

AVUCC KALOS

Newsletter for the
Almaden Valley
United Church of Christ

Interim Pastor's Reflections

I look in the mirror each morning to shave, and most of the time the reflection I see looks pretty much the same as it did five, ten, even 30 years ago. Then, someone will take a photograph of me and send me the print. I look at the face in the photo and wonder who that old guy is. He's certainly not the much younger person I see reflected in the mirror every morning!

Change is not something we humans accept gracefully. In my more painfully honest moments, I know that the face I see reflected in the mirror is not the same face I saw reflected there last year, and certainly not 30 years ago. I've changed over the years. My hair color has changed, there are more creases – all right – wrinkles on my face. I wear trifocal glasses, and can't run the 440 in under 50 seconds like I did in college. I may not accept my changing gracefully, but I do have to acknowledge the reality of it. I have changed. I have gotten older. That's a fact of life.

Churches change. That's also a fact of life. It's also a fact of life that we resist acknowledging the change that takes place in even a short time. In one of my first sermons as your Interim Pastor, I said that you were a very different church than you had been five or six years ago. You may have found that difficult to believe, but it's true. You changed with Julianne's ministry with you. You are also a different church today than you were just a year ago when I began my interim ministry with you. You will be a changed church when your new pastor begins their ministry with you.

We sometimes describe the "church" as being resistant to change, we should acknowledge that its basic rituals celebrate it! The presence of our loving God is invoked and celebrated during the four major transitions in a person's life. Birth (baptism), puberty (confirmation), marriage

KALOS

Monthly Newsletter
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June 2005

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Moderator's Notes

Summer is almost here! The Council has begun making plans for the June congregational meeting. I hope you will all join us after church on June 12. We will be hearing reports from the Search Committee, the JV Bylaw Revision Committee, and the treasurer and conducting other business. Your presence at this meeting is important.

At the May meeting, the Council decided not to renew Tabard Theatre's contract. This decision was made after much thoughtful, open discussion and with several heavy hearts. We will allow Tabard to put on one more production in the fall if they need to while looking for a new venue.

The Council also decided to form a new Budget Committee, which will be charged with communicating with the various committees about their financial needs and aiding the treasurer in planning new budgets. If you are interested in working with this committee, please contact Al Nieders.

Speaking of committees, many of ours are in need of new members, particularly the Stewardship and membership Committees. Please give serious thought to joining one of these or our many other committees and serving your church in this important way. Contact me, and I will put you in contact with the committee chairs.

Melanie Click

Interim Pastor's Reflections, continued

(wedding) and death (memorial) summon to the church even the most inactive of a congregation's member. For Christians the journey of life encompasses a changing dynamic with at least four transition rituals, which express letting go of what was and moving ahead into a transformed future. The church, it could be said, is an expert in transition, change.

If we are to celebrate change or transition in our life together as God's people, why do we find it so difficult? Why do we resist change so much? Change, transition, means struggle. It is often a wilderness experience (remember the Israelite's 40 years experience of wandering around in the wilderness). At its best, transition causes anxiety; at its worst, it causes pain. We want to avoid as much pain and struggle as possible. Yet in divine wisdom, God consistently allows us to experience it. It is as if God has created us so that we grow through change and the transition that accompanies it. Over and over again we are

Interim Pastor's Reflections, continued

thrust by change into dying to something, sinking into a chaos or despair, and then rising again to something new.

The interim time is a time of great change. We can resist it, deny it, hope that it will go away. Or – we can embrace it, recognize the opportunities inherent in this time of great change, welcome the challenges it brings, and find ourselves moving into the future being transformed by the amazing grace of God.

I may not like the gray hair on my head, or the increasing number of wrinkles on my face. I can pretend they don't exist, but the reality is that I have changed, and basically I'm fairly comfortable with who I am today. I also recognize that I'm still in process and look forward to new change and transformation as my journey continues.

Blessings and Peace,
Paul

Church Council Notes

A summary of the minutes from the AVUCC Council Meeting held on May 17, 2005:

Treasurer's Report and Budget: Treasurer Ken Phillips reported that income and expenses are as expected through April. It was decided to form a Budget Planning Committee to evaluate the church's current and future budget needs. Al Nieders will chair the committee, Carolyn Dingman and Jay Caturay will be members, and Ken Phillips and Betsy Shoup will serve as consultants.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Paul reported that he will be attending the annual meeting of the Northern California-Nevada Conference of the UCC in Asilomar May 19-22 with Steve Coutinho, Phyllis and Hi-Dong Chai.

Old Business: The Council discussed at length the request of the Tabard Theatre group to renew its contract to use the church facilities. Consideration was given to the feelings expressed at the discussion forum on May 10 and to the financial and aesthetic impact of the theater program. In the end, a motion to approve the extension of the Tabard contract was defeated. Council did recommend to the JV board that Tabard be allowed to present one production in the church this fall if time is needed to locate a suitable alternate venue

A discussion of the proposed JV bylaw revisions was postponed one month to allow Council members further time to review the bylaws and changes.

Music Notes

YOU ARE INVITED TO . . . THE WEDDING OF THE YEAR!!! Come leisurely 15-20 minutes ahead of time (as you would for a proper wedding). Please feel free to wear what you would wear to attend a wedding (but ladies, please be willing to remove your hats during the ceremony!). Bring your invitation with you, check in with the bride's attendants (Jenny Hoyt and Katie McCormick-ECA), be seated by the groomsmen (Byron Henderson-AVUCC and Ken McCormick and Todd Axtell-ECA), and listen to some beautiful pre-wedding organ music played by Joanne Specht (AVUCC) and Schubert's "Ave Maria" sung by Betty Consorte (ECA).

Gwen Hacker (Agnes) and John Leslie (Michael) will play a young couple getting married at the beginning of the show. 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.

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. Performances are Friday, June 17 at 7:30pm, and Saturday June 18 at 1:30pm and at 7:30pm. All those attending the Saturday afternoon performance will be welcome at Agnes and Michael's 50th Wedding Anniversary party, to be held in Fellowship Hall. We will also recognize all those who have been married 50 or more years.

This will be a great way to celebrate the month of June: weddings, anniversaries and Father's Day. Purchase your tickets in person following worship services, or E-mail John Leslie at music@jointventurechurches.org with your ticket request. It is also an opportunity to raise some needed "start-up" funds for our summer production of "Fiddler on the Roof."

SUMMER MUSICAL . . . 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 (AVUCC) as Tevye and Fr. Stephen Mills (ECA) will play the role of the Rabbi. Other cast members to date include from ECA: Taylor Wing as Motel the tailor, Julia Machado as Chava, and from AVUCC: Marilyn Graham as Golde, Sandy Baldwin as Yente, Betsy Dingman as Hodel, Karen Click and Claire Henderson as Sprintze and Bielke, with Bart Smith as Lazar Wolf.

Music Notes, continued

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, as well as love and marriage.

All AVUCC and ECA members of ALL AGES are urged to participate in the chorus of this summer's show, singing its great songs: "Sunrise Sunset," "Tradition" and "Sabbath Prayer" and many men are needed to join us to raise a glass and drink to the health and prosperity of the marriage of Tevye's eldest daughter (it's a tough job, but someone's got to do it...how about you??). Please sign up on the Music Bulletin Board outside the Music-Christian Education Office. L'chaim!

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.

SUMMER MUSIC. Both "Johns" (Hawes and Leslie) will be putting together a wonderful variety of fun and inspiring music for the Sundays this summer. We look forward to more solo work by Hi-Dong Chai, Susan Gaydon, Cliff Click, and especially Betsy Dingman (home from college), and some special small ensembles (bell ringers, saxes, singers, etc.) The Folk Choir will play as usual on the second Sunday of every month. If you would like to provide any special music this summer, please contact either John Hawes (268-7206) or John Leslie at the church.

John Leslie

SHYGS Updates

We had a busy May continuing to prepare for our Mission Trip and having meetings to practice our bible skills and singing skills! Thank you Kyle Dando, John Leslie and Tim Miller for helping lead these events.

SHYGS was honored at West Valley College when the EOPS program run by Nancy Romer had a dinner on May 13th honoring their students and our group was invited to participate. Thank you to Taylor Mills and Greg Lukanc for representing the group and receiving the plaque of

SHYGS, continued

recognition for our support this past year of the EOP students. Our coat drive, toiletries distribution and holiday food and shopping all went to support West Valley students in need. Thank you too to Sharon Mills for getting the teens to the dinner and to Nancy for inviting us!

NEXT EVENTS:

June 5 - Regular Meeting-Be there early at 4:30 to pack tools for the trip!

June 12 - Regular Meeting-6:00-8:30

June 19 - Be in church at 11:00 for the blessing before our mission trip

June 25 - We leave for the trip!!!!

MISSION TRIP

Our church family is fabulous! As of our last fundraiser in April SHYGS has met their fundraising goal to go on the mission trip and was able to keep each family's share of the cost for 8 days travel and work to \$375. As a group we wish to thank all of you who hired a servant, participated in our flea market or car wash, bought wreaths and entertainment books and made donations of both cash, time and money to this wonderful group of high schoolers. Even though we have 4 members of our team who are unable to attend the trip with us it's been heartening to have them working alongside their fellow SHYGS to assist in the fundraising.

Most recently we'd like to thank Liz and Ed Criner and Rob and Gayle Moore for hiring our teens to work with the caterers at their wedding receptions. I think we've got a team that now has enough experience to hire out into the community! Thank you for putting these special days in our hands. We also want to acknowledge Jan and Al Day for their recent donation to our fund, and Ellen Lukanc, Sharon Mills, Katie McCormick and Connie Rimroth for working at an event Jean Cassetta was organizing and donated the check for their services. Ron Howie recently donated 17 sets of safety goggles and 17 4 way screwdrivers to the team-thanks Ron!

Last, but not least, Ellen Lukanc has been in charge of keeping all the deadlines, trainings and loose ends together to make sure we are in great shape to board a plane on June 25th. Thank you Ellen for your dedication to SHYGS!

SHYGS, continued

Please come, if you can, to church on Father's Day, June 19th when we have a special blessing for the teens before they leave. It will be wonderful to have a large group give them their well-wishes. If anyone would like to help Amy Griffith she is planning a welcome home dinner for the teens and their parents for the evening of July 3. Please contact her if you would like to help.

Thank you, church family, for embracing our teens!

Robin Root



John Leslie and Gwen Hacker in "I Do, I Do"

Upcoming Events

WOMEN'S NETWORK FALL RETREAT

The UCC Women's Network Fall Retreat, "The Many Faces of Grace," will be October 14-16 at Mercy Center in Burlingame. The keynote speaker will be The Rev. Dr. Mary Susan Gast, our Conference Minister. More information about the retreat is on the bulletin board in the downstairs hallway at church. The registration fee is somewhat less if paid in full before June 30th. Please contact *Phyllis Chai* at 226-7150 if you have further questions.

Phyllis Chai

CALLING ALL CYCLISTS: TOUR DE UCC RIDES AGAIN

July 31st to August 6th, 2005 will mark the second annual UCC Bicycle Adventure sponsored by First Congregational of Palo Alto. Exercise your legs and your faith and expand your UCC family during a one-week lap around the San Francisco Bay. Riders will enjoy fun and fellowship while pedaling 35 to 65 miles per day past some of the most beautiful scenery in California including San Francisco, the Golden Gate Bridge and Napa Valley.

The adventure will start and end at First Congregational Church of Palo Alto. Each night will be spent at a different Bay Area UCC church, where the group will share meals with church members and enjoy evening programs together. A support vehicle will carry luggage and sleeping gear. All meals and snacks will be provided and showers will be available each evening.

This trip is open to all UCC members and friends who are entering high school or older. The cost is only \$225 per person for the whole week or \$40 per day if you would like to come for just part of the week. All cyclists must have their own bicycles and be willing to train in advance to be capable of riding up to 65 miles per day. Riders will also be encouraged to do some fund-raising for Our Church's Wider Mission (forms and instructions will be provided).

If you are interested in signing up for the adventure, think you might be, or just have questions, please contact the trip coordinator, Russell Stevens, at 408-249-3061 or russ_sheila@att.net. The deadline to sign up is June 30, 2005.

Paul Telfer, on behalf of the Palo Alto Church

Events, continued

MEN'S BREAKFAST, JUNE 4, 2005

Speakers: Bart Smith and Anthony Duffy

Subject: Advanced Health Care Directive and Estate Planning

Location: Fellowship Hall, 8:00 am

Have you considered your wishes for end-of-life health care? Have you selected someone to speak for you (your agent) if you cannot speak for yourself? Have you discussed health care wishes with your agent or loved ones?

You should fill out an AHCD from that meets your needs. This is very important for any age group to do. Estate planning is another important discussion. Both will be discussed at the Men's Breakfast on June 4.

Plan to attend this important and informative meeting. This will be the last Men's Breakfast meeting for the season as we take our summer break for July through September.

Dick Okumura

REMEMBER THE AVUCC HAWAIIAN LUAU, Saturday, September 24, so please mark that day on your calendar.

40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, AUGUST 27-28. Saturday – gathering before picnic dinner. Sunday after church – finger food & coffee.

The committee needs your feedback! We need lists of the following:

- Couples married at AVUCC & who officiated
- Couples married by one of our ministers somewhere besides the church
- Memorial celebrations at or outside the church
- Memorial gifts or funds and in the name of whom
- Anyone interested in working on the Celebration

Please send information to Charlotte or Audrey:

Char at cduerksen@sbcglobal.net;
after June 10, to audrey957@yahoo.com.

Charlotte Duerksen

Events, continued

LADIES LUNCH, Thursday, June 16

- Meet at church at 11:00 am to carpool
- Hawgs Seafood Restaurant, downtown San Jose
- Sign up in Fellowship Hall
- Guests welcome

JV BOOK CLUB WILL MEET ON JUNE 16, to discuss *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult at Robyn Dorsey's.

For July we will meet on July 21, to discuss *Epitaph For A Peach* by David Mas Masumoto.

The locations for the next meetings will be announced later.

Please let me know if you are coming. Happy Reading!

Robyn Dorsey, 323-9230

Thanks

A LITTLE BIT OF ITALY

Thanks are in order to the "team" which made "A Little Bit of Italy" such a success. I really appreciated comments that it was one of the best parties ever! Of course, it was delightful because of the creative energy and generosity of a number of members. I was fortunate to have an extremely dedicated and hard-working committee with many great ideas. Thanks to Ariss Thomas (and Bob, who always was assisting with something, from contacting our accordion player to hanging paintings on the windows), Betty Benson, Maureen Evans and Carol Pullen. I have wonderful memories of each of them IN ACTION!

A special thank you to John Leslie and our entertainers: Phyllis Chai, Patty Bergantz, Joanne Specht, Cliff, Melanie, Josh and Laura Click, Susan and Delaney Gaydon, Byron Henderson, all of whom made the evening irresistible.

Thanks to the many others who helped along the way or pitched in that Saturday evening: Jim Ballek - advertising; Carolyn Crowley, Robyn Dorsey, Kathi Kisabeth - kitchen; Carolyn Dingman - raffle tickets; Joe Dingman and David Sanders - winetasting; Chuck Benson - transport; Melanie Click - assisting babysitters Marco, Melanie and Kelsey; Dave Pullen - food pick up; Mary Kingsley -

Thanks

assistance at the door. And then there was the terrific clean-up crew, many of whom have already been mentioned. Under the expert direction of "dishwasher man" Jim Wright, along with Peggy, the Greens, the Quinns and Sharon Cannon, we were out of the kitchen in no time.

Thank you to Chris, Andrew, Ryan and Guido, the Boy Scouts who did such a fabulous job serving the meal and clearing the tables; to Nicole and Danielle Evans for serving appetizers, cream and sugar with such grace.

Finally, thank you to ECA for the loan of the Venetian canvases - they added "magic" to our charming decorations; to Amy Griffith and Robin Root for making room in the refrigerator; to Pete Mayo, who helped me transport the canvases to my home, where they now reside (temporarily, I hope).

As you have read, I hardly accomplished this event by myself. That's what is so amazing about this small, but mighty community. We can make a lot happen!!

Janey Sanders

CROP WALK 2005

KUDOS go out to our church family for supporting our walkers for the South Bay Crop Walk. Our church donated \$1,000 for Church World Service. Many thanks go out to the following walkers: Robyn Dorsey, Phyllis Chai, the Click family and their dog, Dick Specht and dog, and Kathy Kisabeth with dog and two friends. It was a beautiful day and whether you walked one mile or five, your effort is greatly appreciated. We hope to convince others to join the Walk on April 30, 2006, especially the youth. There were 446 walkers this year and the final donation amount is not yet tabulated. My compliments to AVUCC!

Kathy Kisabeth

FROM DICK OKUMURA. THANK YOU !!! I am recovering from my right hip surgery (progressing quite well) and your concerns, prayers, get well cards, phone calls, visits and food, really did provide the stimulus to work harder and follow Doc's orders, with patience and patiently. It's not easy to be a patient. Thank you for your caring and thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,
Dick Okumura

In Memoriam

Bruce Hutchins was a long time active member of AVUCC who died May 1, 2005. He founded the Long Range Planning Committee and was a transitional moderator while our church underwent many changes. He treasured the prune shed days and was vitally interested in spiritual growth, planning and leading many adult education groups and retreats. He helped to bring us exciting speakers such as Alan Hunter and Howard Thurman. He was a man who loved children and philosophy, hearty laughter and intellectual challenge.

Music was his passion as a choir member, a soloist and as part of group ensembles. Bruce's generosity in sharing his trained baritone voice was a gift to so many of us. Music persisted during his struggle with Alzheimer's, continuing to flow through him with reverence long after much else was lost. Most of all Bruce loved people: calmly and without judgment. Along side that singing voice, his gentleness and laughter will echo through many of our lives.

Thanks. Our thanks for the patience, love and caring shown to Bruce and to our family through the years of his illness. It was only surpassed by the willingness of our church family to make possible the beautiful service and reception for Bruce's memorial. The prayers and sweet music remembered and released him on his journey. Alzheimer's disease is a long and difficult road for family and friends as well as for the person involved and your willingness to accompany us will always be gratefully remembered. Vaya con Dios.

Love,

*Bessie Hutchins,
Christina, Tim, and David*

Prayers for the Prayer Vine

Members of the Prayer Vine welcome the opportunity to pray for your loved ones. Church members, who are part of the prayer vine, pray daily for a period of two weeks (or longer if requested). All requests are confidential. Please call Carla Gerber (268-4819) or Pastor Paul.

Carla Gerber

Gwen and John in "I Do, I Do"



June 2005 Calendar

Wednesday, June 1	4:45 pm	Bell Choir
	7:30 pm	AVUCC Choir
Saturday, June 4	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast
	10:00 am	Children's Choir
Sunday, June 5	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
	10:10 am	Sunday School
	4:45 pm	SHYG Meeting
Monday, June 6	7:00 pm	Duplicate Bridge
Friday, June 10	TBA	Jr High Pool Party at the McCormicks'
Saturday, June 11	10:00 am	Children's Choir
Sunday, June 12	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
	6:00 pm	SHYG Meeting
Tuesday, June 14	7:00 pm	AVUCC Council
Wednesday, June 15	11:00 am	JV Staff Meeting
	4:45 pm	Bell Choir
	7:30 pm	AVUCC Choir
Thursday, June 16	11:00 am	Ladies' Lunch at Hawgs Seafood
	7:30 pm	JV Book Group
Friday, June 17	7:30 pm	"I Do, I Do"
Saturday, June 18	10:00 am	Children's Choir
	1:30 pm	"I Do, I Do"
	7:30 pm	"I Do, I Do"
Sunday, June 19	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
	11:00 am	SHYG Meet for Blessing for the Mission Trip
Wednesday, June 22	4:45 pm	Bell Choir
	7:30 pm	AVUCC Choir
Saturday, June 25	TBA	SHYG Mission Trip begins
	10:00 am	Children's Choir
Sunday, June 26	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
Tuesday, June 28	7:00 pm	Vestry Meeting
Wednesday, June 29	4:45 pm	Bell Choir
	7:30 pm	AVUCC Choir

June Birthdays

Pat Dando	June 01
Gary Nakaji	June 02
Anna Fischer	June 04
Jo Ann Sparks	June 04
Bill Cox	June 05
Marian Henderson	June 06
John Graham	June 08
Joshua Click	June 09
Joanne Specht	June 09
Jay Caturay	June 10
Becky Fernandez	June 19
John Noerenberg	June 20
Karen Smith	June 22
Laurel Sue Moore	June 23
Dennis Widman	June 24
Peggy Wright	June 24
David Crowley	June 25
Charles Allfrey	June 28
Ariss Thomas	June 28
Kendrick Hough	June 29

June Anniversaries

Hi-Dong and Phyllis Chai	June 08
David and Carolyn Crowley	June 08
Al and Jan Day	June 08
John and Diane Hawes	June 14
Chuck and Betty Benson	June 16
Jim and Peggy Wright	June 17
Bruce and Bessie Hutchins	June 19
Wai Mun and Toh-Bee Syn	June 20
Harold and Laura Hall	June 21
Tom and Carla Gerber	June 22
Ross and Kris Nakaji	June 23
Bart and Karen Smith	June 27
Orlon and Audrey Wiedrick	June 27

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KALOS – June 2005

KALOS Deadline for the July 2005 Issue

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