

AVUCC KALOS

Newsletter for the
Almaden Valley
United Church of Christ

Interim Pastor's Reflections

There are times when I find myself wishing that I had a crystal ball that would tell me what lies ahead. The crystal ball would answer such questions as how much longer will I be the Interim Pastor at this church? Or, Where will I be serving as Interim this time next year? I'm sure that some of you may have similar questions as: When will the new pastor arrive here? Will I like him or her? Will she or he like me? Will they be a good preacher? Will they bring lots of new people into our fellowship?

Well – I don't have a crystal ball, and even if I did, I'm not sure I would want it to answer all my questions. We don't live by crystal balls. As Christians, we live by the sustaining grace of a loving God. We trust (we profess) that God will answer most of our questions in God's own time. We trust the work of the Search Committee as they have sought God's guidance throughout the search process. We also trust our own faithfulness as our interim journey continues.

This may sound as if all we have to do is "trust" and that God will provide, and soon our new pastor will be here, the sanctuary will be overflowing with new and energetic folk. Well – not quite. One of the questions that churches have the opportunity to ask themselves during the interim time is what kind of church are we? And, an accompanying question: What kind of church do we want to become?

We need to trust God, but we also need to do the work that God sets before us. Who we are and who we want to become – as a church – are critical questions that God sets before any church. We seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit, but I've found that the Spirit works best when we have done our homework and prepare for the Spirit's leading. This doesn't mean that whatever we come up with is necessarily the Spirit's work. It does mean that we need to ask the questions, reflect on what is possible, what kind of resources are available, what work can we be doing, and what both our history and our present circumstances present as challenges and opportunities, and be prepared for God's Spirit to speak in ways that may surprise and even astonish us.

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April 2005

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KALOS

Monthly Newsletter

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Moderator's Notes

Happy Easter everyone. I am grateful for the generosity so many of you have shown in response to the council's call for financial help. A number of you have increased your pledges and several have submitted new pledges to help the church meet its financial obligations for the year.

Now, with a budget passed, the council can spend more time on other issues facing the church. Our next project is making a decision about whether to continue to allow Tabard Theatre to use our facility. We need to hear from the congregation about your opinions in this matter, so we are going to have a moderated discussion about it in the next few months. This is a controversial issue for us, and I hope that many of you will participate in the discussion. Controversy and conflict do not have to be a bad thing for our fellowship. We can grow if we will treat each other with respect and listen to each other's opinions with grace and understanding.

There are good times ahead. I hear that the ballroom dance classes were fun and well attended. I look forward to "A Little Bit of Italy" on April 30 and the Luau in September. Save the date for our Semi-annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 12.

Many blessings to you and your families in the Easter season.

Melanie Click
AVUCC Moderator

Interim Pastor's Reflections, continued

As the months continue, and the unknown becomes known, or at least clearer, we can begin to understand who we are and who we are becoming. It is also important to recognize that this is a task that is never quite finished. We may spend lots of energy and time in determining who we are and what we wish to become, but time and circumstances change, and so do we. What we were yesterday is not what we are today. What we may become tomorrow is not who we may be next month or next year.

A church consultant tells the story about when her washing machine quit working. She was on the phone with the repairperson and found herself saying that she was the mother of three young children and because of that she needed immediate service. After she hung up, she realized that she had sort of fudged just a little bit. She was, in fact, the mother of three children, but they were all in middle and

senior high school. She was appealing to the repairperson's sympathy as she portrayed a "house-full- of dirty-laundry-with-three small-children-clinging-to-her-knee. She goes on to say that a moment of reflection enabled an "AHA" experience. There was a gap between her perceived identity and her true identity.

So – we all struggle with who we really are. Churches should spend time and energy – at least once every three to five years asking the questions about identity. What answers we find will surprise us.

Blessings and Peace,
Paul

Church Council Notes

From March. 8, 2005

Treasurer's Report and Budget: AVUCC Treasurer Ken Phillips reported that income and expenses for January and February have been on target and that AVUCC's cash flow is in good shape. Thanks to increased pledges from a few families, the 2005 budget picture has improved, and the deficit is currently projected to be \$12,600. It is hoped that additional pledges will come in to cover the gap, and the Council has approved the 2005 budget with plans to assess and revise as necessary along the way.

Old Business:

- Official AVUCC meeting dates were set: Sunday, June 12th for the Semi-Annual Meeting, Sunday, Nov. 13th for the Annual Meeting.
- NCNC Annual Conference – Steve Coutinho and Pastor Paul will attend. Other members are welcome to attend this May event in Asilomar.

New Business:

- Church administrator Lorraine Zeller will be leaving at the end of March, and the Council agreed that this position should become a JV position filled by one person.
- The Council recommended to JV that the Youth Group budget carry over from year to year so that the youth can raise money for future activities. Their program year runs September to September, while the official JV year ends 12/31.

Council Notes, continued

- The Tabard Theatre group has requested a renewal of the agreement with JV, and the Council discussed how to proceed with decision-making on this divisive issue. Advantages and disadvantages were discussed, and it was decided that a time-line and plan need to be developed. ECA and JV will be advised that AVUCC is not ready to proceed at the current time.
- AVUCC's 40th Anniversary will be celebrated this fall.

Carolyn Dingman
Church Recorder

Interested in Membership?

Are you interested in learning more about Almaden Valley United Church of Christ and even about possibly becoming a member? New members are received into our church in the Spring and the Fall. If you are interested in either becoming a member or simply learning more about this church, please speak to Pastor Paul following 9:00 a.m. worship, or call him at the church, 268-0243. We will set a time and place for an inquirer's class and a Sunday when new members may be received that is mutually agreeable to all.

Paul

Outreach

Make A Difference In Our Church Programs

There is always a need for extra help in our church – serving on a committee, teaching a class, singing in the choir, lay reading, ushering, greeting. It takes a commitment from each of our members to keep things running smoothly. Each of us has limited time, limited resources, limited energy. But there is one way you can make a difference in the life of our church in four easy steps. You can use eScrip.

- (1) Complete the eScrip mail-in application form and mail it in, or log on to www.eScrip.com and go to Sign Up. See Betsy Shoup for applications.
- (2) Designate Almaden Valley United Church of Christ to receive contributions.
- (3) Register your grocery club cards, debit/credit cards, and retail credit cards.
- (4) Use your registered cards frequently – you will automatically earn money for our church.

Registration is easy and takes only a few minutes. eScrip will not sell or rent any personally identifying information about program participants to any third parties. Purchase activity is not shared between program merchants. Purchase item detail is not sent to eScrip. All information sent to www.escrip.com is encrypted, protecting against disclosure to third parties.

When you use any of your registered cards with a participating merchant partner (and there are LOTS of them) the merchant makes a contribution that goes to AVUCC. You will receive a statement that shows all of your eScrip earnings and purchases for the month.

If you would like an eScrip mail in application or additional information, see Betsy Shoup or ask in the church office. You can make a difference in funding our church programs without putting an extra dent in your monthly budget

Betsy Shoup
AVUCC Council
Member-At-Large

Crop Walk

The Crop Walk will be April 24 for the South Bay. The one mile, 5k or 10k walk is mapped out around the Rose Garden area. Each year friends and neighbors, churches and school groups across the U.S. join in nearly 2,000 local community organized interfaith Crop Walks to support the worldwide programs of Church World Service with local organizations around the globe. Families, dogs, strollers, wheelchairs and wagons are encouraged to come.

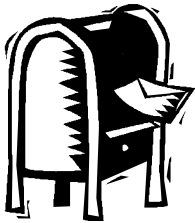
Seventy-five percent of the proceeds go to shelter families and communities affected by disaster – Florida hurricanes, South East Asia tsunami, and California floods and mudslides; aid refugees – in the Sudan/Darfur region, Afghanistan, and through regional resettlement affiliates in the U.S.; support sustainable self-help development projects – equipping schools, building homes, training micro-enterprise entrepreneurs, digging wells, providing tools and seeds and farming equipment; address the root causes of poverty around the world.

Twenty-five percent of the proceeds stay within the local community. This year local agencies supported by the Crop Walks in the Bay Area include food pantries, emergency shelters and food banks (Second Harvest Food Bank and Sacred Heart Community Services).

Outreach, continued

Please get your walking shoes ready so you can join the walk or plan to sponsor some of the walkers who will be seeking your donations. We hope you will support this great cause!

Kathy Kisabeth



We get mail...

**Second Harvest Food Bank
San Jose, CA**

Dear AVUCC,

On behalf of the staff, Board of Directors, and the thousands of individuals the Food Bank serves each month, thank you for your contribution to the 2004 Holiday Food Drive. Your generosity is truly making a difference in the lives of those in need in our community.

In this year of economic challenge and increased need for services, Food Drive donors in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties collected a total of 1.7 million pounds of food and \$3.9 million. It was your hard work that made the Holiday Food Drive a success again this year.

By strategically partnering with 750 agencies and distribution sites throughout the Peninsula and South Bay, the Food Bank makes the greatest effort to ensure food assistance is available to hungry children, families, and seniors in our community. Your donation of **456 pounds of food** will help us continue to provide food assistance to an average of 163,500 people each month throughout the year. Many people made this success possible in so many different ways. Please extend our thanks to everyone who helped.

Sincerely,
David A Sandretto
Executive Director

*Second Harvest
is one of the programs
YOU support at AVUCC.*

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Thank you for contributions to the recent yearly One Great Hour of Sharing offering which totaled \$912.00. If you did not yet get to contribute and would like to, please write checks to AVUCC with "OGHS" in the memo section, and place them in either the offering plate or Betsy Shoup's box at church or mail them to the church office.

Shelter Feeding

We have been blessed with contributions from five people/couples toward purchasing groceries for the monthly shelter feeding. Any others wishing to contribute to this outreach ministry please write checks to AVUCC with "Shelter Feeding" in the memo section; checks may be placed in either the offering plate or Betsy Shoup's box at church or mailed to the church office. Thank you!

We are grateful for cookies baked for the shelters by the group of youngsters calling themselves the "Sugar Monsters," usually organized by Maureen Evans. Unfortunately, the group is not able to continue with that ministry at this time, and about 12 dozen cookies are needed each month. Anyone who is willing/able to donate cookies, please contact Robyn Dorsey: 323-9230.

Beneficio Coffee

Please contact Phyllis Chai (226-7150) to order Beneficio Coffee (\$6.25 per 12 oz. bag), the "more-than-fair-trade" coffee which benefits the Costa Rican farmers and the natives of that country through the UCC "OCWM" (Our Church's Wider Mission). Thank you!

Phyllis Chai

Come Check Out the Sparkling Kitchen: On March 9th a crew of hard working ladies from ECA and AVUCC got together and completed a clean up in the kitchen from the top down. It needed some tender loving care!! Many thanks to Betty Benson, Betty Consorte, Robyn Dorsey, Amy Griffith, Mary Leal, Carol MacDonald, Mel Stonehocker, and Jackie Whitlock and also to Eric McCormick and David Mastriani who took on the job of cleaning the stove.

We hope all groups using the kitchen will try to keep the clean look.

Carol MacDonald and Jackie Whitlock
JV Kitchen Liaisons

Events!

This Joint is Jumping! (Don't Forget to Reserve Your Rooms)

This is a reminder: YOU NEED TO SCHEDULE YOUR ROOMS IN ADVANCE if you want to ensure you have a place for your activities. Make sure to include time and rooms for set up/decorating and clean up, any rehearsals, or preliminary use leading up to your main event.

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 leave it with the office manager. You may also email your calendar request to office@eca-sj.org or office@avucc.org.

Our JV Churches facility use schedule (calendar) is posted on the wall by the mail boxes and is updated every 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.

So, church leaders, don't you *be* leaving those calendar request forms alone in your mailboxes. USE THEM!

Thank you very kindly,
The Church Office

Men's Breakfast, April 2, 2005: Subject: Strokes

On April 2, the speaker will be Dr. H. Sachdev MD, Neurologist, Director of Good Samaritan Hospital Stroke Program. Good Sam is a nationally certified "Stroke Center" providing 24 hour stroke coverage with a skilled team of physicians, nurses and staff and with CT SCAN and radiology. When diagnosis and treatment is instituted within three hours, complete recovery is possible. More than 750,000 people die from stroke and it is the third leading cause of death and the number one cause of disability in the USA. With a proper team approach, cure is possible, as exemplified with our Mayor and past Vice Mayor. Time is of essence, and you must choose the right hospital. Dr. Sachdev will be updating his talk to us from last year. Ladies are invited to the talk at 8:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

Bob Green

Tacky Luncheon Coming Soon!

On Tuesday, May 10, at 11:30 a.m. we will once again present our Tacky Luncheon. It will be followed by a very untacky fashion show presented by the Unicorn Thrift Shop featuring models from both congregations.

The price is \$10 per person, and the proceeds will all be donated to West Valley College EOPS program, which assists poorer students at West Valley. The Unicorn Thrift shop benefits Eastfield Ming Quong which provides services for families in need. By participating in the event, you can help two very worthwhile charities and, of course, have a great time showing off your very tackiest look.

So remember, dress in your tacky worst, bring a salad for six, and prepare to have fun and contribute to the community as well.

Any questions, or to RSVP, call Sandie Mueller at 997-1642 or Mary Leal at 268-0230.

Sandie and Mary

A Little Bit of Italy

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

Saturday evening,

April 30, 2005

6 - 9:30 PM

Fellowship Hall

\$15/person

Please sign up by April 17. Any questions, contact Janey Sanders at 997-0875.

Thank you,
Janey

Events, continued

Almaden Valley Counseling Service Home Tour

The Almaden Valley Counseling Service is holding its biannual Home Tour on Sunday, April 10th from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. You are invited to join in all the fun which will include visiting four homes, enjoying flowers by Bloomsters, boutique items, refreshments by Charlie's Cheesecakes and Starbucks, and entertainment by local students. Proceeds will benefit this non-profit organization which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year and has roots in our church community (see below). Tickets are \$25 in advance (\$30 the day of the event, if still available) and can be purchased at the AVCS office or by sending a check, along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the office at: Almaden Valley Counseling Service, 6529 Crown Blvd., Suite D, San Jose, CA 95120. For more information, please call (408) 997- 0200.

In 1980, members of the Joint Venture Churches of Almaden, with funding from the Almaden Valley Women's Club, founded the Almaden Valley (Youth) Counseling Service. The word Youth was removed in 2000 to reflect the broader population being served. The agency's services include the *Counselor-on-Campus* program – now at twenty local public schools – parenting classes, anger education and conflict resolution workshops, and in-office counseling for all ages. Its newest service, the *Geriatric Advisory Program*, was launched in 2000 to educate and advise adult children and elders on aging issues and to provide individual and family consultation. AVCS opened its doors in the basement of our facility with one part-time director/counselor. Today AVCS is located next to the Almaden Valley Post Office with a staff of over 35 people and a 17-member governing board of directors. Roberta Verderico recently completed her internship at AVCS and is now a licensed Marriage Family Therapist. Numerous members of this church have served on the Board over the years and some were founding members. Maryke Williams, Robin Root, and Gwen Hacker currently serve on the board.

Latin Guitar Group *Incendio* to perform at Joint Venture Churches on Saturday, April 2

Instrumental guitar group *Incendio* performs in concert at Joint Venture Churches on Saturday, April 2nd at 7:30 p.m. as part of our Almaden Adventures in the Arts concert series.

Comprised of Jim Stubblefield on guitar, Jean-Pierre Durand on guitar and guitar synthesizer, Liza Carbe on

bass, and Joe Shotwell on drums and percussion, the group refers to their music as "Latin Guitar World Fusion."

Having released four recordings since 2000, *Wind & Wire* magazine called the group "one fiery bunch of musicians" while Amazon.com said "they have the chops to generate gratifying Latin guitar fusion."

Incendio in both Italian and Spanish means "fire" and this moniker is fitting for a musical group whose sound is all about energy, exploration, and passion. At the heart of *Incendio's* sound is the Latin, or Spanish, guitar.

Not solely flamenco, classical, Middle-Eastern, Celtic, jazz, rock, trance or pop, but an amalgamation of all of the above, *Incendio* showcases the timeless sound of the Spanish guitar in a variety of settings, taking listeners on a global musical experience while breaking new ground.

Tickets are \$15 advance/\$20 door for adults and \$8 advance/\$10 door for students with ID. Childcare will be provided. For more information and to arrange for advance (will call) tickets, please call the church office at 408-268-0243.

Almaden Adventures in the Arts, a joint venture of the Almaden Valley United Church of Christ and Episcopal Church in Almaden, is an effort to share the arts with our own church community as well as our neighbors from surrounding communities. In addition, it is an effort to introduce our churches to newcomers.

Please join us. Music at Joint Venture Churches needs your support!

John Leslie
Todd Axtell

JV Book Club will meet on April 21, at Robyn Dorsey's home, 7:30 p.m. We will be discussing *Epitaph For A Peach* by David Mas Masumoto. It is a wonderful tale of the valleys of California, in the past, with life of growing peaches a special experience. Please call Robyn (323-9230) if you are coming, or if you have any questions.

The book chosen for May 19, will be *The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger, and on June 16 we will discuss *My Sister's Keeper* by Jody Picoult. Happy reading!

Robyn Dorsey

Youth News

Hugs from SHYGS

SHYGS wants to thank all of you who have been offering support as we prepare for our mission trip in June. This month we want to thank all of you who have agreed to be a prayer partner with one of the teens going on the trip: Suzanne and Pete Mayo, Dennis Moran, Kimberly Axtel, Mary McPherson, Kim and Russ Petruzzelli, Jackie Whitlock, Pat McGarvin, Natalie Mena, Nancy Romer, Jean Cassetta, Pat Fox, and Sandie Mueller. Your prayer support lays a foundation of strength and faith that our teens can build from and lets them know that others are holding them up!

We also want to thank some folks for their recent financial contributions to the mission: Dennis Moran and Ryan McPherson have helped us to fill in another square in our stained glass fundraising cross.

Tim Miller and John Leslie are going to focus on teaching our teens some of the songs that will be sung in the evenings at the WorkCamp this summer, so we thank them for the dedication of their time to our group.

You all have been wonderful supporting our many fundraising events. It may feel to you that every time you turn around our Senior High group is having another fundraiser, but these kids are dedicated to earning as much of the trip cost as possible themselves, so we support that by assisting them in their efforts. Our last two big events are the Flea Market on April 2, 7:00 am -1:00 pm and the Car Wash on April 24 during all church services. Please join us for one or both of these events.

So, thanks all for the many ways in which you support our Senior High!

Robin and Terry Root

SHYGS Mission Trip – Living Inside Out

You've all been hearing us talk about the mission trip 15 of our senior high teens will be attending the end of June. Many of you have asked for more details about what this trip entails, so I thought I'd share information we've received from the company that facilitates these work camps all over the United States. Our work camp is in Polson, Montana where more than 300 teens from different denominations will work to serve that community by using their hands. The theme of this year's Workcamp is "Living Inside Out." At camp we'll be learning about the Fruit of

the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). As God changes us on the inside, we display these fruits on the outside-which is what "living inside out" is all about.

The teens will experience the thrill of accomplishment through hands-on home repair. Workcampers of varying skill levels work blend talents to paint, repair drywall, build porches and wheelchair ramps, and more. Each project is designed to be completed during the week so that the teens experience the satisfaction of a job well done. To make the experience the best it can be, Group ensures that every worksite is visited, detailed job descriptions written, tool and material needs calculated, and materials delivered to worksites. Skilled troubleshooters will visit the worksite to offer guidance and encouragement.

Some of the elderly, disabled or disadvantaged people we will serve have to choose between putting food on the table and fixing a leaky roof. They simply can't afford the minor repairs their aging homes need, or they're not physically able to tackle repair projects. The teens will experience firsthand the reward of sharing their Christian faith through their actions and developing new, meaningful friendship with the local resident they serve.

In the evenings we will participate in youth-friendly worship that is built on an inspiring, faith-boosting program with great music, top-quality video, games and challenging presentations. The workcamp staff includes a music leader and program leader. We have received a list of 12 Christian songs that may be sung at camp, so David Mastriana has burned a CD for each SHYG to start listening to the music. Tim Miller and John Leslie will be helping us to learn these songs so that we have a head start before we get there, which is great.

Safety is a priority at Group Work camps. All staff are prescreened with background checks, proper safety equipment is required, safety videos educate participants on worksite safety, safety guidelines are published for volunteers, tailgate safety checks are conducted at each worksite, and every work team of 5 or 6 includes at least one adult. We will be conducting three training sessions between now and the time we leave: safety, skills, and sensitivity to cultural differences (our elderly will be American Indian and we will be working with teens from other states). Ellen Lukanc is heading up the planning for this trip and is arranging for all of our extra training sessions.

This should be one of the most meaningful times SHYGS spends together as they have a good balance of Christian

Come to Willy's For Dinner!

Armadillo Willy's, that is. The SHYGS April fundraising night will be at Armadillo Willy's barbecue restaurant – come out for some authentic Texas barbecue!

When: Wednesday April 20, 5-9 PM

Where: Armadillo Willy's, Blossom Hill and Santa Teresa

How: Grab a flyer from the envelope on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall, OR ask a member of the SHYGS, OR download one from the church website. Take your flyer to the restaurant and when you present it to the cashier, they will donate 20% of whatever you spend (including take-out) to the youth group!

Thanks for your continuing support of our senior high group as they get ready to head to Montana for service and fellowship this summer!

Katie McCormick

Youth, continued

service, spiritual growth and loads of fun! Group reports that more than 94% of campers said they grew closer to God through their Group camp experience. Our teens will experience a mission of service and love where the “service” is secondary to “spiritual growth.” Meaningful worship and devotions help to integrate service with faith, and cement the lessons learned during the week.

We will be staying in a school in Polson, sleeping on classroom floors. The community will come in to serve breakfast and dinner, and sack lunches will be taken out to the worksite. The adults chaperoning this group June 25-July 2 are Katie McCormick, Terry Root, and Robin Root.

The cost of this program is \$399/person; our flight and van rentals will cost approximately \$300/person. We also will need to pay for our meals on the way there and back, and for any activities we undertake while in Montana. Our group goal is \$15,000; we have raised \$5200 of that to date. Whatever charges we do not raise money for will be passed on to the families of the teens attending. We hope that you prayerfully consider supporting our fundraisers, and if you are so moved, to make an outright contribution to our fund. If you cannot support us financially, please support us in prayer.

If anyone would like more information about our mission trip this summer, please feel free to ask! You can also read about Group Workcamps at <http://www.groupworkcamps.com/2005>.

Robin

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Thanks for your continuing support of our senior high group as they get ready to head to Montana for service and fellowship this summer!

Katie McCormick

Spring for SHYGS

March was a busy month for SHYGS and it started out with a trip to Oakridge Lanes for Cosmic Bowling-Marshall Robins won the “style” award, David Mastriana earned high score, with Taylor Mills and Erinn Hoyt close seconds, and we were glad we didn't lose anyone to the conga line that formed in the lane next to us! Thank you to Ann and Terry for chaperoning us and keeping things in line.

We had a fundraising dinner night at Chevy's, flea market planning and a great “Catacombs” event led by Kyle Dando to simulate the conditions the early Christians had to endure in their efforts to worship their new-found faith. The season appropriately leads us through the Easter celebration of new life as members of the body of Christ and we work to mirror that in our senior high group.

Our calendar for the rest of the spring looks like this:

- April 2** - Flea Market-Mandatory for all going on Mission Trip (Saturday)
- April 3** - Talk Sheet-Topic Holy Spirit – Make fruit for “Living Inside Out” theme of the Mission Trip
- April 10** - Skills Training-Bring your own hammer that you will take on the trip-12:30-4:00 at church
- April 10** - Mandatory parents' meeting—Forms to sign-12:30 at church
- April 15-17** - Happenings-Spiritual retreat for High School in Felton
- April 22** - Seder at the McCormicks' house 6:00
- April 24** - Car Wash- Mandatory for all going on the Mission Trip (see Robin with conflicts)
- April 24** - Adults work Jean's wine tasting event 1-5 Connie, Katie, Ellen and Sharon-Donation to Mission Trip
- April 24** - No meeting this night

All Senior High students are welcomed at SHYGS-If you've never tried us out, it's never too late! We'd love to have you with us.

Robin

Youth, continued

New Beginnings Junior High Youth Retreat 2005

The New Beginnings Junior High Youth Retreat is coming up April 29 – May 1, 2005. We will leave on Friday after school from the church and return Sunday afternoon. New Beginnings is a unique weekend especially designed to respond to the issues, concerns, and needs of youth in grades six through nine.

We'll have a series of songs, skits, tapes, talks (by youth and adults) and small group discussions. These focus around subjects such as Self, Friends, Parents, Siblings, School, God's Love, Prayer, Who is Jesus, and the Church. We'll include plenty of playing, laughing, creating and sharing.

Participants will not only learn and grow, but will have the time of their lives. Friday evening we will have dinner at the church before we leave and then it's off to Mt. Hermon Retreat Center.

The cost is \$75.00 per person, and the youth budget will underwrite each youth by \$40.00. Your applications will be mailed to you and your share of \$35.00 is due by April 3. Stephen, Ellie, and Faith Mills; Kristen Petruzzelli, and Josh Bemis are all working on the New Beginnings staff this year. New Beginnings works a little differently in that you can attend twice as a participant – that means anyone who went last year and wants to go again is welcome. Put your name on the sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the hallway at church or give me a call (or email me) at 838-6143.

God Bless,
Katie

Junior High Youth Group Calendar

March 24 (Thurs.) - meeting at church 6-8

April 2 - Bake sale at Adventure in the Arts. We need baked goods and volunteers to set up and sell 7:45-8:45 at church.

April 8 - 6:30 dinner at church, attend the Last Ballyhoo 8-10

April 22 - time to be announced Seder at the McCormicks'

Katie

Thank you Anna and Guido Spanjaart, Brian and Marc Bond, AJ Nigro, Faith Mills, Kristen and Danielle Petruzzellit for managing the bake at the concert on March 5th.

Katie

Vacation Bible School August 8-12

We have chosen our theme for Vacation Bible School and it is *Holy Land Adventure in the Jerusalem Marketplace*. The committee is forming now and we will meet once a month to plan the transformation of the church. We will create the market place buildings with awnings, spruce up our palm trees, and plan the stations for the "tribes" of Israel to travel to.

Our first meeting is April 3 at 10:00 a.m. during the Sunday School hour. Teens are welcome to help us on the VBS committee and earn service hours for their time. Please call me at 838-6143 or email me at mac6558@comcast.net.

Katie

Sunday School

Our Easter egg hunt will take place after we dig up the Alleluia banner during the Sunday School hour on March 27th. This year's hunt is open to all children up to and including fifth graders. We'll let the little ones (toddlers, preschool and kindergarteners) get a head start, and then grades 1-5 can clean up!

Junior High and High Schoolers don't feel left out! There will be some goodies for you in the youth center.

Katie

Sunday School Schedule Change

We have a schedule change for the Sunday School calendar. The last day of Sunday School will be June 5 instead of May 22. This is the day that all the teachers come to class to hand out the certificates to the children and celebrate the year with cake in fellowship hall.

Youth, continued

Sunday School Schedule:

March 20 - Sunday school lesson

March 27 - no lesson – dig up Alleluia banner and Easter egg hunt

April 3, 10, 17, 24 - Sunday school lessons

May 1, 8, 15, & 22 - Sunday school lessons

May 29 - Memorial day weekend no Sunday school

June 5 - Sunday School celebration in the classrooms at 10:10am

If you have any questions please call me at 838-6143.

Katie McCormick

Joint Venture News

We have had two Joint Venture Board meetings this year. At our first meeting we approved the budget and at our second meeting on March 1st we found a way to reduce this year's budget by a little over \$10,000. It's important for all of us to cooperate in reducing the utility expenses by turning off the lights and heating/cooling systems when they are not needed. This tightening of our JV budget "belts" also means that we will not be contributing to our capital replacement fund this year; however we will allow consideration of funding if a major need for capital funding is indicated.

Joint Venture has received a total of \$2,401 from Tabard Theatre for their first two plays in our facility. This more than offsets increased utility expenses incurred due to their building use. Tabard Theatre will complete this year's season with one more play this month. I hope you have all gone to their productions. They are excellent.

Joint Venture recently purchased a digital projector for use in church functions. It is kept under lock and key due to its high value and small size. If you need to use the projector, please contact Stephen Mills or Paul Smith-Telfer.

If you have any concerns or questions, feel free to ask me or any JV Board member. Our job is to keep our Joint Venture facility in good shape in order to support the programs of AVUCC and ECA.

Ed Mueller

God (has spoken and) *Is Still Speaking . . .*

an excerpt from

Martin Luther King's Letter from Birmingham Jail (April 16, 1963)

How does one determine whether a law is just or unjust? A just law is a man-made code that squares with the moral law or the law of God. An unjust law is a code that is out of harmony with the moral law. To put it in the terms of St. Thomas Aquinas: An unjust law is a human law that is not rooted in eternal law and natural law.

Any law that uplifts human personality is just. Any law that degrades human personality is unjust.

All segregation statutes are unjust because segregation distort the soul and damages the personality. It gives the segregator a false sense of superiority and the segregated a false sense of inferiority. Segregation, to use the terminology of the Jewish philosopher Martin Buber, substitutes an "I-it" relationship for an "I-thou" relationship and ends up relegating persons to the status of things. Hence segregation is not only politically, economically and sociologically unsound, it is morally wrong and awful. Paul Tillich said that sin is separation. Is not segregation an existential expression 'of man's tragic separation, his awful estrangement, his terrible sinfulness?

Alleluia!

April 2005 Calendar

Saturday, April 2	7:00 am	SHYG Flea Market
	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast
	7:30 pm	Concert – Incendio
	8:00 pm	Jr. High Concession Stand
Sunday, April 3	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
	10:10 am	Sunday School
Monday, April 4	7:00 pm	Duplicate Bridge
Tuesday, April 5	7:30 pm	JV Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 6	4:45 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	6:30 pm	AVUCC Folk Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, April 7	7:15 pm	LRPC Meeting
Friday, April 8	6:30 pm	Jr. High Dinner
	8:00 pm	Jr. High attends Tabard performance
Saturday, April 9	10:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, April 10	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
	10:10 am	Sunday School
	12:30 pm	SHYG Parents Meeting
	12:30 pm	Skills Training for Youth
Tuesday, April 12	7:00 pm	UCC Council
Wednesday, April 13	4:45 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 pm	AVUCC Choir Rehearsal
Friday, April 15	KALOS DEADLINE SHYG HAPPENINGS	
Saturday, April 16	10:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, April 17	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
	10:10 am	Sunday School
	4:30 pm	SHYG Homework Center
	6:00 pm	SHYG Dinner and Discussion
Tuesday, April 19	4:00 pm	AVUCC Shelter Food Service
Wednesday, April 20	11:00 am	JV Staff Meeting
	4:45 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 pm	AVUCC Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, April 21	7:30 pm	JV Book Group
Friday, April 22	5:00 pm	Jr High and Sr High Seder
Saturday, April 23	10:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, April 24	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
	7:00 am	SHYG Car Wash
	10:10 am	Sunday School
Wednesday, April 27	4:45 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 pm	AVUCC Choir Rehearsal
Friday, April 29	JR HIGH NEW BEGINNINGS	
Saturday, April 30	10:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	5:30 pm	A Little Bit of Italy

April Birthdays

Sharon Cannon	April 3
Bart Smith	April 4
Bob Farnquist	April 4
Genevieve Tewart	April 7
Joseph Dingman	April 8
Dot Allfrey	April 10
Tami Nieders	April 10
Bill Allfrey	April 11
Sheila Joyce	April 13
Carla Gerber	April 14
Carolyn Dingman	April 15
Betsy Shoup	April 16
Al Day	April 19
Brandon Joyce	April 19
Maureen Evans	April 21
Brian Gaydon	April 21
Rae Harris	April 22
Katrina Hearn	April 24
Leilani Farnquist	April 26
Charlotte Duerksen	April 28
Bob Dando	April 28
Kristopher Hearn	April 29

April Anniversaries

Marcia and Bruce Bush	April 15
Harriet and Frank Yamada	April 18
Brenda and David Hough	April 30

Almaden Valley United Church of Christ
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KALOS –April 2005

KALOS Deadline for the May 2005

The deadline for the May issue of the Kalos is **Friday, April 15, 2005**. Items may be mailed to the editor (1302 Bottle Brush Lane, San Jose, 95118), or submitted by email to: **sscaff@sbcglobal.net**.