

AVUCC KALOS

Newsletter for the
Almaden Valley
United Church of Christ

Pastor Kevin's Corner

Forbearance

Massachusetts pastors Martin Copenhaver of Wellesley Congregational church and Mary Luti of First Congregational Church in Cambridge have talked about the importance of practicing "forbearance" over practicing mere civility. Copenhaver, in an article he wrote for the magazine *Congregations* published by the Alban Institute, says "the word civility connotes a refined, ritualized cover-up. Civility is the polite encounter of our studied selves. It is a meeting of masks, the public smile that hides the private sneer." Jesus asks us to go deeper beyond our masks, beyond our public polite smiles and really try to deepen and broaden our relationships with others based on a foundation of love, honesty, compassion and caring. Jesus asks us to care enough for each other in every small way that we deal with one another so that when all our wealth is gone, when all the things of this world pass away, others might "welcome you into [their] eternal homes," Luke says (16:9c). The "communication guidelines" that we have been reflecting on this past year and which will be presented to the congregation at our congregational meeting this month are a tool that we can use to practice more than mere civility.

The *Random House Dictionary* describes "forbearance" as "refraining from something; patient endurance; self-control; abstaining from the enforcement of a right;" and the dictionary suggests the synonyms for forbearance are "tolerance, suffering and indulgence." The dictionary also suggests that "civility" means "courtesy, politeness, manners, and amiability." When we practice forbearance towards our loved ones, towards each other in

¹ Copenhaver, Martin B. *Enduring All Things, Even Each Other in Congregations*, Spring, 2004. The Alban Institute, Volume 30, No. 2., p. 24.

² Flexner, Stuart Berg (ed.), *Random House Unabridged Dictionary*, New York: Random House, 1993.

KALOS

Monthly Newsletter
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November 2006

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Pastor Kevin's Corner, continued

our church, and even towards strangers, we are living deep into the real love of neighbor that Moses and Amos and Luke and Jesus taught us about. It is not just politeness and good manners; it is about, even in those moments when we are sure we are right about something, loving so deeply and respectfully that we are able to “abstain from the enforcement of that right” and to forgive and to feel compassion. It is about patiently enduring each other even if it means there will be some momentary suffering. Forbearance is much about loving people in spite of themselves and their actions. Civility is about putting a good shine on the wound and cursing them as you walk away. Forbearance is about praying for everyone—loved ones, friends, and yes, even those we do not see eye to eye with—as our Pauline epistle writer would encourage us to do when they wrote Timothy saying “first of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone” (1 Timothy 2:1). *Everyone.* Jesus and Luke and Paul urge us to have love, to have what is called *agape*, for all, or to practice that unselfish love for one another just as God has so loved us.

Throughout our lives we interact with people because we must. Whether it is people driving in front, or behind, or on the side of us on the road; whether is people at the doctor's office, or drug store, or behind the convenience store counter; or whether it is our mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers or any of our family members; or, whether it is the person sitting in the pew next to you and members of our church; these are all people we interact with in this life, in the reign of God we are witnessing to through our lives. Martin Copenhaver says that “the church, like the family, is a milieu in which we can learn to live with people we did not choose. Loving the ones we are stuck with reminds us of the love of a God who is stuck with us all.” (p. 26).

Let us confess that we have not always chosen the way of *agape*, of living into unselfish and compassionate love. And let us pray to God who loves us in every moment for new eyes to see our neighbor as worthy of God's love because they are a child of the living God. Let us use all the communication tools at our disposal to practice not just civility, but God-filled forbearance. Amen.

Pastor Kevin

Moderator's Notes

Every month when I read the Kalos I'm again amazed at the amount of activity that goes on in AVUCC at all times. Some of it is clearly noticeable, but much of it is not. Dot Allfrey eloquently captures news about people in the pews as well as those who have been absent for various reasons, and anyone reading her section can clearly see that this is a congregation in which people care for each other. Members dealing with minor and major concerns can always count on others to help in times of need. We have lots of committees and other small groups that make sure that everything from regular happenings like the monthly Men's Breakfast to special events like Oktoberfest and Emergency Training classes organized. A glance at the church calendar for any given month shows that we're a busy bunch, and we have a lot to show for it.

One of those committees that have been busy is LRPC, which has spent many hours crafting the Guidelines for Communications that were presented during the June semi-annual congregational meeting. After receiving feedback from individual members and Council, they rewrote the guidelines, which are printed elsewhere on these pages. The intent behind this document is to have a set of guidelines that we will use as a basis for improved communications within our congregation in formal and – where appropriate – informal settings. This final version of the Guidelines will be presented during the November semi-annual meeting, at which time the congregation will be asked to vote on their adoption. Please take a good look at them and feel free to respond prior to or during the meeting. And by the way, we would appreciate a few additional people for the Nominating Committee to help develop a slate of candidates for the 2007 Council and committees.

So if all this stuff is going on in formal and informal groups, what has Council been doing? As you can see in the abbreviated meeting minutes that are published in the Kalos every month, our regular agenda items include reports from all those groups, and we try to be responsive to their inputs and requests. We don't always succeed because we often (usually...) run out of time. We tend to take on more than we can handle during our monthly meetings, and that means that it sometimes takes a couple of meetings before we get to deal with an issue. That is frustrating for the people who put the issue before us and for us when we have to postpone dealing with it even after extending our meeting late into the evening. Our apologies if we have been slow to respond.

Moderator's Notes, continued

Note that the full meeting minutes are always posted on the bulletin board, as is the agenda of upcoming meetings during the prior week. As always, we encourage you to join us. Just show up, or let us know ahead of time if there is an issue you would like to put on the agenda. Everyone is welcome!

Steven Coutinho
AVUCC Moderator

Council Notes

Moderator: Steve Coutinho
Vice-Moderator: Kelly Yamanishi
Treasurer: Jay Caturay
Recorder: Carolyn Dingman
At-Large Members: Dot Allfrey, Sue Hamilton,
Al Nieders, Janey Sanders, and Bart Smith
Pastor Kevin Smith, *ex officio*

This is a summary of the Council meeting held on October 10, 2006. Official minutes will be posted on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall once they've been approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Kevin has been working with the Stewardship Committee on plans for the fall campaign. The committee's goal is to complete the drive for pledges and time and talent commitments prior to the annual meeting on Nov. 19th. Kevin is also helping to plan an October meeting with members involved in Outreach activities to talk about the church's system of giving. Additionally, he reported that the Conference office has resource materials on making churches safe that may be helpful for the JV churches in establishing a personnel policy.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jay Caturay reported that based on current figures, AVUCC will end the current year with a smaller deficit than expected, approximately \$3,300. The Council reviewed next year's proposed budget, which may be changed slightly based on the minister's salary package and JV operating expenses. The 2007 projection is for a balanced budget.

Other Business: The Long Range Planning Committee has revised their proposed Guidelines for Communication based on feedback received from the congregation and will be presenting them at the November annual meeting.

Council Notes, continued

The revision of the JV Bylaws has not been completed and continues to be an issue. The Council has sent a second request to the JV Board regarding the need for guidelines and screening of personnel hired for Joint Venture positions, including youth group leaders, Christian education directors and teachers, nursery care providers, and music leaders.

Vacancies on the Nominating Committee have been filled by Janey Sanders and Audrey Wiedrick; one other member is still being sought.

The policy for memorial gifts is ready to be put into effect, and members are being recruited to serve on this new committee.

Carolyn Dingman
AVUCC Recorder

People in the Pews

Visiting recently were former members Joanne and Dick Specht. They are enjoying their beautiful new home in CO and welcome visitors from AVUCC. Al Nieders' parents were visiting from IL and shared Sunday worship with us.

In Sympathy. Toh Bee's sister, Lee, passed away recently following a long illness. Bev Bricchetto's mother died suddenly. She had been in a care facility for a few months.

For Communion on the first Sunday in October the children had prepared four special breads in honor of World Communion Sunday. Pain Seigle is a round loaf of French rye bread. Whole wheat flat bread comes from an East African recipe, and Irish oatmeal bread is made with buttermilk and authentic Irish oatmeal. Mahdzoon are small soft twists from an Armenian yogurt-based recipe. We are grateful to Carolyn Dingman and her helpers, the children, and Kimberly Garg and Phyllis Chai, who so graciously assist in this special endeavor. Homemade bread is truly a special treat for all of us. Thank you!

Megan Haley recently appeared in a performance of *West Side Story*. She continues to enjoy theater and be actively involved with it.

People in the Pews, continued

Alice Bullard is home and grateful to all who have been involved with cards, visits, and notes, and she sends special thanks to Carla and Tom Gerber, who were the special caregivers for her dog, Sunny. She would welcome having company from time to time.

David Dunlap was having some difficulty with fluids in the stomach area, but now seems to be getting relief from that problem. He should be feeling well enough now to have visitors. Please call first though. Gloria is recruiting help from some of the parents of her students to assist her in getting the classroom ready for the upcoming holiday season. Linda Farr has also been a great help to her in preparing lessons.

Judy Martin recently celebrated the wedding of her son.

Hi Dong Chai was the speaker at the October Men's Breakfast. He related his battle with depression and shared how critical it is to get help when depressed. Hi Dong has talent for writing. He paints a verbal picture that makes his story come alive. He shared some stories of his early life in Korea, the loss of his family members, losing his older brother and then watching his father imprisoned and never seeing him again. We are grateful is such an important part of our church family, we hope that his dream of publishing his life story will become a reality.

Joan Curtice is having a hip replacement in November. Her first hip replacement was done about twenty years ago, and the warranty is worn out. We know that Joan will be glad when this is over. We pray for a good recovery.

Debbie Bemis has had another ultra sound, and everything looked okay according to her doctor, but she will continue to have follow ups for some time to be sure all is well. We pray that she continue to get good reports.

Ruth Breseke is recovered from her long bout with shingles. Now she and Jim are looking into having Jim get into a rehab program. Jim has come a long way since his accident, but he continues to try to get stronger, and he stays positive as much as he can under the circumstances. We wish them both well and welcome the times that they can be with all of us in worship or in other celebrations that we have in the church family.

Visiting the east and their daughter Nancy and family are Al and Jan Day. Their son Todd was joining them and then going on with them to NYC to see the sights and perhaps take in a play or two.

People in the Pews, continued

I would like to share with you a portion of an article in *The Shape* by their Senior Warden, Susie Ferguson. I think that what she wrote can be applied to everyone at AVUCC: *If everyone (100 % of us) is willing to offer support to our church family, whether your support is small or big, it is important in the Lord's eyes.*

Opportunities to participate are around every corner at AVUCC. Let's consider the Sunday School program as one example. You may not feel called or equipped to teach. Maybe it is just too big a commitment to you at this time. No problem. How about volunteering one Sunday a month to help a teacher? That extra pair of hands to pour juice, clean up a spill, help children with craft activities. It's a great way to support and encourage someone who has said "yes" to teaching.

Perhaps you like to attend church or fellowship events. But your schedule is hectic and working on the preparations is out of the question. No problem. Consider helping on clean up. What a boost and encouragement to those who have put the event together and who by then may be on their last dregs of energy.

Perhaps you are doing all you can with your time and energies and just want to drop by our church for worship on Sundays. No problem. Consider pledging if you are not already doing so. Knowing exactly how much funding we can anticipate in the next year helps your council plan and provide needed programs for others. The amount you pledge is not near as important as the act of pledging. God honors any amount.

In the next few months keep your eyes and ears open. You may find just the right way and amount to offer your support to our AVUCC community.

Thank you, Susie, for giving me permission to reproduce a portion of your article.

I might add that Al and Tami Nieders would welcome your help in covering "break out" time with children which follows the Children's Sermon. Please consider giving them a call and volunteering for a Sunday or two during the year.

Dot Allfrey

Joint Venture Board Minutes

Joint Venture Board Minutes
September 19, 2006

Members Present: Mary Leal, Rev. Smith, Betty Benson, Ron Howie, Rev. Mills, John McPherson, Jim Ballek, Jackie Whitlock, Melanie Click, Carol MacDonald

Opening Prayer: Rev. Mills

Minutes from Aug 15, 2006 read and approved with one correction. Spelling of Robyn to Robin.

Treasurer's Report: Approved: Discussion regarding youth budget. Can overage in mission trip carry over to next year's budget? Youth are on Sep to June basis. JHYG over budget, and SHYG is under. Mary Leal said she would check to see if some numbers were misplaced. Still some outstanding bonds. Question, should the bonds have an expiration date?. Carrying them indefinitely presents budgeting problems. That may have to be addressed at a later date.

Committee Reports: No formal reports presented. Rev. Mills explained that old printer stopped working and could not be fixed. Having technician come in would cost more than original cost of printer. New printer was purchased. Rev. Mills also said that some good Samaritans went through the Sunday school rooms and cleaned them, and that a contest would be held to name the rooms. Names will come from names of four saints, and the rooms will have signs. First week of Sunday school went well. Melanie Click said that she had a dozen students in the 5th and 6th grade class. It was also mentioned that the Senior High group went to Oakhurst Camp and a good time was had by all. Tom Rose had approximately 18 in adult education class about the Gospel of Mary. Taize service on Sep 11th had between 30 and 40 people, and Rev. Mills said that John Leslie staged the entire event and that he did a wonderful job. Emergency Preparedness training began on Sat. Sep 16th. Attendance was disappointing. Only half of those who signed up actually attended.

Old Business: Drip system is half complete, and other half should be completed in a week to 10 days. A/C no formal report, but Ron Howie said he had made two contacts about it. Expects some prices in about two weeks. Probably be installed over the winter when perhaps prices will be lower.

JV Minutes, continued

Christian Education contract: It was proposed and seconded that Desi Brown and her husband be made temporary Christian Education Leaders until a permanent replacement can be found. The vote was taken via email, and passed with a vote of 9-0 in favor.

New Business: The AVUCC council sent a letter requesting that background checks be made on people who would be administering to children. The board discussed the proposal. Should it be required of everyone, both paid and volunteer? Is it the "right" thing to do? What are the liability implications of not having run a check for references, past employment, criminal records etc. Many churches are doing it. Some have set up provisions, but have not lived up to them. Does that cause a greater liability than not having run the checks and set up established rules? Should it be done only on "unknown" applicants as opposed to those within the churches who have a known track record? If it is not run on every applicant, is it discriminatory? Melanie reported that cursory examination indicated that it could be set up for \$175, and checks run after that would cost \$25-30 each. Christian Ed will research and it will be discussed at the next JV Meeting. The board supports the intent of the letter.

Additional discussions: Carol MacDonald reported that many who use the kitchen are not bothering to clean it up. Whether this is people from our two congregations, or outside people who use the facility, is not known. The missing 8 foot tables was also discussed. Four new 8 ft tables had been purchased in the past, but those setting up the memorial for Wai Mun Syn could not find them. It was felt that it could have been someone from the outside, but moving four 8 ft tables is not easy. Could it be within our congregations and those responsible have somehow just forgotten to return them? Perhaps they will turn up.

Next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 17th

Closing prayer: Rev. Kevin Smith

Jim Ballek

Events

Men's Breakfast, November 4, Saturday, at 8:00 am in Fellowship Hall

Speaker: Dave Harris

Subject: Exciting Journey Through Turkey – exotic, interesting Turkey, where eastern and western ideals intermingle.

You must come and listen to this great presentation. Ladies are welcome at 8:30 am.

Dick Okumura

Vintage Fashion Show and English Tea – 3 pm on Sunday, November 12, in Fellowship Hall.

Donation in advance \$15, at the door \$20. Donations will benefit the orphans in Uganda. Bring a guest and sign up in Fellowship Hall or call Amy, 268-0920, or call the church office.

Amy Griffith

Progressive Dinner

Please join us for an evening of joy and celebration on December 9, 2006. Our time together begins with appetizers in Fellowship Hall at 5:30 PM. Small dinner groups then gather in the homes of willing hosts/hostesses for salad and entree. (Fellowship provides the menu and food). Our soiree concludes with a return to church for dessert and caroling. The cost is \$15.00 per person

We request that guests contribute either an appetizer or dessert. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall throughout the month of November.

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. Hope to talk to you soon.

Janey Sanders

More Events

Concert Series

2006-07 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 seventh season will begin on Saturday, November 11, 2006, at 7:30 p.m. with local singer-songwriter Jeff Strametz performing in concert.

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 arrive by the time you read this article. Please consider supporting this effort to bring music to our church community.



Concert Series, continued**Prices and Tickets:**

Single Performance prices:

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

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

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

Season Ticket Packages:

One Adult for price of 6	\$ 80.00	7 shows
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One Student for price of 5	\$ 50.00	7 shows
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One Child for the price of 5	\$ 25.00	7 shows
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Soup, Salad & Sound Pack for one adult	\$15.00	2 shows
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As an added bonus, season ticket holders will be able to purchase reduced price tickets to next summer's musical production.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2006 at 7:30 P.M.
JEFF STRAMETZ**

"Music is a part of everything we do, and touches lives one at a time." Whether penned through his own personal experiences or through the experiences of artists that have touched generations, Jeff Strametz weaves his way through decades of familiar favorites and originals in an intimate acoustic guitar and vocal format. From the great bands like America and The Eagles to contemporary Folk Rock influences such as Jim Croce, James Taylor, Simon and Garfunkel, Gordon Lightfoot and many more. "I look for songs with special meaning as well as the ones with great stories. You'll hear your favorites, and you'll hear songs that you will rarely ever hear live. These are songs that will get your toes tapping, touch your heart, dust off old memories, make you laugh, and make you cry. That is what music does, and it is my intention to do more than just entertain."

Concert Series, continued**"SOUP, SALAD & SOUND" ORGAN RECITAL
SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2007 at 6:30 P.M.,
concert at 7:30
JAMES WARREN**

James Warren is a classical organist with over forty years of experience in service playing, choral conducting, recital and concert performance, lecturing and compact disk recording. His two CD recordings for Regent Records (UK) have received critical acclaim. He has played recitals at St. Mary's Cathedral (San Francisco), Grace Cathedral (San Francisco), Notre Dame Cathedral (Paris), and St. Paul's Cathedral (London). He is a management consultant and owns his own San Francisco-based consulting firm.

**"SOUP, SALAD & SOUND" RECITAL
SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2007 at 6:30 P.M.,
Concert at 7:30
RUTHANNE ADAMS**

Multi-instrumentalist Ruthanne Adams will play organ, harp, piano and handbells in her recital. Ms. Adams has performed previously at Joint Venture Churches as part of the orchestra for the 2004 summer production of *South Pacific*. Recently Ruthanne earned her B.A. in Music and a B.S. in Business from Santa Clara University and is now working at San Jose State University on her Masters Degree in Music with an emphasis on Harp Performance. She is a member of, and performs often at Saratoga Federated Church.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2007 at 7:30 P.M.
A TOUCH OF BRASS**

A Touch of Brass is an 18-piece Big Band which incorporates brass, woodwinds, rhythm and two vocalists to cover all styles from Swing, Latin, Blues, Rock and Ballads to Swinging Gospel. Some of the more prestigious San Francisco Bay Area (and beyond) companies and organizations the band has performed for include; Nestle, Del Monte, Hills Bros., Monterey Bay Aquarium, Mark Hopkins Hotel, USS Hornet, San Francisco Chamber Symphony, Santa Clara University, Make a Wish Foundation, March of Dimes, Diabetes Association, The Dolphin Club, and many others. The band also makes frequent appearances at local music festivals including the San Jose Jazz Festival.

Concert Series, continued

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2007 at 7:30 P.M. CELTIC HEART

Bringing together a truly unique combination of experiences and talents, Celtic Heart is one of the true rising stars on the Celtic and acoustic music scene in California's Bay Area today. Celtic Heart performs a hybrid of traditional and contemporary Irish and American folk music, combining and moving skillfully between ancient melodies and cutting edge original songs, fiery instrumentals and pristine four part vocals, serious composition and engaging humor, all presented with a warm, approachable and friendly stage presence. The combination of guitar, fiddle, banjo, mandolin, tin whistle, and bodhran (Irish drum) has long been recognized as the essence of the Irish sound, but Celtic Heart have managed to bring new meaning to the old music pleasing the ear and stirring the heart.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, APRIL 20-21, 2007 at 7:30 P.M. COLE PORTER MUSIC REVUE

Joint Venture Churches Music Director John Leslie offers an evening highlighting the songbook of one of America's great songwriters, Cole Porter. Cole Porter made a name for himself in Europe during the Jazz Age and for the Broadway stage before he was "discovered" by the movie moguls and transported out to Hollywood. Some of his most popular stage musicals and movies include "Kiss Me, Kate," "Red, Hot and Blue," "High Society," "The Pirate," "Can-Can" and "Anything Goes," which was our 2006 summer musical. Many cast members from our summer musicals will participate in the show, as well as members of the Joint Venture adult and children's choirs, and some of your favorite JV instrumentalists! You'll hear lots of Cole's wittiest lyrics, his greatest love songs, and see people "clowning" around, with a possible recreation of our "Anything Goes" tap dance – by popular demand!

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2007 at 7:30 P.M. PENINSULA BANJO BAND

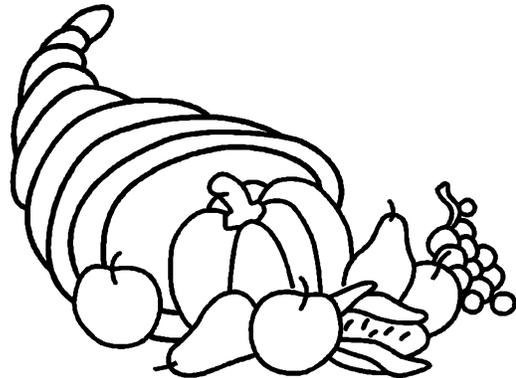
"We play the happiest music there is," says the Peninsula Banjo Band. They've been around for forty years and have thousands of fans in the San Francisco Bay area. Their mission is to preserve the four string banjo and the music associated with it. They offer scholarships to learn to play the four string banjo and the "gutbucket" (wash tub bass.). A non-profit corporation, they have made significant contributions to local charities. Over the years, they have

Concert Series, continued

given over \$182,000 to various charities. The Peninsula Banjo Band played their first concert at Le Petit Trianon, in downtown San Jose, taking the audience on a trip through the history of the banjo by giving bits of music and banjo history between numbers. From Oh Susanna to Washington Square with stops for songs from all eras, including the classic Bumble.

Outreach and Caring

Thanksgiving Food Drive Sunday, November 19th



Second Harvest Food Bank

Please add these nutritious, non-perishable foods to your shopping list and bring to church the Sunday before Thanksgiving:

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

AVUCC's Sunday School children will give you a collection bag to fill. If you have any questions, please call Carolyn Dingman, Outreach Committee, at 997-7891.

Outreach and Caring, continued

Caring Committee: The co-chairs for the months of October and November are Linda Farr, 268-8210 and Carolyn Dingman, 997-7891. Anyone in need of assistance with food, transportation, or home and hospital visits, please call Linda or Carolyn.

The committee will be in need of a Chair person for 2007 beginning in January. Anyone interested please call Bee Mannia, 377-2458 or the Co-chairs, or Pastor Kevin.

Bee Mannia



Beneficio Coffee

A Word from our Sponsor...

B is for the Benefits of buying,
E is Equal rights for all around;
N is for New ways of helping others,
E means Excellence in every pound.
F is for Free trade for coffee growers,
I means there's more Income for each one.
C is for the Coffee that we all like,
I love this new program we've begun!
Oh, won't you please help us made a difference...
BEN-E-FI-CI-O for everyone!

*Sung by AVUCC's "Beneficio Coffee Girls"
at the UCC Women's Network retreat on
October 14th... Phyllis Chai, Bessie Hutchins,
and Carolyn Dingman.*

~ Have a cup today! ~



Outreach and Caring, continued

A Ministry Of Remembrance

During the past year, the Council has been developing a policy for a Ministry of Remembrance at our church in order to establish a meaningful, respectful, and effective way to handle donations of memorial gifts to AVUCC.

Guidelines for this proposed ministry were published in the May *Kalos*, and members of the congregation were invited to give feedback. We are now ready to move forward with this new committee, and church members are invited to volunteer to serve.

Would you like to help prepare a list of gifts that AVUCC and the JV would find beneficial? Could you help design a brochure describing the church and the memorial gifts we welcome? Would you be willing to help record and acknowledge memorial gifts that are received?

If you could help with this important part of church life, please talk to Pastor Kevin, Steven Coutinho, or Carolyn Dingman.

Carolyn Dingman

Guidelines for Communication

The Council and LRPC have carefully reviewed the written and verbal feedback on the Guidelines for Communication, presented at our congregational meeting last June. As a



result of congregational input and further discussions, a revised version of the Guidelines for Communications has been developed and will be presented for your consideration at the November congregational meeting. If affirmed, these guidelines would become an integral part of the workings of our church (e.g., committee meetings, congregational meetings, forums, meetings for new members, etc.).

Communication Guidelines, continued

We ask that you prayerfully read the following, contacting any LRPC member or Pastor Kevin with any questions you may have:

We believe that good communication and love are at the center of good relationships and a healthy church community. We believe that, although conflict is normal and can provide opportunities for ministry, good communication in a safe environment can help maintain a healthy church.

Therefore, with God's help and grace we value and strive to live by the following guidelines for communication within our church family.

We invite the presence of the Holy Spirit and ask for God's grace to guide us in all that we say and do. We value:

- 1) providing each person with a safe environment for expressing their opinions and/or concerns.
- 2) speaking and listening with respect.
- 3) listening for understanding.
- 4) questioning ideas with respect for others.
- 5) encouraging everyone to freely state their views.
- 6) taking responsibility for all that we say and do.
- 7) seeking to reconcile personal differences with each other as soon as possible, giving and receiving forgiveness.
- 8) acknowledging that effective communication may be aided by the facilitation of others.
- 9) supporting the process of deliberation and decision making of the church, conducting a forum and other informative processes on major issues.
- 10) trusting and supporting our leaders, respectfully sharing our concerns with them, and respecting their decisions after opinions have been openly evaluated.
- 11) allowing the Holy Spirit to move through our lives, admitting errors, and amending decisions as our discernment grows.

Communication Guidelines, continued

By following these values, we are reminded that each of us contributes to the quality and spiritual growth of our church. We believe that through Christian conduct we create an environment of openness and acceptance in which conflict becomes a positive ingredient for the spiritual growth of ourselves and our church and the possibility of change is met without fear.

Dennis Widman
LRPC

Men's Breakfast October 7, 2006

A wonderful men's breakfast was enjoyed by many as John Graham, Dennis Elliot, Dick Shipe, Dave Crowley, Al Thompson, and Dick Okumura displayed their culinary skills with warm scrambled eggs, Polish sausages, mixed fresh fruits, fried rice, bread and fresh hot coffee and orange juice. Great!!

Our speaker, Hi Dong Chai, a very popular baritone singer, had a successful career in engineering at IBM, winning many awards and inventions (seven patents) before retiring. During his distinguished career as a professor of Electrical Engineering at San Jose State University, he suffered symptoms of depression, which he did not understand. However, as his odd pain, weakness, loss of appetite, loneliness, and despair became intolerable, he realized that he must seek some professional help.

Dr. K, a very good psychiatrist, was consulted and confirmed a case of severe depression and started Hi Dong on antidepressant medications and psychotherapy. Hi Dong related many of his negative emotions, his trials and tribulations in America with a new language and culture and looking for work to survive and get an education. The problems were gigantic. However, with all the difficulties Hi Dong got his BSSEE from the University of Texas.

After being diagnosed Hi Dong was able to make steady progress over months of psychotherapy, welcoming his feelings because "feeling is healing," as Dr K kept emphasizing. He found relief from the pain and despair, clearing the grey clouds from within

Our next Men's Breakfast meeting will be on November 4, 2006 at 8:00 am in Fellowship Hall.

Dick Okumura

JV Book Group

The book for Thursday, November 16, is *A Crack In The Edge of the World* by Simon Winchester. We will meet at the home of Kathryn Hussain, 735 Huntswood Ct. at 7:30 p.m. Please rsvp to 268-7484, or to Robyn Dorsey at 323-9230.

Robyn Dorsey

AVUCC Men's Discussion Group

The first Men's Discussion Group met at the home of Joe Dingman to discuss wide-ranging philosophical and spiritual matters. At this kick-off meeting members shared their individual expectations in their continuing search for enhanced awareness. A list of topics was outlined for discussion at future monthly meetings. Among others the topics included: Love, Nature, Good & Evil, The Ego, Music & the Arts, Life after Death, Methods to reach Higher Spiritual Awareness, and Who/What is God? The latter subject will be discussed at the November meeting.

The next meeting of the group will be Thursday, November 16th at 7 p.m.. Should other church members also wish to be involved with this activity, a second men's group may be formed with assistance from the existing group. It has been recommended that in order to enhance meaningful dialogue that an optimal size of the group is approximately twelve to thirteen members.

Please let Ed Grossmith know if you have interest in becoming a member, or need any other details, of what promises to be a small group ministry of seekers.

Ed Grossmith

Portraits of the Past

How would you like to learn more about the history of the city in which we all live in conjunction with the fashions of the times? On Sunday, November 12 at 3:00pm in Fellowship Hall, Portraits of the Past will present brief historical sketches of the period from 1840 to 1940 accompanied by carefully researched, accurate portrayals of authentic costumes. This presentation will be followed by High Tea (well, maybe only Medium Tea). The cost for all of this is only \$15 if you sign up and prepay or \$20 at the door

Portraits of the Past, continued

All of the proceeds will benefit Ugandan orphans. This event is definitely not for women only. Real men do eat finger sandwiches and scones, and they certainly can enjoy a lively and entertaining history lesson.

Please sign up in Fellowship Hall or call Amy Griffith (268-0920) or the church office.

November Birthdays

Harriet Yamada	11/3
Dave Harris	11/6
Karen Haley	11/8
Jan Day	11/10
Sue Scaff	11/11
Shannon Haley	11/13
Ken Phillips	11/13
Linda Farr	11/15
Bob Green	11/17
Melanie Click	11/19
Toh-Bee Syn	11/21
Bob Thomas	11/25
Ed Anderson	11/27
Carol Martin	11/29

November Anniversaries

Pastor Kevin Smith & Nancy Palmer Jones	11/9
Bill & Alice Cox	11/21

Greeters & Coffee Hosts

Nov. 5	Dick & Joan Okumura
Nov. 12	Jim & Peggy Wright
Nov. 19	Janey Sanders & Barbara Alumbaugh

Ushers

Nov. 5	Josh, Alex & Kristi Bemis
Nov. 12	Dave Crowley
Nov. 19	Chuck & Betty Benson, Robert Thomas
Nov. 26	Stan Yumen, Jay Caturay
Dec. 3	Diane Hawes
Dec. 10	Josh, Alex & Kristi Bemis
Dec. 17	Chuck & Betty Benson, Robert Thomas

Worship Schedule for November

Pastor Kevin will be preaching every Sunday except the last Sunday, November 26th, when he will be away. Tom Rose will be our preacher and worship leader that morning.

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NOVEMBER 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 8:00 AM AVUCC Children Bread Making 9:00 AM AVUCC Worship 9:15 AM AVUCC Children Bread Making	30	31	1 4:30 PM JV Bell Choir 7:00 PM Worship Committee Meeting 7:30 PM AVUCC Shalom Choir Rehearsal	2	3	4
5	6	7 7:30 PM Christian Ed Committee Meeting	8 4:30 PM JV Bell Choir 7:30 PM AVUCC Shalom Choir Rehearsal	9	10	11 JV Aluminum Can Drive 7:30 PM AAA Concert Jeff Stametz
12 JV Aluminum Can Drive	13	14 7:00 PM UCC Council	15 Kalos Deadline 4:30 PM JV Bell Choir 7:30 PM AVUCC Shalom Choir Rehearsal	16 7:00 PM AVUCC Men's Discussion Group 7:30 PM JV Book Club	17	18
19 AVUCC Annual Meeting After Worship Service	20	21 4:15 PM Avucc Shelter Food Service 7:30 PM JV Board Meeting	22 4:30 PM JV Bell Choir 7:30 PM AVUCC Shalom Choir Rehearsal	23 Thanksgivin g	24	25
26 8:00 AM AVUCC Children Bread Making 9:15 AM AVUCC Children Bread Making 10:00 AM Advent Wreath Making	27	28	29 4:30 PM JV Bell Choir 7:30 PM AVUCC Shalom Choir Rehearsal	30	1	2

--Daily Lectionary-- November, 2006

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.*

Day	Date	Old Testament	New Testament	Epistle
Wed	Nov. 1	Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9	John 11:32-44	Revelation 21:1-6a
Thu.	Nov. 2	Jeremiah 33:10-16	Luke 12:32-48	Hebrews 10:19-25
Fri.	Nov. 3	Jeremiah 34:8-22	Luke 12:49-59	Hebrews 10:26-31
Sat.	Nov. 4	Jeremiah 35:1-19	Luke 13:1-9	Hebrews 10:32-39
*Sun.	Nov. 5	Ruth 1:1-18	Mark 12:28-34	Hebrews 9:11-14
Mon.	Nov. 6	Jeremiah 36:1-10	Luke 13:10-17	1 Timothy 1:1-11
Tues.	Nov. 7	Jeremiah 36:11-26	Luke 13:18-30	1 Timothy 1:12-20
Wed.	Nov. 8	Jeremiah 36:27-37:2	Luke 13:31-35	1 Timothy 2:1-7
Thu.	Nov. 9	Jeremiah 37:3-21	Luke 14:1-11	1 Timothy 2:8-15
Fri.	Nov. 10	Jeremiah 38:1-13	Luke 14:12-24	1 Timothy 3:1-7
Sat.	Nov. 11	Jeremiah 38:14-28	Luke 14:25-35	1 Timothy 3:8-16
*Sun.	Nov. 12	Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17	Mark 12:38-44	Hebrews 9:24-28
Mon.	Nov. 13	Jeremiah 39:1-18	Luke 15:1-10	1 Timothy 4:1-6
Tues.	Nov. 14	Jeremiah 44:1-14	Luke 15:11-32	1 Timothy 4:7-16
Wed.	Nov. 15	Lam. 1:1-12	Luke 16:1-9	1 Timothy 5:1-8
Thur.	Nov. 16	Lam. 2:1-15	Luke 16:19-31	1 Timothy 5:9-16
Fri.	Nov. 17	Ezra 1:1-11	Luke 16:10-18	1 Timothy 5:17-34
Sat.	Nov. 18	Ezra 3:1-13	Luke 17:1-10	1 Timothy 6:1-5
*Sun.	Nov. 19	1 Samuel 1:4-20 1 Samuel 2:1-10	Mark 13:1-8	Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25
Mon.	Nov. 20	Ezra 4:1-24	Luke 17:11-19	1 Timothy 6:6-12
Tues.	Nov. 21	Ezra 5:1-17	Luke 17:20-37	1 Timothy 6:13-21
Wed.	Nov. 22	Ezra 6:1-22	Luke 18:1-8	Phil. 2:1-11
Thur.	Nov. 23	Joel 2:21-27	Matthew 6:25-33	1 Timothy 2:1-7
Fri.	Nov. 24	Ezra 7:27-28; 8:21-36	Luke 23:1-12	Ephesians 1:3-14
Sat.	Nov. 25	Ezra 9:1-15	Luke 23:35-43	Ephesians 1:15-23
Sun.	Nov. 26	2 Samuel 23:1-7	John 18:33-37	Revelation 1:4b-8
Mon.	Nov. 27	Ezra 10:1-17	Luke 18:15-30	Romans 15:7-13
Tue.	Nov. 28	Nehemiah 9:1-25	Luke 18:31-43	1 Thess. 1:1-5
Wed.	Nov. 29	Nehemiah 9:26-38	Luke 19:1-10	1 Thess. 1:6-12
Thu.	Nov. 30	Jeremiah 3:15-18	Luke 19:11-27	1 Thess. 2:1-12

Almaden Valley United Church of Christ
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KALOS – November 2006

KALOS Deadline for the December Issue

The deadline for the December issue of the Kalos is **November 15, 2006**. Items should be submitted to the Kalos address: kalos@avucc.org.

Editors: Sue Scaff (408) 448-3038
Kelly Yamanishi (408) 997-3373