

AVUCC KALOS

Newsletter for the
Almaden Valley
United Church of Christ

Pastor Kevin's Corner

Living *Outside the Box*

You have heard it said...

With the words above Jesus tells the crowd gathered on the mountain that they should not only honor and obey the laws of Moses, but they should surpass the intent of those laws in the way they live their personal lives. Beginning with verse twenty-one in the Gospel of Matthew, we read that Jesus told the crowd of seekers—some Jewish, some Gentile—that while they should live their lives honoring the traditions and laws of Moses, they should seek out ways of living that go beyond just the minimums.

While much of the language of what theologians call the “antithesis” section of the Sermon on the Mount is exaggerated, colorful, and downright frightening (*If your right eye causes you to sin...*), the words beckon us to love our neighbors and live our lives beyond the margins of minimum acceptability. To follow Jesus is to reach beyond bottom lines and seek the heavens.

For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly God is perfect (Mt. 5:46-48, adapted). Jesus seems to be saying anyone can take the easy road or that life can go along quite nicely by taking the path of least resistance, but that is that not the path I choose walk and I hope you won't either. The perfection or the wholeness of life can come only from stretching ourselves and our efforts to embrace and care for our neighbors. Being *perfect* is not being without blemish, but perfection is found in living life to the fullest and knowing that even if we fail, God will love us and reward us for making the effort, taking the risk. If you read about the God described in the Hebrew Bible, it is a God who changes the course that was planned and goes in new directions; the God of the Torah is

January 2006

In this issue

Pastor Kevin's Corner – 1,2

Council Notes – 2

People in the Pews – 3

***Thoughts For Christmas
and the New Year – 4***

Announcements – 4

Outreach – 4-5

Events, Schedules – 6-9

SHYGS – 9-10

Daily Lectionary – 10

Calendar – 11

Pastor Kevin's Corner, continued

persuaded and moved. God's perfection is not in standing still. God's perfection is not a life of meeting the minimums. Our God nudges us and seeks to persuade us to be *perfect!* God and Jesus ask that while we honor the box we came in, we should as seekers think and sometimes go beyond that box.

As we begin the New Year together with our church family and in this community we call home, what are the boxes that we love and honor, but might make us a little too complacent? Rather than making New Year's resolutions, what *evolutions* in our lives together can we make that will challenge us to better serve our Lord and our world? What boxes have we put our personal lives into that we cherish but that seem to hold us back or limit us? What positive steps can we take to reach out so that we might be perfect extensions of God's grace in a broken world? Perhaps in the days, weeks and months of 2006 we can talk, meditate, and pray together, inviting the Holy Spirit into our midst to challenge and lead us to thinking and acting outside the box. Amen.

Pastor Kevin

Church Council Notes

Summarized below are minutes from the Church Council meeting held on December 13, 2005.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Kevin Smith has arranged for a representative from the City of San Jose to talk to at the Men's Breakfast meeting on Jan. 7th about emergency preparedness. Men and women from both AVUCC and ECA are invited to come to the meeting at 8:30 AM and join in the process of planning for future emergency needs in the Almaden community.

Kevin's official installation as AVUCC pastor is tentatively scheduled for April 23, 2006 and will include participation of representatives from the Northern California Nevada Conference of the UCC. Members of the church council and the congregation will take part in the installation ceremony.

A new sign painted with the UCC logo and information about AVUCC has arrived and will be hung in front of the church shortly.

Council Notes, continued

Kevin will be away from San Jose Jan. 24-26 to attend the Earl Lectures at the Pacific School of Religion. Others from the church who are interested may attend the lectures – see Kevin if you are interested.

Church members are being sought for a short-term task force to advise on the use of the Pastoral Housing Funds. Pastor Kevin and his wife Nancy plan to buy a house in San Jose in the first half of 2006.

Treasurer's Report: Jay Caturay, AVUCC Treasurer, continues to research the matter of liability insurance. At present, the church does not have a policy to cover errors and omissions of the officers, as is recommended, and the policies available are prohibitively expensive. Further investigation is needed.

In response to a request from the NCNC-UCC and the national UCC office, it was decided to increase AVUCC's donation to the UCC denomination to \$6,800, pending passage of the final budget for 2006.

Long-Range Planning Committee: A letter was received from the LRPC asking the Council to act on the guidelines for communication that the LRPC had presented at the November Council meeting. It was decided to continue discussion of the guidelines until the 2006 Council retreat in mid-January.

New Business: The annual retreat for the new AVUCC Council will be held on Jan. 14 from 10AM to 4 PM, location to be announced.

An annual report for 2005 will be prepared and posted online to include reports from the pastor, outgoing moderator, new moderator, treasurer, and committee representatives.

Other Business: Signatories for the AVUCC bank accounts were approved for 2006. A motion passed to purchase a new and more effective microphone set-up for morning worship.

Carolyn Dingman
Church Recorder

People in the Pews

Than Family Volunteering. Khiet and Ann Than, who were introduced in our last newsletter, are leaving soon for a month in Vietnam. Both Khiet and Ann are dentists, and they will be providing dental care to the poor people in Southern Vietnam. They have done this for several years. Their children will also be with them. We will keep them in our prayers and look forward to their safe return and the opportunity to speak with them and find out more about their mission.

New Baby Arrived. Dave and Carol Pullen welcome the newest grandchild to their family. Brooke Evelyn was born to their son Brad and his wife Lisa on Nov. 26 (3 weeks early). Quotes from Carol: "She is a tiny little doll at 6 lbs. and 19 inches long. It was an easy delivery and all are doing well. She joins sister Madison, who is 18 mo. old. Brooke was a very thoughtful grandchild, as granddad had scheduled Brad to help him with a concrete job that Saturday morning. Brad was able to complete the important job of delivering and unloading two yards of concrete. He went home, showered, and took Lisa to the hospital, and Brooke was delivered two hours after they arrived." Congratulations to them all!

Honoring and Celebrating the Talents of our Younger Generation. *Shannon Haley* has been appearing as Princess Ying in the current Children's Musical Theater production of *The King and I*. Sister *Megan*, has been selected to portray Anne in *Anne of Green Gables* in February in Sunnyvale.

Andrew Garg, Kimberlie's son, recently took first place in the East Valley District wrestling match. He has six wins this season.

David Chai, son of Phyllis and Hi Dong, has an animated short film *Fumi and the Bad Luck Foot*, which has been selected along with sixty-nine others out of 5,000 entries, to be shown at the upcoming Sundance Film Festival in Park City, UT.

Chris Dingman was one of eight graduate students in the Thelonius Monk Institute of Jazz Performance at USC. It's a two-year program, and his instrument is the vibraphone. The group traveled to Vietnam with jazz greats Herbie Hancock and Wayne Shorter on a ten-day tour sponsored by the U.S. State Department commemorating the tenth year of establishing diplomatic relations with Vietnam. They gave concerts and master

People in the Pews, continued

classes in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi and played for a special "Jazz Thanksgiving" at the Consul General's residence. The Dingmans are looking forward to Chris's Christmas visit so they can see his pictures.

Congratulations to all of you!

Folks Needing Our Prayers. Debbie Bemis is home recovering from an emergency appendectomy. She may have to undergo further surgery as the biopsy showed the tumor on the appendix was cancerous. Alex Bemis caught his little finger in his school locker door and required several stitches. He may also have to have further treatment. We hold the Bemis family in our thoughts and prayers for good recoveries.

Special Music from our Choir. We are truly blessed with wonderful music all year round from our Shalom Choir, but it seems that the music during Advent is especially meaningful. Byron Henderson took on the role of John the Baptist, and he sang so beautifully. Thank you, Byron, for sharing your many gifts and talents with all of us. Thank you, John Leslie, for giving so many folks the chance to share their musical gifts with our congregation. Shalom Choir welcomed Bev Bricchetto back to the alto section, along with their newest member, Jim McAbee, to the tenor section. (Jim and Kathy just recently joined our church.) Thank you, choir folks, for your talents and dedication.

We are also blessed to have such a great Folk Choir under the long-time leadership of John Hawes. Many members have been a part of this group for more years than we can count, and newcomers are welcome to join them and help them make more great music.

Renewing Old Acquaintances. It was great to have former member Rosse Hemeon visiting recently. Rosse and his family were part of AVUCC from the very early days. He lives in Gilroy and enjoys being so close to his family.

The Haley family had to take a leave of absence due to Kevin's work load and the children's involvement with many activities - they have missed being in worship, and we rejoice in their presence among us again. Karen was back again involved with the Christmas project of providing warm clothes for the homeless through Inn Vision. She has spearheaded this project for many years.

Dot Allfrey

Thoughts After Christmas

Christmas Has Come And Gone . . . Now What?

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

---Howard Thurman

Submitted by
Phyllis Chai

Thoughts for the New Year

Something to think about for 2006:

The following is a quote from Charles Swindoll. He is a minister in Texas and part of the "Insight for Living" Ministry. Sound words of advice, and if you'd like an electronic copy – please drop me a line.

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of Attitude on life. Attitude to me is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than success, than what other people say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, company - a church - a home.

The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past - we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude.

I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it.

With Best Wishes in the New Year,
Tom Rose

Announcements

New Quest Study. On Wednesday January 4, 2006, Quest will begin a study of the book *If Grace is True (Why God Will Save Every Person)* by Philip Gulley and James Mulholland. All are welcome.

Shelter Feeding. A reminder that AVUCC Shelter Feeding takes place on the third Tuesday of each month from 4:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Leaf Blowing. If you have not yet volunteered to take on Saturday leaf-blowing of patios and walkways at the church and if you feel able and are willing to do this, please contact Hi Dong Chai at 226-7150. Thank you!

Beneficio Coffee. Beneficio More-Than-Fair Trade Coffee is available for \$6.75 a 12 oz. bag. Purchasing the coffee benefits the coffee bean farmers in Costa Rica who are paid up front for the beans as well as 20% of the profits. In addition, 10% of the profits will go to the UCC OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission). Please contact Phyllis Chai (226-7150) to place an order. Thank you!

Phyllis Chai

Outreach

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS

Thank you to all who participated at the Alternative Christmas by donating to some of the outreach programs of our church.

Although the final figures are not in because people are still making donations, we know that Heifer Project received over \$1300, Silicone Valley Habitat for Humanity received about \$600, and the Africana Team Ministries received about \$1550 with their Jewelry sales. The Giving Tree received \$315 plus some donations of blankets, socks, and other warm items for the Women's Shelter, and the children of Santa Maria Mission received gifts from shoppers for the "angel tree." The Reading Intervention Program received \$150 toward helping at risk children learn better reading skills. Beneficio coffee was sold along with several entertainment books. The busy bakers of the youth were sold out by the end of the morning and the youth completed their auction.

Outreach

A very busy morning of fun and raising money for many worthy groups of people.

Thank you one and all for your participation.

Phyllis Green

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)

AVUCC, and other UCC congregations, are involved with mission in many ways. In the United Church of Christ, we affirm that, although the congregation is the fundamental unit of mission, mission is not just local. We are connected to one another, across boundaries of neighborhood, class, race, and national border.

Our Church's Wider Mission is the name we use to describe the work we do as the United Church of Christ beyond the local church—through our Conferences, national ministries, and UCC-related institutions. Our Church's Wider Mission is also the name we give to the financial support given by UCC members and congregations that makes this broader mission possible. Congregations are central to the ability of The United Church of Christ to do mission in local communities, within the United States and internationally. As a congregation works in its own community, it is a representative of the entire denomination and embodies the UCC in that place. And when a congregation determines its giving to Our Church's Wider Mission, there is a direct impact on levels of funding for the Conference and national ministries. Every local congregation has a responsibility to be aware of opportunities for local mission and to be knowledgeable about the work underway by its own Conference and by the national ministries.

Some frequently asked questions about Our Church's Wider Mission:

1 *What is it?*

Our Church's Wider Mission (often abbreviated OCWM) is the name we give in the United Church of Christ to everything we do together as a church. Our Church's Wider Mission funds your UCC Conference and the national ministries of the UCC. Our Church's Wider Mission has two components: Basic Support, for the funding of core programs; and Special Support, for specific mission opportunities through the four UCC special mission offerings.

Outreach, continued

2 *How much of my offering every Sunday goes to Our Church's Wider Mission?*

It depends on how much your congregation decides to contribute. Every congregation decides for itself how much to contribute to OCWM. Most congregations give between 5% and 20% of their current local expenses to Our Church's Wider Mission. This means that local churches use between 80 and 95 cents of every dollar for local ministry and mission. On average, among the 5,850 congregations in the UCC and 39 Conferences, Conferences use about 2 ½ cents out of every dollar, and the national ministries receive 2 cents out of every dollar given by UCC members.

3 *How much total Our Church's Wider Mission money is received by the national ministries of the UCC?*

In 2004, the UCC national ministries received \$15,692,335 in OCWM contributions. This included \$5,192,335 in receipts from the four UCC special mission offerings (Neighbors in Need, The Christmas Fund, Strengthen the Church, and One Great Hour of Sharing). These contributions for Our Church's Wider Mission represent about 2% of total church giving by UCC members.

4 *How much money given to Our Church's Wider Mission is spent on administration?* In the national ministries of the UCC, 7.3% (\$1,144,262) of total Our Church's Wider Mission contributions are budgeted in 2005 for administration, which includes the costs of overall organization of the national ministries and those parts of salaries, benefits, financial operations, rent, office costs, insurance, and professional fees that apply to administration. Your Conference can tell you how much OCWM money it spends on its own administration.

5 *How is giving to Our Church's Wider Mission different from giving to other good causes?*

Our Church's Wider Mission keeps the church strong, even as it engages in mission and outreach to others. The church has a unique and important role to play in our society and the world, today and for future generations. You can help sustain the church and its ministries by supporting Our Church's Wider Mission in your congregation.



Events and Schedules

LADIES LUNCH AND DINNER SCHEDULE

AVUCC Ladies are welcome to join us at any of the following lunch/dinner outings during 2006. Each outing will be on the second Thursday of the month.

There will be a sign-up in Fellowship Hall with the time, place, date and any other directions/instructions needed. Call Amy Griffith if more details are needed.

January – lunch at the Poor House Restaurant, downtown San Jose

February – dinner at the Left Bank Restaurant, Santana Row

March – lunch near City Hall, touring City Hall San Jose
Nancy Romer and Maryke Williams in charge

April – dinner at Mexico Lindo Restaurant, Foxworthy Ave

May – lunch at Aldo's, Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor

June – dinner at Ednaray's Chinese Restaurant, Los Gatos

July – lunch at Bahama Billy's, Carmel Valley

August – dinner at Bella Saratoga, Saratoga

September – lunch at McCormick and Schmidt, downtown San Jose

October – dinner at PF Chang's, Oakridge Mall

November – lunch at Max's Café, Westgate

December – San Francisco by train

Amy Griffith

CHURCH DINNER GROUPS FOR 2006

The Church dinner Group poster for 2006 is now up on the bulletin board located in the hallway near the Fellowship Hall. You can sign up for a Home Dinner Group or a Restaurant Dinner Group, or you can sign up for both. Dinner groups are a great way of getting to know one another better.

Events and Schedules, continued

The first person to sign up for a home dinner group or a restaurant dinner group is responsible for hosting the first dinner in their home or in a restaurant. This is important since in the past some dinner groups never got together because no one had organized the first dinner.

The Home Dinner Groups are made up of eight people (more can be added if the host/hostess home has room). Each dinner group can decide how often they want to meet, but most groups meet every other month.

The host or hostess decides when to meet and what he or she plans to do for the evening. The main course and the beverages are provided by the host/hostess. That person calls the other members of the dinner group and assigns an appetizer, a salad, a dessert, etc. Please let your host/hostess know if you have any food allergies.

You can host a dress-up evening or a casual evening. In the past we have attended an "Oscar Night" dinner where we dressed as if we were going to the Oscars; we have attended dinners where we sat on the floor eating pizzas; we have attended backyard cookouts; and we have gotten together for picnics in parks.

Over the years we have had dinners in the host home and then gone to plays, movies, San Jose Giants games, the I-Max Theater in the Technology Museum, or played games in the host home. We also have enjoyed many evenings just sitting around visiting with our dinner groups.

The Restaurant Dinner Groups are made up of ten people. The host or hostess decides when to meet and the restaurant where he or she will host. These dinner groups meet either monthly or every other month.

We have found that the best way to keep the dinner groups going is to make plans for the next get together before you leave the host home.

If you feel that you do not have the time to join a dinner group but would like to fill a vacancy once in a while, there will be a place on the poster where you can sign up to fill in for either the home or the restaurant dinner groups. So if you are hosting a dinner group and have a vacancy, you can call one or more of the people on this list.

For further information, call Jan Day at 268-6690.

Jan Day

Events and Schedules, continued

MEN'S BREAKFAST CALENDAR

Men's Breakfast meetings for the year 2006 will present many interesting and exciting speakers on the first Saturday of each month in Fellowship Hall.

January 7, 2006

Breakfast at 8:00 AM

Speaker: Dr. Earl Stevens

City of San Jose Office of Emergency Services

Subject: Disaster Planning in San Jose

Talk at 8:30 AM

Everyone from AVUCC and ECA is invited to attend this very important presentation on disaster planning, as we consider developing an emergency response for our congregation. Please keep January 7 open and sign up in Fellowship Hall.

February 11 2006

Valentine Special Breakfast

8:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall

Our annual special breakfast to honor our ladies with wonderful breakfast, super service, and great entertainment with "The Big Band Music" that we all enjoy. A day to celebrate and pay our respects to our dedicated ladies and their great God's work through out the year. Please sign up as soon as possible so we can be prepared.

March 4 2006

Speaker: Jim Ballek

Subject: Very interesting story about the Medal Of Honor recipient. Watch *Kalos* for more details.

Dick Okumura

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:

**DR. EARL LEROY STEVENS TO SPEAK AT MEN'S
BREAKFAST ON JANUARY 7TH, 8:30 AM.**

ALL ARE INVITED!

Dr. Stevens graduated from the University of The Pacific Dental School in San Francisco 1961. He was in private practice of General Dentistry in San Jose from 1961 – 1999.

Events and Schedules, continued

Dr. Stevens has been a volunteer in communications with the San Jose Office on Emergency Services since 1992. He has been the Chief Radio Officer for the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES). Dr. Stevens served as a part time contractor for San Jose Office of Emergency from 1998 to 1999 and a full time contractor and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) instructor (1999-2000). Currently he is a full time San Jose City employee and part of the staff of the Office of Emergency and San Jose Prepared! (CERT) program coordinator.

Dr. Stevens has been happily married to Doris Jean Jensen for 52 ½ years (looking forward to the next 52 ½. They have six children, 3 girls and 3 boys. Ten grandchildren, 4 boys and 6 girls. Number eleven is due to arrive late May.

Everyone at AVUCC and ECA are invited to this important discussion. The AVUCC men will have their breakfast meeting at 8 AM and all are welcome to attend the talk beginning at 8:30 AM.

Pastor Kevin

MEN'S BREAKFAST IN NOVEMBER 2005

At the November meeting of the Men's Breakfast Ed Grossmith shared some of his early life experiences.

By the time he was thirty and came to California, he had lived in five different countries. We learned first of the austere days of his infancy shared with plagues of mice in the Outback of Australia.

During the Great Depression his family sailed to England where later during World War II he grew up under the threat of Nazi invasion. While at boarding school he got to know air crew of the US Eighth Air Force stationed locally and witnessed harrowing returns of their B17s from raids over Europe.

As an aircraft engineer student, he and his college mates played a minor but a proud role in constructing the world's first jet liner, the de Havilland Comet.

Following graduation as an aircraft production engineer, Ed became a pilot in the Royal Air Force and flew the Meteor, the Allies first jet fighter. He shared the challenges of flying in that era, some close personal escapes, the forging of his philosophy of optimism, and recognition of the role played by providence.

Events and Schedules, continued

Immigrating to Canada in 1953, he helped develop methods and tooling for the Avro Arrow, a leading-edge but politically ill-fated aircraft that led to the demise of the Canadian aircraft industry.

In 1956 he emigrated to US and worked on the Boeing 707 in Seattle, witnessing its first flight in 1958. He followed the sun to San Jose in 1960 to work on the IBM RAMAC, the first computer.

He is currently happily retired in San Jose, perhaps the best place in the world to live and enjoy.

A large group of people listened intently to Ed's interesting and exciting and somewhat harrowing experiences, but his uncanny skills as a jet pilot made it possible for Ed to relate his experiences to us.

Thank you, Ed, for a great presentation

Our most reliable and talented cooks headed by Bob Green and assisted by Jim Wright, Hi-dong Chai and Bill Allfrey showed their culinary skills as we all enjoyed an excellent breakfast.

Dick Okumura

ADVENTURES IN THE ARTS

Concert Series Subscriptions still Available: It's not too late to subscribe to the balance of the Almaden Adventures in the Arts concert season. Music at Joint Venture Churches needs your support to continue to present the concert series. We have fashioned attractive season ticket packages to help entice your support.

If you buy the rest of the season, you'll get one show free. Plus, as an added bonus, season ticket holders will be able to purchase reduced price tickets to next summer's musical production.

SCHEDULE:

Saturday, January 14, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

Soup, Salad & Sound
with organist Mary Norton

Saturday, February 4, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

Soup, Salad & Sound
with organist Dean Cook

Events and Schedules, continued

Saturday, February 25, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

Sidesaddle & Company

Saturday, March 25, 2006 at 5:00 p.m.

Banana Slug String Band

Saturday, April 29, 2006 at 3:00 p.m.

Pioneer High School Chamber Choir
Castillero Middle School Stage Band

Saturday, May 20, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

Doce Brazil
featuring Jennifer Lee

TICKET PACKAGES:

Single Performance prices:

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

Student (valid ID for those over 18): \$10 advance/will call, \$12 door; organ recitals \$8 and \$10

Child: (12 and under): \$5 all performances (childcare also available)

Season Ticket Packages:

One Adult: \$65.00 6 shows for price of 5

One Student: \$40.00 6 shows for price of 4

One Child: \$20.00 6 shows for the price of 4

Soup, Salad & Sound Pack:

One Adult: \$15.00 for 2 recitals

We thank you sincerely for your continued and gracious support of Almaden Adventures in the Arts!

Joint Venture Concert Committee

Events and Schedules, continued

SOUP, SALAD & SOUND ORGAN RECITAL SLATED FOR SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

The first of this season's Soup, Salad & Sound organ recitals will be held on Saturday, January 14, 2006. The concert will be preceded by a potluck dinner featuring soup, bread and, new for this year, salad. Both the potluck soup offerings and the organ recital promise to be as tasty as ever. Soup is served in Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. and the recital, on our state-of-the-art digital Phoenix organ, begins at 7:30 p.m.

The recital will feature Mary Norton, Organist and Assistant Music Director at Saratoga Federated Church. Highlighting a more classically oriented program will be the performance of a Mozart sonata featuring clarinetist Doug Zuehlke.



If you have kindly brought soup to share in past years, please consider doing so again this year. Or consider bringing a salad or bread. There will be a sign up sheet posted in Fellowship Hall starting January 1.

Advance and will call tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and children. At the door, it's \$15 for adults, \$8 students and \$5 for children. Please call the church office at 268-0243 to reserve tickets in advance. Childcare is available.

Joint Venture Concert Committee

*John Leslie, Music Director
Todd Axtell, Co-chair
Kevin Haley, Co-chair
Steve Coutinho
Doug Dunham
Alex Dykes
Marion Grungé
Mary Leal
Betsy Shoup
Terry Shoup
Bart Smith*

SHYGS News

SHYGS SHOW HOLIDAY SPIRIT!

December flew by for SHYGS as it is traditionally their big Outreach month, so they had a lot going on. We completed our annual servant auction which resulted in a profit of just a little over \$1000 to fund the SHYGS adopt-a-family program. We also had a gift-wrapping day on Sat, Dec. 17, but I have no figures as this goes to print. Thanks to everyone who supported the teens' efforts. Read on to see what this allows them to do!

SHYGS bought full carts of groceries for two families at Thanksgiving. Thank you, Brad Bond, David Mastriana, Ryan Hall, and Hannah Ward for putting your shopping skills to work in order to make your shopping dollars stretch!

On Dec 11, fourteen SHYGS hit the aisles of Target to shop for a single mom and her four kids for Christmas. Each team had a leader and a human calculator (well, ok, Trace used his Palm pilot) to make sure they didn't go over budget. Each team bought both clothes and fun items for the family's child. We provided the mom with \$100 Safeway and \$100 Target gift cards so she could get something for herself. Our shoppers: Brad Bond, David Mastriana, Ryan Hall, Josh Bemis, Hannah Ward, Alex Bemis, Val Tysanner, Kristen Petruzzelli, Ryan McPherson, Yvonne Freitag, Trace Rimroth, Erinn Hoyt, Alex Bishop and Bethany Nollette – you were wonderfully thoughtful and careful shoppers!

Thanks to all the other SHYGS who couldn't make it but contributed time and talent in the servant auction to fund this activity!

Nancy Romer delivered both the groceries and the gifts to the EOPS program at West Valley for distribution. We appreciate this continued connection with the program that she so lovingly led for years.

And thank you to the families of Ryan Hall and Taylor Mills for loaning us their "big" cars for our shopping trip. I think we're ready to buy a SHYGS bus!

Our meeting topic in December focused on Matthew 25: 24-36, where we heard the challenge to see others with the eyes of Christ and to see the eyes of Christ in others. We are the hands and eyes of Jesus on earth, and this helps us to understand that outreach projects aren't all about getting

SHYG, continued

community service hours checked off on a form, but are the blueprints for our lives as given to us by Jesus himself. We decided it would be more desirable to be sheep than goats.

Our prayer time centered on lighting a candle for someone who had exhibited a kindness to us at some time in our lives that did not involve money or a gift.

By the time you read this, we will have experienced our 3rd annual MOVIE MARATHON held on New Year's Day. We lounge and eat and watch movies together like a pile of puppies from noon-midnight. Wow, this is such a fun time to just let the stress go and enjoy one another.

WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT?

Jan 15 and Jan 29-Regular meeting times 6-8:30

Jan 19-22-Joint Youth Group Ski Trip-See Katie McCormick or Jon Mills for details

Feb 4 and 5-SHYGS help Greg Lukanc with Eagle Scout project-At church

Feb 12-SHYGS works on a Habitat for Humanity project downtown

Happy New Year and Blessings for 2006.

Terry and Robin Root

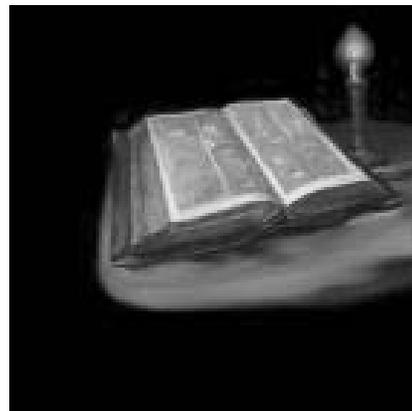
Daily Lectionary for January 2006

These lectionary readings are from *A Daily Lectionary-Scripture Readings for Every Day* based on the *New Common Lectionary*. The readings listed for Sundays are from the *UCC Desk Calendar* and are not part of the daily lectionary cycle.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Old Test.</u>	<u>New Test.</u>	<u>Epistle</u>
Sun .1:	Num. 6:22-7	Luke 2:15-21	Gal. 4:4-7
Mon 2:	Gen. 12:1-7	John 6:35-42 48-51	Heb. 11:1-12
Tue 3:	Gen. 28:10-22	John 10:7-17	Heb. 11:13-22
Wed 4:	Exod. 3:1-15	John 14:6-14	Heb. 11:23-31
Th 5:	Josh. 1:1-9	John 15:1-16	Heb. 11:32-12:2
Fri 6:	Isa. 60:1-6	Matt. 2:1-12	Eph. 3:1-12
Sat 7:	Isa. 52:3-6	John 2:1-11	Rev. 2:1-7

Daily Lectionary, continued

<u>Date</u>	<u>Old Test.</u>	<u>New Test.</u>	<u>Epistle</u>
Sun 8:	Gen. 1:1-5	Mark 1:4-11	Acts 19:1-7
Mon 9:	Isa. 63:1-5	John 5:1-15	Rev. 2:18-29
Tue 10:	Isa. 65:1-9	John 6:1-14	Rev. 3:1-6
Wed 11:	Isa. 65:13-16	John 6:15-27	Rev. 3:7-13
Th 12:	Isa. 66:1-2 22-23	John 9:1-12 35-8	Rev. 3:14-22
Fri 13:	Isa. 46:1-13	John 1:1-18	1 Cor. 1:18-25
Sat 14:	Isa. 47:1-15	John 1:19-34	1 Cor. 1:26-31
Sun 15	1 Sam. 3:1-20	John 1:43-51	1 Cor. 6:12-20
Mon 16:	Isa. 48:1-11	John 1:43-51	1 Cor. 2:1-9
Tue 17:	Isa. 48:12-22	John 2:1-12	1 Cor. 2:10-16
Wed 18:	Isa. 49:1-7	John 2:13-22	1 Cor. 3:1-9
Th 19:	Jon. 1:1-16	John 2:23-3:15	1 Cor. 3:10-17
Fri 20:	Jon. 1:17-2:10	John 3:16-21	1 Cor. 3:18-23
Sat 21:	Jon. 3:1-10	John 3:22-36	1 Cor. 4:1-5
Sun 22	Jon. 3:1-5,10	Mark 1:14-20	1 Cor. 7:29-31
Mon 23:	Jon. 3:10-14,11	John 4:1-5	1 Cor. 4:6-13
Tue 24:	Josh .1:1-9	John 4:16-26	1 Cor. 4:14-21
Wed 25:	Josh. 1:10-18	John 4:27-42	1 Cor. 5:1-5
Th 26:	Josh. 2:1-14	John 4:43-54	1 Cor. 5:6-13
Fri 27:	Josh. 2:15-24	John 5:1-18	1 Cor. 6:1-8
Sat 28:	Josh. 3:1-10	John 5:19-29	1 Cor. 6:9-11
Sun 29:	Deut. 18:15-20	Mark 1:21-28	1 Cor. 9:16-23
Mon 30:	Josh. 3:9-17	John 5:30-47	1 Cor. 6:12-30
Tue 31:	Josh. 4:1-18	John 6:1-15	1 Cor. 7:1-7



January 2006 Calendar

Sunday, Jan 1	9:00 a.m.	AVUCC Worship
	12:00 p.m.	Singles Party
	12:00 p.m.	SHYG Movie Marathon
Monday, Jan 2	7:00 p.m.	JV Duplicate Bridge
Wednesday, Jan 4	4:45 p.m.	JV Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	AVUCC Membership Committee
	7:30 p.m.	AVUCC Choir
Friday, Jan 6	7:00 p.m.	Bridge Group
Saturday, Jan 7	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
	7:00 p.m.	JV Talent Show
Sunday, Jan 8	9:00 a.m.	AVUCC Worship
	6:00 p.m.	JHYG Meeting
Tuesday, Jan 10	7:00 p.m.	UCC Council
Wednesday, Jan 11	12:30 p.m.	Mah Jong
	4:45 p.m.	JV Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	AVUCC Choir
Thursday, Jan 12	TBA	Ladies Luncheon
	12:00 p.m.	<i>Kalos</i> Deadline
Saturday, Jan 14	All Day	JV Aluminum Can Drive
	7:30 p.m.	Adventures in the Arts
		Organ Concert
	10am-4pm	AVUCC Council Retreat
Saturday, Jan 15	9:00 a.m.	AVUCC Worship
	10:30 a.m.	New Member Discussion
	6:30 p.m.	SHYG Meeting
Tuesday, Jan 17	4:15 p.m.	AVUCC Shelter Food Service
	7:30 p.m.	JV Board Meeting
Wednesday, Jan 18	12:30 p.m.	Mah Jong
	4:45 p.m.	JV Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	AVUCC Choir
Thursday, Jan 19	7:30 p.m.	JV Book Group
Sunday, Jan 22	9:00 a.m.	AVUCC Worship
Wednesday, Jan 25	12:30 p.m.	Mah Jong
	4:45 p.m.	JV Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	AVUCC Choir
Sunday, Jan 29	9:00 a.m.	AVUCC Worship
New Member	8:00 a.m. &	AVUCC Children's Bread
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Making
	6:30 p.m.	SHYG Meeting

Kalos Submissions: Please remember that the *Kalos* deadline has been changed to the second Thursday of every month, this month on Thursday the twelfth.

January Birthdays

Matthew LaRochelle	Jan 1
Erik Sanders	Jan 1
Dave Pullen	Jan 2
Marilyn Graham	Jan 3
Joan Okumura	Jan 6
Kara Nieders	Jan 9
Bill Sim	Jan 12
Audrey Wiedrick	Jan 12
Bert Fernandez	Jan 16
Diane Hawes	Jan 19
David Hough	Jan 22
Jennifer Rose	Jan 23
Alice Cox	Jan 24
Daniel Quint	Jan 30

January Anniversaries

Desire Brown	Jan 3
Melanie and Cliff Click	Jan 7
Pat and Bob Dando	Jan 28

Pastor's Kevin's Preaching Schedule

Pastor Kevin will be preaching every Sunday, except on January 22, when we are scheduled for a Special Story Message.

JV Book Group

JV Book Club will meet on January 20, 2006, at Kathy Kisabeth's home at 7:30 p.m.

312 Los Pinos Way
San Jose, CA

The selected book is *Welcome To the World, Baby Girl!* by Fannie Flagg.

RSVP to Kathy, 227-3898.

Robyn Dorsey