

AVUCC KALOS

Newsletter for the
Almaden Valley
United Church of Christ

Pastor Kevin's Corner:

Rainbows and Roller Coasters: A Lenten Reflection

I have set My bow in the clouds, and it shall serve as a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.-- Torah Bere'shit (Genesis 9:13)

I grew up in the wheat fields of Eastern Washington State. Fairfield was set amidst the rolling patchwork quilt of hills rich in colors of browns, greens, and gold. Often after a heavy rain, the clouds would break apart and the sun rays come beaming through. Walking down the hill to my home after school on those days of pre-spring rain, I could often spy a glorious rainbow arcing across the sky. The genesis of the rainbow would be in one neighbor's field and end kissing the hill of another's neighbor's farm. I used to think that God was not only reminding us of the promise that there would never be another earth destroying flood, but that somehow a the rainbow was also a sign of connecting one neighbor to another, or even God reminding us that all of us creatures here on earth were intimately connected together through God's everlasting love.

I find it somehow fitting that on our first Sunday in Lent, March 5th, that the lectionary powers-that-be chose Genesis 9:8-17 as the Hebrew Bible reading. This passage, of course, is the announcement by God to Noah of the new covenant that God was setting down. God said to Noah and his sons I now establish My covenant with you and your offspring to come, and with every living thing that is with you—birds, cattle, and every wild beast as well—all that have

KALOS

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March

2006

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Pastor Kevins's Corner, continued

come out of the ark, every living thing on earth... When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures, all flesh that is on earth. (Torah Bere'shit/Genesis 9:9-10, 16) And the covenant was, of course, that there would never again be a flood that would cut off all living creatures from God or destroy all of the earth. God made a promise. Lent is a journey. It is a roller coaster journey with the highs of Palm Sunday to the lows of the betrayal, arrest and execution of Jesus, to the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter morning. Lent is also a promise. It is God's promise that through the incarnation of the God self within Jesus that all our sorrows, pains, and joys (life's roller coaster) are intimately known and shared by God and that God will never, ever let those things separate us from God's freely given grace and forgiveness. Jesus lived, thrived, died, and lives again for all creatures. I believe that Lent focuses on all the highs and lows of those last days on earth of Jesus of Nazareth because it helps remind us that there is more to life than crucifixions, and in fact, it's the resurrections that ultimately show the love and grace of God given to all living beings. We can trust that through the floods and roller coasters of life God will be there with us in each moment suffering, laughing, and sighing with us. Blessed be, Amen.

Pastor Kevin

People in the Pews

Welcome to Our Newest Members. What a wonderful service we had on January 29 as seven folks were welcomed into our church family. All of them have worshiped with us for several years and been active and involved, but we are grateful that they wanted to commit themselves to becoming members of the Almaden Valley United Church of Christ.

Beverly Brochette visited several churches before she came to UCC. She hesitated because of our early worship time, 9:00 am. When she first visited, one of our members asked her what she liked to do, and she said she loves to sing. So what better way to become active and involved than to share your voice by sing-

People in the Pews, continued

ing in the choir. And she doesn't even mind that she now has to arrive at 8:15 for choir every Sunday.

Ed Grossmith was invited by George Stone several years ago to join us in worship, and we are delighted to have Ed a part of our church family. Ed was born in Australia and grew up in England. He came to Canada for a brief period and then he got smart and came to the U.S. and settled in the Seattle area working for Boeing. Tired of that rainy climate, he discovered IBM and San Jose. Ed and his wife Jo Ann have two sons and a wonderful daughter. As many of you know, he is an avid photographer, and we have had the pleasure of seeing several of his photographs from World War II. Ed is retired and is enjoying being involved with his hobbies and planning for future photo trips with George Stone.

Gwen Hacker and her family, Joe Machado and children Julia and Susana, have been attending both UCC and ECA worship services. Gwen directed our children's choir for several years, and she continues to share her wonderful voice with all of us on so many occasions. Remember her in *South Pacific*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *I Do, I Do*. Know that she will have an important role in the upcoming presentation of *Anything Goes*. Thank you, Gwen, for sharing your many talents.

Carol Martin was invited to come to our church by Athena Ballek. Carol works for Athena and was looking for a new church environment. She has been a very faithful attendee since then, and we welcome her participation in our church activities. Carol was baptized by Rev. Kevin last year.

Pat McGarvin has been attending both UCC and ECA services for several years. Pat is a very active and involved member and can be found helping around the church grounds and inside the building too and helping out in the church office. She is a busy volunteer, and we are fortunate to have her sharing her gifts. Pat enjoys motor homing, and she travels with a friend and is part of an RV group. Pat is also a grandmother and loves that role too.

People in the Pews, continued

Greg and Kelly Yamanishi and their two daughters, Alison and Hannah, have been worshipping with us for several years. It has been fun for all of us to see the girls growing up. Kelly has volunteered to be our Vice Moderator for 2006, and we welcome her into that role. She is also co-editor of our Kalos (a role she shares with Sue Scaff), and we appreciate her sharing her gifts and talents with all of us. Greg will be a strong supporter of Kelly in the coming year as he will probably be called into service as sitter for the girls.

Special thanks to Charlotte Duerksen for her generous gift of corsages and boutonnieres (had to get the dictionary out for that one!) for our new members. She is always so willing to share her talents.

Folks to Keep in your Prayers. Helen Emerson is recovering from her second knee surgery and is doing quite well. She did so well after her first new knee. We pray that she will have the same good experience this time too.

Dick Okumura has had another knee surgery, and we pray that he will have a good recovery and finally be free of pain and able to walk without a can again.

Debbie Bemis is back to work part time, and she is doing has done research about her rare type of cancer. Undergoing chemo therapy is a possibility. Please keep Debbie and her family in you prayers.

Bev Bricchetto's mother is currently in a care facility, and Bev is having a difficult time deciding what is the best living arrangement for her mother.

Jim McAbee's son, Carson, a recent graduate of the naval Academy, will be in Djibouti in the near future. We need to keep Carson and all of our troops in our prayers every day.

Charlotte Ohlsen will be in our prayers as she continues to heal from her recent accident.

People in the Pews, continued

Toh-Bee Syn had a bad fall and is still recuperating from her injuries.

As I make notes each Sunday of those worshipping with us, I have been made aware that there are several folks and family groups that we haven't seen in awhile. We have missed you and pray that you will be present among us soon on Sunday morning. Our worship service continues to be a strength for all of us under pastor Kevin's leadership, and the fellowship we share at coffee hour is always important. If health issues are involved, we hope you will let Pastor Kevin know so we can minister to whatever needs you may have. You are missed.

Renewing Old Acquaintances. It is always a treat when we look up into our pews and see some familiar faces from the past visiting on Sunday. Gen Tewart, Bruce and Marcia Bush, long-time members, were visiting from Lincoln Hills. Gen has taken a leave of absence from golf as her back was acting up. Bruce and Marcia love the fact that they can drive to the snow in 1 ½ hours, ski a bit, and get back home before dark.

Rev. Jack and Mary Takayanagi from Portland joined all of us in worship recently. We are always happy to see both of them. Mary is doing well following her angioplasty. Jack is enjoying the time to be involved with his watercolors.

Cora Lee and Ted Seale were also in town, but had an early plane trip scheduled as they flew to Memphis to visit with Cora Lee's mother.

Please submit any news that you would like to share for "People in the Pews" next month.

Dot Allfrey

Annual Report from 2005

Two thousand and five was a year of both conflict and renewal at AVUCC. We experienced both joys and concerns as we walked together through the year. We began the year in conflict over the use of our facility by the Tabard Theatre Company. This conflict made clear to the council the need to provide a safe environment for open discussion.

Annual Report, continued

With the aid of the Long Range Planning Committee and Bob Farnquist's tremendous leadership ability, we held a moderated discussion about this topic. Opinions were voiced, and feelings that had been seething were brought into the open. Many expressed that they learned more about how others felt and that they would support the decision of the council in the matter. At the following council meeting, the council made the very difficult divided decision to turn down Tabard's request to renew their contract. This decision was graciously accepted by those who valued Tabard's presence in the church including AVUCC members and ECA's vestry.

As spring warmed into summer, the council looked more seriously into the JV Bylaw revision proposal which was written by a JV committee. This brought the council together to discuss the fundamental responsibilities of the Joint Venture Board. Work remains for the council to do with this proposal.

Late in the summer, Al Nieders brought to council the brilliant idea of forming a Budget Committee, whose job it is to draft the next year's budget. This took a tremendous amount of work off the shoulders of the treasurer and divided it among committee members. The council rewarded Al for his initiative by asking him to chair this committee. His committee did a thorough job of assessing needs and quantifying them.

While the council was dealing with these and other issues, the Pastoral Search Committee was evaluating profiles, listening to sermon tapes and scheduling interviews. Late in the summer, the committee narrowed its choices to two candidates and then made the decision to recommend Kevin Smith to the council. The council interviewed him in August and unanimously decided to present him to the congregation. At a special congregational meeting, the congregation unanimously and joyfully voted to call Kevin to be our new pastor. In October we said our goodbyes and our thanks to Pastor Paul Smith-Telfer and welcomed Pastor Kevin into our midst.

Annual Report, continued

In November, we held our annual congregational meeting. We approved a draft budget and a new council. I feel confident that the AVUCC is in excellent hands with Pastor Kevin and Steven Coutinho and the new council. I am grateful for all the love and support which I received as your moderator. It was an honor to serve you in 2005 and I look forward to continuing to serve AVUCC in new roles.

Melanie Click
2005 Moderator

AVUCC Council Notes for February

Steve Coutinho, Moderator

Kelly Yamanishi, Vice-Moderator

Jay Caturay, Treasurer

Carolyn Dingman, Recorder

At-Large Members: Dot Allfrey, Sue Hamilton, Al

Nieders, Janey Sanders, and Bart Smith

Pastor Kevin Smith, *ex officio*

Summarized below are minutes from the Church Council meeting held on February 14, 2006.

Monthly minutes are posted on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall once they have been approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Kevin's installation ceremony will take place on Sunday, April 23, 2006. An Installation Council with representatives from the Northern California Conference, the Santa Clara Association, and twenty area UCC churches will precede the event, and plans are being made for a reception following the ceremony.

Ed Grossmith is working with Kevin to move forward with planning for an emergency preparedness program involving AVUCC and ECA. Training sessions are being planned.

Kevin and his wife, Nancy, are in the process of purchasing a condominium in downtown San Jose. They will hope to redo the financing on the purchase when the Pastoral Housing Committee works out the arrangements for using the funds raised by the church for this purpose.

Council Notes of February, continued

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jay Caturay distributed financial statements for the year 2005 and for January 2006 as well as an updated budget for 2006. The Council decided no revisions to the budget were needed. It also approved signatories for bank accounts, allocated interest to the long-term accounts, and moved several short-term funds into the current-year operating budget.

Old Business: The Council will hold a joint meeting with the LRPC on March 28th to talk about the committee's charter for the coming year.

Liability insurance coverage has been obtained at a reasonable cost through the Cutter Agency.

A Memorial Fund Committee comprised of Jay Caturay, Carolyn Dingman, Betsy Shoup, and Kevin Smith has been meeting to formulate a policy for memorial gifts and assess appropriate uses of gifts already received. A draft of the policy guidelines was distributed to the Council and will be discussed at the March meeting. After contacting Rev. Jack about the memorial fund in his name and considering the needs of the church, it was recommended that these funds be called the Takayanagi Scholarship Fund and used to send AVUCC members to conferences, trainings, and annual meeting. Council members approved this recommendation.

New Business: Steve Coutinho announced that the Pastoral Housing Committee which includes Dick Shipe, Dick Okumura, Jay Caturay, Sandy Baldwin, Tom Rose, and Tom Gerber, will begin meeting to determine a policy for the use of the funds raised for pastoral housing. The committee will be receiving input from David Bergman-Hill, head of NCNC finances.

It was voted to send Kelly Yamanishi and Bill Cox as official delegates to the NCNC annual meeting at Asilomar in late May, along with Pastor Kevin Smith.

Carolyn Dingman
AVUCC Recorder

Caring and Outreach

Caring Committee responsibilities: Memorial service notification, set up, and finger food for members and close family; providing meals, rides, cards, flowers, and hospital visits to those needing temporary support; and telephone tree communication about memorial services.

Sue Hamilton

Aluminum Cans Help Habitat for Humanity:

Thanks to your efforts in collecting, saving and delivering to church you empty aluminum cans, we are generating hard cash for Habitat for Humanity. Cans are now worth \$1.40/lb and January's collection yielded \$175.30. Cans are collected the second weekend of every other month with the next collection scheduled for March 11 & 12. Please put your cans in a plastic bag and leave them by the enclosed fence area near the rose garden on this and subsequent collection weekends.

Tom, the Can Man

One Great Hour of Sharing: The annual One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be on Sunday March 26. Please look for informational bulletin inserts. This year's scripture for the offering is "When was it that we saw you . . . thirsty" (Matt. 25:37). Several areas where the monies assist are world hunger (more than 80 million people around the world go hungry), long-term hurricane recovery, the conflict in Sudan (campaign initiated by UCC). Please prayerfully consider this offering.

Phyllis Chai

Beneficio Coffee: To ensure receiving your Beneficio More Than Fair Trade Coffee for Easter, please note that an order is expected to be placed by Phyllis Chai on Wednesday, March 15. Please call her at (408) 226-7150 for more information or to make your request.

Phyllis Chai

Youth News

Confirmation Class. Confirmation classes started on February 16th from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. All 8th Grade and above youth who have not yet been confirmed may attend. The classes will run through March 23.

The Christian Ed Committee. The Christian Education Committee is looking for one more member from AVUCC to fill out its membership. The committee is chaired by Kim Petruzzelli of ECA. Please contact Kim or Kevin if you would be interested in taking on this important responsibility. Kim can be reached at (408) 268-1956 or by email at kpetruzzelli@comcast.net. Other current members are Katie McCormick, Robin Root, Terry Root, Stephen Mills, Kevin Smith, Kelly Yamanishi, Inge Bond, and Jim McPherson. Please consider joining this group to represent AVUCC on this important committee concerning our youth.

Pastor Kevin

Social Announcements

Changes in ECA Ladies Lunch/Dinner Group

The Third Thursday Ladies Lunch/Dinner group will be changed to the First Tuesday Ladies Lunch/Dinner group. There were too many conflicts on Thursday, I hope this is a better time for all. There are also some changes in restaurants (and more may be coming), but for now this is the following dates and places (always check the sign-up sheet in FH):

Lunch on March 7 – Max’s Cafe at Westgate shopping center

Dinner on April 4 – Ednaray’s Chinese Restaurant in Los Gatos

Lunch on May 2 - City Hall tour and lunch nearby -space limited to 20 people.

Dinner on June 6 - PF Chang’s at Oakridge Mall

Other dates and places will be in the next SHAPE / KALOS. Again, if anyone has a favorite place to share with the group, let me know and I’ll include it. Guests are always welcome. For more information call Amy Griffith, 268-0920 or amy-g@pacbell.net.

Amy Griffith

Social Announcements, continued

Women’s Network Spring Retreat: Regretfully, the message has come from Anne Lowe, Chair of the Women’s Network Spring Retreat, scheduled to happen at the UCC Church in Salida, that the event has been cancelled. Please be on the lookout for future information about the fall retreat at Mercy Center in October.

Phyllis Chai

Adventures in the Arts Concert

BANANA SLUG STRING BAND PERFORMS HERE ON SATURDAY, MARCH 25 AT 5:00 P.M.

Children and adults of all ages are invited to attend the Banana Slug String Band concert on Saturday, March 25 at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary here at Joint Venture Churches as part of our Almaden Adventures in the Arts concert series. Please note the special starting time for the performance is 5:00 p.m.

The Banana Slug String Band is a group of lovable musicians and educators from the coastal redwoods of Northern California. The Slugs are “Airy” Larry Graff, Doug “Dirt” Greenfield, “Solar” Steve Van Zandt and “Marine” Mark Nolan.

With vocals, guitars, mandolin, bass, harmonica, banjo and percussion, Slug songs range from rockin’ boogies to sensitive ballads; folk songs to reggae and rap. Music, theater, puppetry and audience participation create a fun-filled learning experience.

The Banana Slug String Band is committed to educational entertainment for children and families through interactive music and performance. They are dedicated to fostering positive attitudes about the environment, providing accurate information about natural history and science, promoting music appreciation, building self esteem in children, honoring creativity, supporting the arts in education and sparking in people a joyful sense of wonder.

Through the production of tapes, CD’s, videos, song-books, picture books, curriculum, activity guides, teacher workshops and concerts, the Slugs hope to

Adventures in the Arts Concert, continued

make these values accessible to an increasingly wider audience.

The Slugs' new CD, "Wings of Slumber," has won numerous awards including a 2005 NAPPA Gold Award, a 2005 Early Childhood NEWS Director's Choice Award, a Parenting Award, a 2005 Parents' Choice Silver Award and Creative Child Magazine's Seal of Excellence Award. The album, a collection of children's lullabies, was recorded with the help of George Winston, Laurie Lewis, George Kahumoku and many others.

Other Banana Slug String Band awards include: Selected in 2003 by California Arts Council (CAC) for the 2004-06 Touring Artists Directories/Performing Arts Roster, 1996 Howard Bell Award for Outstanding Contributions in Outdoor Education. For the album "Goin' Wild" the 2000 AFIM Indie Award for Children's Album of the Year, the 2000 National Park Service Audio Interpretive Excellence Award, an Amazon.com 5-Star Rating and an Entertainment Weekly 4 Star Rating. And many, many more for earlier albums and performances.

So Come on! Their shows are filled with great music, humor and most of all FUN!!

Remember, the concert starts at 5:00 p.m. Advance tickets are \$15 general, \$8 students and \$5 children (\$20, \$10 and \$5 respectively at the door). Child care will be provided. Tickets are limited and reservations are recommended. For more information, please call 408-268-0243.

Todd Axtell

News from a Former Member

The following is from June Schubert who was AVUCC's Christian Ed person several years ago. The Schubert family moved to Texas with Karl's job, and now they are in Minnesota. June wrote Diane Hawes about her communion experience and was willing to share it in the Kalos. Enjoy.
The Communion Free-For-All, A.K.A. Communion Confusion: So we moved to Minnesota about five months ago and started to work our way into the community. Well, that sounds too bold. We didn't

News from a Former Member, continued

really work our way into the community as much as we did the normal things one does when faced with a new location. . . .

And one of the things we did early on was to investigate a couple of potential churches. The amazing thing was that I wouldn't have to drive for 30 minutes just to get to church anymore. There were several of my brand (U.C.C.) that were very close to our rental house and would also be close to the house we are building! Hurray! So Karin and I went to the closest U.C.C. church. It had a lot of promise, especially because it was "Open and Affirming" which is U.C.C. speak for accepting of gays and lesbians. That is something I feel strongly about and I appreciated that they were willing to take a stand . . . Well, it was summertime and services were a little different than I expect they would be during the rest of the year. And there were NO young people there. I take that back-there were 2-4 small children and that was about it. There were mostly older people there, looking to be retirement age or beyond. I was satisfied with the place but Karin just wasn't. So we looked a little more.

While running errands near our home we saw a sign for St. Luke's Presbyterian Church about a half a mile from our house. (Only traveling a half mile to church? Unheard of since I was a kid and we walked ¼ mile to get to Hayden Baptist Church!) I approve of Presbyterian churches and it seemed like a good thing to do to visit that church. Luckily I got on the internet and found their website before we tried to visit. Their church building was being remodeled and they were temporarily meeting in a school gymnasium about two miles from our home. Karin, David, and I found the way to the church/school and attended the service. The kids felt comfortable right away and liked the group and the minister. And we found out that the church is a "More Light" church which is Presbyterian speak for "Open and Affirming" and you already know what that is U.C.C. speak for! So this was good, too! There were lots of young people at the service also – another plus. When David and I came back a few weeks later, the minister even remembered our names, which astounds me

News from a Former Member, continued

since I never remember names. I think it was also at that service that David and I were introduced to the Communion Free-For-All.

Mind you, that's not what they called it. It was our name for it. The church is large by our standards, maybe 200-300 people. And communion is served by four pairs of people, one person for the bread and one person holding a cup of grape juice. I've seen communion services done a number of ways, but this was a new one for me. It was most like a Catholic service where there are four pairs of servers and people file out in an orderly way to the various servers. But at St. Luke's it didn't seem so orderly and yet it wasn't quite "disorderly" either. There was a feeling of what an ant hill must be like during the communion. People headed to whichever line they wanted regardless of where they were sitting and they didn't go in a row by row order, just kind of first come first served order. And if you saw that another line was shorter, just move over! (And I was noticing that people didn't take dainty little pieces of bread to barely dip into the juice. They took generous hunks, requiring serious chewing! I think some might have had light breakfasts that morning and were making up for it! (Well some people do refer to communion as a meal!) And there was a serious buzz of talking during this event. People were catching up with friends during the wait in line, I think!

But you know what? It still serves the purpose. And I'm still going to the church so I suspect I'll get used to it. When we moved to Austin we had to get used to communion every Sunday. It was that way because the church there was a blended one with a UCC church and a Disciples of Christ church . . . They used both juice (white grape) and wine (shall we say, very inexpensive wine?) so you could choose which you preferred. And way back at AVUCC while we only celebrated communion once a month, we did it similarly to how the Episcopalians, with whom we shared the church building, did it. We used kneelers and received communion in a supplicating sort of way. And we got used to all the different ways and lived to tell the story.

June Schubert by way of Diane Hawes

SHYGS

February was a month of service for SHYGS. We kicked off the month by joining members of Greg Lukanc's Boy Scout troop in completing his Eagle Scout project. People came and went throughout the morning and afternoon, but Greg had a large crew; he kept everyone on task and organized and was able to finish the project in one day instead of two. If you haven't had a chance to walk out to the gazebo lately, take a stroll over and check out the fabulous new walkway that leads from the gravel parking lot to the gazebo. Good job Greg!

On Sunday, Feb 12, the group spent the day working with Habitat for Humanity on two houses located on the corner of Julian and 14th streets in downtown San Jose. Two of the Victorian houses that were moved to make way for city hall had been donated to the Redevelopment Agency who in turn donated them to Habitat. Each house is being converted into two condominiums for low income families. It was pretty amazing to see how the Habitat crew and our volunteer adults worked with our 17 teens to guide them through their construction tasks.

We had SHYGS under the house running wire, on top of the house installing sheets of plywood on the roof (in harnesses), wrapping the house in insulated paper, drilling holes through studs and running wire through the walls to prepare for the outlets in the kitchen, framing the water heater walls, putting up plywood in the front room, and a variety of other tasks to move the houses to the next stage of completion. It was awesome! I can't thank our adults enough-they really worked hard and made sure that our SHYGS had a great experience-Jim and Bonnie McPherson, Russ Petruzzelli, Jim and Kathryn McAbee, Bob Green were fabulous. Thank you, too, to Kevin Smith for coming down at lunch time and offering a short worship service and for working with the teens for the afternoon. We also want to acknowledge the generosity of Shirley Lucas for donating \$100 to SHYGS for our food and drinks. I heard more than one teen say that they were ready to do it again! Our teens are so capable and giving.

SHYGS, continued

Our February meeting focused on the topic of drugs. The teens have heard all the dangers in school so we discussed not only the physical and emotional dangers, but also focused on the words of Paul who wrote in 1 Corinthians 6:19, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God..." so we should keep them strong and healthy.

We finished the month working the Shrove Pancake dinner with JHYGS-Thank you to Katie McCormick who did all the planning for this event. Coming Up!

Sunday, March 5-Regular meeting 6-8:30

Sunday, March 19-Tweak Hunt planned and led by Kyle Dando-Meet at church-time TBD

Fri-Sun-March 31-April 2-Happening! Details as we get closer. Let me know if you're interested.

Sunday, April 2-Regular meeting 6-8:30

Friday, April 7-Seder-Joint Youth Event-Watch for details from Katie McCormick

Saturday, April 8-Catacombs, planned and led by Kyle Dando-At Church

Robin Root

Men's Valentine Breakfast

The Men's Valentine Breakfast for the Ladies was held with much fanfare on Saturday, Feb. 11 in Fellowship Hall. More than 100 adults were present including the entertainers. Babysitting and activities for the younger set were also provided. Event Chair Dick Shipe did a masterful job in coordinating all the arrangements from the set up team on Friday to the early arrival Saturday of the cooks and the nattily-attired waiters in their white shirts and black bow ties. Dennis Elliot as master of ceremonies kept the event on a smooth keel first introducing Pastor Kevin Smith to offer a blessing. Then Kevin's wife, Nancy sang the "Prayer of St. Francis" in Spanish.

After breakfast, the entertainment program began. Hi Dong Chai opened the program with a love song accompanied by his wife, Phyllis. He was followed by Ed Grossmith delivering an original Valentine's Day poem. Dennis then called on Bob Thomas to introduce the "Big Band" all 17 of them headed by leader Dick McConville.

The band is called the Velvet Swing and many of the musicians have been playing together for years. They played many favorites from the forties and fifties and featured smooth vocalist Rita Field in several numbers.

The band's leader is Dick McConville and several fine solos were delivered by Guy Miller on trumpet, Andy Petrino on alto sax, and Rudy Silva on tenor sax. A surprise song "As Time Goes By" was delivered by Jim and Athena Balleck's son Brian in honor of his mom.

At the end of the program the Children's Choir, under the direction of our Music Director, John Leslie, entertained us with delightful songs, with the audience joining in for the second round of "Do Re Me."

Credits, how do you handle them all? On Friday it was Messrs. Yuman, Ballek, Green, Shipe, Thomas, Dingman, Wright, Thompson and Caturay handling pre-arrangements. Saturday it was early cooking team with goods provided by Messrs. Balleck, Yumen, Shipe, Green and Wright. Special thanks to Bob and Phyllis Green for providing the babysitters. And Bart Smith was everywhere as the AVUCC's official photographer.

Although he was at home recuperating from his recent surgery, Dick Okumura was with us in spirit, reports Dick Shipe. As far as Men's Breakfasts are concerned, Dr. Okumura is still the CEO. To the ladies, Happy Valentines Day. And to all those named and unnamed who helped, many thanks.

David Crowley

Kalos Reminder

Please submit Kalos articles to our Kalos email address!

kalos@avucc.org

This is a special address for Kalos developed by our webmaster, Dennis Elliott, to simplify submissions. When you send a contribution to this address, it goes to three places: (1-2) to the co-editors, Sue Scaff and Kelly Yamanishi and (3) to the church office.

Kelly and I are alternating issues, and there has been some confusion over submissions sent to one or the other of us at our home addresses. We don't want to get mixed up and leave anyone's article out! The problem is solved when you submit to Kalos directly at its own address.

Thanks for remembering to do this!

Sue Scaff
Kalos Editor

UPCOMING EVENTS

A TASTE OF NEW ORLEANS!

It's no joke – Saturday April 1, 2006, 6:00-9:00 pm in Fellowship Hall we'll be jumpin' with the sounds of the Dave Kowomoto Trio and the culinary specialties of Creole/Cajun cuisine. Enjoy tantalizing seafood appetizers, a "saucy" jambalaya, down-to-earth beans, and rice and sweet treats.

Come and celebrate our blessings and participate in an effort to support those devastated by Katrina. Proceeds from this event will be donated to Hurricane Relief.

\$25.00 per person guarantees you're in. See you there! Sign up in Fellowship Hall starting March 5. Speak to Joe Dingman or Janey Sanders for details.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sandy Baldwin	3/3
Kevan Anderson	3/4
Athena Ballek	3/11
Paul Coutinho	3/16
LD Sparks	3/14
Kristie Bemis	3/17
Harry Hall	3/20
Gwen Anderson	3/29
Morpha Caturay	3/30
Eric Fernandez	3/30
Stan Yumen	3/30

Ed & Penny Rasala 3/27

Worship Schedule

Preaching Schedule for March

March 5:	Special Message from Children
March 12:	Pastor Kevin
March 19:	Pastor Kevin
March 26:	Terry Shoup

Lay Readers:

March 5:	Londa Daley
March 12:	Steven Coutinho
March 19:	Alan Nieders
March 26:	Tom Rose

Ushers:

March 5:	Tom Rose Janey Sanders David Sanders
March 12:	Bob & Leilani Farnquist Dick Specht
March 26:	David & Brian Gaydon, Kimberlie Garg

Greeters and Coffee Hosts:

March 5:	Dot and Bill Allfrey
March 12:	Stan Yumen and Ed Grossmith
March 19:	David and Susan Gaydon
March 26:	Wai Mun and Toh-Bee Syn



Work Day at Church

Please join the FUN in getting our spring cleaning done. We are going to be doing jobs from tree trimming to pew polishing and everything in between. We need all the help we can get so please mark your calendars and come join us.

Coffee and Donuts will be provided in the morning, and lunch will be provided when all the FUN is Done!

Please sign up in Fellowship Hall with your name and the type of work you would like to do, So we have enough food and know ahead of time what people want to do. Can't wait to see you there!!



Almaden Valley United Church of Christ
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Kalos—March 2006

KALOS Deadline for the April Issue

The deadline for the **April** issue of the Kalos is **Wednesday March 15, 2006**. Items may be left in the mail slot labeled Kalos, or preferably may be submitted via email to: kalos@avucc.org.

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