

AVUCC KALOS

Newsletter for the
Almaden Valley
United Church of Christ

Interim Pastor's Reflections

As an interim minister I am a member of the Interim Ministry Network, an interfaith, international organization that provides training and continuing education for those of us engaged in interim ministry. One of the services the Network provides is a periodic newsletter. In a recent issue there was an article about church growth and how churches might seek out and invite the unchurched into the church. I share some of the article's insights here.

Two major studies have been conducted over the past three years focusing on the "unchurched" in the United States. What these studies found have impact and implications for AVUCC.

The unchurched tend to believe that church members are good role models for healthy family living and are more likely to form lasting relationships than others. The unchurched respect Christian views and regard church members as good people. They are surprised, however, at some churchgoer's reticent behavior. More than nine out of ten say they would start attending church if only they were asked. Since some 160 million United States residents are unchurched, the potential pool for favorable responses exceeds 140 million. If growth or restoration is to come at all, three quarters of it will come from the pool of sympathetic but apathetic loners.

The attitudes of the unchurched are not monolithic and do not correlate to where they live, their ethnic or racial background or gender. As previous research has shown, a large majority of the unchurched do have a church background. Even if many years have passed, favorable memories linger.

A majority of the unchurched are far more concerned about the spiritual well-being of their children than themselves. A reliable source for moral up-bringing is a consistent and nagging concern for these parents. The church is perceived as the most relevant institution in society for that purpose.

KALOS

Monthly Newsletter
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July 2005

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Interim Pastor's Reflections, continued

The single most annoying experience for the unchurched is the "cold call" at their home. An unscheduled visitor is rarely welcomed. On the other hand, a visit by invitation is welcome, either to the home or for coffee in a neighborhood restaurant.

I recall reading a study that was conducted over twenty years ago on church evangelism. This old study found that most new church members came to a church because they were invited by a friend. According to these two more recent studies, nothing much has changed.

Almaden Valley United Church of Christ is well positioned to take advantage of this reality. You have a significant number of younger families with children. If each of you would invite a friend or acquaintance to church at least four times a year, my sense is that you would see a significant increase in new members within a very short time.

The article goes on to say that the studies indicate that worship services and programs are not what the unchurched cared most about. It was a sense of intimacy, authenticity and community. Their primary anxiety was that no one have invited them or offered to escort them.

As AVUCC moves into the future keep in mind that you as a member of this church are the most significant factor in bringing new people into the church. It is up to you.

Blessings and Peace,
Paul

Moderator's Notes

Summer is finally here! AVUCC has some summer events planned. The 40th Anniversary Celebration is planned for the second weekend of August and a Luau is planned for September. There will be a JV talent show in July and John Leslie is leading a production of Fiddler on the Roof in August.

Thanks to the 42 members who attended the congregational meeting on June 12. We heard reports about our financial situation, the pastoral search, the 40th anniversary celebration, and the proposed JV bylaw revisions. Copies of the proposal are available by email if you email me at mjclick@comcast.net. There are a few print copies available in the church office.

Moderator's Notes, continued

I want to thank everyone who submitted a new pledge or increased their pledge to help us meet our financial needs. Now I hope you will be similarly generous with your time and consider serving on the council next year or on one of our committees. Some of the best programs of our church are run by our committees and several of them are in need of new members. Please give your church family the gift of your time and participation.

Melanie Click
AVUCC Moderator

Bylaw Revisions

The proposed JV bylaw revisions are available for review. If you would like to receive a copy by email, please email me at mjclick@comcast.net, and I will send a copy.

If you prefer a paper copy, they are available in the church office.

Thank you,

Melanie Click
AVUCC Moderator

Managing Our Differences

Two years ago Speed Leas led a workshop, which was open to both congregations, on "Managing Differences in the Congregation." During this seminar, we learned that a certain amount of conflict is normal and is an important ingredient for personal growth and for the growth of the congregation. We also learned about the various styles of conflict management, completing a Conflict Inventory in order to determine our own management styles.

The predominant style for the group was Persuasion, "where a person or group attempts to change another's point of view, way of thinking, feelings, or ideas....When one chooses to use a persuasive strategy in conflict, one assumes that the other is incorrect....and needs to be changed in order to improve the situation....The persuader does not assume that she needs to change, that she needs to act or think differently. . . Persuasion strategies can be very disappointing." When conflict is high, resistance is high and trust is low and persuasion tends to heighten the conflict. The alternative "is improving the relationship and the trust level....and your own

Managing Our Differences, continued

willingness to change or compromise in the situation, and whether Collaborating or Negotiating strategies are available to you.” In Collaboration or Negotiation it is assumed that all of the parties to the conflict will work together and share in the change. In the last several months there has been a fair amount of Persuasive strategies at work in our church. Perhaps we should look at our own conflict management style and how compatible it is with the AVUCC Promise, The Vision, and our Statement of Ministry. By working together, listening to each other, respecting each other, and “centering our life in the way of Jesus Christ” (from our Promise), our individual and collective journeys will be better for all.

Dennis Widman

Asilomar Report

AVUCC’s 2005 delegation to the annual Asilomar conference consisted of Pastor Paul Telfer, Phyllis Chai, and myself. Hi-Dong also planned to attend, but somehow got lost and, surprisingly, ended up on a local golf course.

Asilomar is a three-day conference filled with sermons, announcements, small group discussions, votes on proposals, entertainment, dining, and individual discussions. Since this was my first time, I didn’t know what to expect and tried to attend all available activities. It turned out to be a very interesting experience, as I met people from many different churches of the Northern California and Nevada Conference, who had – surprise! – issues similar to ours.

This year’s theme, “God’s Radical Hospitality,” was explored in the keynote sermons and in small break-out groups. The keynote speakers were Randi Walker, a professor at the Pacific School of Religion, and Carlton Pearson, a nationally known preacher with Word of Faith Charismatic Ministries. Pearson is founder of a new denomination after his split with Oral Roberts (and being removed as regent from Oral Roberts University) over his radical “doctrine of inclusion.” He was obviously a surprise for the typically laid-back UCC crowd, but he quickly won over everybody with his engaging style and powerful message.

As a first-timer I had no frame of reference, but this year’s format was said to be quite different from previous years. The moderator was Rev. Tauoa Head, leader of a Samoan congregation that recently joined UCC. All entertainment

Asilomar, continued

had a Samoan theme and was provided by the Samoan youth group, who had the crowd on their feet with lots of singing and dancing in their unmistakable style.

So what do you get out of attending Asilomar? For me the most important things were the small group and one-on-one discussions with members and ministers of other UCC churches. Comparing notes on the issues our respective churches face and how we deal with them was an eye opener. For example, at UCC we like to think of ourselves as an open and welcoming church to all, but few churches have those convictions challenged like UCC Modesto. In short, they found out that they had a registered sex offender (a pedophile) in their midst, and had to figure out how to deal with that. Puts our arguments over Tabard in perspective...

I also got a real appreciation for our conference leaders, especially our associate conference minister Deborah Streeter. Did you know that there are currently 28 churches in our conference who are searching for a pastor? They all need help in that process, and Deborah maintains regular contact with the ones in the Santa Clara Association. At the same time, she is the editor of *The Pacific*, serves on numerous committees, etc., and somehow manages to keep very well informed about how we’re doing at AVUCC.

Next year, consider attending Asilomar. It is a great way to learn about UCC beyond our own church and see how we fit into that greater church family.

Steven Coutinho

UCC NCNC Annual Meeting

Being on the grounds of Asilomar is always a glorious experience, and this year we were blessed with marvelous weather the entire time. I felt honored to be one of the AVUCC voting delegates to this year’s NCNC Annual Meeting, with the theme of “God’s Radical Hospitality” at Asilomar in May.

It was wonderful to see “old” friends again and to meet new ones...There was much spirited singing, before and during the daily worship services, and as in the past, Barbara Hamm shared with us at least one of her new compositions...My mornings began with the inspiring Taize services at 7:00 a.m...Break-Out groups after morning worship services, provided an opportunity to discuss the messages of the several, very able featured speakers...Sitting in the

UCNC, continued

discernment sessions and listening to the pros and cons related to the five proposals was interesting and at times a "moving" experience, and I welcomed voting on the proposals, all of which "passed"...I was glad to attend the Association Meeting of Santa Clara Valley and learn more about its work...Attending the Women's Network luncheon, honoring four "Outstanding Women of 2005" was a pleasure...Cups of Beneficio Coffee were given to the participants throughout the entire Annual Meeting and 1000 bags of coffee were available for sale, with the proceeds being donated to OCWM. We heard about the youth group from Auburn which went on a mission trip to Costa Rica this Spring (See the article on the first page of "The Pacific" for June-July)...God IS Still Speaking!

Phyllis Chai

The Joy of Giving

"There is no greater joy in life than giving to worthy causes."

So said Ted Turner in September 1997! Now I have to admit I didn't very much like quoting Ted, but the words seem appropriate for the task at hand! You see, I have a worthy cause, and I want to give you great joy!

We are in need of desirable items to auction off at the Hawaiian Luau scheduled for September 24th. The proceeds of that event will go to the AVUCC Pastoral Housing Fund. We are at present searching for a new pastor. One of the drawbacks of the search is the high cost of housing in our area, and the fact that the church cannot offer housing to a prospective minister. We cannot do much in that regard for this ministerial search, but we must look to the future. The Fund has a fairly good start, and we hope we can add our goal of \$15,000 to the approximately \$40,000 already in the fund

Here is a list of the type of items we are looking for:

- **Vacation homes or cabins:** If you own one, donate it for a week, or even for a three day weekend.
- **Tymshare (TimeShares):** If you own a Tymshare, you could donate your time share or even arrange through Interval International, or whichever exchange company you work with, for a vacation anywhere in the world.

Giving, continued

- **Vacation Points:** If you accrue "points" through a system such as Marriott or the Westin Hotels, you could donate a certain amount of points. After the auction the auction winner with your assistance convert those points to a reward such as a night in the city, or a 3-day weekend in Monterey etc.
- **A Catered Dinner:** You and some friends could put on a special dinner for the auction winner. Be creative, do a Chinese dinner, Italian dinner, a Martha Stewart dinner etc. Use your imagination, and have a fun time doing it.
- **Golf:** Donate a round of golf at your favorite course, or have your golf pro give the auction winner golf lessons (tennis too).
- **Theatre Tickets:** Are you a season ticket holder to the theatre? Can't attend all the performances? Let us auction them for the cause.
- **Sports Tickets:** Got tickets to the Giants, Warriors, Sabercats, A's ?? Be a sport, and donate a game or two.
- **Restaurants:** A gift certificate to a great restaurant would be a great idea.
- **Talent:** Do you have a unique talent? Photography? Painting? Decorating? Gardening? Singing? Come up with a worthwhile event, or a gift to donate.
- **Airline Miles:** With your assistance and your airline miles, our auction winner could take a trip.
- **Rare Items:** Would you part with rare wines, jewelry, paintings, stocks, bonds, cars, *oops, I'm getting carried away here!*

If you can, please put a minimum worth or bid on your item. It will help our auctioneers, Mr's Bruce Bush and Byron Henderson, in selling your item.

Again, Please do whatever you can to help us in this very worthwhile cause. *We need to have the items by August 28.* This event takes a great deal of planning, and we want it to be a fun and rewarding event, as well as a success in fund raising.

Each and everyone of you is vital to the success of this event. Please donate items, and please plan to attend on September 24th. It's going to be a lot of fun.

Jim Ballek

40th AVUCC Anniversary Reunion - August 27 - 28!

Saturday at 3:30 pm, gathering, and 6:00 pm dinner picnic with home-made ice cream for dessert. We would appreciate sampling your favorite recipe!

Sunday after church, coffee and fingerfood

Cost: \$10.00 per person or \$20 per family for the entire weekend

The committee still needs your feedback:

- Couples married at AVUCC and who officiated
- Couples married by our ministers somewhere besides the church
- Memorial celebrations performed by our ministers at or outside the church
- Memorial gifts or funds and in the name of whom

The following records need to be found:

- Baptisms from 1993 to 1998
- Confirmations for 1992, and 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, and include others that were either baptized or confirmed with you or your child.

Please send to Char at: cduerksen@sbcglobal.net
or Audrey at: audrey957@yahoo.com.

TRIVIA:

- How many confirmands were there in the church's first eleven years?
- Can you name all the moderators in sequence?
- Who won the first watermelon seed-splitting contest?
- Who was the organist that worked for 3 months?
- Where is the book that records all memorial gifts?
- Was there a 1986 confirmation class?
- Who was on the Building Committee for the renovation of the church?
- When was the church's first mortgage burned?

*Charlotte Cuerksen
Audrey Wiedrick*

Lorraine's Loving Care - Pet & Home Services

Looking for a loving caregiver for your pet and home while you're away? Lorraine's Loving Care provides in-home service for dogs, cats, bird, lizards, and other small pets as well as care for your plants and home security services (bringing in mail, lighting and blinds adjustments, etc.). I am bonded, insured, and certified as a professional pet sitter through National Association of Professional Pet Sitters - www.petsitters.org - and have excellent references, but most importantly, animals respond well to my friendly and caring attention.

Fees are based on your needs (number of pets, visits or overnight, other services such as plant/yard care, etc.). Overnight fee typically \$45-\$55 and typical visit (fresh food and water, play, walk, litter and/or run clean-up) \$15.

I am based in the Almaden community, but do serve some clients outside the immediate area.

Lorraine Zeller
408-375-5840 (cell)
lorrainezeller@earthlink.net

Thank You

To Carolyn Dingman for her dedication and hard work in creating the 2005 AVUCC Directory, and to Jan Day for proof-reading the directory.

Condolences

To Shirley Lucas and family, on the passing of Don on May 23, 2005.

Caring

The Caring Coordinators for June and July are:

Janey Sanders
Kathy Kisabeth

Phyllis Chai

Pastoral Search

Those of you who made the Semi-annual Meeting of the Congregation heard the Search Committee report. Here is a summary for those who couldn't be there:

We are still reading profiles of candidates. We are also listening to tapes of sermons from candidates whose profiles impressed us, and we are doing phone interviews with candidates who made it through steps 1 and 2. AND we are arranging for a visit to the area and a Sunday morning sermon in a neutral pulpit.

When we have found a candidate we want to recommend to the church, we will meet with the council (under the cone of silence) and discuss a salary package, and then the pastor will meet with the council. If that all goes well, our recommendation will come to the congregation to preach a candidate sermon, and the congregation will vote in a meeting after church to accept or reject the recommendation of the council.

We are not looking for the Perfect Pastor, nor the world's best preacher. We are looking for the best MATCH for what this church wants and needs.

We ask your continued prayers for us and for the process of discernment which we have undertaken for the church. We would love to have a permanent pastor in place for the start of the school year!

*Steve Coutinho, Joan Curtice,
Marian Henderson, Sue Scaff,
Terry Shoup, Dennis Widman,
and me – Sandy Baldwin*

Sunday School

Thank you Sunday school teachers

Leslie Rousseau, Mary Leal, Trish Reilly, Debbie Bishop, Sharon Hall, Tami Neiders, Pat McGarvin, Tom Fahlen, Mary McPherson, Rosemary Halas, Katheen Quint, Bonnie McPherson, Londa Larsen, Sandy Baldwin, Ellie Mills, Kim Petruzzelli, Alex Dykes, Dick & Jean Shipe, Sandy Mueller, Byron Henderson, Jon & Sharon Mills, Ron Howie and Sam Sarmecanic

for your dedication and love of our children's spiritual growth!

Katie McCormick

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible school is coming up on August 8-12. We will begin at 9 am, and the children will finish at 12 noon. Our theme this year is the Jerusalem Market Place. There will be "shops" that the children will visit during the morning which include the carpentry shop, pottery shop, weaving shop, herbs and spices shop, bakery, musical instruments shop, jewelry-making shop, basket-making shop, candy shop and barnyard. Two different shops will be open each day.

We will need adults to run the "shops" during the week as well as the synagogue school and playground.

I have four High School youth and several Junior High youth who have volunteered to help with the tribes but I need two more teens to head up tribes and several adults to fill in with the shops. I also need anyone interested in being on the drama team.

If you're a tribe leader or helper, you can also participate on the drama team. There is a sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway for helping to run the shops and for helping with the creative process beforehand.

The cost this year will be \$20 per child and we are closing the sign ups at 30 children.

The sign-ups are a first-come, first-serve basis so please reserve your space by signing up on the bulletin board in the hall way at church.

I will need many items either loaned or donated to keep the cost at \$20. and I have made a list of these items which you can see below. There will be palm leaves in the fellowship hall with these items listed on them.

If you are able to donate or loan us any of these items please fill out the palm leaf and put it in my mailbox at church. When we get closer to VBS, I will collect the items and put them in the back classroom.

This year's VBS will be a lot of fun!

Katie McCormick

VBS needs list:

2 menorahs
Matzo bread
Cut out tefillin box patterns

batch of Haroseth (see me for the recipe)
calligraphy on the torah scrolls (for you to write!)

Rabbi costume

30 brown shoe laces
leather lacing

2 burlap or canvas sacks

drying rack (to hang spices)
6 laundry baskets
bath towels
clothes pins

6 terra-cotta pots
12-5 foot bamboo poles

5 volleyballs
12 Frisbees
10 jump ropes

sidewalk chalk

hammers
chisel
saw
rope
mortar and pestle stones
6 small brushes out of new straw broom (make these)

50 pieces of lathe 6 inches long, with a hole drilled in one end

2 or 3 potters wheels

barn yard animals – goats, sheep, llama, kittens, puppies, cow etc.!

large black of salt (available at farm supply store)

5 large tents for the tribe's "home base"

Katie McCormick

Jr High Youth Group

Sixteen Junior High youth had a fun time at the pool party celebrating our incoming fifth graders and saying goodbye to our eighth graders.

We made some plans for next year as well as set some dates for summer activities. We will have 3 outdoor movie nights and two beach trips.

Next year's meetings will be on Sunday from 6-8 as many more kids were able to make this time rather than Friday. However, there will be some Friday meetings toward the end of the year.

Katie McCormick

Senior High Youth Group

As you read this article, SHYGS (14 teens and 3 adults) are finishing up our mission trip to Polson, Montana. Our return will be on Sunday July 3, and it will culminate in a dinner at church at 6:00. If you are interested in helping with this dinner or being there to welcome the group home, contact Amy Griffith.

We had a wonderful benediction on June 19, where each teen's prayer partner presented a cross made by Dennis Moran and a mission trip t-shirt. Thank you Dennis and all prayer partners for your support. Our prayer partners were Suzanne Mayo, Russ and Kim Petruzelli, Ann Mayers, Mary McPherson, Jean Cassetta, Kimberly Axtell, Susie Ferguson, Dennis Moran, Jackie Whitlock, Sandie Mueller, Pat McGarvin, Natalie Mena, Nancy Romer, Pat Fox, Ellen and Todd Lukanc.

Those attending are Valerie Tysanner, Hannah Ward, Amber Cottle, Beth Nollette, Alyce Gallego, Alex Bishop, Taylor Mills, Eric McCormick, Ryan Hall, Marshall Robins, David Mastriana, Greg Lukanc, Matt Rimroth, Brad Bond, Katie McCormick, Terry Root and Robin Root.

Many of you have touched our group this year through supporting words, gifts, donations, participation and love. The teens have truly learned what the phrase "church family" means this past year as you have helped them meet their goal to help others. So thank you!

We have donations that were not acknowledged before: Thank you Frank May and Jan and Al Day for your cash donation to our fund and to Ron Howie for donating two sets of protective

Senior High, continued

eye wear and 4 way screwdrivers for each participant. In addition, Ken McCormick's company picked up the tab for shipping 8 boxes of tools and supplies to Montana so they would be ready for us when we arrived. These are all greatly appreciated by the team, so big hugs to you all.

Big News: Greg Lukanc got his driver's license, so everyone, watch out! David Mastriana got his learner's permit, so DITTO! Alex Bishop turned 15 and Evelyn turned 18, so hoo-hoo! Congratulations to Eric McCormick and Evelyn Wing for graduating from high school. What a great feeling that is! And, Jean Cassetta had her baby Rosario. So it was a big month for SHYGs in June.

Robin Root

COMING UP!!!

It's summertime and that means it's time to hang out. Here's the schedule for July and August:

Wednesdays July 12, 19, 26 and Aug 10, 17, 24, 31 will be volleyball nights

Time: 6:30-9:30

Activity: Share a meal, play some volleyball and hang out!

Wed-Fri, Aug 3-5: Beach Campout to Manresa State Park

We'll leave church around noon, be back on Friday evening. Activities will be bonfires on the beach, volleyball, swimming, games, and just being beach bums! Cooking will be shared-Greg and David are leading the cook's team. This is our welcome to the 8th graders event, so if you are an 8th grader, get this on your family calendar quick. Parents, I'm going to need some drivers, so let me know if you can drive and haul kids and/or gear!

Sat, Aug 20: Volleyball Challenge-Teens v. Parents

Time 6:00-10:00 Potluck B-B-Q

Sun, Aug 28: Volleyball at church

Time 6:30-9:30

Sunday, Sept 4: Our first meeting night falls on Labor Day Weekend, so stay tuned...we may change or cancel this date.

Senior High, continued

Friday, Sept 9: Planning Meeting for the year – finalize stuff we talked about on the beach trip and add new ideas. Time to be announced, but get it on your calendars.

Happy Summer Everyone! Relax, Have Fun, and Enjoy your Family and Friends.

Robin Root

Servant Auction Winners - Cash in Now!

To all of you who generously supported our Servant Auction last fall, we want to remind you that the items you won expire on August 15th. Your servants are out of school now, but they may be taking off for vacations, so make sure you give them plenty of notice when calling to set up times for them. If you have forgotten who your servant contact is, please email or call Robin Root who has the list of who won what.

Thank you again for your support of SHYGS fundraising efforts!

Robin Root

robinroot@yahoo.com

268-1203

Thanks from the Lucas Family

Shirley Lucas and her family wish to thank the members of the congregation for their kindness in helping with Don's memorial service

The choir, the soloist, the ushers, the help with the elevator, the work of the Caring Committee and the other ladies who helped set up for the reception were all wonderful, and we are deeply grateful

For our family it was exceptionally memorable, especially Pastor Paul Telfer's beautifully conducted service.

Many, many thanks.

Shirley Lucas

July 2005 Calendar

Friday, July 1	7:30 pm	Bridge Group
Sunday, July 3	9:00 am	UCC Worship
	2:00 pm	Mission Trip Homecoming Dinner
Monday, July 4	7:00 pm	Duplicate Bridge
Tuesday, July 5	7:30 pm	JV Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 6	12:30 pm	Mah Jong
Friday, July 8	7:00 pm	Talent Show
Saturday, July 9	ALUMINUM CAN DRIVE	
Sunday, July 10	9:00 am	UCC Worship
Tuesday, July 12	7:00 pm	UCC Council
Wednesday, July 13	12:30 pm	Mah Jong
Sunday, July 17	9:00 am	UCC Worship
Tuesday, July 19	4:00 pm	AVUCC Shelter Food Service
Wednesday, July 20	11:00 am	JV Staff Meeting
	12:30 pm	Mah Jong
Thursday, July 21	7:30 pm	JV Book Club
Sunday, July 24	9:00 am	UCC Worship
Wednesday, July 27	12:30 pm	Mah Jong
Sunday, July 31	9:00 am	UCC Worship

July Birthdays

Bee Mannia	July 02
Helen Clay	July 03
Richard Daley	July 04
Maggie Garg	July 04
Jordan Ando	July 13
Madison Ando	July 13
Stephen Rose	July 15
Terry Shoup	July 20
Thomas Hall	July 20
John Hawes	July 24
Cliff Click	July 27
Karen Click	July 27
Evan Quint	July 30
Susan Gaydon	July 31

July Anniversaries

Greg and Regina Hearn	July 08
Kyle and Leanna Dando	July 15
Bill and Charlotte Duerksen	July 30

JV Book Club

Jv Book Club will meet on July 21st at 7:30 p.m., the home of Kathy Kisabeth, 312 Los Pinos Way. The book we will be discussing is *Epitath For A Peach* by David Mas Masumoto. Please call Kathy to respond, or ask for directions....227-3898. See you Thursday.

Robyn Dorsey

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KALOS – July 2005

KALOS Deadline for the August 2005 Issue

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