

Interim Pastor's Reflections

The very word "conflict" seems to bring chills to most church members. The attitude that most of us have is that church is the one place in our lives that conflict should be absent. My own experience, both as a pastor and as someone who grew up in the church, has taught me that conflict is an integral and perhaps a necessary part of church life. Without conflict, churches stay the same, month after month, year after year, and will eventually become sluggish, inert, and dormant. In effect, they will die.

From the very beginning Christian churches have experienced conflict. We have only to read a few of Paul's Letters to know that the early Christians experienced conflict within their faith communities from the very beginning. In fact, if it weren't for the conflict taking place within these churches, it is doubtful that Paul would have had to write his letters. If you don't believe me, you may wish to re-read First & Second Corinthians, as well as Galatians. Even before Paul, there was conflict. What little we know about the disciples gives us a glimpse of some conflict within that close and small community. James and John wanted places of honor; Peter didn't want to believe what Jesus was telling him about his impending suffering. Jesus himself seemed bent on creating conflict with the religious leadership of his day.

Conflict can, of course, also be very destructive. Conflict for conflict's sake is never productive. Conflict cannot be ignored and it will not go away on its own; but it can be used to further the community, and to increase our knowledge of each other.

Caroline A. Westerhoff, an Episcopal priest in Atlanta, Georgia, writes:

continued on page 2

KALOS
Monthly Newsletter
Almaden Valley United Church of Christ
6581 Camden Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120
(408) 268-0243; Fax: (408)268-4207
Visit our website: www.avucc.org

Editor: Sue Scaff (408 448-3038)
sscaff@sbcglobal.net

MARCH 2005

In this issue

<i>Interim Pastor's Reflections</i>	1
<i>Moderator</i>	2
<i>Search Committee</i>	3
<i>Council Notes</i>	4
<i>JV Music</i>	5
<i>Music Committee</i>	6
<i>LRPC</i>	7
<i>Men's Group</i>	8
<i>Brubeck Concert</i>	10
<i>Youth Group</i>	11
<i>Tacky Luncheon</i>	12
<i>Ladies Luncheons</i>	13
<i>What is the UCC?</i>	14
<i>March Calendar</i>	15

Pastor Paul, cont.

“If we look around us, even without a great deal of scrutiny, we cannot help but notice that God’s crazy pleasure seems to have been to make no two living things exactly alike: no two birds, no two leaves, no two anything. Rather than bland sameness, God does seem to favor the rich color and changing scene of intricately woven tapestries and lively conversations albeit accented by the solid simplicity of plain cloth and the stark complexity of silence.”

Westerhoff goes on to tell us that simply because of the rich diversity of creation, conflict is very much a part of who and what we are. She states that God has created the universe as a wonderful, giant puzzle with billions of interlocking pieces of which you and I are but two. We can, she says, help fit these pieces into the breathtaking whole God intends if only we are willing to struggle. God expects us to be about this struggle. It is our part in the creative process.

And there’s the rub. The struggle. Are we ready, willing, and open to be part of this creative process in which we must struggle? Because we are all different, and view the world and our part in it from a variety of perspectives, conflict is inevitable. Not only, as Westerhoff mentions, is conflict inevitable, it may well be part of the divine plan, a gift.

What do we do with this concept? What do we do about conflict in the church? What do we do with honest disagreements and points of view? Well, we can try to ignore it, pretend it doesn’t exist, hope that it will go away, or that those who aren’t like us will leave. Or, we can use the conflict in productive and creative ways to further God’s wonderfully crazy design for creation, and struggle together to find new ways to live together in community.

The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC), with the help and generous leadership of Bob Farnquist, is developing a series of forums for everyone to take part in. These forums are being designed to give a safe place for people to come together and openly, honestly, and lovingly discuss issues of the church, issues that have the potential to divide us. Bob’s own

experience in facilitating these kinds of forums for the county is a gift he is willing to share with AVUCC. As the LRPC moves forward with its plans for these forums in the near future, they will be sharing more details with us. I encourage all of us to become part of this venture, and to share in the process which can make this community of faith stronger and a beacon of hope for the larger community.

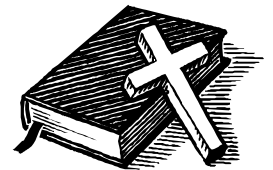
In the meantime, remember that conflict is not a dirty word, and that it is an integral part of who we are as members of this or any faith community. We are called by God to share in this struggle as part of God’s creative love.

Blessings and peace.

Pastor Paul

Lenten Study Series Continues

For those of you who missed the first or second of the five sessions, there’s still time to get in on a useful series on Monday evenings from 7 to 8:30 PM.



Lent is a time for adding spiritual practice, and this year Father Stephen and Pastor Paul are presenting a study on Stewardship. During the first session there was a balance of presented material and lively small group discussion. And since it was Valentine’s Day, people enjoyed some social time and eating special treats. “Come on down” on Monday evenings!

Moderator’s Note

Much is going well for our church right now. The Pastoral Search Committee has nearly completed the church culture document to be sent out to prospective pastors. The council has voted to name Betsy Shoup to serve on the council to replace Ron Evans. Thank you, Ron, for your year of service, and thank you, Betsy, for agreeing to serve.

Not all is well, though. As many of you know, we have not been able to balance our budget. The council is looking into ways to increase our income and decrease our expenditures. We have also asked the Joint Venture Board to look into ways to tighten its budget. At this time, we ask each of you to take a look at your pledge and prayerfully consider increasing it. You will receive a letter asking you to do just that, and I hope many of you are able to do so.

Please also consider joining eScrip, which is considerably easier to use than paper scrip. You register your grocery store cards and credit and debit cards with eScrip, and then when you use the cards at participating merchants, the merchant makes a contribution to the church. So, you spend money that you need to spend anyway, and the church receives a donation.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Melanie Click
AVUCC Moderator



Search Committee Report

We have completed a step along the way to a new pastor. Our Local Church Profile is complete, and a copy is available in the church office for your convenience.

We have also received our first batch of Pastoral Profiles for pastors who are seeking positions. Now we read and review. This step of the process will take 3 or 4 months to complete, with many profiles to consider carefully. We expect to see between 50 and 100 profiles of ministers seeking positions. If any of you have candidates you would like to see considered, by all means suggest that they send their

resume to the NCNC office with a note that they would like to be considered by AVUCC.

Do take a look at the AVUCC profile in the church office, and if you have any questions, call Sandy Baldwin or send her an email at dsbald@pacbell.net.

Treasurer's Report **2005 Budget**

As many of you are already aware, we are experiencing a significant budget problem this year. We have received pledges of a little over \$130,000. Even after making a number of cutbacks in our spending plans, we are still looking at a budget deficit of over \$25,000. Our fixed operating expenses such as salaries, bond repayments, and UCC obligations are more than the income that we can reasonably expect. This leaves no additional funds for outreach and church programs. Although there is cash in our accounts to cover our expenses, we will have to curtail our programs and cannot continue to run a large deficit for long.

The Council has been reviewing the shortfall in income, which is all due to fewer than expected pledges. The number of pledging units is significantly down from last year. The biggest factor in this reduction is that we have lost older members, most of whom moved out of the area.

One item of special concern is that this budget is premised on lower salary expenses for our interim minister. Pastor Paul is with us as a part-time employee. As we look for a new permanent minister, we are looking for someone who is full time, and this will push our salary costs higher.

In the coming weeks, the Council will be reaching out to the congregation to see what we can do to increase our income this year.

Ken Phillips
AVUCC Treasurer

Church Council Notes

This is a summary of the preliminary minutes from the AVUCC Council Meeting held on Feb. 8, 2005.

New At-Large Council Member

Betsy Shoup was unanimously approved to fill the council vacancy created when Ron Evans regrettably resigned in early January. Betsy will be serving as council liaison in the area of technology/website.

Pastoral Search Committee Report

Sandy Baldwin presented the Local Church Profile that the committee prepared based on the congregational surveys conducted last fall. This document will be used to present information about AVUCC to prospective pastoral candidates. Copies will be available to interested church members through the church office.

Treasurer's Report and Old Business

The council received a report on pledges and learned that the number of pledge units has gone down while expenses have not, resulting in a projected budget deficit for the year. Ken Phillips reviewed the budget line by line and some changes were proposed. The council decided to send a letter to members asking for an increase in pledges, to request reductions and belt-tightening by the JV Board, and to investigate fundraising. Budget approval was tabled pending these steps.

New Business

-Questions raised about Tabard Theatre by an AVUCC member will be investigated by Moderator Melanie Click, and the LRPC will continue to look towards establishing a safe environment for the church to hold dialogues on this and other controversial issues.

-Northern California Nevada Conference of the UCC will be holding its annual meeting in Asilomar May 19-22. Steve Coutinho will be one official delegate, and he will recruit one additional delegate from AVUCC.

*Carolyn Dingman
Church Recorder*

» 3 Thank You 3 »

Recognition and heartfelt thanks to all the members of the Caring and Outreach Committees! All are giving generously of their time and talent to coordinate the functions and activities of these committees.

Outreach Committee

Tom Gerber has been heading the Aluminum Can Drive for Habitat.

Robyn Dorsey continues to coordinate the Shelter Feedings.

Kathy Kisabeth has agreed to head the CROP Walk this year.

Caring Committee

Coordinators for February/March

Joan Okumura and *Mary Kingsley*

Coordinators for April and May

Jan Day and *Maureen Evans*

Thank you – you are all wonderful! Much gratitude, also, to all who participated in the committee events in 2004.

Both the Caring Committee and the Outreach Committee are in need of individuals to serve as chairpersons. Anyone interested in filling these two openings, please contact Melanie Click, Council moderator at 323-823-8283 or Bee Mania, Council Member-at-large at 377-2458.

Bee Mania

At-Large Council Member



CONDOLENCES . . .

To Sue Scaff and her family on the passing of her father, Rev. Dr. John von Rohr, on January 31st, in Portland, Oregon.

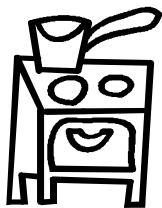
❖ **Beneficio Coffee** ❖

Effective March 1, 2005 the cost per bag of Beneficio Coffee will increase by 75 cents to \$6.25. Several factors led to the increase. Primarily, coffee yields are down, causing prices to fluctuate, and transportation and shipping costs have risen significantly. In order to enable Beneficio to continue its mission of giving back to the farming communities in Costa Rica and the customers' organizations for outreach and giving opportunities, the increase was found to be necessary.

Beneficio thanks everyone who purchased its coffee and supported its mission during the first seven months of doing business. Every person who purchased the coffee has made a real difference toward helping accomplish the goal of returning 20% of the net profits to the farming communities in Costa Rica and an additional 10% net profit to the UCC "Our Churches' Wider Mission" Funds (OCWM).

It is anticipated that at least \$5,000 will be able to be given to Costa Rica and \$2,500 to OCWM at the end of the first fiscal year in June 2005.

Please contact Phyllis Chai at 226-7150 or via e-mail, hidong@pacbell.net, to order "Beneficio". Thank you!



Shelter Feeding

Thank you to Robyn Dorsey who paid for the February meal at the two downtown shelters that AVUCC serves each month.

It has been suggested that others may feel led to provide funds for a portion of the groceries needed for our church's monthly shelter feedings. The following items, with the approximate cost, are usually bought each month:

Turkey hot dogs	\$22.00
Milk	\$11.00
Cole Slaw	\$21.00
Baked Beans	\$29.00
Jello	\$ 6.00
Cole Slaw Dressing	\$ 9.00
Margarine	\$ 1.00
Other (ketchup, mustard, onions, brown sugar)	\$ 3.00
Monthly total:	\$102.00

Can you help with this longstanding ministry of our church? If you feel that you can/want to help, please contact Phyllis Chai at 226-7150. Thank you!



JOINT VENTURE MUSIC

The **Joint Venture Children's Choir** continues to rehearse on

Saturday mornings from 10:00-10:45 in the Choir Room. We have 10 enthusiastic singers-learners (Pre-School through grade 4), and would welcome more. They did a beautiful job at AVUCC and ECA services on February 6, Transfiguration Sunday.

We are now preparing music for the Easter season, as well as learning scales, singing technique, and popular songs that are no longer taught in the public schools. Joint Venture Churches' Director of Music John Leslie is leading the children temporarily, and is seeking adult volunteers to keep the group going in the future as volunteer directors or accompanists. Please consider this important ministry with our young people.

The **Joint Venture Handbell Choir** (the JV Ringers) continues to rehearse on Wednesdays from 4:45 pm to 6:00 pm. They provided 2 beautiful musical offerings at AVUCC and ECA services on February 6, Transfiguration Sunday. They also had a lovely "brown bag lunch" and field trip to see the feature film "The Phantom of the Opera" because they are preparing a medley from that musical score for a special exchange concert with the Handbell Choir from St. Stephen's in the Fields Episcopal Church.

Joint Venture Music, cont.

Due to the contemplative nature of Lent, the joyful sounds of the Bell Choir will not be heard in church again until the Easter season.

The **AVUCC Shalom Choir** and **ECA Adult Choir** had a great time singing with Earlene P. Davis and JOY on Sunday, February 20 at both AVUCC and ECA services. They are now



preparing combined music for the Joint Venture Maundy Thursday service, March 24, as well as special Palm Sunday and Easter anthems.

The **Joint Venture Festival Band** will gather soon to prepare instrumental accompaniment for Easter hymns. Instrumentalists who haven't yet played in this group are invited and encouraged to contact John Leslie (through the church office) to let him know of their interest and availability to play with this group.

The **AVUCC Flute Quartet** is preparing a special arrangement of "Amazing Grace" to be presented at AVUCC worship on March 6.

"God so loved the world that God gave God's only begotten Son . . ."

To God be all the glory!

John Leslie
JV Director of Music



Ballroom Dancing Instruction

Saturday, March 12

7:30 to 9:30 PM

Foxtrot and Rumba on the agenda!



Music Committee Report

2004 was an outstanding year for AVUCC music. Special thanks and appreciation should be given to Joint Venture Music Director John Leslie. Along with his ongoing contributions as our organist and choir director, he has expanded our music program to include the bell choir, a new children's choir, and a number of special musical presentations. Ask anyone who is involved with music in our congregation -- he is an inspiration and joy to work with.

Some highlights of the last year: *The Prodigal Son* musical skit during Sunday service in May; *South Pacific*, our summer musical and a delightful presentation involving a large portion of our congregation; Taize services in October (Breast Cancer Awareness Month) and December (Advent and World AIDS Day); Choir presentations: "The Last Words of David" (Randall Thompson) in November and "The Christmas Oratorio" (Saint-Saens), a Joint Venture offering; the JV Ringers special music presentations and hand bell playing with the choir; the saxophone quartet of the Hallelujah Chorus; the lovely flute quartet; the Children's Choir singing on Christmas Eve; and, of course, monthly Folk Sundays with the Folk Choir.



Special thanks also for the beautiful music by Joanne Specht on the organ, Phyllis Chai on the piano and Debbie Bemis on the flute. We are so fortunate to have them along with our other AVUCC instrumentalists: Sandy Baldwin, Patty Bergantz, Josh & Alex Bemis, Melanie Click, Carolyn Crowley, Robyn Dorsey, Pam Fischer, Kevin Haley, Rae Harris, John Hawes, John Noerenberg, Ken Phillips, Kathleen Quint, Terry & Betsy Shoup, Bob Thomas and Karen Smith. These names are listed to show the amazing number of musical instrument players we have in our congregation. Also thank you to Ann Myers from ECA (bassoon) and Tom Eschenfelder (drums), John Leslie's cousin, who have often played with us.

Thank you to the faithful singers of the Shalom Choir for an outstanding year. And special thanks to Betsy Dingman, Susan Gaydon, Gwen Hacker and of course Hi-Dong Chai for their inspired and inspiring solos.

In 2004, two generous anonymous donations were made for new choir robes for the Shalom Choir. They are now on order and will hopefully arrive for Easter Sunday. A much-needed digital piano was donated to our music program in loving memory of Ross Bergantz. Thank you again to all who contributed to our memorable 2004 musical program.

*John Hawes
AVUCC Music Committee*

"I Do! I Do!"

Gwen Hacker and John Leslie will co-star in this two-person musical comedy about marriage, family, and growing older. The show follows them through 50 years of marriage, beginning with their own marriage, then having professions, children, their children's marriages, and finally "down-sizing." The popular song "My Cup Runneth Over" was a big hit for Ed Ames.

Please see the list of props and costumes that are needed, and if you think you have something that can be borrowed please call John at the church or Gwen at 927-7476. Save Father's Day weekend, and plan to come spend a few hours celebrating life, love and marriage.

Long-Range Planning Committee

During 2004 the LRPC sadly bid good-bye and sent on their way two very dedicated and able committee "chairs." Bob Elo departed to live in Lincoln near the start of the year. The torch was passed to Pam Fischer who very kindly and willingly assumed leadership of the committee until June when she moved with her family to Washington State. We were grateful for her leadership as well as that of Bob.

With the leaving of Pam, Dennis Widman, another faithful committee member, agreed to fill the role of "chair." The committee welcomed several new

members during the year: David Hough, Bessie Hutchins, Tom Gerber, and Marilyn Graham.

The focus for the church during the third year of the 5-year plan has been "acceptance", of each other and of the variations of life. At the monthly meetings of the committee, there was much thoughtful discussion. Pertinent *Kalos* articles were written by committee/congregation members, and sermons were preached on the theme as well. An audio tape of the first of Henri Nouwen's talks at the NCNC Annual Meeting in 1985, "Intimacy", was played at an evening gathering at the church, followed by a discussion of its content. Subsequently, tapes of Nouwen's three talks were placed in the church library.

During the past year, the LRPC has found that the topic of "Acceptance" is far more complicated than originally thought. The committee feels that "Acceptance" is more than a thinking behavior; it is a "doing" behavior that involves such things as caring, forgiveness, and accepting forgiveness and change - all of the ingredients needed to move from a position of fear to a position of love. With that in mind, the committee will continue to brainstorm ideas related to that focus.



March Restaurant Night

Support the Youth Group Mission Trip!

Where: Chevy's

When: Wednesday, March 23, 2005
5- 9 PM

Come have dinner at Chevy's – or get it to go – and present the fundraising coupon available on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. **20%** of your charge will be donated to the senior high youth group to support them as they head to Montana to build houses for the elderly this summer!

Stay tuned for next month, when we head out for barbecue at Armadillo Willy's!

Thank you for your continuing support!

One great hour of sharing.

March 6, 2005
It's remarkable what your gift will do!

Pastoral Search and a Divided Congregation

One of the considerations in any pastoral search is finding the right match of outlook between the candidate pastor and the candidate congregation. Some pastoral candidates might prefer to serve an Open and Affirming congregation; others might not, and some might have no strong preference. But few welcome the prospect of serving a divided congregation that has difficulty discussing and resolving this and other challenging issues. After all, what congregation would want a pastor who had trouble discussing and dealing calmly and constructively with difficult issues?

In response to suggestions by the Long-Range Planning Committee, AVUCC adopted a multi-year long-range plan. One of that plan's principal thrusts has been to get the congregation to a better place for discussing issues that have been difficult and divisive in the past. LRPC is working with the AVUCC Council to plan a series of forums to discuss these difficult issues. Talking about difficult issues is challenging work, but work that is essential to attract the pastoral leadership we need and deserve.

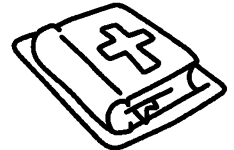
The long-range plan has five phases and was originally conceived of as encompassing five years. But that's not set in concrete and it may be appropriate to spend another year in the Acceptance phase, praying according to Romans 12:2,

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

David Hough, LRPC

Sunday School News

We will be forming a committee to plan our Vacation Bible School by the end of February. The curriculum follows the crew and stations format that we used last summer, and the theme is a Jerusalem market place. We need to plan the flow of the stations and decorations for VBS. If you are interested in helping, contact Katie McCormick at mac6558@comcast.net or 838-6143.



The Coming of Age ceremony will take place on March 6th for all 5th graders. There will be prayers and songs during this service where they will receive their own Bible. Please contact Katie by email if your fifth grader will be present.

The Sunday School teacher potluck dinner is coming up on February 26th at 6:00 at the McCormicks' home. Everyone who taught is invited, along with a guest.

Katie McCormick
JV Christian Education Director



Valentine Special Breakfast

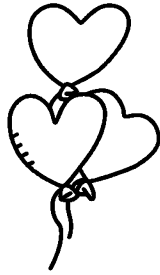
A lively, enthusiastic group of men and ladies gathered to celebrate our Annual Valentine Special Breakfast on February 12, 2005. The very large crowd was welcomed by our greeters as they chatted and socialized over fresh hot coffee and orange juice. Fellowship hall was transformed with red and white balloons and streamers, and the tables were decorated with red tablecloths and red and white carnation centerpieces. Special lighting created a wonderful mood for an extraordinary day. Our master of ceremonies, George Stone, settled the crowd to their tables, and Pastor Paul Smith-Telfer gave a very warm and moving prayer.

Our very talented cooks, all wearing white shirts, black bow ties, and black pants, displayed their

culinary skills by presenting a wonderful breakfast with an exotic egg dish, Polish sausages, delicious fried rice, rolls, pound cake, and fresh mixed fruits. The super service men provided excellent service by delivering coffee, juice, fruits, and food to the various tables.

After a sumptuous breakfast, M/C George Stone introduced Dick Okumura, who welcomed everyone and declared this a special day to honor all ladies present for doing outstanding "God's Work" on a regular basis. He also commended the men who worked so hard to make this event possible. Such outstanding men as Stan Yumen, Jim Ballek, Dick Shipe, Jim Wright, Jay Caturay, Dennis Elliot, Joe Dingman, Ken Phillips, Dave Harris, and Bill Allfrey, George Stone, Bob Thomas, all worked very well together, dedicated to doing God's Work.

Hi-Dong Chai, our very popular baritone singer and a great comedian sang "Because" with strength and vigor as he attained a thunderous ovation, accompanied by his wife Phyllis. The BIG BAND "Velvet Swing" swung into action with many great musical tunes of that era. Bob Tomas introduced the band leader, Frank Ybarra, who plays the saxophone and who is retiring from the band this year.



This wonderful 15-piece band with two great singers played some wonderful music with great rhythm and swing, such as Band Stand Boogie, Little Brown Jug, Basin Street Blues, What a Wonderful World, C-Jam Blues, All of Me, Leap Frog, All the Way (sung the way Frank Sinatra does), Love, and many more. The enthusiastic crowd gave them a standing ovation, and the Band reacted to their enthusiasm with music that was swinging and rocking with joy. It was a real musical treat, and the crowd enjoyed it to the fullest. Thank you very much, Bob, for bringing the Big Band - it was just terrific!

We all had a great day with wonderful food, great service, and fantastic entertainment as we honored our ladies on Valentines Day.

*Dick Okumura
Men's Group*

A Valentine For Our Ladies by Ed Grossmith

*Our church is like a ship of state
that sails serenely on;
Her crew a happy family makes
by sharing prayer and song.*

*Some like to think we men command,
such views I can't endorse.
It takes a kinder, gentler hand
to hold our ship on course.*

*On sunny seas or rocky shoals,
what e'er the fates decree,
the women guide us to our goals
with cheerful constancy.*

*And when thorough wintry storms men plow
and the gale's cruel voice is heard,
the only cure for a troubled brow
is a lady's kindly word.*

*When hungry guys in voices shrill
seek to curb their appetite,
we know whose culinary skill
redeems their famished plight.*

*In bright attire and well-groomed gown,
with jeweled rings and beads,
their sparkling eyes are the only crown
our ladies ever need.*

*Therefore men, my shipmates true,
let's raise our glass to praise
the fairest members of our crew
who brighten up our days.*



March Men's Breakfast

Join us March 5th at 8 AM for a super breakfast prepared by gourmet chefs and a very informative talk by Thomas C. Rose, D.D.S., M.S., on "The Latest in Permanent Tooth Replacement with Dental Implants." After this very informative talk, none of us will ever have to gum our food to death!

Brubeck Institute Sextet to Play Here Saturday, March 5

The Brubeck Institute Sextet performs in concert on Saturday, March 5, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. as part of the Almaden Adventures in the Arts concert series at Joint Venture Churches of Almaden.

Chosen from a pool of high school musicians of staggering abilities, the Brubeck Institute Sextet is a talented cross section of the top 18-19 age players from across the country. These young artists are part of a small and exclusive group who possess a love for jazz and an understanding of and dedication to the art form that belies their years.

They are the future of the music and through the Brubeck Institute and its outreach programs they will pass on their deep appreciation to other young people, helping to develop and ensure a future for the music.

The 2004-2005 Fellows of the Brubeck Institute Jazz Sextet are Shawn McGinty from Missouri City, Texas on trumpet; Dominic Thiroux of Chatsworth, California on bass, Hayden Hawkins of Houston, Texas on drums, and Joshua Gallagher of Eau Claire, Wisconsin on piano. Returning for their second year are Scott McGinty of Missouri City, Texas on tenor saxophone and Mark Zaleski of Boylston, Massachusetts on alto saxophone. Mark has previously performed with Joint Venture Churches Music Director John Leslie.

Located on the campus of the University of the Pacific in Stockton, the Brubeck Institute is a living archive -- a unique place and experience where jazz and contemporary music are studied, performed, composed, improvised, and brought to the world. Although it is for everyone, the Institute focuses on young people, developing artists and audiences for the future and enriching lives in the process.

University of the Pacific alumni Dave and wife of 60 years Iola Brubeck (class of 1942) established the Institute in conjunction with UOP in 2000 to preserve,

promote, and pass on jazz's rich legacy to future generations. A rare combination of formal and informal, university and street, artist and audience, the Institute is the realization of Dave and Iola's lifelong devotion to music, education, and humanity, created to nourish tomorrow's players and listeners.



The mission of the Institute is to build upon Dave Brubeck's legacy. Its philosophy regarding musical styles is one of inclusivity, reflecting the exploratory spirit and social values of the Institute's namesake, and involving jazz, contemporary classical music, and interdisciplinary education in a variety of subject areas such as ethnic studies, philosophy, and sociology. At the heart of it all is a leaven of the humanities, civil rights, and social justice, values for which Dave Brubeck, now 84, has dedicated his life.

The Brubeck Institute Sextet will perform in the sanctuary of the church. Tickets are \$15 advance and will call/\$20 at the door for adults and \$8 advance and will call/\$10 at the door for students with ID. Childcare will be provided. To get on the will-call list, or for more information, please call the church office at 268-0243.

"A Little Bit of Italy"

Enjoy a delightful pairing of
food and wine . . . delectable
antipasto. . . delicious pasta
. . . music divine.

~

Saturday evening,
April 30, 2005
Fellowship Hall

~

"Che Bella Notte"!

SHYGS Activities

Senior High Youth Group

Our SHYGS had a busy February with a great ski trip to Dodge Ridge (see the article by Jon Mills), the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, a bake sale during an Almaden in the Arts program, and two meeting nights. We talked about gossip - why do we do it, how it affects our relationships, and when is it ok to break a confidence. It was interesting to note how many times our youth hear adults gossiping!

We also had Rocki Kramer, the director of the Almaden Valley Counseling Service, come and let us ask questions about the signals our friends may give when they're in trouble - do they mean it when they say they're going to run away or commit suicide, what does it mean if a friend cuts themselves, and what should we do in any of these situations. AVCS is a wonderful resource for teens and their families!

SHYGS Calendar of events

- March 5** Cosmic Bowling - Meet at church 6:30; bowling at 8; bring \$20. (Sat.)
- March 12** Skills Training for Mission Trip Participants- (Sat.) Mandatory. (Watch for a message from Robin-this date may change by the time the Shape and Kalos come out).
- March 19** Catacombs-overnight at church (Sat.)
- March 23** Dinner night fundraiser at Chevy's
- March 27** Easter Sunday-Let's all worship together!
- April 2** Flea Market-Mandatory for all going on (Sat.) Mission Trip. (See Robin with conflicts.)
- April 3** Talk Sheet Topic: "Holy Spirit"

"Never place a period where God has placed a comma" -Gracie Allen

’

**God
is still
speaking,**

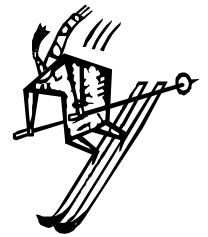
Pancake Supper

The pancake dinner was a big success! Our youth decorated with Mardi Gras color, and they did a great job cooking and serving the delicious dinner. Thank you to Mary McPherson for overseeing this event, to Amy Griffith for doing the shopping, Robin and Terry Root for clean up, and to everyone who attended.

Youth Groups on Slopes

Twenty-nine energetic youth spent the first weekend in February on the slopes at Dodge Ridge. Cabins at MiWuk and Long Barn provided rather plush accommodations relative to last year.

Saturday was a spectacular sunny day on the mountain. Snow conditions were a little crusty in the shade and slushy in the overly sunny spots—but there were good skiing and boarding runs to be found. Lunch on Saturday included hamburgers, hot dogs, and even birthday cake. Before returning to the slopes there were the building of the snow forts and the obligatory snow ball fights. After a good day on the mountain everyone's hunger was satisfied at dinner with Chicken Tetrazzini at the cabin in Long Barn.



That night SHYGs entertained themselves with a lively game of charades that the underclassmen won: George W. Bush was not deciphered by the upperclassmen. At MiWuk the Junior High spent the evening immersed in Nickelodeon and video games.

Sunday was mostly overcast, which made the snow conditions better but visibility and temperatures much lower. At the end of another fun but tiring day, most traveled home listening to the Super Bowl wondering, with the clock winding down, why the Eagles wasted so much time in their final scoring drive.

Thanks to those brave adults who accompanied the youth - you all displayed the patience and effort that these trips always require. Plans are already underway for the 2006 trip, and personally I'm torn between missing the Super Bowl again or enjoying less traffic and making great time when driving back to SJ.

Jon Mills

Football fan and avid skier
Outreach For '05:
Tacky Luncheon and Really Nice Fashion Show
May 10th

Mark your calendars: May 10, Tuesday at 11:30 A.M. will be this year's TL&FS! This is a joint ECA-AVUCC event.

This year all the donations that come in for the Tacky Luncheon and Fashion Show will go to Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) at West Valley College. Nancy Romer, an ECA member who is Director of EOPS, describes below what this program does:

EOPS (Extended Opportunity Programs and Services) was legislated into being in 1969 by then Senator Alfred Alquist as the bill creator. It is a California state-funded program which is operational on all 109 community college campuses in the state. There are strict mandated guidelines which all programs must use to determine student eligibility and to provide support services to students. Program eligibility is based on financial information (low income) and educational disadvantage.

West Valley College EOPS provides services for 350 +/- students each semester. The students' ages range between 17 and 79. We have many single parents. Students come from many different ethnic backgrounds (Persian, Vietnamese, Hispanic, Chinese, African -American, Russian, Bosnian, Caucasian, to name a few). They are all the poorest of the poor and have incredible barriers which could stand in their way of academic success. However, for the most part, our students are focused academically and appreciate the extra help we give them to be successful.

The support we provide includes intensive academic, personal and career counseling, funds to help purchase books, transportation help in the form of bus passes or gas cards, small grants, helpful life experience workshops, food coupons, extensive referral help to find housing and child care, fee waivers for college applications, a computer/homework lab, and a family-like atmosphere in our office.

We know that our students come to campus hungry.

Some of the funds from the wonderful "Tacky Luncheon" will purchase food coupons for our students to buy meals on campus. In addition, the funds will give the EOPS staff the flexibility to help students with extreme emergencies when they arise. Right now we know that we have several homeless students. Your donation will help us assist them. Recently, a student needed bus fare to travel to her dying mother's side. (The staff donated for this from their pockets.) So as you can understand, the funds you raise will go directly to students in need, students who want to succeed but just need some extra help to get there.

I am passionate about the work we do in EOPS. As a program, we truly have the opportunity to make a difference in these students' lives. I am always reminded about the story of the young boy walking along a beach which is filled with sea stars. One at a time, he is throwing them back into the ocean to save their life. A man asks why he is doing this when there are so many. The young boy's remark is that it makes a difference to the one going into the water. EOPS is making a difference, one student at a time.

Yours in Christ,
Nancy Romer

ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Sacred Heart ♥ Community Service

Give one morning or afternoon a week to make a difference in the lives of working poor families.

Louise's Pantry: Volunteer in an energetic, fun-filled place sorting, packing, and distributing food with a smile!

Gracie's Clothes Closet – Help receive, sort, and hang clothing donations. Assist customers, and organize clothing displays.

Welcome Center – Have a gift for hospitality? Help low-income families fill out applications for food, clothing, and other services. Enter applications into the database and provide information and referral.

1381 South First Street at Alma
San Jose, CA 95110
www.sacredheartcommunityservice.org

LORRAINE'S LOVING CARE

Care for dogs, kitties, birds, lizzies
Mail pick-up and watering when you're away
Special home and garden projects

Experienced * Excellent References
408-375-5840 or lorrainezeller@earthlink.net

Ladies Luncheons

Ladies luncheons are being planned for the women of AVUCC and ECA on the third Thursday of each month with places to visit and shop. Each month there will be a sign-up for the lunches in Fellowship Hall. Guests are always welcome!

March 17 - Scharffen Berger Chocolate Factory in Berkeley – 1 hour tour and lunch at a restaurant close by the factory. Meet at church to carpool at 9:30 am.

April 21 – Aquí Restaurant in Willow Glen – meet at 11 am at church to carpool. The main street in Willow Glen has shopping for those who have the time.



May 19 – Allied Arts in Menlo Park – lunch and shopping.

June 16 – Hawgs Seafood Restaurant in downtown San Jose. After lunch, the Quilt Museum is close by for those interested.

July 21 – The Slanted Door Restaurant in the Ferry Building, San Francisco. There are shops to browse.

August 18 - Santana Row – Straits Restaurant. Shopping for those the have time.

September 15 – Bahama Billy's Restaurant, Carmel Valley at the Barnyard shopping area.

October 20 – Los Gatos, restaurant TBA.

November 17 – Stanford Shopping Center - TBA.

December 15 – TBA.



We get mail...

InnVision
San Jose, CA

Dear Friends at AVUCC,

Happy new year to you and your family! Thank you for your generous donation of \$200.00 to InnVision. Your financial support ensures the continuation of vital programs for the homeless in our community.

InnVision helps transform thousands of lives each year as the leading provider of homeless housing and services at 20 sites from San Jose to Menlo park. Everyday, over 1,000 homeless individuals and families pass through our doors and receive the help they need. With your support, we are able to provide food and shelter to those in transition – as well as essential supportive services including counseling, healthcare, hob training, and child development. This comprehensive approach to homelessness encourages self-reliance and stability leading to independent living.

Thank you again for your help. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Warmest regards,

Christine Burroughs
Chief Executive Officer of InnVision

...

*InnVision is one of the programs
YOU support through
pledges and donations
to AVUCC.*

...

What is the United Church of Christ?

The United Church of Christ came into being in 1957 with the union of two Protestant denominations: the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches. Each of these was, in turn, the result of a union of two earlier traditions.

■The *Congregational Churches* were organized when the Pilgrims of Plymouth Plantation (1620) and the Puritans of the Massachusetts Bay Colony (1629) acknowledged their essential unity in the Cambridge Platform of 1648.

■The *Reformed Church in the United States* traced its beginnings to congregations of German settlers in Pennsylvania founded from 1725 on. Later, its ranks were swelled by Reformed immigrants from Switzerland, Hungary and other countries.

■The *Christian Churches* sprang up in the late 1700s and early 1800s in reaction to the theological and organizational rigidity of the Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist churches of the time.

■The *Evangelical Synod of North America* traced its beginnings to an association of German Evangelical pastors in Missouri. This association, founded in 1841, reflected the 1817 union of Lutheran and Reformed churches in Germany.

Characteristics of the United Church of Christ

■*Christian*. By our very name, the United Church of Christ, we declare ourselves to be part of the Body of Christ—the Christian church. We continue the witness of the early disciples to the reality and power of the crucified and risen Christ, Jesus of Nazareth.

■*Reformed*. All four denominations arose from the tradition of the Protestant Reformers: We confess the authority of one God. We affirm the primacy of the Scriptures, the doctrine of justification by faith, the priesthood of all believers, and the principle of Christian freedom. We celebrate two sacraments: baptism and the Lord's Supper (also called Holy Communion or the Eucharist).

■*Congregational*. The basic unit of the United Church of Christ is the congregation. Members of each congregation covenant with one another and with God as revealed in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit. These congregations, in turn, exist in covenantal relationships with one another to form larger structures for more effective work. Our covenanting emphasizes trustful relationships rather than legal agreements.

■*Evangelical*. The primary task of the church is the proclamation of the Gospel or (in Greek) evangel. The Gospel literally means the "Good News" of God's love revealed with power in Jesus Christ. We proclaim this Gospel by word and deed to individual persons and to society. This proclamation is the heart of the *leiturgia*, the "work of the people" in daily and Sunday worship. We gather for the worship of God, and through each week, we engage in the service of humankind.

The members, congregations, associations, conferences, General Synod, and covenanted ministries are free in relation to the world. We affirm that the authority of God as revealed in Jesus Christ and interpreted with the aid of the Holy Spirit stands above and judges all human culture, institutions and laws. But we recognize our calling both as individuals and as the church to live in the world:

- To proclaim in word and action the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- To work for reconciliation and the unity of the broken Body of Christ.
- To seek justice and liberation for all.

This is the challenge of the United Church of Christ.

*"That they may
all be one..."*

March 2005 at AVUCC and Joint Venture Churches

Tuesday, March 01, 2005	7:30 pm	JV Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 02, 2005	9:30 am	Quest Women's Group
	4:45 pm	Bell Choir
	6:30 pm	AVUCC Folk Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Confirmation Class
	7:30 pm	AVUCC Choir Rehearsal
Friday, March 04, 2005	7:30 pm	Bridge Group
Saturday, March 05, 2005	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast
	10:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 pm	Concert - Brubeck Institute Sextet
Sunday, March 06, 2005	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
	10:10 am	Coming of Age Ceremony
Monday, March 07, 2005	7:00 pm	Duplicate Bridge
	7:00 pm	Lenten Study Series
Tuesday, March 08, 2005	7:00 pm	UCC Council
Wednesday, March 09, 2005	9:30 am	Quest Women's Group
	4:45 pm	Bell Choir
	7:00 pm	Confirmation Class
	7:30 pm	AVUCC Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, March 10, 2005	11:30 am	Christian Ed. Committee
Friday, March 11, 2005	6:00 pm	Jr. High Dinner and Meeting
Saturday, March 12, 2005	10:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 pm	Ballroom Dance
Sunday, March 13, 2005	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
	10:10 am	Sunday School
Monday, March 14, 2005	7:00 pm	Lenten Study Series
Tuesday, March 15, 2005	4:00 pm	AVUCC Shelter Food Service
Wednesday, March 16, 2005	9:30 am	Quest Women's Group
	11:00 am	JV Staff Meeting
	4:45 pm	Bell Choir
	7:00 pm	Confirmation Class
Thursday, March 17, 2005	11:30 am	Ladies Luncheon
	7:30 pm	AVUCC Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 pm	JV Book Club
	8:00 pm	JV Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, March 19, 2005	10:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	6:00 pm	JHYG and SHYG Catacombs Overnight
Sunday, March 20, 2005	PALM SUNDAY	
	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
	10:10 am	Sunday School
Tuesday, March 22, 2005	7:30 pm	AVUCC Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, March 23, 2005	9:30 am	Quest Women's Group
	4:00 pm	SHYGS Night at Chevys
Thursday, March 24, 2005	6:00 pm	Jr. High Dinner and Meeting
	6:30 pm	JV Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 pm	Maundy Thursday JV Service
Friday, March 25, 2005	12:00 pm	Good Friday ECA Service
	1:00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday, March 26, 2005	10:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, March 27, 2005	EASTER SUNDAY	
	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
	10:10 am	Sunday School and Easter Egg Hunt
Wednesday, March 30, 2005	9:30 am	Quest Women's Group
	4:45 pm	Bell Choir
	7:30 pm	AVUCC Choir Rehearsal

Almaden Valley United Church of Christ
6581 Camden Avenue
San Jose, CA 95120
(408) 268-0243

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 37
New Almaden, CA
95042

KALOS – March 2005

KALOS Deadline for the April 2005 Issue

The deadline for the March issue of the Kalos is Tuesday, March 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!

Ron Evans	03/02
Sandy Baldwin	03/03
Kevan Anderson	03/04
Don Lucas	03/07
Danielle Evans	03/09
Athena Ballek	03/11
Paul Countinho	03/12
Kristie Bemis	03/17
Harry Hall	03/20
Gwen Anderson	03/29
Morpha Caturay	03/30
Stan Yumen	03/30

Happy Anniversary!

George and Joanne Stone	03/17
Ed and Penny Rasala	03/27