

# AVUCC

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# KALOS

Newsletter for the  
Almaden Valley  
United Church of Christ

## Pastor Kevin's Corner:

### *Stormy Seas*

*On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"*

Mark 4:35-41

Jesus is a transformative character in our faith. In our scripture stories of Jesus he changes water into wine, he transforms a blind man into someone who can see, and most profoundly, he changes the lives of the people he called to follow him—his disciples. Following Jesus transformed fisherman, tax collectors, and the cast outs of culture into his disciples. In all of these cases the transformation churned the lives of ordinary people. These disciples left their homes, families, and jobs to lead an itinerant life of devotion, challenge, and risk. But, they wouldn't have had it any other way.

## KALOS

Monthly Newsletter

Almaden Valley United Church of Christ

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## February 2009

### *In this issue*

*Pastor Kevin's Corner—1*

*Moderator's Notes—2*

*Financial Report—3*

*People in the Pews— 3,4*

*Outreach—4*

*Habitat for Humanity—4*

*Birthdays, Anniversaries and  
Worship schedule—5*

*Connection Circles—5*

*Worship Service—5*

*Calendar—6*

*Lectionary—7*



One evening Jesus asked his disciples to follow him over to the other side. Perhaps he was calling them to check out the other side of the lake, or perhaps he was calling them to a whole new life. They “left the crowd behind” which had been following Jesus in order to hear him preach or to be fed with loaves and fish, or, perhaps they left the crowd behind who would rather be safe at night, safe from whatever raging storms that might transform them from their comfortable lives into new beings for God. Getting into the boat with Jesus can be a risky adventure, but ultimately life-giving.

Sure enough just as the disciples and Jesus put out to sea, the storm began to rage. I have no doubt that some of those disciples thought they must have been crazy to follow Jesus into that boat at night on a sea that could change its face at any moment. In the midst of that storm while Jesus was sleeping (!) in the back of the boat, I'm sure it crossed more than one disciple's mind that they should have stayed in the comfort of their predictable and safe homes with their family and friends near. When the storm really started to toss and turn the board, I'm sure some of the disciples were thinking they should have heeded the warnings from their family and friends not to embark upon an unknown future and path where the future was not sure. I'm also sure that some of the family and friends of the disciples who were left behind probably felt they had been deserted, too.

While the storms within and without the disciples was raging, Jesus “was asleep in the stern, asleep on a cushion.” Our scripture parable tells us that they wakened Jesus and he rebuked the storm, and the sea became still. Then Jesus rebuked the disciples: “have you still no faith?” he asks them. What if the “cushion” in this story was God, or at least, Jesus' faith in God? What if the storms were troubled times that we sometimes bring upon ourselves or confront us because we have chosen a different path than the crowd? What if following Jesus is not always the path of least resistance? What if we decide to stay in the boat with Jesus? What if? What if we put our faith and trust in God? What if we had hope and practiced love? Many blessings through faith in God to you all!

*Pastor Kevin*

## **Moderator's Notes**

By the time you read these notes, the 2009 Council has met twice. Once for the initial meeting in January and we met again for the annual planning retreat at the end of January. Topic numero uno was (and still is) the shortfall in pledges during the stewardship campaign. The council is making tough choices of cuts in the preliminary budget and the inevitable fact that we will need to borrow against our capital. I suspect the council will vote on a finalized budget during the February council meeting.

And speaking of stewardship, note that money is not the only form of stewardship. AVUCC requires the gift of time in addition to monetary gifts. I am hoping that the calls for assistance from the coordinators for children's break out, coffee greeter/host, communion, lay reading, and ushering will not go unanswered. If you have not participated in one of the above activities, I urge you to volunteer and help with the activities that assist and complement our worship services. It would be fantastic if the coordinators actually have to turn help away.

I do have some great news to share. The response to the Connection Circle presentation during services on January 11 was fantastic. It is evident that the congregation is willing to try something new in our spiritual journey. As a member of the Long Range Planning Committee test group of small group ministry, I can tell you that the experience can be eye-opening. If you have been looking for a method of extending your spiritual journey beyond the traditional Sunday service, Connection Circles may be the avenue for you.

Finally, I am happy to inform you that the council has a recorder. Dave Harris, without prompting, volunteered to join council and fill the extremely important position. It was a nearly unanimous decision voting Dave in as recorder. I want to thank Dave for stepping up and volunteering to join council.

Until next time, Blessings and have a Happy Valentines Day.

*Chuck Smith*  
*AVUCC Moderator*

## Monthly Financial Report December 31, 2008

Pledged, Cash, & Misc.  
Income for this month: \$ 10,625  
Total Expenses for this month: 13,998  
Deficit for the month of December: \$ - 3,373

Our year ending report:  
Pledged and Cash Income for 2008: \$ 169,830  
Total Expenses for this year: 179,545  
Our total deficit for the year: \$ - 9,714

Cash Balances as of December 31<sup>st</sup>:  
Citibank - Checking \$ 23,151  
Citibank - Money Market 49,586  
Corp America CU 64,861  
Total Cash Balances: \$ 137,597

Yes, we closed the year with \$9,714 in deficit but reviewing our pledges, we did very well. We received 99.5% from our pledging members and another 142%, above what we budgeted, from cash and from non-pledging members.

To keep our losses to a minimum, we stopped our advertisement and reduced our UCC Share by 38.5%. We also tapped into our Money Market Fund to assist in paying Rev. Dr. Ann Muir for her consulting fee.

A detail financial report for December is posted on our Bulletin Board.

*Respectfully Submitted:  
Stan Yumen*



## PEOPLE IN THE PEWS

One Sunday in December young Eric Gaydon made a special request. On his own he had decided that he didn't want any Christmas presents for himself. He had set a goal of \$500 which would be enough money to buy a cow from Heifer Intl. to be sent to

some family in another country. He asked his family members to give him gifts of money rather than presents so that he could add to making the purchase of a cow possible. Many of our church attendees that day were more than happy to make donations toward this project.

### A NOTE FROM ERIC

*"The Sunday before Christmas, I collected donations for Heifer International. Thanks to everyone's generous donations we raised \$1,113. With that money we will be able to get not only a cow but a water buffalo, a goat, a sheep, rabbits, honeybees and a flock of chicks, with \$13 remaining. I would like to thank everyone for being so generous".*

We all owe Eric a very big "thank you" for being such a caring and concerned young man.

\*\*\*\*\*

### PRAYERS ARE NEEDED FOR...

Andrew Garg had to have additional surgery on his arm the day before Christmas. He had surgery on this arm several months ago, but he reinjured it and the doctors needed to go in and do further repairs. He will have to be very cautious for at least six more months of healing.

Pat McGarvin also had rotator cuff surgery in early January. This surgery was on the opposite shoulder that was operated on in early 2008. She also will be facing about six months of recovery.

We need to keep both Bob and Ariss Thomas in our prayers as Bob faces some serious health issues.

Continue to keep Debbie Bemis and her family in our thoughts and prayers. Debbie continues to be positive about her health situation and we know she and the family need our support and love.

John Graham is recovering from a hernia surgery. It was more extensive than originally thought. We pray for a good recovery.

Because these folks are part of AVUCC, they are also part of each of our families. When anyone in our church community is ill or suffering a loss we need to be there to support them. Our prayers and

cards and phone calls let each of them know how much we truly care and pray for their return to good health.

*Sharing some thoughts from "How To Be a Better You" -Joel Osteen*

*When something comes up for which you have no reasonable answer, instead of dwelling on it and trying to figure it out, simply place it in your "I Don't Understand It" file. Then muster enough faith to say, "God I don't understand it, but I trust You, and I'm not going to spend all my time trying to figure out why certain things have happened. You're a good God, and I know You have my best interests at heart. You promised that all things will work together for my good."*

*To you, O Lord, I life up my soul; in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. Psalm 25: 1-2*

*This world is desperate to experience the love and compassion of our God. More than any other human attribute, I believe our world is crying out for people with compassion, people who love unconditionally, people who will take some time to help their fellow sojourners on this planet. We're all so busy. We have our own priorities and important plans and agendas. God's Word implies that we each have a heart of compassion, but the question is whether it is opened or closed.*

*If anyone has material possessions and see his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?*

*I John 3: 17*

*Dot Allfrey*

## **Outreach**

### **Alternative Christmas Update**

"HABITAT" donations total...\$1,060.  
Christmas Fund Offering...\$626.00

### **Beneficio**

To support the small coffee bean farmers and their families in Costa Rica, please contact Phyllis Chai (226-7150) to place an order for a 12 oz. bag at \$8.25. "Beneficio" coffee is served at our Joint Venture coffee hours.

## **Valentine Chocolate**

A year or two ago our daughter gave me an article about organic chocolate, and how purchasing it makes the harvesting of the cocoa beans a much safer task, usually for young girls. Since then I've gotten "hooked" on buying locally, and eating organic chocolate bars. They are more costly, but I believe that the price would decrease if more people bought them...Fair Trade Chocolate can also be ordered through the UCC website...You may want to consider this choice as Valentine's Day nears.

*Phyllis Chai*  
226-7150

## **Habitat for Humanity**

### **Aluminum Cans Help**

Again this year we will be collecting empty aluminum cans, recycling them, and giving the proceeds to Habitat for Humanity, Silicon Valley Chapter. Four weekends are scheduled to collect these cans; Feb. 14 & 15, May 9 & 10, Aug. 8 & 9, and Nov. 14 & 15.

If you would like to save/gather empty aluminum cans and donate them to Habitat, this is how it works. During the week before the weekend that cans are collected, our large canvas sign announcing the Collecting of Aluminum Cans for Habitat for Humanity will be displayed at the front of the church. Any time you see this sign up, you can leave your bagged cans anywhere near the sheds by the Rose Garden at the back of the church parking lot. This area will be checked periodically and those bags moved to a secure area. The sign will come down Sunday night of the collection weekend and will not go up again until the next quarter. Subsequently, those cans will be delivered to the recycler who is currently paying \$2/pound. All money received is sent to Habitat.

Thank you for your help with this effort, and remember the next collection is Feb. 14 & 15. If you would like me to pickup your cans at your home, give me a call.

*Tom the Can Man*  
268-4819

## February Birthdays

Lynn Widman	2/7
Tommy Haley	2/10
Angela Smith	2/10
Laura Click	2/13
Orlon Wiedrick	2/17
Phyllis Green	2/19
Byron Henderson	2/20
Anthony Sunseri	2/23
Matthew Click	2/24
Shirley Lind	2/24

## February Anniversaries

Jim & Ruth Breseke	2/18
Byron & Marian Henderson	2/19

## February Worship

Sermons      Rev. Kevin Smith

February

Lay Readers    Sandy Baldwin      227-3507

February 01: Gwen Hacker

February 08: Marian Henderson

February 15:

February 22:

Ushers      Dot Allfrey      268-2973

February 01: Bemis/Blake

February 08: Carla Gerber

February 15:

February 22:

Greeter/

Coffee Hosts    Linda Farr

February 01: Toh-Bee Syn, Betty Benson

February 08: Bob & Phyllis Green

February 15: Dick & Jean Shipe

February 22: John Diane Hawes

Communion    Kathy Kisabeth      227-3898

February 01: Kathy Kisabeth, Stan Yumen

Breakout      Tami Nieders      268-7681

February 08:

February 15:

Bread Making

February 22:

Flowers      Sign up in Fellowship Hall

February 01:

February 08:

February 15:

February 22:

Caring

Committee    Carolyn Crowley      997-0819

Co-chairs      TBD

## Connection Circles

It's not too late to join a Connection Circle. Groups are forming to begin meeting this month. At the first session, we'll be doing some start up housekeeping and scheduling, then spending some time sharing our faith journeys in preparation for the upcoming sessions.

This introductory session of Connections Circles small group ministry will run for 5 monthly meetings, February through June.

## Worship service.

This is an essential part in the operation and vitality of our church. Many of you have and will continue to help with worship and other activities in the church. This is a great opportunity for those of you who have yet to help in our worship service.

The really great thing about doing service for the church is that you get more out of it than you put into it. Take one step towards God, and He will take two steps towards you.

For the current worship helpers schedule and for more information on helping with worship service, go to the following web site:

<http://avucc.org/members/AVUCCMatrix.pdf>

*Dennis Elliott*

# FEBRUARY 2009

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	7:30 AM ECA Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM AVUCC Worship 10:10 AM Adult Christian Education Class 10:10 AM Sunday School 3:45 PM Visit the South Bay Islamic Association 6:00 PM JHYG meeting	7:00 PM JV Duplicate Bridge 7:30 PM Boy Scout Troop #294 meeting	8:45 AM ECA Womens Walk & Talk 6:30 PM Almaden Valley Womens Club meeting 7:00 PM Christian Ed & Youth Committee Meeting	9:30 AM Quest Meeting 1:30 PM JV Staff meeting 2:30 PM Brownie Troop #825 7:30 PM Shalom Choir rehearsal	8:00 AM ECA Men's Breakfast 10:30 AM Thursday Morning Bible Study 7:30 PM ECA Choir Rehearsal	9:30 AM Assistance League meeting 3:00 PM ECA Montgomery Meals 7:00 PM Cub Scout Pack 282, Pack 7 Meeting	8:30 AM AVUCC Annual Valentine's Day Brunch
8	7:30 AM ECA Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM AVUCC Worship 10:10 AM Adult Christian Education Class 10:10 AM Sunday School 6:00 PM SHYG Meeting	9:00 AM Assistance League of San Jose Board meeting 3:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #1227 7:30 PM Boy Scout Troop #294 meeting	8:45 AM ECA Womens Walk & Talk 7:00 PM AVUCC Council Meeting 7:00 PM ECA Vestry Meeting	9:30 AM Quest Meeting 3:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #849 meeting 6:45 PM AVUCC Folk Choir rehearsal 7:30 PM Shalom Choir rehearsal	8:00 AM ECA Men's Breakfast 10:30 AM Thursday Morning Bible Study 7:30 PM ECA Choir Rehearsal	4:00 PM ECA "Take Heart and Fellowship"	14
15	7:30 AM ECA Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM AVUCC Worship 10:10 AM Adult Christian Education Class 10:10 AM Sunday School 6:00 PM JHYG meeting	JV Office Closed 7:30 PM Boy Scout Troop #294 meeting	8:45 AM ECA Womens Walk & Talk 10:00 AM Montgomery Meals 4:15 PM AVUCC Shelter Food Service	9:30 AM Quest Meeting 1:30 PM JV Staff meeting 2:30 PM Brownie Troop #825 7:30 PM Shalom Choir rehearsal	8:00 AM ECA Men's Breakfast 10:00 AM Assistance League of San Jose general meeting 10:30 AM Thursday Morning Bible Study 1:00 PM Unicom Thrift Shop Board Meeting 7:30 PM ECA Choir Rehearsal	3:00 PM ECA Montgomery Meals	21
22	7:30 AM ECA Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM AVUCC Worship 10:10 AM Adult Christian Education Class 10:10 AM Sunday School 6:00 PM SHYG Meeting	3:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #1227 7:30 PM Boy Scout Troop #294 meeting	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 8:45 AM ECA Womens Walk & Talk 7:30 PM JV Book Club	9:30 AM Quest Meeting 7:30 PM Shalom Choir rehearsal	8:00 AM ECA Men's Breakfast 10:30 AM Thursday Morning Bible Study 7:30 PM ECA Choir Rehearsal		28
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# -Daily Lectionary-

## February 2009

*These lectionary readings are from A Daily Lectionary-Scripture readings for Every Day based on the New Common Lectionary. Please share this resource with members of your church.*

*\*The readings listed for Sundays are from the UCC Desk Calendar and are not part of the daily lectionary cycle.*

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	<u>Epistle</u>
*Sun	Feb 1	Deut 18:15-20	Mark 1:21-28	1 Cor 8:1-13
Mon	Feb 2	Josh 3:9-17	John 5:30-47	1 Cor 6:12-20
Tues	Feb 3	Josh 4:1-18	John 6:1-15	1 Cor 7:1-7
Wed	Feb 4	Josh 4:19-5:1	John 6:16-27	1 Cor 7:8-11
Thurs	Feb 5	Josh 5:2-15	John 6:28-40	1 Cor 7:12-16
Fri	Feb 6	Josh 6:1-14	John 6:41-51	1 Cor 7:17-24
Sat	Feb 7	Josh 6:15-27	John 6:52-59	1 Cor 7:25-31
*Sun	Feb 8	Isa 40:21-31	Mark 1:29-39	1 Cor 9:16-23
Mon	Feb 9	Josh 7:1-15	John 6:60-71	1 Cor 7:32-40
Tues	Feb 10	Josh 7:16-26	John 7:1-13	1 Cor 8:1-6
Wed	Feb 11	Josh 8:1-21	John 7:14-24	1 Cor 8:7-13
Thurs	Feb 12	Josh 8:30-35	John 7:25-36	1 Cor 9:1-12a
Fri	Feb 13	Josh 9:3-16,22-27	John 7:37-52	1 Cor 9:12b-18
Sat	Feb 14	Josh 10:1-15	John 7:53-8:11	1 Cor 9:19-27
*Sun	Feb 15	2 Kings 5:1-14	Mark 1:40-45	1 Cor 9:24-27
Mon	Feb 16	Josh 23:1-16	John 8:12-20	1 Cor 10:1-13
Tues	Feb 17	Josh 24:1-15	John 8:21-30	1 Cor 10:14-22
Wed	Feb 18	Josh 24:16-23	John 8:31-41a	1 Cor 10:23-11:1
Thurs	Feb 19	Esther 1:1-19	John 8:41b-47	2 Cor 1:1-7
Fri	Feb 20	Esther 2:5-8,15-23	John 8:47-59	2 Cor 1:8-11
Sat	Feb 21	Esther 3:1-4:3	John 9:1-7	2 Cor 1:12-20
*Sun	Feb 22	2 Kings 2:1-12	Mark 9:2-9	2 Cor 4:3-6
Mon	Feb 23	Ezra 7:27-28,8:21-36	Matt 17:1-9	2 Cor 4:7-18
Tues	Feb 24	Ezra 9:1-15	Matt 4:1-11	2 Cor 5:1-10
Wed	Feb 25	Joel 2:1-2,12-17a	Matt 6:1-6,16-21	2 Cor 5:20b-6:10
Thurs	Feb 26	Ezra 10:1-17	Luke 18:9-14	Titus 1:1-16
Fri	Feb 27	Neh 1:1-11	Luke 9:57-62	Titus 2:1-15
Sat	Feb 28	Neh 2:1-20	Luke 4:1-8	Titus 3:1-15



**Provided by**  
**The Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ**  
*...nurturing local church vitality and the covenant among our churches.*

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## KALOS—February 2009

**Monthly Newsletter for the  
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The deadline for the **March** issue of the Kalos is Sunday, **February 15**. Email your items to: [kalos@avucc.org](mailto:kalos@avucc.org).

Questions—Contact the editor:  
Kelly Yamanishi (997-3373)

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