

AVUCC KALOS

Newsletter for the
Almaden Valley
United Church of Christ

Interim Pastor's Reflections

Fifteen months is not a long time. Of course, if you're serving on a Pastoral Search Committee then it can seem like an eternity. Now the search process has come to an end. You as a congregation have voted to call Kevin Smith as your pastor and teacher. You as a church are entering a new an exciting time. Congratulations to you and to Kevin!

Your Search Committee has worked very hard for almost fifteen months. They have read more ministerial profiles than they care to remember. They have interviewed by phone and in person many prospective candidates. They have listened to sermons. They have discussed, debated, prayed, and sometimes wondered why in God's name did I say "yes" to being on this committee. Through it all they have remained faithful and committed to the task they were given. Their task is almost completed. I say "almost" because even when Kevin begins his ministry with you, they will still be serving him and you as advisors, guides, and a sounding board. The members of the Search Committee are the people that Kevin knows best, and until he has been here a while and gets to know the rest of the congregation, he may be seeking their counsel for a time.

Serving on a Search Committee is hard work, but it is a task that has great rewards. You get to work closely with the other members, you get to know them well, and you share a sense of togetherness that is not usually seen on other boards or committees. There are disagreements, but there are also moments when you can look at each other and feel a closeness that makes everything else worthwhile.

In the days and weeks ahead, take a moment to say "Thanks" to your Search Committee. Thank them for their faithfulness, commitment, long hours and hard work. To Sandy Baldwin, Steve Countinho, Joan Curtice, Marian Henderson, Sue Scaff, Terry Shoup, Dennis Widman, say "Thank you and Well Done!"

As I mentioned above, I am excited with you and for you. I must also confess just a bit of sadness. My time with you is coming to a close, The Interim, the In-Between-Time is almost finished. And this is as it should be. Interim Pastors are a rather strange breed. We travel light. We aren't settled. We come for a while and then we're gone. In the sixteen months that I have

September 2005

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KALOS

Monthly Newsletter
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Interim Pastor's Reflections, continued

been privileged to be your Interim Pastor, you have been generous, welcoming, open to change and have been most kind to me. You have shared your joys and your sorrows with me. You have encouraged me in this ministry, and you have been gently critical when I most needed it.

I will miss all of you. I will miss your warmth, your compassion, your love for this church and for one another. I will miss the Joint Venture and sharing ministry with Stephen Mills and the good people of ECA. It has been a real joy to work together in this joint ministry. I will miss your willingness to laugh at my attempts at humor and to listen to my stories. My wife has told me that interim ministry is a good way for me to finish my career, as I will have the opportunity to tell my stories to new audiences again and again. Thank you for being good listeners and for being so kind.

Someone asked me recently if I felt like I was being "pushed" out. My answer was and is "No." Interim Ministry, by its very nature, is temporary. I knew what I began this ministry sixteen months ago that I would soon be leaving. I had a very specific task to do and a limited time in which to do it. My job, my work with you, among you, has been accomplished. I thank you for your trust in me, and for allowing me to share in your life as a faith community these past sixteen months.

May God continue to bless you and your ministry here in the Alamaden Valley.

Blessings and Peace,
Paul

Moderator's Notes

What a joyous day! As most of you know, we have called a new pastor, Kevin Smith. I would like to once more offer my gratitude to the members of the Pastoral Search Committee and their families. Thank you all for a job well done! Pastor Kevin's ministry at AVUCC will begin on September 22. His first Sunday in the pulpit will be on October 2. I am looking forward to this new chapter in the life of our church.

As we need a pastor to lead us, we also need volunteers to keep our church running. Several committees need new members, and I hope many of you will serve. The Nominating Committee will soon be asking members

Moderator's Notes, continued

to serve on Council next year. If you are interested in serving on the Council, please contact Steven Coutinho. If you are interested in serving on any other church committee, please contact me at 323-8283 or mjclick@comcast.net.

Melanie Click
AVUCC Moderator

From Our New Pastor!

Dear AVUCC Family,

*You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord
who abide in God's shadow for life,
say to the Lord: 'My refuge, my rock
in whom I trust!'*

As the words from the beautiful hymn "On Eagle's Wings," by Michael Joncas tell us, it is a very good thing to "dwell in the shelter of the Lord." Months and months ago we each embarked on a journey of searching and hoping. We trusted in God to show us the path that would lead us to an ineffable event termed a "call." On Sunday, August 14th, we mutually experienced that time. Each of us entered into the shelter of the Lord and in each other. Each of us was raised up on eagle's wings to find one another!

I wanted to thank you for your faith, trust, and support in calling me to be your pastor and teacher. It is a true blessing for me to accept your call to serve you and your families and friends in the work that God calls us to do. I look forward to growing with you in our Christian faith.

Thank you, too, for welcoming Nancy and I and for showing us your tremendous hospitality during the week leading up to the Sunday worship service and afterwards at the congregational meeting. We are truly grateful to one and all.

I look forward to beginning my ministry with you in late September and being in the pulpit on the first Sunday in October.

Thanks again to the fabulous Search Committee and their families and to the entire AVUCC family.

In God's peace,
Kevin Smith

Kevin Smith's Bio

Kevin Smith grew up in Washington State and received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science from Portland State University in 1979. In 1994 he completed the Senior Executive in State and Local Government certificate program at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Kevin completed his M.Div. from Harvard Divinity School earlier this year.

Kevin recently served as the part-time Interim Pastor for the North Street Union Congregational Church UCC in Medford, MA. This is a congregation with a significant elderly population, and his ministry there focused on a pastoral presence for those experiencing illness and death. He also served as a student minister for the North-Prospect Congregational UCC in Cambridge, MA. Kevin is a member of the First Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he served as part of the pastoral care team. He has experience in the areas of social action/just peace, adult and children's Christian education, church visioning/leadership, and church administration. He has been active in ecumenical activities including the founding of an outdoor church at Porter Square, a ministry to homeless persons in Cambridge.

Prior to his church ministerial experience, Kevin spent 24 years in politics and government, working on environmental, human rights, and economic recovery issues in the administration of two different governors of, and a U.S. congressman from, Oregon. From April 1997 to June 2001 Kevin served as the Director of the Oregon Governor's Office in Washington, D.C. In this position he advocated for state interests before the executive and legislative branches of the federal government. He helped to create and fund an intergovernmental endangered-salmon recovery program, and he helped write and pass legislation to create wilderness and conservation areas.

From January 1991 to January 1995 Kevin served as the Director of Intergovernmental Relations and also as Chief of Staff for the Oregon Governor's Office. His service to the Governor and the Governor's Cabinet and Staff provided policy, administration, budget, and legislative leadership. During this time Kevin co-authored the book *Setting the Stage for Sustainability: A Citizen's Handbook*.

Kevin has a friendly and loving spirit and is able to love, care for, and respect people of differing ages, temperaments, and gifts. He has the ability to challenge people gracefully as well as to sit with those who are in pain, confusion, and doubt. Kevin has a genuine love of

Kevin's Bio, continued

people and has a leadership style that inspires, facilitates, and supports while still being patient with process and with people's different ways of working and learning. He has experience with helping groups to reach consensus and cooperation in the midst of disagreement and diverse viewpoints. Kevin has a good sense of boundaries and a pleasant sense of humor. He is an avid baseball fan and enjoys hiking, biking, running, reading, movie/theater going, as well as travel.

Kevin's wife, Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones, has been called to be the Senior Minister of the First Unitarian Church of San Jose starting August 15, 2005. Kevin's older son Jason lives in Colorado Springs where he works for Boeing in their satellite systems operations. Kevin's younger son Jeremy and his wife Patty live and work in the Vancouver, Washington, area, where Jeremy works in paper production, and Patty works in the electronics industry.

Terry Shoup



Kevin Smith

Joint Venture Notes

The JV Board accepted Greg Lucanc's Eagle Scout plan for paving the path to the gazebo from the edge of the parking lot to the railings of the mock bridge.

It also approved the Sign Committee short term plan (9/18) to paint the sign in front of the church a white background and dark lettering for the two churches to enhance visibility from the street and lighter color lettering for the Joint Venture Churches text to deemphasize its identity relative to the two churches.

The Board reports that:

- the tiles in the Sunday School rooms have been reattached for the short term while a longer term suspended ceiling tile upgrade is explored;
- the document folder has been repaired.

Also, the Board:

- supports renewal of the hanging signs for each of the churches near the pepper tree;
- plans to have the small Sunday School room and the outside doors painted and the youth center touched up, as well as the kitchen screen door rescreened;
- plans to slurry seal the parking lot and remove a dead tree;
- plans to explore adding a street light from the power pole next to the driveway.

Deseree Brown ("Desi") has assumed the position of Joint Venture Administrative Assistant. The JV budget and each church's operational budgets will be adjusted to reflect this most vital resource. Welcome, Desi!!!

George Romer

AVUCC Council Notes

Due to changes in the meeting dates for the Council in June and July, the minutes were not available at the *Kalos* publication deadline. Minutes for those months are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway outside Fellowship Hall. Here is a summary of the minutes from the AVUCC Council Meeting held on August 9, 2005:

Treasurer's Report and Budget: Jay Caturay, who has served as assistant treasure for the past few years, has stepped up to be the AVUCC treasurer since Ken Phillips

Council Notes, continued

has moved to Fresno. Jay is in the process of getting the accounting records from Ken and will be changing the signatories on the church's bank accounts. Two signatures will be required for checks. There will be an audit of the church books in October, and a new assistant treasurer will be named.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Paul's contract will be extended through the end of September, and his last day to preach at AVUCC will be Sept. 18th. He will arrange with the assistant conference minister for a formal exit interview at AVUCC to take place during September.

Old Business: The Council is still considering the revisions to the Joint Venture Bylaws and will try to complete this task once the new minister is on board.

New Business: Plans were completed for the special congregational meeting to take place on August 14th to vote on our new pastor.

Approval was given to the JV Board to paint the sign in front of the church to make it more visible to passers-by. The Board is continuing to consider the construction of a new, lighted sign at a future date.

A letter was received from the director of the Tabard Theatre requesting permission to present two shows at the church in the spring of 2006 because the group has not succeeded in finding a new location for its shows. The Council voted to reply that an answer is not possible at this time. The ECA Vestry has requested a meeting with the Council to discuss Tabard.

Carolyn Dingman

AVUCC's Vision

I was taken with Melanie's comments in the last *Kalos* about our churches Promise, Vision and Statement of Ministry. I had not looked at them for a long time. In fact, I wasn't even sure where to find them.

Although our Vision statement was reprinted with Melanie's comments, I also found it on our website. As Melanie suggested, I read it again. Like Melanie, I found the statement well worth my attention today. It conveys a view that is larger than our day to day issues and reminds me, at least, of why I also am part of this church.

AVUCC's Vision, continued

But unlike Melanie, I was around in 1995 when this Vision statement was adopted. In fact, I was on the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) which developed and proposed the statement to the congregation at that time.

Dolores Van Loucks was chair of the LRPC and I don't believe we had a Vision statement before this time (I could be wrong on that). Anyway, the feeling was that it would be worthwhile to state, as clearly as possible, what is important to us as a congregation and where we hope to go; i.e., our vision.

We did not just throw a few lines together for this (Dolores would never have allowed that). We developed a number of drafts and debated what phrases and specific words would best communicate our purpose. Our goal was to capture our intention as broadly as possible.

It ended up short and I think to the point. It includes: what we care about (as members and friends of AVUCC we care about the wholeness of the earth and all the people of God and we affirm the worth of each individual and the ministry of each person.); how we see proceeding (we ask God to bind us together in the midst of changing times); and what we hope to accomplish (to build us up as a church of Jesus Christ, organized to fulfill our ministry for today, and to guide us on our journey).

Of course these are just words and words don't make a church (or a partnership or even a nation). But words can remind us of what does. If these words need updating, let's do so. If they only need to be remembered and honored by each of us a little more, let us ask God's help in doing that.

Tom Gerber
LRPC Member

People in the Pews

Joys to Celebrate: In early July Thrya Tegner competed in the Pacific Long Course Swimming Championship in Santa Cruz. She came away with three second place and three third place ribbons. She competed in freestyle and backstroke.

Bee Mannia was in Washington to be present for her new granddaughter Savannah's christening.

The Gaydon family celebrated their grandmother's 100th birthday in Michigan recently!

People in the Pews, continued

A joy is Tom Rose. He is such fun to watch and listen to as he shares during the Children's Time. He tested our Bible knowledge recently and thinks we flunked a questions or two!

Welcome back to Ross and Kris Nakaji and their two little ones, Gary and Kimiko. They have moved to Morgan Hill but are hoping to be able to attend church more frequently. Not easy with two little ones and the drive, but it is always good to see their smiling faces in the pews.

Not Easy to Say Good Bye: We said a sad farewell to the Phillips family. Ken has a new job in Fresno. We wish Ken, Esther and their daughter Amanda and granddaughter Isabella the best in the days and years ahead. Ken has been head usher almost from the first time they attended church. He also played flute in our Folk Group and was Treasurer for our Council. Esther was a choir member, and Amanda cared for our children during worship for several years with great care. They leave many holes to be filled and will be greatly missed by all of us.

Welcome to New Faces: Jim and Katherine McAbee. They are friends of Bill and Charlotte Duerksen and have been attending our church for several Sundays. Jim has his own Cabinet maker Co, and they live in Copperwood. Jim's daughter Megan, a graduate of UC Davis, is now living in Ohio, and his son Carson just graduated from the Naval Academy and is stationed in Pensacola, FL. Katherine's sons, Matthew and Raymond LaRochelle both attend Leland H.S. and are very active in water polo. We welcome them to our fellowship.

Celebrity Among Us: A few Sundays ago Ed Grossmith spoke during Joys and Concerns regarding his recent trip back to England where he grew up during World War II. He has a wonderful story to share, and I encourage you to be in attendance at the November Men's Breakfast (women invited to join at 8:30 am). Also scheduled is an article to appear in the *Mercury News* Guide section, so check that out too.

TLC Concerns: Carol Martin's mother had to be placed in a Care Facility with dementia. Not an easy time for Carol and her family.

Bart Smith will have laser surgery in hopes of improving his vision.

Linda Farr's mother-in-law passed away recently. Our sympathy to the family in this loss.

People in the Pews, continued

Joe Machado's mother is having eye problems.

Charlotte Ohlsen is very slowly recovering from injuries she suffered in an auto accident while she was en route to Sea Ranch. We hope she will continue to improve and be free of pain soon.

John Noerenberg passed his driver's test. He now has a restricted license which will allow him to drive in daytime only, but he is grateful for that. John is preparing his condo for sale, as he will be moving into the Atrium this week. We hope he will settle in and be happy in his new environment.

Dot Allfrey

Youth News

Vacation Bible School

Our Jerusalem Market place was a great success. The children's joy and enthusiasm made all the preparation and work worth every minute. Everyday VBS opened with the gathering of the tribes – Zebulun, Asher, Joseph, Levi, Reuben, and Benjamin. The leaders of each Tribe then gathered their children for some "Tribe time" in their homes(tents). Just after this, our drama team, lead by John Leslie, drew everyone out to the well at the center of our village and showed the children the main lesson of each day through their skits. Then the tribes rotated through Synagog school with "Rabbi" Paul or "Rabbi" Stephen, the playground with Evelyn Wing and the market place. The market place offered shops for herbs and spices, pottery making, jewelry, carpentry, basketry, bakery, candy shop and weaving. We even had a barnyard one day. The tribes met back at their homes briefly before gathering again for singing, snacks and closing.

There are so many people to thank who volunteered their time before and during VBS that made all of this possible. Here is a list of our Marketplace creators and workers: Anna Spanjaart, Phyllis Chai, Mel Stonehocker, Anandi and Michael Cox, Sean McCormick, Dennis and Mary Moran, Guido Spanjaart, Tammi Neiders, Sharon Hall, Mary Leal, David and Carol Pullen, Bonnie McPherson, Katie Smith, Melanie Click, Kelly Yamanishi, John Leslie, Paul Telffer-Smith, Stephen Mills, Desi Brown, Evelyn Wing, the drama team, Hannah Ward, Amber Cottle, Chris Coutinho, Taylor Mills, Brian Gaydon, Bailey Bishop,

Youth News, continued

Brooke Mills, Alex Bishop and Karen Click. I also want to thank everyone for donating or loaning items that we used to bring the marketplace to life for our children.

Katie McCormick

Vacation Bible School Drama Team – All Stars!

Thanks to the great and generous performers who lent their acting talents to this summer's Vacation Bible School program, portraying the last week of Jesus's life. Each morning the members of this Drama Team lent great energy and passion to their roles as Mary Magdalene, Peter, James, John, a Roman guard, Jesus, etc.

Those who participated, and gave so freely of their time and expression were Mary Leal Evelyn Wing and Taylor Wing of ECA, Sandy Baldwin, Chris Coutinho, Betsy Dingman, John Hawes, Byron Henderson, and Kendrick Hough of AVUCC.

Appearing every day was the character called "The Wise One," a woman who inspired and informed the young people with her knowledge and love. She answered any and all of the children's questions about what they had seen in the skits. This role was played to perfection by Sandie Mueller of ECA.

Thank you all for blessing this year's VBS "Jerusalem Marketplace."

John

Leslie Sunday School

It is that time again to put our Sunday school teaching team together. Please contact Katie McCormick through the bulletin inserts or by calling if you are interested in being a part of this ministry. I am asking again for three teachers for each class. This means that you will teach once a month for two months and twice during the third month which is approximately ten times for the year. Our teacher meeting is on Sunday, Aug. 28, at 7pm.

Katie Mc Cormick

Junior High Youth Group

Our beach trip to Sea Cliff was great fun. It rained most of the way over the hill and we were all thinking this might

Youth News, continued

just be scenic drive which would end up back at the McCormick's for a swim. However, to our delight the rain stopped and the sun actually managed to break through. Everyone brought their own lunches, shovels, buckets, boogy boards, mp3 players and towels and had fun either swimming, digging, sunning or winning the scavenger hunt. Caitlin actually found some sea glass! We adults knew it was time to go home when one of us said, "look at the antlers on that crab!" We named him Rudolf the red nosed crab!

Thanks Brian Gaydon, Karen Click, Marc Bond, Caitlin McPherson, Doug Lukanc, Katerina Popov, Sean McCormick, Brooke Mills, Brennan Hall, and Bailey Bishop for your participation. You are awesome kids.

Thank you Inge Bond, Bonnie McPherson, Melanie Click and Ken McCormick for driving our ten JHYG's and five future JHYG's to the "root beer" beach.

Katie McCormick

SHYGS Fall Calendar

The regular meeting nights for SHYGS is the first and third Sundays, but please make a note that SHYGS will have many events on Friday nights this year. The Junior High group has moved their meeting night to the 2nd and 4th Sunday in order to improve attendance; this means, however, that if we have a conflict with our 1st and 3rd Sundays we need to move to another night of the week. We are hoping the senior high will be flexible and continue to make SHYGS a priority as we tap into these other nights of the week. Thank you!

Sunday, Aug 28 6-8:30: Planning meeting to determine our goals and activities for 2005-2006

Friday, Sept 2 6:30-9:30: Our kick-off event! Volleyball Challenge-Parents v Teens-Potluck BBQ

Friday, Sept 9 7-10: Field Trip-Whassup with creation? (St Edwards)

Sunday, Sept 18: 6 to 8:30 Meeting-Topic TBD

Sunday, Oct 2; 6 to 8:30 Meeting-Topic TBD

Sunday, Oct 16: Meeting, Plan Servant Auction

Youth News, continued

Friday, Oct 21: Field Trip-Sin, Death and Halloween (St. Judes, Cupertino)

Weekend, Nov 4-6: Happenings in Pacific Grove – Robin and Terry will take you! Applications have been mailed – If you still need one, contact me.

Sunday, Nov 6: 6 to 8:30 Meeting

Friday, Nov 18: Field Trip-Hunger, what's that? (Trinity Cathedral)

Sunday, Nov 20: Servant Auction during Coffee Hour; Shop for Thanksgiving food for our adopted families right after church

Sunday, Nov 27: Servant Auction during Coffee Hour

Sunday, Dec 4: End Servant Auction at Alternative Christmas. Meeting 6 to 8:30.

Sunday, Dec 11: Shop for adoptive families right after church

Robin Root

SHYGS Welcomes New Freshmen

Our senior high teens have been spread to the winds since returning from their mission trip, visiting friends, attending camps, going on family vacations and getting ready for the new school year, but we were able to gather most of them together in August to welcome our new freshmen into the group.

Terry and I took the group on a 2 day camping trip to Manresa State Park south of Santa Cruz. We took 15 teens, including 4 of our new 8 freshmen, to the walk-in campground and had a blast! We had a boys site, a girls site and a cooking site as well as a work detail chart so that everyone had a chance to do meal prep, cooking and clean-up, as well as taking their hand at managing the nighttime bonfire, fetching water and planning activities.

All were kept as busy as they wanted to be with volleyball, Frisbee, digging holes in the sand, walking on the beach, body surfing (brrrrr), going on a scavenger hunt, playing

Youth News, continued

charades and 'Finish the Sentence', building bonfires and making 's'mores. Oh yeah, and just hanging out.

Our new freshmen are fabulous! They entered right in and became SHYGS overnight. We're so happy to have them. Our new freshmen who attended were David Hoyt, Chris Coutinho, Guido Spaanjart, and Faith Mills. Also joining the group will be Josh Bemis, Kristen Petruzzelli, Ryan McPherson and Trace Rimroth.

SHYGS wants to thank our drivers who got the megatons of camping gear, beach toys and food over to Manresa: Sharon Hall, Bryan Bond, Jenny and Roger Hoyt and Evelyn Wing. We couldn't have done the trip without your assistance! Also, thank you to Ellen Lukanc for doing our food shopping, and to Greg, David and David for planning our meals and serving as head cooks. It sounds like a big job for Terry and I to take all these teens to the beach, but don't give us too much credit-the teens were so fantastic doing the work that we really just were along for the ride. Our SHYGS are a wonderful team.

I also want to thank Evelyn Wing who led an impromptu discussion after our last breakfast and challenged the group to love one another as brothers and sisters, to continue their spiritual search and to support study within the group, to self-regulate the formation of cliques and to enjoy the differences in each other. We are so sorry to lose Evelyn as she is a natural leader and a wonderful role model for teenage Christian living, but we celebrate her journey as she leaves for Texas A&M this month. Go Aggies!

Look to our schedule for upcoming events. Many of our original dates for Sept/Oct have changed so make sure you've got these current dates on your calendar.

We are looking forward to a new year with a new group. Anyone who has questions about or suggestions for, the group feel free to call me. Robin 408-268-1203, robinroot@yahoo.com.

Robin Root

Outreach

Beneficio Coffee: Don't be one who is caught without More Than Fair Trade Beneficio Coffee. It's still a really good bargain at \$6.25 per 12 oz. bag. Support the

Outreach, continued

independent organic farmers, and place your order with Phyllis Chai (408-226-7150).

Neighbors in Need. On Sunday, October 2nd, we will have the opportunity to share our monetary gifts in the yearly "Neighbors in Need" offering. This offering supports justice and compassion issues across our country and in Puerto Rico. It's likely that the offering our congregation makes will come back to our community or one like ours, in one way or another. The NIN offering supported 98 nonprofit organizations and congregations in 2004. Please look for upcoming bulletin inserts, and prayerfully consider what you are called to give to this offering.

Prayer Vine. For several years Carla Gerber very faithfully and beautifully coordinated the Prayer Vine. A huge vote of thanks goes out to her for that ministry! For any prayer requests, please contact Phyllis Chai at: 408-226-7150 or hidong@pacbell.net.

Phyllis Chai

Christian Education and Fellowship Opportunities for Adults

Interested in exploring a particular topic? Participating in or leading a Bible study or book group? We've heard through the grapevine that there may be some folks out there interested in either presenting a class or leading a study group for adults. The Christian Education Committee would like to help make it happen.

Please contact Katie McCormick, Kelly Yamanishi (AVUCC), or Ellen Lukanc (ECA) with your ideas. We'll do our best to answer any of your questions.

We'd also like to compile a comprehensive list of any ongoing Adult Education or Fellowship opportunities currently available. Take a look at what shows up on the calendar in this newsletter. If you know of other groups that may be of interest, please let us know. Look for an update in the coming months.

Don't hide your light under a bushel! Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!!

Kelly Yamanishi

Programs and Events

Quest. Quest Group resumes meeting in the choir room on Wednesday September 21, from 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Hope to see you there!

UCC Women's Network Fall Retreat. It's still not too late to register for the UCC Women's Network Fall Retreat, "The Many Faces of Grace," featuring our Conference minister, Rev. Mary Susan Gast as the keynote speaker, October 14-16 at Mercy Center in Burlingame. Registration forms are located on the downstairs hallway bulletin board. For questions, call Phyllis Chai (226-7150).

Phyllis Chai

JV Book Group. JV Book Club will meet on September 15, at 7:30 at the home of Kathryn Hussain, 735 Huntswood Ct, San Jose. We will be discussing the book, *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri. Please call Kathryn to reply, or to ask for directions to her house, or if you have any questions. Thank You....and good reading!

Robyn Dorsey

Concert Committee Seeking Help

The Joint Venture Churches Concert Committee is beginning to plan for the next season of Almaden Adventures in the Arts and we need help.

First off, we are looking for people who would like to either join the committee or help out in any way. The committee essentially is looking for way to improve publicity and other ideas to attract larger audiences for the shows. So, if you've got some time (either a little or a lot) and/or some ideas (either big or small) please contact either Music Director John Leslie or Concert Committee Co-chair Todd Axtell.

Secondly, we are looking for ideas for artists to book for the upcoming season. The committee has received some ideas from folks throughout the year but we're still at a stage where we welcome all suggestions. We are especially interested in artists that might appeal to children of all ages (as well as their parents). Please feel free to pass along any ideas to John or any committee member.

Almaden Adventures in the Arts, a joint musical 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

Programs and Events, continued

surrounding communities. In addition, it is an effort to introduce our churches to newcomers.

Presently, the concert committee is comprised of Todd Axtell and Kevin Haley, co-chair, Kimberly Axtell, Sandy Baldwin, Doug Dunham, Alex Dykes, Marion Grunge, John Leslie, Betsy Shoup, Terry Shoup, and Bart Smith.

Emails regarding the concert series can be sent to: music@jointventurechurches.com.

Todd Axtell

LUAU – Live & Silent Auction News

Here are just a few items that will be available at our exciting LIVE AUCTION at the Luau Sep 24th. Take a minute to look because there are some exciting items. And remember, the proceeds go to the Pastoral Housing Fund and you can get a tax deduction!

Vacation Spots!

#1: Lake Tahoe vacation home. One week, 4 bdrms, 3 ½ baths, close to championship golf course, great views. Estimated value of \$1400.

#2: Puerto Vallarta: Nice studio with great access to beaches. One week, value of \$375.

#3: Mountain Retreat: Four people for Three days and two nights. Includes breakfast, tour of area (exciting hike or snow shoeing) Est value \$250.

Dinners. #1: Classic Japanese dinner for 8 in beautiful surroundings with sake or wine. Est. value \$240.

#2: Dinner Elegante Chez Pullen: For 10 with appetizers, entree, garden vegetables, and desserts. Est. value \$350.

Theater. Tickets to *Lion King*. Super seats, worth \$120.

Athletics. #1: Golf for 4 at Santa Teresa Gold Club: Est. value \$150. #2: Almaden Athletic Club: three one month memberships worth \$460 each.

Photography. George Stone Landscape: Est value \$150.

Silent auction ranges from gift certificates to fine restaurants, as well as wines, car wash, and much more.

Tickets are \$35 each and are on sale after each Sunday service. Raffle tickets are ten for \$20, or four for \$10.

Jim Ballek

September 2005 Calendar

Friday, September 02	7:30 pm	Bridge Group
Sunday, Sept 04	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
	10:10 am	Sunday School
	4:30 pm	SHYG Homework Center, Dinner, and Discussion
Monday, Sept 05	7:00 pm	Duplicate Bridge
Tuesday, Sept 06	7:30 pm	JV Board
Wednesday, Sept 07	12:30 pm	Mah Jong
	4:45 pm	Bell Choir
	6:30 pm	Folk Choir
Friday, Sept 09	7:00 pm	SHYG Fun Field Trip
Saturday, Sept 10	all day	ALUMINUM CAN DRIVE
	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast
Sunday, Sept 11	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
	10:10	Sunday School
Tuesday, Sept 13	7:00 pm	AVUCC Council
Wednesday, Sept 14	12:30 pm	Mah Jong
	4:45 pm	Bell Choir
	7:30 pm	AVUCC Choir
Thursday, Sept 15	11:30 am	Ladies Luncheon
	7:30 pm	JV Book Group
Sunday, Sept 18	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
	10:10 am	Sunday School
	4:30 pm	SHYG Homework Center, Dinner, Discussion
Tuesday, Sept 20	4:00 pm	AVUCC Shelter Food Service
Wednesday, Sept 21	11:00 am	JV Staff Meeting
	12:30 pm	Mah Jong
	4:45 pm	Bell Choir
	7:30 pm	AVUCC Choir
Saturday, Sept 24	all day	AVUCC LUAU
Sunday, Sept 25	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
	10:10 am	Sunday School
Wednesday, Sept 28	12:30 pm	Mah Jong
	4:45 pm	Bell Choir
	7:30 pm	AVUCC Choir

September Birthdays

Al Nieders	Sept 06
Hi-Dong Chai	Sept 10
Marynette Sim	Sept 10
Alice Bullard	Sept 11
Londa Daley	Sept 11
Dick Shipe	Sept 12
Jean Shipe	Sept 14
Kyle Dando	Sept 18
Delaney Gaydon	Sept 20
Laura Hall	Sept 21
Cassandra Hearn	Sept 21
Robyn Dorsey	Sept 22
Nola Scott	Sept 24
Frank Yamada	Sept 26
Alex Bemis	Sept 28
Christian Daley	Sept 30

September Anniversaries

Pam and Steven Fischer	Sept 01
Phyllis and Bob Green	Sept 06
Jean and Dick Shipe	Sept 07
Kathy and John Graham	Sept 16
Karen and Kevin Haley	Sept 19

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

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KALOS – September 2005

KALOS Deadline for the October Issue

The deadline for the October issue of the Kalos is **Thursday September 15, 2005**. Items may be left in the mail slot labeled Kalos, or preferably, may be submitted by email to: **sscaff@cal.berkeley.edu**.