

AVUCC KALOS

Newsletter for the
Almaden Valley
United Church of Christ

Pastor Kevin's Corner:

Finding God in Disasters

Tsunamis in the Indian Ocean that wreak havoc on island nations, hurricanes on the Gulf Coast that essentially wipe out a city, rains and mudslides in Guatemala and El Salvador that wash away homes and bury people, and now, in the Kashmir region of Pakistan and India, a devastating earthquake that destroys a region where the death toll is 40,000 lives and counting. Muslims, Jews, Christians, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, agnostics, and atheists are killed. Hundreds of thousands continue to suffer as they have lost their loved ones, their homes, their jobs, and their health. As I sit down this month to write this column, these are the devastations that have wreaked havoc over the globe this last year and as recently as just a few days ago. At times I am simply stopped in my tracks by grief as I ponder the loss and the ocean of tears that have been shed by so many. Dare I ask God, "Why?" Where are justice and mercy in these natural disasters? Where is God in the midst of so much devastation?

So often people look for someone to blame when disasters happen. Too often people end up blaming the victim or blaming God. Some say that these disasters are God's punishments because of something the victims did or what they believed. It seems that from the beginning of time people have believed such disasters were "acts of God." I even remember seeing that phrase in some insurance policies. Do we dare put our faith, our love, and our lives in the hands of that kind of punishing God?

Must we attribute natural disasters to actions of God? I think we can safely assume that in all these natural disasters both saints *and* sinners have died. While we can find many places in scripture, especially in the Hebrew Scriptures or Old Testament, where God has used natural disasters to punish people, we also find the message that the Jewish Jesus preached in his sermon on the mountain. Jesus said, "God makes the sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous" (Mat. 5:45). When Jesus preached these words, there was no New Testament; he was preaching as someone raised and schooled within the Jewish faith and scripture.

KALOS

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Almaden Valley United Church of Christ
6581 Camden Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120
(408) 268-0243; Fax: (408) 268-4207
Visit our website: www.avucc.org

Editors, Sue Scaff (448-3038)
Kelly Yamanishi (997-3373)
Kalos email: kalos@avucc.org



November 2005

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Pastor's Corner, continued

Someone once said, "Our scripture stories may not all be accurate, but they are all true." I believe the stories in our sacred texts do help us find meaning for our lives by putting into words and story a way to understand that our actions have consequences, and also that some things happen for which we have no answers and we must put our faith in God to eventually make meaning out of events like natural disasters.

While I have no desire to find blame in any of the victims or in God for natural disasters, we now know that the human race as a whole does bear some responsibility, if not for the cause of severe weather patterns, then at least for the choices we make on where to build our cities and towns. We know that we build too close to ocean shores, mountain ridges, forests, and on earthquake fault lines! Our building patterns place people and their homes in harm's way. I am not advocating tearing it all down and starting over, but I am suggesting that, as a people living in harm's way, we all must work at being better prepared for the natural disasters that will surely happen. A number of people here in AVUCC have begun to discuss things we might do in our own church to be better prepared. I look forward to having more of these discussions, to hearing your suggestions and perhaps coming up with our own emergency response plan.

But now, back to the questions I posed in the beginning of this column. In trying to give a theological answer to the question of why we have natural disasters and why so many people are killed, I am sorry to say that it is ultimately a mystery to me. But my faith tells me that even in the midst of so much devastation and death we can find God. We can find God in millions of people who make donations to help ease the suffering caused by disasters. We can find God in the hearts of millions of victims who feel God's presence even deeper when the worst happens. We can find God in the lessons we learn about how to build our communities better and how to be better prepared for disaster next time. We can find God in our growing realization of injustice when so many of the people who suffer the most seem to be the poor who cannot afford disaster-resistant homes or who have no means of transportation to evacuate an area.

We can also find God when people of all faiths come together in vigils and worship services to ask for God's help in comforting the afflicted. I pray that our response to disasters will not be about blame, but rather to look for the love of God exhibited in the actions of our neighbors

Pastor's Corner, continued

responding to God's call to help people restore their lives and restore God's creation. Amen.

Pastor Kevin

If you would like to help with disaster response through your contributions and prayer, please visit these web sites: <http://www.ucc.org/disaster/d101005.htm> for response to the earthquake and <http://www.ucc.org/disaster/hopeshallbloom.htm> for the Katrina relief.

AVUCC Council Notes

Summarized below are minutes from the regular monthly Council meeting held on October 11th as well as the special meeting of the AVUCC Council held on Sept. 22nd to discuss proposed revisions to the JV Bylaws.

Treasurer's Report: Jay Caturay, AVUCC treasurer, distributed financial reports through 9/30/05 and reported that the church is good shape financially, with income projected to exceed expenses for the year. He has met with Tom Gerber, who will be doing an audit of the church books at the end of the year, and has been working on clarifying the status of the church's long- and short-term funds. Jay will be working with Al Nieders and the Budget Advisory Committee to prepare a budget proposal for 2006.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Kevin Smith presented a proposed policy statement for the use of the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, describing the purpose, amounts, and limitations for this fund, and it was approved by the Council. Kevin talked about his Ordination in Massachusetts on Oct. 23rd, and said that his official installation as AVUCC pastor will probably be scheduled in the spring. He shared his hopes that the church will start to formulate an Emergency Preparedness Plan, and a committee with Council members was formed to start the process. An additional hope of Kevin's is that AVUCC can have a pictorial directory, both online and in print; he and Bart Smith will begin working on this in November.

Proposed Revisions to the JV Bylaws: As the Council's review of the proposed JV Bylaw revisions proceeded, it became clear that members had serious questions about some of the changes and that it would not be possible to complete the review process by the annual meeting date, Nov. 13th. The most significant area of concern involved

Council Notes, continued

the fundamental question of whether the JV Board's charter is merely to manage the church building or to manage the building's facilities and programs, as had been stated in the original Bylaws. Noting that the JV employs the Music Director, Office Administrator, Christian Education Director and Youth Group leaders, the Council felt the Bylaws needed to provide for effective and responsible management of these programs. In November the Council will work to finalize its comments on the JV Bylaw revisions.

Other Old Business: It was reported that the meeting for representatives of the AVUCC Council and ECA's Vestry to talk about Tabard Theatre would be held on Sunday, October 16th.

Members are being sought for the Stewardship and Nominating Committees prior to the annual meeting on November 13th.

New Business: The Council talked about interest in an Easter Sunrise Service next spring. This JV service, which had been led by the youth groups in the past, was not held in 2004 and was sorely missed by many. Pastor Kevin will talk with members of the Worship Committee about planning a Sunrise Service next Easter.

Carolyn Dingman

Joint Venture Board Report:

- The Trash and Recycling service has been re-visited with 7 bids received. The JV Board approved a change to Green Waste with a 3 yard container (larger by one yard) for less cost.
- Utility expenses have risen above those expected (particularly the water bill). The Board will push conservation in the coming months.
- Outside flood lights were repaired. Heavier wiring is required next.
- New low maintenance kitchen sink faucets have been installed.
- Youth Group director will not accept pay for leadership provided but the JV Treasurer will assure expenses incurred will be covered.

JV Report, continued

- Long term clean-up service by the TLC group was noted by the Board and commended.
- Appreciation was expressed to the Sign Committee for their work in re-furbishing our sign in front of the church.

George Romer

Letter from Interim Pastor

To all the Saints at AVUCC:

Dear Friends, words cannot express my gratitude, warmth and thanks to all of you for your wonderful send-off on Sunday, September 25th. I also want to express my thanks to you for allowing me the privilege of being your interim pastor for the past sixteen months.

It has indeed been a privilege and a real pleasure to help you through the transition time between called ministers. We accomplished a lot, and your willingness to try new things and look closely at yourselves as a church made the transition challenging, exciting and fulfilling. I thank you for your ministry and mission.

Your generosity and thoughtful expressions of love and thanks on the cards and notes will be part of my wonderful memories of AVUCC for a long time to come. Thank you for your generous gift to Polly and myself. We will use it for a special get-away trip when our time permits. Thank you!

Thanks to all to planned and participated in the last fellowship time on the 25th. The cakes were lovely and delicious. I hope that all of you got a taste. The banner that the "young people" made is part of my special memory collection now. I have looked at several times since that Sunday and will keep it in a very special place. Thanks to all and I hope that you are "good."

Again, thank you for being who you are. In the years ahead, I will recall with love and fondness my months as your Interim Pastor at AVUCC. I have learned from you and have enjoyed being part of your church family, if even for a short time. May God continue to bless you and your ministry as you move into a new life chapter at AVUCC.

Blessings, peace and love,
Paul Smith-Telfer

People in the Pews

Joys to Celebrate. We celebrate the birth of Freeman Robert Dando, born on Sept. 23 at 8:39 am, to Leanna and Kyle Dando. Freeman weighed in at 7 lbs and was 20 inches long. He arrived 19 days early. Their new son is named after his grandfather, Bob, and joins sister Hannah. Our congratulations to Bob and Pat Dando on the birth of this wonderful new grandchild.

Our Deepest Sympathy. Judy Martin's Aunt Ida passed away recently. For the past several years we have kept her aunt in our prayers as she struggled with a number of health problems.

Carol Martin has suffered the loss of her special mom, who died of cardiac arrest. Not easy to lose a mom.

Folks to Keep in Your Prayers. Rae Harris is now undergoing her treatment for the cancer. She is having some side effects that are not easy to live with, and we have her in our thoughts and prayers. Pray that the discomfort she is experiencing will subside.

Patty Bergantz misses us, and we miss her too, of course. She would love to receive notes and phone calls. She has been diagnosed with some arthritis and spurs on her spine. Know she is looking forward to the completion of her new home and getting settled into her own place. Robyn Dorsey will be glad to give you Patty's address and telephone number.

Update. Jim Breseke is a fighter. He has been fitted with braces, new shoes and a new set of exercises. He is walking with the aid of a walker and to date has walked 52 ft. He has overcome so many obstacles. We continue to celebrate each step forward that he makes. We keep both him and Ruth in our thoughts and prayers. We know that Jim loves to have visitors, so don't be shy. Give them a call and make a date to stop on over. "It's in the tough times of life that we find out what we're really made of" -- from *Your Best Life Now*.

Looking Forward to New Members Joining Us. A special gathering of those interested in exploring membership in our AVUCC is scheduled for the last Sunday of October. We have many folks who have been worshipping with us for some time and hope that they will feel the call to become members. If you are interested in hearing more about this meeting, please give either Dave

People in the Pews, continued

Harris (266-4612) or Dot Allfrey (268-2973) a call. We welcome your participation. A special Sunday will be announced later for the Welcoming of New Members.

Dot Allfrey

Outreach and Caring

Caring Committee. The Co-chairs for the Caring Committee for November are Betty Benson and Audrey Wiedrick. Anyone able to assist with food, transportation, home or hospital visits or anyone in need of these services please call Betty 977-0858 or Audrey 268-3843.

Chairpersons are still needed for both the Caring Committee and the Outreach Committee. Anyone interested please call Bee Mannia (377-2458) or Melanie Click (323-8283).

Bee Mannia
Member-at-large
Avucc Council.

Beneficio Coffee. Please contact Phyllis Chai (226-7150) for your Thanksgiving requests for "Beneficio More Than Fair Trade Coffee" which supports the small farmers of Guatemala, and is a mission of our NCNC Conference of the UCC.

Phyllis Chai

Scriptease. It has been quite a long time since you have heard from the Scrip Tease Queen; but here I am with a holiday special that can not be missed.

We have a wonderful bunch of Scrip ready for you to buy for Christmas gifts or for you during Christmas shopping season. I'm sure some of you would love a Starbucks scrip in your pocket so that you might stop for a refreshing pause. And you might want to drop one of these Starbucks scrip coupons into the hand of the Postman, the Maid, the Gardner, anyone who helps in the preservation of your way of life. A pound of See's Candies, selected by your recipient is a great idea, and you avoid the chocolate calories and fat grams yourself.

Outreach, continued

Well, you get the idea, use these for gifts, or treats for yourself and your family. Here is the inventory.

Hungry Hunter	7 - \$10 coupons
Marie Calendar Apple Pie	2 - \$6 coupons
Baskin Robbin	18 - \$2 coupons
Smart and Final	1 - \$25 coupon
Chilli's	2 - \$10 coupons
See's 1 pounder	5 - \$12 coupons
Starbucks	4 - \$25 coupons
Barnes & Noble	4 - \$25 coupons
Toys R Us	11 - \$10 coupons
Wendy's	8 - \$5.00 coupons

Please help me out by emailing your order to me by Saturday AM, so I can have it ready for you on Sunday. I will be teaching Sunday School for most of the next two months, so I will leave the inventory with Betsy Shoup so you can buy during our coffee hour.

I make that an inventory of over \$570. The church has paid for these coupons, so they will be net income in this years budget.

Let's get these all sold before Christmas.

Thank you,
Sandy Baldwin

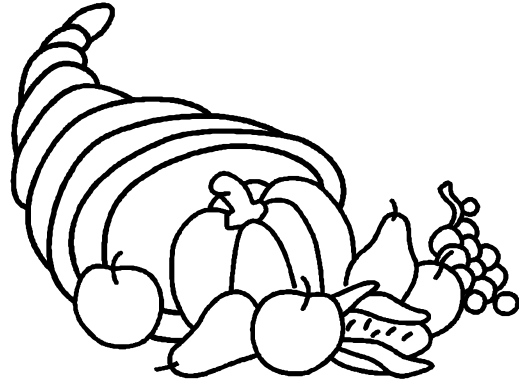
Habitat Cans. Thanks to your efforts in gathering, saving and delivering to church your aluminum cans, we raised \$122.50 in September for Habitat for Humanity. In July your cans brought \$183.40.

Our next aluminum can collection will be the weekend of November 12-13. Please bring your empties to church and leave them by the fenced area near the rose garden.

As a reminder, cans are collected the second weekend of every other month. For example, the can collection following the November collection will be the weekend of January 14-15.

Thanks for your help,
Tom, the Can Man

AVUCC's Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive Sunday, November 20th



Our Sunday School children will be sending us home the week before with bags to fill for the Second Harvest Food Bank. Please add these nutritious, non-perishable foods to your shopping list:

Peanut butter
Meals in a can (Stew, Chili, Soup)
Tuna fish
100% Fruit Juice single-serving boxes
Pasta
Canned foods with pop-top lids
Powdered milk
Cereal (low sugar)

*Questions? Call Carolyn Dingman,
Outreach Committee.*

Church Facilities

Use of Outside Sandbox. If you remove the sandbox cover outside Fellowship Hall, please replace it when you leave so that our children may play safely there. Thank you!

Recycling. Since no one specific person is responsible for recycling at the J.V. Churches, how about sharing the joy and carrying home recyclables after an event on the church property...Our environment will be glad that we did...Thank you!

Phyllis Chai

Forecast – chilly winter expected:

Actually, I have no idea whether it will be a particularly chilly winter or not. However, what I do know is that the price of keeping the church warm is going to rise significantly. I am sure that you are all concerned about these cost increases for your own homes.

In order to keep the congregations' costs down as much as possible, the Joint Venture Board has prepared a budget that is as lean as we think possible.

In order to stay within that budget for utilities for the coming year, it is going to be necessary for us all to bundle up a bit more. We will be lowering the temperature that is programmed into the various thermostats, and we hope that you will bear with us.

Actually, one possible solution if you are cold is to join the choir! Under those lights and wearing the robes we are seldom cool!

Seriously, it is important to all of us to keep our gas and electric usage down as much as possible, and we really appreciate everyone's cooperation! We don't want anyone to suffer, and certainly if you are not happy with the temperature, we would appreciate your letting the office or any JV Board member know.

Please know also that we are addressing this issue with all outside users of the facilities and asking them to help in this endeavor.

Thanks for your help with this important matter.

Mary Leal
Treasurer, JV Board

New Kalos Information!

Beginning next month, we welcome a new editor to the *Kalos* staff, *Kelly Yamanishi*. Kelly and I plan to alternate issues and to work as co-editors of *Kalos*.

Additionally, *Melanie Click* has generously offered to proofread copy before the final printing.

Dennis Elliott, AVUCC webmaster, has created a special *Kalos* email address for submissions. From now on, send your articles to **kalos@avucc.org**. Your mailing will go simultaneously to Sue and Kelly.

Finally, starting in December we will be changing the due date for submissions to the second Thursday of each month. In December this will be the on Thursday the 15th. In January 2006, it will be on Thursday the 12th, and so on.

For your interest, *kalos* in ancient Greek meant "beautiful, valuable, virtuous, noble, worthy of praise."

We on the staff hope to live up to the name of our newsletter!

Thanks for all your wonderful submissions every month.

Sue Scaff

Pastor Paul's Exit Interview

With the ending of Pastor Paul Smith-Telfer's ministry at AVUCC, members of the AVUCC council and representatives from the 2004 interim minister search committee met for an exit interview with Pastor Paul and Associate Conference Minister Deborah Streeter on Sept. 26th. The session offered the opportunity to bring closure to Pastor Paul's relationship with AVUCC, to bless him on his way, and to hear his observations and recommendations for our church.

Looking back, the members of the interim search committee recalled they had sought a minister who would be able to keep the momentum of the church going after Pastor Julianne Stokstad left. There were not many UCC interims available at the time, and Pastor Paul quickly became the leading candidate. Committee members felt from the very first Sunday that they had made the right

Exit Interview

choice, based on Pastor Paul's strong preaching and his ability to adapt quickly to the unique AVUCC setting. The committee was particularly impressed by his ability to take on the task of preparing a weekly children's message, as this was something he had not done previously.

For his part, Pastor Paul recalled that he was attracted to AVUCC because of its location and because he had heard good things about the church. He hoped he could help us come to terms with our history and identity, and begin the search for a permanent pastor with a firmer foundation. While it became apparent during his 16 months that some issues remained difficult for church members to deal with, he felt that on the whole progress was made during his tenure.

Pastor Paul felt the church's leadership had made it possible for people to move forward on the Tabard Theatre issue, and he expressed his belief that the congregation will be able to begin talking about the Open and Affirming topic. He recommended that AVUCC try to deal with issues of difference with "grace, understanding, and compassion, recognizing that there may be risks and pain in the process."

There was high praise for Pastor Paul for the way he maintained the church's momentum, supported the JV, treated people with respect, encouraged spiritual growth, and demonstrated strong leadership. Appreciation was also expressed for his leadership of Bible study, for his many inspirational prayers, for his exemplary stewardship, and for sharing his friendship and wisdom with AVUCC.

After noting that there will be a minimal relationship between the church and Pastor Paul from now on, Deborah Streeter led the group in a closing affirmation and prayer. Heartfelt thanks were expressed to Pastor Paul for his dedication and faithful service to AVUCC.

Carolyn Dingman
Church Recorder

Hawaiian Luau

Great weather, fine food, and the most important element – teamwork – came together on Saturday, Sept. 24 to make the AVUCC Hawaiian Luau a memorable and profitable event, according to Dr. Dick Okumura, the general chairman.

Luau, continued

With some reports still coming in, Dick said the profit from the event and its silent and live auctions netted AVUCC over \$18,000, which will be given to support the Pastoral Housing Project. About 145 people attended the event.

"Teamwork was the key element," he said. "We needed big participation and we got it. It was an exciting atmosphere with great camaraderie. From my observation, people just had a great time," Dick noted.

"Of course, the outstanding items contributed for the silent and live auctions had much to do with our success," Dick added. We are grateful for all the hard work put into this aspect of our Luau event. Special thanks go to the many area merchants and organizations, which donated items for the auctions. Our appreciation also to former member Joanne Stone, who helped us collect early donations. Monetary donations from Bob Farnquist, Shirley Lucas and Dave Hennings were also appreciated.

The committee included Dick Shipe, Bob Thomas, Carolyn Crowley, Janey Sanders, Jim Ballek, Jim Wright, Stan Yumen, Bob Green, Joan Okumura, Betty Benson, Jan Day Audrey Wiedrick and Charlotte Duerksen

Members and friends were helping everywhere. Audrey Wiedrick, Jan Day, Betty Benson, Joan Okumura, Peggy Wright, Kathy Kisabeth, Harriet Yamada, Carol Pullen and Mary Kingsley worked the food department along with Dick Okumura, Stan Yumen and his daughter Joy and son-in-law Paul. Jay Caturay and Joe Dingman were there along with Mike and Myriam Takamatsu who came all the way from Hawaii just to make sure the food was authentic. Mike and Myriam also brought flowers from Hawaii. Betty Benson, Joan Okumura and a lady friend named Niimoto ably assisted the Hors d oeuvres department.

Decorations and flower arranging were handled by Charlotte Duerksen, Audrey Wiedrick and Kathy Kisabeth while the beverage department was managed by Dick Shipe ably assisted by Joe Dingman.

The entertainment was outstanding.. The always eloquent Bob Thomas emceed the program by introducing a team of Hawaiian dancers including, AVUCC's own Leilani Farnquist. Kumuhula Pearl Lau-Ignacio is the group leader and the dancers included Leilani, Auntie Edith

Luau, continued

Hosoda, Kaye Saunders, Curtis Takahashi, Monica Colemares and Reggie Perez. Many in the group have been dancing together for over 10 years.

Leilani danced a special number that was first performed in 1887 to honor the Jubilee celebration of Queen Victoria of Britain's reign. She dedicated the dance to Pastor Paul Smith-Telfer to celebrate his service to the church and to wish him well in his future adventures. Pastor Paul delivered a prayer earlier to open the Luau celebration. On hand for the event was new Pastor Kevin Smith and Father Stephen Mills, ECA pastor.

Hi-Dong Chai provided the vocals with John Hawes on the ukulele for a lighter side rendition of a Hawaiian opera number.

The action continued when co-auctioneers Byron Henderson and Dennis Elliott took over the live auction. The nattily dressed twosome handled the task with just the right mix of humor and aplomb. A number of items were up for bidding and they handled the job extremely well. Thanks also to the scorekeepers for keeping track of the bids and the buyers. Our thanks also to our friends from the ECA who helped man the "action tables."

The program was so tight that emcee Thomas couldn't share some of his famous gags at the end. As Dick Okumura summed up: "I'm grateful to all those who helped make the Luau such a success. Nice job!"

Thanks again to everyone,
Dave Crowley

Men's Breakfast Meetings

November 5, 2005 (8:00 am in Fellowship Hall, ladies welcome at 8:30)

Speaker: Ed Grossmith

Subject: Ed's Early life experiences.

Ed was born in Australia; he sailed with his family to England during the Great Depression. He attended boarding school in the English Midlands during World War II years and later studied at the De Havilland Aeronautical College where he worked on the Comet, the world's first jet airliner.

After obtaining a degree in Aircraft Production, he became a pilot in the RAF from 1950 through 1953, flying the Meteor, the first Allied Jet Aircraft. Upon leaving the

Men's Breakfasts, continued

RAF, he emigrated to Toronto, Canada, where he worked on the ill-fated Avro Arrow, an advanced fighter aircraft.

On to USA in 1957, he joined Boeing in Seattle, where he helped manufacture the first American jet airliner the Boeing 707.

Ed moved to San Jose, CA. in 1960 to work for IBM as an industrial engineer on the RAMAC, the first computer. The early life story of Ed Grossmith should be very interesting and exciting, so please join us for a great presentation.

December 03, 2005 (8:00 am in Fellowship Hall, ladies welcome at 8:30)

Speaker: John Livingstone, CPA

Subject: Important Tax Issues for 2005

John, our annual tax advisor, will again give us important information which will prove to be very valuable.

October 01, 2005

Speaker: John Miles, PhD, Audiologist

Subject: Hearing Loss

On a beautiful October morning, many energetic men gathered for a wonderful breakfast prepared by our excellent chefs, Stan Yumen, Dick Shipe, Jim Wright, Jay Caturay, Al Thompson and Dick Okumura.

After a brief social period over fresh hot coffee, ladies attended to hear Dr. John Miles, audiologist, speak on the subject of hearing loss. After practicing in the Santa Clara Valley for 25 years, his extensive knowledge and experience were clearly demonstrated.

The most common cause of hearing loss is constant exposure to loud noises. Cilia within the middle ear gradually deteriorate, leading to progressive diminution of hearing, especially in the high frequency range. However, certain health problems such as diabetes, CVD, hypertension, and smoking tend to facilitate progressive hearing loss.

Many people are in denial, constantly finding reasons such as poor soft voices, inarticulateness, lack of volume, difficult voices to understand, etc. So, it is important to recognize your problem when people complain about your hearing difficulties or when they have to raise their voices or repeat themselves often. It is very important to get a complete audiology examination and get fitted

Men's Breakfasts continued

with the latest hearing aid.

With today's high technology available, fitting a proper hearing aid can be done effectively by measuring your level of deficiency whether it may be high, mid or low frequency deficiency, and fine tuning it accurately, correcting your loss so you can hear so much better and communicate more effectively.

However, you may not feel too comfortable because it may be too loud, or you may hear too many squeaks or noises that you are not accustomed to. This may require frequent visits back to your audiologist until you finally feel good. It is unrealistic to feel that it must be as good as the norm, but you really should be comfortable and hear better. Everyone will have some difficulties in certain settings, such as a large restaurants, large group settings, theaters, concert halls, and churches, but you should hear significantly better and more easily most of the time. After a complete audiology evaluation and being fitted with a digital hearing aid one should:

- Hear better most of the time
- Spend much less time trying to hear
- Become active again in social activities
- Reduce the family stress caused by unreal hearing loss
- Learn other ways to minimize hearing difficulties by:
 - (a) lip reading
 - (b) using a telephone amplifier
 - (c) reading captions
 - (d) using infrared listening devices
 - (e) using rear window captioning
 - (f) going to restaurants early before the crowd arrives to find a booth, if available

These and other new systems will likely improve and become more popular in the future.

John, thanks for your clear, practical and reasonable presentation about hearing deficiencies and how the current technology can improve hearing by accurately measuring the loss and compensating with the necessary frequency changes so that you really do hear better in a realistic manner with digital hearing devices.

Dick Okumura

Harvest Pot Luck and Game Night

Singles Event at Episcopal Church of Almaden –
Informal Get Together – Time to kick back, meet new & visit with old friends, eat, play games, and relax before the holiday season begins.

Date: Saturday, November 12th

Time: 6 PM

Where: Joint Venture Churches of Almaden
Almaden Valley
6581 Camden Ave
San Jose, CA 95120

Bring a main dish, appetizer, dessert, or beverage and a favorite game to share

Small donation for plates, cups, and miscellaneous supplies.

One-half hour set up or tidy up kitchen and Fellowship Hall area.

RSVP – *Kathy Mastre* at kamastre@yahoo.com or 362-0905.

AVUCC Christmas Progressive Dinner

Ladies and Gents,

Please join us for an elegant evening of joyful celebration on December 17, 2005 in the tradition of our holiday gathering. The evening begins with appetizers in Fellowship Hall, followed by small dinner groups hosted by church members in their homes. Our time together concludes with dessert and caroling back at church.

Price: \$15.00 per person

Sign up in Fellowship Hall throughout the month of November. At that time, we request that you also indicate whether you would like to contribute an appetizer or dessert. (The menu and food items are provided to the dinner hosts/hostesses.)

If anyone is interested in assisting with this event, your talents in decorating, hosting, set-up, clean up would be most appreciated.

Please call *Janey Sanders* (997-0875) to volunteer.

JV Concert Season

2005-06 CONCERT SEASON ANNOUNCED, SEASON TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE

Almaden Adventures in the Arts, a joint musical venture of the Almaden Valley United Church of Christ and the Episcopal Church in Almaden, is proud to announce that its sixth season will begin on Saturday, November 19, 2005, with Joint Venture Music Director John Leslie performing "Matthias: The 13th Apostle."

Please take note of a few changes to this year's season. The organ recitals will be held on Saturday evenings instead of Friday as in the past. We are adding salad to the potluck Soup and Sound menu. In addition, we have booked a couple shows with the entire family in mind. These concerts will be held on Saturday afternoons.

Music at Joint Venture Churches needs your support to continue to present the Almaden Adventures in the Arts concert series. We have fashioned a number of attractive season ticket packages to help entice your support. They are summarized below. Our season subscription package should have arrived by the time you read this article. Please consider supporting this musical cause.

As an added bonus, season ticket holders will be able to purchase reduced price tickets to next summer's musical production.

Single Performance prices:

Adult: \$15 advance and will call, \$20 door; except organ recitals \$10 advance and \$15 door

Students: \$10 advance and will call, \$12 door; organ recitals \$8 and \$5 respectively

Children: \$5 all performances (childcare also available)

Season Ticket Packages:

One Adult \$ 80.00
7 shows for price of 6

One Student \$ 50.00
7 shows for price of 5

One Child \$ 25.00
7 shows for the price of 5

Soup, Salad & Sound Pack \$ 15.00
1 adult, 2 recitals

Concert Season, continued

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2005 7:30 P.M: JOHN LESLIE PERFORMS "MATTHIAS: THE 13TH APOSTLE"

In the production's west coast premiere, Joint Venture Churches Music Director John Leslie portrays the character of Matthias, a follower of Jesus who was selected to join the remaining 11 disciples after Judas betrayed Jesus and took his own life. Featuring light contemporary Christian tunes, including "People Need the Lord," "Honor the Lord" and "When His Kingdom Comes," originally recorded by Steve Green, John will be accompanied by Roger Hoyt, Terry Shoup, Tom Eschenfelder and a vocal quartet comprised of Susan Gaydon, Gwen Hacker, John Hawes and Dennis Elliott. Matthias tells of how he came to be a follower of Jesus and that he "was there" as a witness to the Baptism of Jesus, the Sermon on the Mount, Holy Week, the Crucifixion and Resurrection, Pentecost and Jesus' Ascension.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14 AND 28, 2006 7:30 P.M: SOUP, SALAD & SOUND FEATURING ORGANIST DEAN COOK AND AN ARTIST TO BE NAMED

Renowned local theatre organist Dean Cook presents a Musical Night At the Movies featuring a fusion of organ and synthesizer, in which the artist plays live organ to his pre-recorded sequenced orchestral accompaniments creating faithful recreations of scores by John Williams, Jerry Goldsmith, Elmer Bernstein, et. al. The second recital in the mini series will feature a more classically oriented program. Negotiations were underway at press time.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2006 7:30 P.M: SIDESADDLE & CO.

Based in San Jose, Sidesaddle & Co. has been captivating audiences with their unique acoustic sound since 1979. The five members of the band come from an interesting variety of musical backgrounds, which come alive in their repertoire of primarily traditional Bluegrass music, seasoned with vintage Country, Irish, Cajun and Cowboy Western. They also mix in some Gospel, Folk, Novelty and Comedy. Billboard Magazine has called their music "superbly melodic." Critics have hailed their performances as "sophisticated and highly entertaining" and their harmonies "impeccable." The band's current line-up is Jerry Ashford, guitar, vocals; Lee Anne Welch, fiddle,

Concert Season, continued

vocals; Lisa Burns, bass, vocals; Rob Horgan, banjo, vocals; Kim Elking (a.k.a. KPIG Radio D.J. Robbin' Banks), mandolin, vocals; and Glenn Dauphin, guitar, vocals.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2006 5:00 P.M: BANANA SLUG STRING BAND

The Banana Slug String Band is a group of lovable musicians and educators from the coastal redwoods of Northern California. The Slugs are "Airy" Larry Graff, Doug "Dirt" Greenfield, "Solar" Steve Van Zandt and "Marine" Mark Nolan. With vocals, guitars, mandolin, bass, harmonica, banjo and percussion, Slug songs range from rockin' boogies to sensitive ballads; folk songs to reggae and rap. Music, theater, puppetry and audience participation create a fun-filled learning experience. Some of the band's awards include: For the album "Goin' Wild" 2000 AFIM Indie Award, Children's Album of the Year, National Park Service Audio Interpretive Excellence Awards, Amazon.com 5-Star rating, and Entertainment Weekly 4-Star rating. The National Association of Parenting, Parent's Choice and the American Library Association have awarded previous albums.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2006 3:00 P.M: PIONEER HIGH SCHOOL CHAMBER CHOIR AND CASTILLERO MIDDLE SCHOOL STAGE BAND

The best local school musicians perform in a special afternoon concert. The award-winning Castillero stage band will perform first with the Pioneer Chamber Choir taking the stage after intermission. Castillero Middle School, a National Blue Ribbon School and California Distinguished School, is part of the San Jose Unified School District's K-12 Academic/Visual and Performing Arts Magnet Program. Pioneer High School Chamber Choir performs at the school's Winter and Spring Concerts, participates in local and state wide festivals, and travels to Los Angeles every other year to participate in a Music Festival in the Disneyland area. The Chamber Choir has been designed for advanced music students interested in both theory and vocal music performance. Students are involved in choral part singing, solo and ensemble singing, and the interpretation of musical symbols.

Concert Season, continued

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2006 7:30 P.M: DOCE BRAZIL Featuring Jennifer Lee

Singer/guitarist Jennifer Lee presents an evening of Brazilian music featuring guitarist Hugo Wainzinger, a percussionist and pianist. A provocative blend of innocence and sophistication, Jennifer Lee presents herself with great style and class, maintaining a warm and unpretentious demeanor which enables her to connect deeply with her audience. When she sings bossa novas and sambas in Portuguese (with a near-perfect Brazilian accent) and accompanies herself on guitar, you can almost feel the warm sands of Ipanema beneath your feet. Wainzinger is a composer, guitarist, and arranger. Born in Argentina, he was exposed to a wide variety of music since childhood, largely through the influence of his mother, a passionate bolero singer. He absorbed many musical styles, making him uncommonly versatile as an arranger

Todd Axtell

"Music Musings"

MATTHIAS and 50th Birthday Party

Please plan to attend John Leslie's performance of "Matthias" on Saturday, November 19 at 7:30 pm. (See more information about "Matthias" in the Almaden Adventures in the Arts article.) The performance will be about an hour long, and will be followed by a big blow-out 50th birthday party for John in Fellowship Hall...the entire audience will be invited (but attendance at the concert is required for admission to the party). Buy or reserve your tickets today! Susie Ferguson is heading up the refreshments and decorations, and there will be surprise performers to entertain you during the party.

REQUIEM CONCERT at TRINITY CATHEDRAL

Several members of the ECA and AVUCC choirs will be singing in a combined choir at a Mass for All Souls Day, Wednesday Nov. 2, at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in downtown San Jose. They will sing the beautiful Faure Requiem during the Mass, and names of those who have died in the past year will be included in the prayers. In addition, all the past year's victims of hurricanes, earthquakes, war, etc. will be remembered. Please consider attending this moving service of worship and music.

Music, continued

TALENT NIGHT

Save the date: Music at JV Churches will present its 3rd annual Epiphany Talent Night on Saturday January 7, 2006 at 7:00pm. There will be a great variety of entertaining acts. If you would like to share any of your talents with the JV community in this informal setting, please contact John Leslie through the church office.

JV Handbell Choir: The JV Handbell Choir has resumed rehearsals and is planning to play during a worship service soon. Hopefully, they will also play at the next JV Talent Show, January 7, 2006. If you might be interested in joining this group which meets Wednesdays from 4:45pm-6:00pm, please contact John Leslie or Maryke Williams (or any other Bell Choir member) for more information.

JV Children's Choir: The JV Children's Choir will resume rehearsals after Thanksgiving in order to prepare music for the Sunday School Christmas Pageant and the family Christmas Eve service.

Private Music Lessons – piano or voice: John Leslie continues to offer private instruction in piano and/or voice, including music-reading skills and some theory. If you are interested in lessons for yourself or for your child, please contact John with any questions.

Lost and Found – clothes: Several articles of clothing have been found around the church property and have been placed on the clothes rack outside the Christian Ed-Music Office. Please check to see if anything you are missing is there. If these articles aren't claimed by Nov. 15, they will be donated to a local charity.

Fiddler on the Roof: One last article about "Fiddler on the Roof": at latest report, we have netted over \$4,500.00 from our ticket sales. Thank you to all who were in the cast, orchestra, production crew, and thanks to all who were in the audience for making this happen! You were all fabulous, and I especially want to highlight the contribution of Marilyn Graham, who stepped out of the AVUCC choir soprano section into the role of Golde: Tevye's wife, and mother to his 5 daughters. Marilyn was a natural in this role, and her running of Tevye's household, her caring for her daughters, and her expressive acting style were both a joy and an inspiration for us all to behold!

L'chaim.,
John Leslie

Music, continued

Marilyn Graham as Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof*



Youth News

How Can You Support SHYGS this Fall and Winter?

Donate your old magazines that have lots of pictures and advertising in them. We're using these to stimulate prayer requests and to talk about sexual stereotypes and the force of advertising. Put them in the box in the youth center marked 'SHYGS Magazines'.

Purchase an Entertainment Book for \$25.00 during coffee hour. SHYGS will donate their share of the profit (\$5) to Habitat for Humanity.

Purchase a Servant Auction Item! Proceeds from this event go to our Outreach Projects and allow us to adopt families for the holidays. Our families come from the EOPS

Youth continued

program at West Valley College, and we purchase food, clothing and toys for kids. The more we make from our services, the more we can donate.

Continue to drop off your toiletries throughout the year. We just filled 40 gallon-sized bags with an assortment of items that YOU contributed and we donated them to EOPS. When we have another big stash, we'll get the assembly line going again and contribute another load. It is an easy way to make a difference! Please watch for sales on dental items as we are usually short on toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss.

Bring your items to be wrapped or your kids to be babysat. Mark your calendars now for our annual gift-wrapping and babysitting event. This year it will be on Sat, Dec 17, 1:00-4:00 pm. Proceeds go to Outreach!

Keep our teens in your prayers that they grow in their faith and in their love and trust in one another.

SHYGS Leaders Attend Conference

The first weekend in October brought over 3400 youth pastors and leaders to a National Youth Worker's Conference (NYWC) at the Sacramento Convention Center. Terry and I attended the event Friday through Monday, and we were uplifted and inspired by the speakers and entertainment. NYWC is produced by Youth Specialties and they do a fabulous job making sure that there are dozens of breakout sessions with speakers on such a variety of topics that everyone was able to find something of interest. Especially rewarding to us were the speakers who seemed to be able to know right where SHYGS is in the development of a youth group without ever attending one of our meetings. The experience the speakers brought to the event was formidable. We laughed, we cried (well, I did), we sang and jumped around to the music, and sat in rapt attention as other youth leaders shared their visions.

We wanted to share with you that this event was such a pleasure-all performers thanked their audience for the work they do with youth and you could just feel the crowd accepting the virtual 'hug' given in appreciation for the love and time given towards the youth in the churches back home. We were able to be refreshed and renewed and, after hearing multiple speakers, we have a very clear picture to present to the Christian Ed committee about next steps for SHYGS. Think-Small Groups for teens! We are already looking forward to next year's event!

Youth, continued

Thank You. Thanks to Kristen Petruzzelli, Brad Bond and Val Tysanner for attending a leadership meeting at the Roots' house and then leading the October SHYGS meeting while the Roots were in Sacramento. They led 14 teens in a discussion about REJECTION and also introduced a new feature of every SHYGS meeting called GYG time. GYG is our prayer request and sharing time and stands for Guts and Glory. We spend this time giving glory to God in thanks and "spilling our guts" by sharing our cares and requests for prayer. The leadership team did a great job!

Thanks to Jenny and Roger Hoyt, Anna and Hans Spanjaart and Ann Mayers for supervising the October 2 SHYGS meeting and cooking and serving dinner, and to Linda Cottle for providing the lasagna and garlic bread!

Upcoming SHYGS Events

Sunday, Nov 6 2:30-9:00 Trip to Grace Cathedral in SF-Modern Service to the Music of U2-Dinner and cable cars-Meet at church-Bring \$10 (If cancelled by Grace Cathedral we'll have a regular meeting at church at evening)

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

Sunday, Nov 20 - Shop for Thanksgiving food for our adopted families right after church-Meet in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Nov 20 - Regular meeting 6-8:30

Sunday, Nov 27 - Servant Auction during Coffee Hour

Sunday, Dec 4 - End Servant Auction at Alternative Christmas-All need to be present

Sunday, Dec 4 - Regular Meeting 6-8:30 Meeting

November 2005 Calendar

Tuesday Nov 1	7:30 pm	JV Board Meeting
Wednesday Nov 2	12:30 pm	Mah Jong
	4:45 pm	Bell Choir
	7:30 pm	AVUCC Choir
Friday Nov 4	12:30 pm	Tai Chi
	7:30 pm	Bridge Group
Saturday Nov 5	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast
Sunday Nov 6	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
	10:10 am	Sunday School
	4:30 pm	SHYG Dinner Meeting
Monday Nov 7	7:00 pm	Duplicate Bridge
Tuesday Nov 8	7:00 pm	AVUCC Council Meeting
Wednesday Nov 9	12:30 pm	Mah Jong
	4:45 pm	Bell Choir
	6:30 pm	AVUCC Food Service
Friday Nov 11	12:30 pm	Tai Chi
Saturday Nov 12	All Day	ALUMINUM CAN DRIVE
Sunday Nov 13	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
	10:10 am	Sunday School
	10:10 am	Congregational Meeting
Wednesday Nov 16	11:00 am	JV Staff Meeting
	12:30 pm	Mah Jong
	4:45 pm	Bell Choir
	7:30 pm	AVUCC Choir
Thursday Nov 17	7:30 pm	JV Book Group
Friday Nov 18	TBA	SHYG Field Trip to Trinity Cathedral
	12:30 pm	Tai Chi
Saturday Nov 19	7:30 pm	<i>Matthias</i> Performance John Leslie's Birthday Party
Sunday Nov 20	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
	10:10 am	Sunday School
	4:30 pm	SHYG Dinner Meeting
Wednesday Nov 23	12:30 pm	Mah Jong
	4:45 pm	Bell Choir
	7:30 pm	AVUCC Choir
Friday Nov 25	12:30 pm	Tai Chi
Sunday Nov 27	9:00 am	AVUCC Worship
	10:10 am	Sunday School
Wednesday Nov 30	12:30 pm	Mah Jong
	4:45 pm	Bell Choir
	7:30 pm	AVUCC Choir

November Birthdays

Harriet Yamada	Nov 03
Dave Harris	Nov 06
Karen Haley	Nov 08
Jan Day	Nov 10
Sue Scaff	Nov 11
Shannon Haley	Nov 13
Bob Green	Nov 17
Melanie Click	Nov 19
Toh-Bee Syn	Nov 21
Bob Thomas	Nov 25
Ed Anderson	Nov 27
Dick Specht	Nov 28

November Anniversaries

Bill and Alice Cox	Nov 03
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Worship Schedule

In November, Pastor Kevin will preach every Sunday except for Nov. 27, when Terry Shoup will be preaching. Here also is the lay readers list for November.

Lay Readers:

Nov 06:	Dot Allfrey
Nov 13:	Steven Coutinho
Nov 20:	Bob Farnquist
Nov 27:	Robyn Dorsey

JV Book Group

JV Book Club will meet on November 17, 2005 at 7:30 pm at the home of Robyn Dorsey. We will discuss the novel, *Plain Truth* by Jodi Picoult. Please respond if you are coming. Thanks, hope to see you all next month.

Robyn
323-9230

Almaden Valley United Church of Christ
6581 Camden Avenue
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KALOS –November 2005

KALOS Deadline for the December Issue

The deadline for the December issue of the Kalos is **Tuesday November 15, 2005**. Items may be left in the mail slot labeled Kalos, or preferably, may be submitted by email to: **kalos@avucc.org**.

For questions contact one of the editors: Sue Scaff (448-3038) and Kelly Yamanishi (997-3373).