOLK-SINGER
KATE CAMPBELL
TO PERFORM AT
JOINT VENTURE
CHURCHES ON
SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 12TH**

Major folk-country recording artist Kate Campbell performs in concert on Saturday, February 12, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. as part of the Almaden Adventures in the Arts concert series at Joint Venture Churches of Almaden.

Ms. Campbell's expressive gift for storytelling has drawn repeated comparisons to southern writers such as Flannery O'Connor, Eudora Welty, and William Faulkner. Her latest album releases, "The Portable Kate Campbell" and "Sing Me Out," are new renditions of some of her most requested songs by fans at concerts.

Produced by Will Kimbrough, the "Portable" album includes guest appearances by Rodney Crowell, Nanci Griffith, Kim Richey, Jeff Black, and Jonell Mosser. Two of Campbell's previous albums received "Folk Album of The Year" nominations from the Nashville Music Awards.

Kate Campbell spent her early years in Sledge, Mississippi and most of her growing up years in Nashville, Tennessee. She learned to play the ukulele at the age of four, started piano at seven, and the guitar at twelve. Her influences include Dolly Parton, Emmylou Harris, and Kris Kristofferson.

Campbell has been a featured performer at the Cambridge Folk Festival, Merlefest, Philadelphia Folk Festival, and the Port Fairy Folk Festival. She's also been featured on National Public Radio's *Morning Edition*, *All Things Considered*, and *Live From Mountain Stage*.

Ms. Campbell has won critical acclaim:

"Lauded by both the Farm Journal and NPR, Campbell's music perches comfortably between country and folk . . . a distinctive talent." – *USA TODAY*

"Kate Campbell belongs in the company of literati like Mary Chapin Carpenter, Nanci Griffith, and Lucinda Williams," – *New Country*

"With a literate eye for detail and metaphor, Campbell weaves her country-folk tales like a masterly storyteller," – *Memphis Commercial Appeal*

Tickets are \$15 adults and \$8 students with ID. Childcare will be provided. For more information, please call 408-268-0243.

**Music Lover- Mark Your Calendars
Brubeck Institute Sextet**

Saturday, March 5, 2005 7:30 p.m.

"Top-notch young musicians ... a landmark booking."
– *Napa Valley Register*

Some of the most gifted players 18-19 from around the country studying music full time at the Dave Brubeck Institute at the University of Pacific in Stockton will perform classic Tin Pan Alley repertoire From Irvine Berlin to Cole Porter. One of the group's members, saxophonist and Massachusetts native Tommy Morimoto, is a former student of Joint Venture Churches Music Director John Leslie.



MUSIC NOTES

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Children's Choir continues to meet Saturday mornings from 10:00-10:45am, directed by John Leslie. All ages are welcome to join us. We hope to have an anthem ready for early February, as well as for Easter. Depending on spring sport practices, Children's Choir rehearsal time may need to be changed to accommodate the singers' schedules. Please contact John through the church office (268-0243) for more information, or if you have any questions.

TAIZE SERVICES

Thanks to all who attended and participated in our prayer services.

Music Ministry at Joint Venture Churches is pleased to offer these special evenings of quiet contemplation, music, and prayer. Look for announcements of future services in the KALOS, the Shape, and in Sunday bulletins. We will have a Prayer Service with Taize music about every two months.

TALENT SHOW

Our talent show was an Epiphany Program thanking God for our gifts and sharing our talents with our Joint Venture family.

January 6th was the Festival of the Epiphany of Our Lord. We celebrated the Three Wise Ones who followed the star, and brought gifts to offer to the Baby Jesus, and offered our own gifts: singing, playing musical instruments, dancing, making people laugh, and showed our appreciation for all of the above with our applause and kind words of thanks.

Participating this year were - from AVUCC: Hi-Dong Chai-vocalist, Phyllis Chai-piano duettist, Laura Click-pianist, Betsy Dingman-vocalist (home from college) and members of the AVUCC Shalom Choir, singing "The Twelve Months of Christmas"; and from ECA: Brad Bond-dancer with Evelyn Wing, Betty Consorte and Mary Leal "A Couple of Swells," Susie Ferguson-vocalist, pianist and comedienne, David Hoyt-trumpeter and Roger Hoyt-accompanist, Marshall and Avery Robins-guitarists, and Anna Pfeffer-vocalist. Through special arrangement with the Bret Harte Middle School Advanced Drama Class, we were blessed with the one-act play "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," featuring JV youth actors: Chris Coutinho, Faith Mills, and Megan Haley. Thanks to Father Stephen for his extra efforts to make possible this wonderful performance...a true "Gift of the Season"!

THANKS to all those who shared their refreshments with all of us, to Robin Root for her great assistance encouraging our youth to participate and share their wonderful gifts, to Ellie and Father Stephen Mills for creating and hanging the "stage curtain" for the Middle School Drama Group, as well as for getting the CD player to work through the Fellowship Hall sound system. Most importantly, thanks to the many wonderful audience members who attended and shared their gifts of laughter and applause!

A free-will offering was taken, and we received over \$400.00, which was designated for our Summer Musical...Get ready for "Fiddler on the Roof"!

To God be all the glory, and we join in thanking God for the most precious gift of His Son, Jesus.

John Leslie, Director of Music



Praise
God
with
Music

Current SHYGS Activities

We started 2005 with a movie marathon at church on January 1, noon to midnight. It was a full day of sloth, eating and watching movies in preparation for school starting again! Kyle Dando led a successful Tweak Hunt with 18 participants searching out local Tweaks, collecting supplies to send to two service people overseas, and ending up at Round Table pizza-It was a huge success with upper classmen (and their adopted freshman Marshall Robins) winning the event. On the 30th we had our meeting and discussion around the topic of taming the tongue and gossip.

I want to thank Anne Tysanner, Ann Mayers, Jon and Taylor Mills, Julia Machado, Rochelle Ciappa, Greg Lukanc, Alex Bishop, Hannah Ward, Brad Bond, David Mastriana, Dan Gottfeld, Eric McCormick, and Terry Root for spending the afternoon of Jan 16th working on the church property. They trimmed the entire hedge along the back parking lot, the hedge along the play yard, moved leaves into the compost pile and spread Roundup around the trees in the tree lot. Great job!

We recently introduced a cross 'thermometer' in the narthex to track our Mission Trip fundraising efforts. We are about a quarter of the way there. There will be multiple opportunities in the coming months to support these teens in their efforts, and we thank you in advance. Some of the support we need is not monetary. We will also be looking for donations of tools and assistance with building skills training.

Thank you to Inge Bond and Ken McCormick who are arranging three dinner nights in the coming months.

Thank you to Elizabeth Ward and her flea market committee: Linda Cottle, Anne Tysanner and Kelli Casale - watch for the flea market on April 2. When you start your spring-cleaning start setting things aside and plan on renting a space in our church parking lot!

Here's what's coming up:

Feb 4-6-Ski Trip

Feb 8-Tuesday-Cook and Serve Pancake Supper

Feb 12-Bake Sale at Music Event- Need baked goods donated and 6 SHYGS to work 7:45-8:30.

Feb 20-Self-mutilation talk-Representative from Almaden Counseling Service as a speaker

Feb 23-Fundraising night at Chevys

Feb 27-Talk Sheet-Sensitivity/Non-judgmental

March 5-Cosmic Bowling (Saturday) Meet at church at 6:30; Bowling is at 8:00; Bring \$20.00

March 12- Skills Training for Mission Trip Participants-Mandatory (Saturday)

March 19-Catacombs-overnight at church (Saturday)

March 27-Easter

April 2-Flea Market-Mandatory for all going on Mission Trip (see Robin with conflicts)

Robin Root, 268-1203 or robinroot@yahoo.com

Stay Out of the Kitchen!

(and help our youth group at the same time!)

The SHYGs (that's Senior High Youth Group, for the uninformed) have launched a new series of events to raise funds for their mission trip this summer. Each of the next five months will feature a night on which you and your family can go out to eat at a designated restaurant, and that restaurant will contribute 20% of the tab to the SHYGs, toward travel to their mission in Montana!

All you need to do is be sure to show up with the SHYGs flyer in hand - see a youth group member or the bulletin board in the fellowship hall for one of these. Then take your appetite and your friends or family to the restaurant on SHYGs night, and chow down!

The first two SHYGs restaurant nights (more TBA):

Wednesday, February 23, 4-9PM: **Fresh Choice**

Wednesday, March 23, 4-9PM: **Chevy's** (Chevy's will make the 20% contribution on take out, too)

Both of these are ECA Bible Study nights - maybe the study group would like to meet early for some pre-study sustenance? Or you could treat your family to dinner out before you go!

Make your calendars for a night to let someone else do the cooking, meet up with other members of the Joint Venture community, and help our youth help others at the same time - everybody wins!

SHYGS Recap of 2004

We wanted to share with you the recap for 2004 of our Senior High program. This is also published in the ECA annual report. We hope you enjoy reading about all of our activities in 2004!

The early momentum of our new Senior High Youth Group (SHYGS) in 2003 continued to gather speed throughout 2004. It has been especially gratifying to see the good work done at the Junior High level generate such enthusiasm that 5 new freshmen joined our Senior High Group this year, bringing the active number of regular participants to 18.

After our initial forming in 2003, the group took on some serious and not so serious activities. One of our focuses is to have the youth learning to think beyond themselves and see what their place is in the greater community. This took the form of various outreach activities. They planted the youth garden in April and October resulting in over 150 pounds of fresh vegetables being donated to the Second Harvest Food Bank. They 'adopted' the EOPS program at West Valley College. The toiletries we collect resulted in over 75 bags of supplies going to low-income students. We conducted a successful coat drive in the fall and adopted two families – one for Thanksgiving and one for Christmas. The teens held a bake sale, wrapped presents and sold Entertainment Books in order to provide for these families during the holidays.

An additional view into the world of others was given to the group who attended the Heifer International site in Ceres, California. It was there that the group did some work on the property in the garden and pasture, participated in team-building exercises, and then spent a night in a 'Global Village', emulating the lives of those in a third world country. It was an eye-opening experience for all of us.

Fun, did I mention fun? We had a lot of that too. Kyle Dando held a successful Tweak Hunt that left the teens begging for more, a Ski Trip in the winter, miniature golf and a wild, wacky weekend in August rafting on Cache Creek with 17 teens and 7 adults. The raft trip was our August activity to say goodbye to our seniors and welcome new freshmen. The group held a successful car wash to fund this activity.

Our SHYGS meetings covered topics of the day as well as spiritual issues. We talked about stress, parents, friends, prayer and dating among other things. Our minds and hearts were challenged by attending 'The Passion of the Christ' in the spring and by a performance at Bellarmine of 'Dead Man Walking' in the fall. A small group attended a "Boundaries in Teen Dating" seminar in the spring.

Our most challenging project of the year was to improve the volleyball court in the tree lot. Eric McCormick drew up the plans and led the project with the help of Katie McCormick who kept the supply chain moving. We thank Mike Stonehocker for his generous contribution of many yards of sand to help us have a nice deep court to play in. All the SHYGS worked on this project contributing over 200 person hours to complete it. Extra effort was made by Greg Lukanc and David Mastriana who put in additional hours with Eric to complete the job. Before we filled the court with sand we buried a time capsule in one corner to be opened in 10 years.

In addition to the support the SHYGS group has from Terry Root who cooks all their dinners. Ann Mayers and Jeanne Cassetta were constants at the meetings, helping in all the behind the scenes type of ways that are need to keep things running smoothly, and by sharing of themselves during our talk sessions. This summer we were joined by Kyle Dando from AVUCC who was in charge of our Wednesday night Volleyball nights all summer long and will be helping out in 2005. Reed Francis has also volunteered to assist where needed.

SHYGS members are acutely aware that their activities take financial and emotional support from the larger church body, and they are very grateful to all of you who have written letters of support, expressed positive reactions to the teen's activities and who have written checks in support of their work. We thank you for this.

2005 holds more opportunity for this group! Our biggest events coming up are a Self Respect Retreat in May and a Mission Trip to Montana in June. We are very excited about the year to come!

February 2005 at AVUCC and Joint Venture Churches

Tuesday, February 01	7:30 pm	LRPC
Wednesday, February 02	9:30 am	Quest Women's Group
	4:45 pm	Bell Choir
	7:30 pm	AVUCC Choir Rehearsal
Friday, February 04		Jr. and Senior High Ski Trip
Sunday, February 06	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
	10:10 am	Sunday School
Monday, February 07	7:00 pm	Duplicate Bridge
Tuesday, February 08	3:00 pm	SHYG and JHYG cooking/serving Pancake Dinner
	5:30 pm	Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner
Wednesday, February 09	ASH WEDNESDAY	
	9:30 am	Quest Women's Group
	12:15 pm	AVUCC Ash Wednesday Service
	4:45 pm	Bell Choir
	7:30 pm	AVUCC Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, February 10	11:30 am	Christian Ed. Committee
Saturday, February 12	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast
	7:30 pm	Concert - Kate Campbell
	8:00 pm	Jr. High Concession Stand
Sunday, February 13	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
	10:10 am	Sunday School
Monday, February 14	7:00 pm	Lenten Study Series
Tuesday, February 15	4:00 pm	AVUCC Shelter Food Service
	7:00 pm	UCC Council
Wednesday, February 16	9:30 am	Quest Women's Group
	11:00 am	JV Staff Meeting
	4:45 pm	Bell Choir
	7:00 pm	Confirmation Class
	7:30 pm	AVUCC Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, February 17	7:30 pm	JV Book Club
Friday, February 18	6:00 pm	Jr. High Dinner and Meeting
Saturday, February 19	10:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	5:00 pm	Singles Potato Party
Sunday, February 20	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
	10:10 am	Sunday School
	4:30 pm	SHYG Homework Center, Dinner, and Discussion
Monday, February 21	7:00 pm	Lenten Study Series
Wednesday, February 23	9:30 am	Quest Women's Group
	4:00 pm	SHYGS Night at Fresh Choice
	4:45 pm	Bell Choir
	7:00 pm	Confirmation Class
	7:30 pm	AVUCC Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, February 26	10:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	6:30 pm	Ballroom Dancing
Sunday, February 27	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
	10:10 am	Sunday School
	4:30 pm	SHYG Homework Center, Dinner, and Discussion
Monday, February 28	7:00 pm	Lenten Study Series

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KALOS – February 2005

KALOS Deadline for the March 2005 Issue

The deadline for the March issue of the Kalos is **Tuesday, February 15, 2005**. Items may be left in the mail slot labeled Kalos, or preferably, may be submitted by email to: sscaff@sbcglobal.net.

Happy Birthday to

Hannah Dando	02/02
Patty Bergantz	02/03
Bruce Hutchins	02/06
Lynn Widman	02/07
Hilda Turner	02/08
Tommy Haley	02/10
Laura Click	02/13
Paul Smith-Telfer	02/14
Orlon Wiedrick	02/17
Phyllis Green	02/19
Byron Henderson	02/20
Shirley Lind	02/24
Matthew Click	02/24

Happy Anniversary to

Byron and Marian Henderson