

AVUCC KALOS

Newsletter for the
Almaden Valley
United Church of Christ

Interim Pastor's Reflections

About five weeks ago I was in my favorite book store looking for a particular book about which I had just read a review. I was browsing in the religion section (something I don't normally do in this particular store), and the title of another book caught my eye. It was paperback (which meant it would be cheaper) so I picked it off the shelf and thumbed through it. I ended up buying this book (as well as the one I had come into the store for) and I am very glad that I did. From time to time I like to use the minister's column for book reviews. After reading this book, I found that this is the time for another review. So here goes.

The title of the book is *Stealing Jesus – How Fundamentalism Betrays Christianity*. The author is Bruce Bawer, an Episcopal lay person who lives and works in New York City. The soft cover edition I bought is published by Three Rivers Press, a division of Random House. The book was copyrighted in 1997.

Mr. Bawer has done a great deal of research, and put together both a brief history of the divisions within American Protestantism, and points out the major differences between what we traditionally have called conservative and liberal Christianity. He really doesn't like the terms liberal and conservative or mainstream and fundamentalism, although he does use these terms throughout his book. In the first chapter he makes a case for distinguishing between liberal and conservative in a clearer, more succinct manner. He states that the difference between conservative and liberal Christianity may be summed up by the difference between two key scriptural concepts: law and love. He goes on to say that conservative Christianity focuses primarily on law, doctrine, and authority, while liberal Christianity focuses on love, spiritual experience, and the early Reformation concept of the priesthood of all believers.

He does not suggest that conservative Christians are without love or that liberal Christians are lawless. He uses these distinctions in a general way, and I found them quite useful throughout my reading of his book.

Bawer is biblically literate, and points out how both conservative and liberal Christians may use and misuse scripture. He also is quite detailed in describing the theology of some

May 2005

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KALOS

Monthly Newsletter
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Interim Pastor's Reflections, continued

of the more popular contemporary conservative preachers and authors; such men as Pat Robertson, Ralph Reed, and Hal Lindsey.

Mr. Bawer is unapologetically liberal in his theology. He identifies strongly with the Christianity of love, not the Christianity which proscribes rules and doctrines and "believing my way." I recommend this book not simply because I happen to mostly agree with Mr. Bawer, but because he has done an outstanding job tracing the history and development of legalist Christianity and also makes very good case for the Christianity of love and inclusion. This book has affirmed the reasons why I continue to be a part of a church that while not perfect, values openness, inclusiveness and love more than right doctrine and following strict rules Enjoy.

Blessing and Peace,
Paul

DO YOU KNOW...?

Do you know the names of the people and places described below? They were real people and are part of our United Church of Christ history. If you know the answers let Pastor Paul know. If you don't know the answers, you'll have to wait for the June KALOS.

I wrote the first anti-slavery tract in America in 1700, "The Selling of Joseph." I was a judge. What was my name?

America's most famous tea party was planned in this church meeting house. The cry in the meeting house was, "No tax on tea!" Benjamin Franklin was baptized here and Phillis Wheatley once called it home. Can you name this historic meeting house and UCC church?

In 1785 I became the first African-American person to be ordained in a mainline Protestant denomination, and the first African-American to pastor an all-white congregation. What was my name?

In 1839 I led the captives aboard *La Amistad* to revolt. Once captured in North America, I learned English and became the liberator of my people, defending them with a former U.S. President before the U.S. Supreme Court. Who am I?

In 1853 I became the first woman ordained to ministry in the modern era. What is my name?

Paul

Moderator's Notes

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, we now have a balanced budget! I am overwhelmed and overjoyed by your response to the council's request to increase your pledges. We can now continue our programs and search for a new pastor on solid financial footing. Thank you so very much.

Our committees are at work on a number of exciting issues and events. For the last several months, a JV committee has been reviewing the JV Bylaws and has proposed revisions. The proposal will be made available for the congregation to review. Thanks to Carolyn Dingman, we will soon have a new church directory. A committee is being formed to plan a celebration of AVUCC's 40th birthday in August.. Many thanks to Audrey Wiedrick for offering to chair that committee. The Luau Committee is preparing for the September 24 church luau.

The search committee continues its work. I hope to see you all at the April 24 presentation of the church profile hosted by the search committee.

I hope you all enjoy many blessings during these busy times.

Melanie Click
AVUCC Moderator

Church Council Notes

Meeting on April 12, 2005:

JV Bylaw Revisions. The AVUCC members of the JV Bylaw Revision Committee, Jim Ballek, Jan Day, and Audrey Wiedrick, discussed the extensive revisions that are being proposed. The three also talked about the history of the Joint Venture Churches and urged the Council to appoint a church historian. The JV Bylaw revisions will be made available for the congregation to review, and then voted on at AVUCC's semi-annual meeting in June.

AVUCC's 40th Birthday. Audrey Wiedrick has offered to head up a 40th Birthday Committee and recommended to the Council that the celebration be separate from the luau being planned for September. She'll be meeting with Pastor Paul to start making plans.

Treasurer's Report and Budget. Treasurer Ken Phillips' presentation showed AVUCC's income and expenses through March are on target. Ken also presented an updated budget for 2005 that is balanced, thanks to the congregation's generous response to the recent pledge drive.

Church Council Notes, continued

Pastor's Report. Pastor Paul reported that Confirmation Sunday will be on May 15th. Lorraine Zeller's last day as office administrator was March 31st, and Pastor Paul talked about the search process he and Father Steven are conducting for a new staff person.

Old Business. The Tabard Theatre contract renewal needs to be addressed by AVUCC, and the process will begin on May 10th with a discussion meeting for church members facilitated by Bob Farnquist. The May Council meeting will be held a week later, on May 17th, to assess the consensus of the church and make a decision.

New Business

- The church directory is being updated, and Council members asked that the new directory be published as soon as possible. Carolyn Dingman is working on this.
- Steve Coutinho talked about the work being done by the Pastoral Search Committee and the presentation planned for later in the month to let the congregation know about the search process.

Carolyn Dingman
Church Recorder

Music Notes

Tickets on Sale!! Tickets for "I Do! I Do!" are now on sale Sunday mornings following worship services. All seats are \$10.00, and all tickets must be purchased in advance. No tickets will be available at the performances. This is so that those attending may come leisurely 15-20 minutes ahead of time (as they would for a proper wedding) be seated by the groomsmen, and listen to some beautiful organ music played by Joanne Specht (AVUCC) and "Ave Maria" sung by Betty Consorte (ECA). Please feel free to wear what you would wear to attend a wedding. Gwen Hacker and John Leslie will play a young couple getting married at the beginning of the show. Their attendants will be Jenny Hoyt, Katie McCormick, Byron Henderson, Ken McCormick and Todd Axtell. The musical play features the popular love song "My Cup Runneth Over" and follows the young couple through child birth, child-rearing, job success, the daughter's wedding, growing older and retirement. This will be a great way to celebrate the month of June: weddings, anniversaries and Father's Day.

Fiftieth Anniversary Couples Wanted! Following the Saturday afternoon performance of "I Do! I Do!" (June

Music Notes, continued

18 at 1:30pm) there will be a 50th wedding anniversary party in Fellowship Hall, so if you have been married 50 years or more, be sure to attend and celebrate with us!

Shalom Choir. After a very exciting, and musically inspiring year, the Shalom Choir will be ending this season on the last Sunday of May, Memorial Day weekend. Many thanks to all the soloists and instrumentalists, but especially to the dedicated singers who save every Wednesday night and Sunday morning to join together and sing praises to the Lord! Thanks to John Hawes and the AVUCC Folk Choir for providing the AVUCC family with inspiration through music once every month.

JV Ringers. The Joint Venture Handbell Choir has been preparing some special worship music for Sunday, May 1, as well as a medley from "The Phantom of the Opera," and plans are being made to do an exchange concert with the handbell choir of St. Stephen's in the Fields Episcopal Church.

Children's Choir. The Children's Choir, under the direction of John Leslie, continues to rehearse on Saturday mornings, and they will sing in church again on Sunday, May 15 (Pentecost - "The Birthday of the Church") and again on Sunday, June 5.

Talent Show Friday July 8. Our July Talent Show is open to both ECA and AVUCC members. If you have a talent you would like to share with the community, please give John Leslie a call at the church to let him know. All acts are welcome, and we will have a special portion of the evening called "Stagedoor Canteen," celebrating the music of World War II. Our January Talent Show was a wonderful event, featuring performers of all generations, and it was VERY well-attended. Free-will offerings are applied to the expenses of our summer show.

Fiddler on the Roof. Last year we presented a spirited production of *South Pacific*, and this summer we hope to do the same with a production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, starring Byron Henderson as Tevye. All AVUCC and ECA members are invited to participate in the chorus of this summer's show, singing its great songs: "Sunrise Sunset," "Tradition" and "Sabbath Prayer." This show presents a man who has a GREAT faith in God (as well as great dialogues with God!), and looks at the subject of religious and ethnic prejudice. Look for more information, and cast announcements in the next Kalos.

Music Notes, continued

Requests. The production crew requests the following items for *I Do! I Do!*.

Furniture (all victorian or 1900s style):

Clothes tree/hat tree
Double bed box spring
2 pillow covers
Bed pillow with “God Is Love” embroidered on one side
Bassinette
Lightweight bedroom set:

- man’s dresser
- woman’s dresser
- woman’s vanity/make-up table

two “gas” lamps (appearing, not functioning)

Clothing – Women’s:

two pairs old-age spectacles
Woman’s gray wig with black hat attached
Victorian wedding gown and veil –size 6-8
Woman’s Wedding shoes – size 7 ½
Victorian-style night gown – size 6-8
Victorian-style robe – size 6-8 (woman’s)
Evening gown early 1920’s – size 6-8
Fur stole (ermine, or other)
Spanish shawl
Hat with large feathers and veil
Hat box to fit above hat
Woman’s “slumber helmet” (to look like a “celestial aviatrix”)

Clothing – Men’s:

Man’s night shirt – off-white, large
Man’s robe – large
Man’s union suit – large
Man’s pair of garters
Man’s opera cape
Walking stick
White bow tie (to be hand-tied)
Man’s top hat

Props:

Antique alarm clock (not functioning)
Small school bell
Indian headdress
Stuffed animals
Baby clothes (1900s appearing)
Antique child’s fire wagon (toy) with bell on a string
Child’s wagon
Antique tricycle and horn

Music Notes continued

More Props:

Boy’s Cowboy hat
Hobby horse
Baby rattle
Doll carriage

New Years Eve noise-makers
Leather razor strop
Bourbon bottle (empty)

John Leslie
Music Director

Search Committee

What is the Search Committee *doing*? Why does it take so long? They meet every week. *What* are they doing?

There are lots of ministers out there who think they might like a new church. Some have been looking for a year or more – not too hard, but looking for the RIGHT church for them.

So far the committee has read 30 profiles, and have just received 12 more from the conference office. Each profile is between 16 and 19 pages long. We each have to print that out on our computers, then read carefully. That’s 540 pages up through last Sunday. Those of you who have read our profile carefully know how much time it takes to wade thru all that verbiage. We each must make our own judgement about each candidate. We rank them as impossible, possible, or want to know more about this one.

Next our secretary, Marian Henderson, takes the time to send out rejection, wait and see, or please send more info letters. And we wait, read more profiles, and fine tune our profile.

All of this will continue until we have read close to 100 profiles (I predict) and spend time listening to sermon tapes, talking to candidates on the phone, and completing other assessment activities. This will lead at some point in time to our desire to hear several candidates preach for real, and that will mean flying candidates to the area and finding a church in the area willing to loan us their pulpit for a guest pastor. And the NCNC conference helps us with this process.

Questions? Comments? Call Sandy Baldwin at 227-3507.

Please, continue to pray for us.

Shalom,
The Search Committee

Events

CELTIC GROUP "WAKE THE DEAD" TO PERFORM AT JOINT VENTURE ON SATURDAY, MAY 14

"Wake The Dead" performs in concert on Saturday, May 14, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. as part of the Almaden Adventures in the Arts concert series.

Seven of the best-known and most respected players in Northern California comprise "Wake The Dead," a landmark meeting of traditional Celtic tunes and Grateful Dead classics.

The eclectic group includes Maureen Brennan on harp; Cindy Browne on bass; Danny Carnahan on vocals, fiddle, octave mandolin, and guitar; Kevin Carr on uilleann (Irish bellows) pipes, fiddle, and whistles; Sylvia Herold on vocals; Paul Kotapish on mandolin, octave mandolin, guitar, and National steel guitar; and Joe Craven on percussion.

Grateful Dead Records describes Wake the Dead's albums and mesmerizing performances this way: "As an expression of cultural joy, you can't top an Irish wake. And what is a wake but a celebration of appreciation, an expression of love and, most importantly, a good party? Wake The Dead is a romp that flows seamlessly from rock grooves to hot Irish reels, and from haunting airs to achingly beautiful melodies familiar to Grateful Dead fans everywhere."

Here's a sampling of more critical praise: "Shimmering renditions of Grateful Dead music fused with Celtic beauty. The music is beautiful, masterfully performed with Dead-homage vocal style, great traditional Celtic instrumentation," said Reed Maidenberg, Amazon.com.

"Wake the Dead is a thorough delight from start to end, seamlessly interweaving the good old tunes with the good older tunes — traditional airs, jigs and reels (plus one original dubbed an 'unreel'). You've never heard songs like 'Bertha,' 'The Wheel,' 'Sugaree,' and 'Bird Song' quite like this, and it's likely that you'll never listen to them in quite the same way again," said the Grateful Dead Almanac.

"If you didn't know the songs, or hadn't read the credits, it would be easy get swept up in this music and imagine that some of the Garcia/Hunter material came from the pen of Turlough O'Carolan himself. Every segue works, and every track is beautiful. This, then, is the living legacy of the Grateful Dead, great new performances of great songs.

Events, continued

Dead songs live, and the lives of listeners everywhere are better for it," said Shaun Dale, Cosmik Debris Magazine

"An eminently listenable stroll through new pastures that should please both Deadheads and trad music fans who've never touched tie-dye," said Brad Kava, San Jose Mercury News.

Tickets are \$15 advance/\$20 door for adults and \$8 advance/\$10 door for students with ID. Childcare will be provided. For more information, please call the church office 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 be sure to join us for this one. Music at Joint Venture Churches needs your support!

Todd Axtell

MEN'S BREAKFAST

April 2, 2005. The AVUCC Men's Club, which meets the first Saturday of every month usually, has interesting speakers, but they do not usually deal with life and death issues. That was not the case on Saturday, April 2nd. The speaker was Dr. Harmeet Shachdev, director of the Stroke Program at Good Samaritan Hospital, which under his direction has achieved National Stroke Center status. Only six hospitals nationally have achieved this award.

His talk was important because stroke is the third leading cause of death in the U.S. behind heart disease and cancer. It is the leading cause of serious, long-term disability. Each year an estimated 4500 Santa Clara residents are hospitalized for stroke and the cost for medical care and rehabilitation and lost productivity lovably is about \$300 million annually.

A stroke occurs when a part of the brain dies from lack of blood, usually because one of the arteries that supply oxygen-carrying blood to the brain has been damaged. He emphasized that most people do not understand what a stroke is and what symptoms you experience when you are suffering a stroke. A former patient of Dr. Shachdev, Charles Hoffman, told of his experience and how he completely recovered because of quick attention.

Events, continued

The warning signs are:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body.
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding.
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes.
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination.
- Sudden severe headache with no known cause.

If you experience any of these symptoms, please, do not ignore them. Call 911 immediately. This is better than driving yourself, or even having someone take you to the hospital. Also, tell the AMT's that you want to go to Good Samaritan hospital. Time is a vital factor because the sooner you start receiving treatment, the better your chances of a complete recovery. Dr. Shachdev says the first three hours are the most important.

The risk factors for stroke are:

- High blood pressure
- High cholesterol
- Diabetes
- Smoking
- Family history of stroke
- Obesity
- Previous strokes.

Smoking is the leading preventable risk factor for strokes. Smokers are four times more likely to have a stroke than non-smokers. For more information about strokes go to www.stokeinfor.org, or call the Stroke Awareness Foundation at (408) 879-8433.

The next Men's Club breakfast will be held May 7, 2005 and the speaker will be our Bob Farnquist.. His subject is **Success and Fulfillment**. Breakfast is at 8 am, and ladies are welcome at 8:30 am to hear the speakers.

Jim Ballek

May 7, 2005. Bob Farnquist will speak on "Success with Fulfillment" at 8:00 am in Fellowship Hall.

Bob graduated from San Jose State with B.Sc. in Industrial Relations, Personnel Management, and Masters of Public Administrations. He has worked with the City of San Jose, Santa Clara County as Director of Personnel, Manager of

Events, continued

Organization and Staff Development and as a Consultant on Executive Coaching projects. Bob is well organized and an excellent speaker who will discuss the many interesting aspects of "Success and Fulfillment." Ladies are welcomed after 8:30 am.

Cooks: Stan Yumen, with assistants Jim Wright, Dick Shipe, Joe Dingman, Al Thompson. Cooks will all meet at 7:00 am for preparations. If you are unable to participate please call Stan Yumen at your earliest convenience. Stan will contact you regarding specific assignments.

Thanks for all your fine efforts.

Dick Okumura

FAMILY FUN 'N GAMES

Saturday June 4, 2005, 4:30 to 8 pm

Prepare yourself for volleyball, horseshoes, and mouth-watering barbequed hamburgers and hot dogs. We request that each family come with lots of energy and a side dish - appetizer, salad or dessert. Sign up this month in Fellowship Hall.

Bring your friends, too!!

Any questions, contact Tami or Al Nieders(268-7681) or Janey Sanders(997-0875).

Janey Sanders

UCC WOMEN'S NETWORK SPRING RETREAT

It was a joy on Saturday April 9th for Phyllis Chai to attend the UCC Women's Network Spring Re-treat hosted by City of Refuge UCC Church in San Francisco, and the joy was at least doubled by the attendance also of Josephine Kabeja and her daughters Fallone and Patricia from ECA. It was a wonderful day of singing, worshipping, participating in workshops (including gospel praise and worship; a drumming circle; praying; and a discussion of women in the Bible), and eating. We were warmly welcomed, and invited to return anytime for a Sunday service which happens each week at 1 p.m.

Phyllis Chai

Letter from the Hennings

Hi Lorraine,

I thought since we just got this e-mail from you, I would take time to send you our where-about's! I guess we won't be able to see folks at Chevy's, but we do wish them well.

Our house is finally complete and we are gradually settling in. There are still many things that need to be done, but it is just very nice to finally be out of the tiny apartment and in our very own home. We had a couple of beautiful sunny weeks, but we are now in the midst of another terrific rainstorm! I know the locals say we should be happy about the rain, but looking at the mud puddles outside, I'm not too sure. I'll be happy to see sunshine again.

Our e-mail will be the same, but our new telephone number is (209)296-5257 and our address is 21225 Cottonwood Lane, Pine Grove, CA 95665. I hope we will be back on the mailing list for the Kalos! Should we send you some money for postage?

As you see folks, be sure to say hello. We will probably be back for a church service sometime in April. I know this a wild week for all of you. Hang in there!

Happy Easter!
Dave and Carolyn Hennings

Outreach and Caring

SUPPORT AVUCC WITH ESCRIP

We are participating in a powerful fundraising opportunity with Safeway, PW, and other partners...powered by eScrip.

What is eScrip? eScrip is a hassle-free way for AVUCC to raise funds through everyday purchases made at eScrip merchants.

How does it work? eScrip and over 150 merchant partners have created a system that rewards customer loyalty by contributing a percentage of purchases to AVUCC. You shop the way you like to shop for groceries, clothing, travel, and entertainment. It's simple and convenient – all you need to do is register your grocery club card and debit/credit card(s).

Simple registration: 1) Log on to www.escrip.com and go

Outreach and Caring, continued

to “sign up” or see Betsy Shoup for a mail-in application; 2) designate Almaden Valley United Church of Christ to receive contributions; 3) register your Safeway and PW Club Cards - and your debit, ATM, and credit cards, if you wish.

That's it! Visit eScrip merchants to shop. It's automatic! AVUCC can potentially receive hundreds of dollars from your routine shopping.

Betsy Shoup
Member at Large
AVUCC Council

HABITAT CAN DRIVE

Your efforts of gathering, saving and delivering aluminum cans to church have yielded \$336 so far in 2005 for the Silicon Valley Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Our next aluminum can collection will be the weekend of May 14 & 15 (Cans are collected the second weekend of every other month.). The reminder sign will go up in front of the church the week of May 9 and taken down Sunday evening, May 15. Aluminum cans can be left by the enclosed area at the back of the church property by the rose garden where you will find a sign there that says “Put Cans Here.” Aluminum is now worth \$1.40 per pound, so please continue saving those empties, and thank you.

Tom Gerber

CARING

The coordinators for caring in the congregation for April and May are Jan Day and Maureen Evans. For June and July, Janey Sanders and Peggy Wright have agreed to serve. Thank each of you!

CONDOLENCES

To the Evans family on the passing of Ron's mother.

To Joanne Specht on the passing of her uncle.

To Marian Henderson on the passing of her Aunt Marian.

To Sue Scaff and family on the passing of her Aunt Mary Jane.

BENEFICIO

The NCNC board of directors voted to make Beneficio Coffee an official ministry network of our conference. The coffee will again be offered at this year's annual meeting in Asilomar May 19-22. In our church lobby, see the article in "The Pacific" with the "United Church News" for April 2005. To order coffee (\$6.25/ 12 oz.), please contact Phyllis Chai at 226-7150.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

On May 15th we will receive the Strengthen the Church special mission offering, part of our church's ministry through the United Church of Christ. The offering supports leadership for new and revitalizing congregations, programs for youth and young adults, leadership development, and growing as a church accessible to all. These ministries are carried out by UCC Conferences and Local Church Ministries. Two new congregations are empowered with funds from the offering to embrace and encourage Sudanese Christians as they adjust to their new lives. In the last four years over 100 new and revitalizing congregations have received leadership subsidies made possible, in part, by Strengthen the Church.

Welcome, Thanks, Congratulations

KUDOS

Congratulations to Chris Dingman who was selected as one of seven people to study at the Thelonius Monk Jazz Institute at U.S.C., and travel the world with that group for two years.

WELCOME

To Valentina, a.k.a. Valya, Sandy Baldwin's 4 yr. old adopted grand-niece who arrived from Russia with her mother Liss and Aunt Becky on Palm Sunday.

Outreach and Caring, continued

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Phyllis Chai

Recognitions!

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THANKS

Thanks to Brad, Ryan and David for the wonderful job they did cleaning up my garden for the SHYGS Servant Auction. *Sue Scaff*

Youth News

MORE HUGS FROM SHYGS

Thank you to the AVUCC men's breakfast group for sharing the building with us on April 2nd so that we could hold our Fundraiser Flea Market.

We would not have had such a successful flea market without the gifts of time and talent from the planning committee headed by Elizabeth Ward and her team: Anne Tysanner, Linda Cottle, and Kelli Casale. Special hugs go to all the parents who came out and worked alongside the teens and made it great day of fun and fellowship.

Many thanks to the following people who have recently made donations to our Mission Trip fund: Amy Griffith, Jerry and Susie Ferguson, Dennis Moran, Michael Henderson, Jennifer and Mark Natwick (Daughter and son-in-law of Len and Jackie Whitlock), Bob and Phyllis Green and Bill and Elaine Lavalle.

We appreciate all of our prayer partners and last month we forgot to include Susie Ferguson in the list of those who have volunteered to pray for one of our youth going on the mission trip. Thank you Susie!

Thanks to Don Hall for sharing his margarita machine full of frozen lemonade at our Flea Market! It lured many to our bake sale and helped us bring in \$159.

Ron Howie, Pete Mayo, and Todd Lukanc developed and delivered safety and skills training to the team going on the mission trip. Thank you for your care, patience and sharing of skills!

Many, many thanks go to Ellen Lukanc who has been in charge of all the planning for our mission trip. She has made many phone calls, sent emails and kept track of all of our requirements, deadlines, and forms for us. Whew, what a job. Thanks Ellen!

Thank you to our Car Wash committee of Don Hall, Jim Ward and Ann Mayers. They got the logistics just right so that the workers were able to move a lot of cars through the line. Thanks too for the input from Eric McCormick, Greg Lukanc and David Matriana for this event.

Robin Root

Youth News, continued

CAN YOU SEE THE FACE OF JESUS?

Would we recognize the face of Jesus if we saw him? Do we realize that he is always present and revealing himself to us in a myriad of ways? We often don't allow ourselves to see and to recognize the movement of the spirit in our ordinary, everyday lives. We've become so secular and busy that we can miss the simple acts of goodness and kindness that comes from grace.

At the SHYGS flea market last month I saw many acts of kindness and helpfulness, but there were two instances where I knew that the spirit was involved. The first came when Nicole and Danielle Evans approached me towards the end of the day. They (and their mom) had rented one of the spaces at the flea market, and they had brought many of their games, videos, Barbie stuff, a bike and other belongings to sell that day. Each girl had \$6.00 in their hand and they explained that they wanted to give 10% of their sales to the Mission Trip. The two girls don't have a sibling or a friend in the group, but they wanted to share of their profits with the teens. My heart filled when they explained their desire, and I knew I was in the presence of something special. I thank them and feel humbled by their willingness to be led as we have been taught.

The second instance of seeing the face of Jesus was when a man came up to the check-out table to purchase a laptop bag. He asked the value of the bag because it wasn't marked with a price, and when the girls hesitated he explained that he thought it had great value. He had found an envelope in one of the inner pockets with \$700 inside and wanted to make sure we knew about it. How many of us would struggle with such a decision? He could have purchased the bag for a couple of dollars and gone home with a good profit and no one would have been the wiser. But the man agreed to let us try and find the owner of the money and also agreed that if we couldn't find the owner, all he wanted was a phone call to tell him what the outcome was and that we could keep the money for our trip. It was a totally selfless act – it was a picture of Jesus and I was also humbled by that moment. (We found the owner the next day, and he was pleased to have solved the mystery of the missing money! He donated \$100 to our mission trip).

I felt that the day had many "simple acts of kindness" moments and it reminded me to see that in each of these is the face of Jesus. It's great to get that reminder now and again that he is always here.

Robin Root

Youth News, continued

APRIL NEWS FROM SHYGS

We couldn't have been busier this past month! SHYGS thought they were going to have a spring break, but we gave a new definition to what a "break" is! Read Elizabeth Ward's article about our Flea Market on April 2 that raised \$1700 for our Mission Trip – it was a huge success. On the 10th, SHYGS brought their hammers and were given skills and safety training by Pete Mayo, Ron Howie and Todd Lukanc. We want to make sure that we are a real asset to the work teams when we start work this summer. Terry and I drove Taylor Mills and Alex Bishop to Felton to attend Happenings the weekend of April 15th, and they were in good hands with Greg Lukanc working on the team. It is so rewarding to attend the closing service at Happenings – you can just feel the camaraderie among the teens that came together for the spiritual weekend.

Alyce Gallego, Val Tysanner and Brad Bond worked with the caterer at Rob Moore's wedding reception (Faith and Kristen babysat) on the 16th at Trinity Cathedral, and then we had our Armadillo Willy's dinner night on the 20th – thanks to all of you who joined us to benefit the group.

Our final fundraiser for the Mission Trip was held on April 24th. A wonderful team of parents and teens moved a large number of cars through the car wash line in the parking lot, starting at 7:30 and washing steadily through 1:00. It was a huge success and we thank everyone who bought a ticket and brought their car through the assembly line that day.

A final evening discussion about the Holy Spirit and the fruits of the spirit closed out our month together on April 25th. The month was a great example for the group of what the fruits can look like in practical application. It's so fun to grow with this bunch of teens!

Here's what May holds for us:

May 7: We'll be working at Liz and Ed Criner's wedding reception: Setup, Serving, Clean-up.

May 15: Talk Sheet-Topic developed and delivered by Kyle Dando-6:00 dinner, 6:30-8:00 meeting.

May 22: Music with John Leslie and Tim Miller; Volleyball weeding-6:00 dinner, 6:30 meeting.

May 29: Go Karts.

Robin Root

Youth News, continued

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

Sixteen of our JHYGs attended the showing of the Last Day of *Ballyhoo* performed by the Tabard theater April 8th. It was very good. Maybe a little beyond some, but it inspired discussions together and at home. The ending scene was the families performing the Seder meal, a perfect lead in to our next activity. The Junior High and Senior High kids will be able to attend a Seder meal at my home on April 22nd. Brian Quint will be leading us through the ritual meal and explaining what the different foods represent as we go along. There will be a full traditional meal afterward along with good conversation and fun.

The New Beginnings junior high retreat is on April 29 to May 1. We have twelve youth attending which is absolutely wonderful. I will be staying with the kids as their sponsor but I will need help driving kids to & from the camp. It is about an hour drive at the most. Please contact me if you can help drive. Also, **we need prayer partners for each youth.** There are posters around the church you can sign up there or contact me through email or by phone.

JHYG

April 22: Seder at the McCormicks' from 6-8pm

April 29: New Beginnings retreat depart at 4pm from church

May 6th meeting at church 6-8

May 14th bake sale at Adventure in the arts

May 27th meeting at church 6-8 game night and summer planning

June 10th pool party 6-8 at the McCormicks'

FYI - next year's joint youth group ski trip is booked for Jan.26-29th Thurs-Sun. (San Jose Unified is off on Fri) We're going to stay in Carnelian Bay and ski at Alpine Meadows in Tahoe. Make a note of these dates and keep in mind those eligible to go are the youth who are active in youth group activities or guests who are considering becoming a part of our groups.

Prayerfully,
Katie McCormick

Youth News, continued

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AUGUST 8-12

We have had an initial meeting about VBS and would like to invite any High School youth to come during the Sunday school hour starting on April 24th to help with decorations and planning.

We will have palm leaves in the fellowship hall with items we need for VBS. If you are able to loan or donate any of these items to us take the palm leaf let me know. email me at mac6558@comcast.net or call me at (408) 838-6143.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The last day of Sunday School is June 5th. The children will meet in their classrooms for their individual celebrations and the children's choir will be performing in the church services at 9am (AVUCC) and at 11am (ECA) that day.

Katie McCormick

Book Group

Book Group meets at 7:30 pm on the third Thursday of the month at Robyn Dorsey's home, 1452 Kew Gardens.

Please join us for the following meetings:

Thursday May 19: *The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger

Please call if you are coming: (408) 323-9230.

Robyn Dorsey

May 2005 Calendar

Sunday, May 1	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
	10:00 am	Sunday School
Monday, May 2	7:00 pm	Duplicate Bridge
Tuesday, May 3	6:45 PM	Almaden Valley Women's Club
	7:30 pm	JV Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 4	4:45 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	6:30 pm	Folk Choir Rehearsal
Friday, May 6	6:00 pm	Jr High Dinner
	7:00 pm	Jr High Discussion – Unplug Your Mentality
	7:30 pm	Bridge Group
Saturday, May 7	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast
	10:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 8	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
	10:00 am	Sunday School
	7:00 pm	Tacky Fashion Show Rehearsal
Monday, May 9	7:00 pm	Tacky Fashion Show Rehearsal
Tuesday, May 10	11:30 am	Tacky Fashion Show
	7:00 pm	UCC Council
Wednesday, May 11	12:30 pm	Mah Jong
	4:45 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 pm	AVUCC Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, May 14	10:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	12:00 am	ALUMINUM CAN DRIVE
	7:30 pm	Concert – Wake the Dead

Sunday, May 15	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
	10:00 am	Sunday School
	4:30 pm	SHYG Homework Center
	6:00 pm	SHYG Dinner
	6:30 pm	SHYG Meeting
Tuesday, May 17	4:00 pm	AVUCC Shelter Food Service
Wednesday, May 18	11:00 am	JV Staff Meeting
	12:30 am	Mah Jong
	4:45 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 pm	AVUCC Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, May 19	7:30 pm	JV Book Group
Friday, May 20	5:00 pm	JV Dinner and Bridge Game
Saturday, May 21	10:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 22	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
	10:00 am	Sunday School
	4:30 pm	SHYG music with John L and volleyball weeding
Wednesday, May 25	12:30 pm	Mah Jong
	4:45 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 pm	AVUCC Choir Rehearsal
Friday, May 27	6:00 pm	Jr High Dinner and Meeting
Saturday, May 28	10: am	Children's Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, May 29	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
	10:00 am	Sunday School
	12:00 am	SHYG Go Karts (time TBD)

May Birthdays

Benson, Chuck	May 02
Haley, Kevin	May 02
Martin, Judy	May 02
Smith, Amy	May 02
Dingman, Betsy	May 03
Rose, Tom	May 04
Yamanishi, Allison	May 08
Blake, Jan	May 13
Daley, Nathan	May 14
Okumura, Dick	May 14
Phillips, Christine	May 15
Ballek, Jim	May 17
Hearn, Greg	May 17
Daley, Patrick	May 18
Quint, Kathleen	May 18
Specht, Douglas	May 19
Elliott, Dennis	May 20
Bemis, Joshua	May 21
Alumbaugh, Barbara	May 22
Hough, Susanna	May 22
Coutinho, Tim	May 23
Nakaji, Kris	May 23
Nakaji, Ross	May 24
Specht, Alex	May 25

May Anniversaries

Dick and Joan Okumura	May 05
Tom and Joyce Rose	May 05

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KALOS – May 2005

KALOS Deadline for the June 2005 Issue

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