

AVUCC KALOS

Newsletter for the
Almaden Valley
United Church of Christ

Pastor Kevin's Corner:

Space for Grace

Nancy and I decided to step out of the car culture of Los Angeles for a day. It was the middle of our vacation of "books, the beach and baseball" and we had had enough of endless freeway driving. Stepping out of our hotel, we trekked over a couple of blocks to the Pershing Metro Subway stop and descended underground into the bowels of the City of Angels.

Before our subway train arrived we spent a few short moments appreciating the mosaic tile artwork on the walls of the subway platform. The colorful tiles were arranged in beautiful multicolored patterns and they told the story of the Latino people's settlement of California and the struggle they confronted in their efforts to live decent and safe lives. The story told of their struggle with the mission system of the church and the way in which the "Padres" persecuted those who would not, or could not, buy into the new world the Padres were trying to bring to masses. In the seemingly insignificant decision Nancy and I had made to take the subway that day, through the grace of God, we learned something new about our new home state. It was not a happy tale, but it was meaningful story of a measure of respect the Latino people won through struggle. We learned something new and experienced the grace of God.

Our train arrived and we hopped on. Even in this mid-morning time underground there were no two seats together, so Nancy and I sat on the aisle seats opposite one another. I just happened to sit next to this young gentleman.

KALOS

Monthly Newsletter

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August 2006

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Pastor Kevin's Corner, cont.

He was clean shaven with close cropped crew cut hair. He wore a charcoal gray suit with a security company's emblem on the front. We didn't talk at first. At the next stop a gentlemen stepped on the train who I was thinking looked remarkably like Jimi Hendrix, the 60's guitar and song artist who died a tragic death from a drug overdose. This Hendrix look-alike middle aged man was also troubled by something, perhaps mental illness, perhaps high on something, perhaps both. As the silent security guard sitting next to me and I looked upon this gentlemen, I could physically sense my seat partner begin to slump and become heavy with some emotional burden. The guard spoke to me. "What do you think he's on?" he asked me. I muttered something like "I'm not sure anything, but perhaps downers," noting the Hendrix-like gentleman's inability to focus and lethargic movements. The young security guard then crossed himself whispering a silent "Hail Mary." He then began to tell me how he had spent nine years addicted to drugs. He took anything he could get his hands on. He once spent \$40,000 in one month to feed his addiction. He lost everything, he said. I asked him what saved him and how he got clean. "My Dad," he said. "My Dad saved me. My Dad did not give up on me. He loved me." Two strangers sitting side-by-side in a metal car rumbling underneath the City of Angels and both our eyes welled up with tears. "He, your Dad, he gave you unconditional love. His unconditional love saved you," I told my young traveling companion beside me. The young security guard nodded and bowed his head. We were silent sitting there together rumbling through a hole in the earth. The next stop came and my young friend got up out of his seat next to me, turned around and gave me a deep long look in the eyes and put out his hand to shake. We shook hands and he said "Good to talk with you," and headed out the sliding subway car door. We made connection. We had experienced—both of us—the grace of God. I couldn't help but wonder as Nancy and I got off at our stop if "Mr. Hendrix" would find that unconditional love of God that works through each of us. I

Pastor Kevin's Corner, cont.

hope so; I pray so.

We all need Sabbath rests. *Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work...* These sentences from Exodus 20:8-10b, the Decalogue or the Ten Commandments, are not so much a command to worship God every seven days as they are God telling us that we need to step out of our daily routines *regularly* in order to experience the benefits of Sabbath rest. Stepping out of our routines by taking vacations, getting away, taking time away from work and home chores, even if just for a day, allows God to enter into those spaces that too often crowd out perception and acknowledgment of God's grace. We need to give space for God's grace to happen. Often when we allow time and space for the grace of God to be revealed we can experience the "city of angels" writing messages on our hearts even when we are no where near LA. During your days, or if you must, even once a week, make a space for grace to happen for you. It can bring you closer to God. It can open your life up to possibilities you can't imagine. It can make meaning in your heart. It can help your neighbor. Amen.

Pastor Kevin

Moderator's Notes

It's been happening for a few years now: we look forward to a long lazy summer with some downtime from work, relaxing by the beach or pool, maybe a family vacation... and then stuff happens. Mostly good stuff, but relaxing? Forget it. It's my own fault, of course - I chose to take on those extra projects at work, serve on Council, Cub Scouts, participate in a play, go on an overseas family vacation, etc. Overcommitment is a way of life here in Silicon Valley. And so it is in Council meetings: we typically get through about two-thirds of the agenda items because 1) we start with too many, and 2)

Moderator's Notes, cont.

each one tends to take much longer than we anticipate. This sometimes causes things to drag on way too long.

During the semi-annual Congregational meeting on June 25, we gave an overview of the topics that have kept us busy so far this year. The one we have spent the most time on has been the Communication Guidelines document, so we went into some detail about why and how it was created. We also asked for feedback from the congregation – do you think this would be a useful document, in its present form or modified, and why or why not? If you think it is useful, how do you think it should be implemented? We have already received a number of responses, both in favor and against, but we encourage everyone of you to tell us what you think. Feel free to write a note or email to any Council member, or if you prefer to remain anonymous, drop a note into the collection box set up for this purpose.

One of the things that took way too long was responding to a proposed revision to the JV Bylaws. The proposed new version addresses major issues such as authority and responsibility of hiring and firing of JV personnel, contracts for usage of the Joint Venture facilities, legal definitions, as well as the tying up of a number of loose ends in the current version. We finally compiled all Council members' input into a single document and presented this to the Review Committee and the JV Board.

In our effort to tackle what appeared to be the main and pressing issues, we often didn't leave enough time to hear and discuss all committee reports. When we realized that those committees are really a crucial element of our congregation, we decided to put those reports earlier on the agenda so we always know what is going on. An important improvement.

By the way, if you would like to know what is going on in Council or in the congregation, we encourage you to join us in our monthly meetings,

Moderator's Notes, cont.

usually the second Tuesday of the month. 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
Moderator

Church 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*

July's Council meeting was postponed until July 25th and minutes will be published in the September *Kalos*. Summarized below are minutes from the semiannual meeting of the congregation held on June 25, 2006.

Treasurer's Report

Financial statements showed cash balances in the church's regular and endowment funds:

General Fund	\$ 47,191
Short Term Funds	13,273
Long Term Funds	<u>85,282</u>
	\$145,746

Endowment Fund Market Value: \$59,564

Based on estimates of income and costs for the remainder of 2006, a deficit of \$15,176 is predicted. Cash on hand in the General Fund at the start of 2005 will more than cover the projected deficit.

Old Business

Current year goals and actions of the Church Council were reviewed, and committee representatives reported on the year-to-date activities for each church committee.

Church Council Notes, cont.

New Business

Members of the Long Range Planning Committee presented proposed Communication Guidelines for AVUCC that committee members have been discussing with the Church Council.

Communication and mutual respect have been a problem in the past at AVUCC, most recently during the Tabard theater controversy, and a congregational survey conducted in 2005 noted the need for improving communication. LRPC's proposed guidelines are about responsible discourse at AVUCC and are presented as a tool to help people remember why and how to speak peacefully.

Feedback to the Council is sought in writing by July 25, 2006.

*Carolyn Dingman
AVUCC Recorder*

Joint Venture Board Minutes

June 20, 2006

Members Present: Ron Howie, John Graham, Rev. Kevin Smith, Mary Leal, Bob Green, Betty Bensen, Jim Ballek, Rev. Stephen Mills, John McPherson, Jackie Whitlock.

Minutes from April 18, 2006 approved.

Treasurers Report: Thru May 31, 2006 JV is \$2,747.99 under budget. There has been a marked improvement in our utility bills because the water bill has reduced due to a water leak that was found and repaired. Report was approved.

Committee Reports: None

New Business:

Rose Garden:

Robyn Dorsey gave report on the status of the Rose Garden stating that the Rose Garden needs our attention.

Joint Venture Board Minutes, cont.

1. Existing gravel in parking lot needs to be spread out so it is easier to walk on to reach the roses.
2. A significant number are nearly dead or in dire need of replacement. Robyn suggested reducing the number of roses (presently there are 65 roses) so that upkeep would be more manageable. This would involve some digging, replacing, and replanting.
3. Some wooden plaques have broken or need attention. New roses would also need new plaques.
4. Robyn asked if there was a budget for the Rose Garden. JV has no budget for the Rose Garden.

Robyn indicated that she was willing to continue working with the Rose Garden, but would need more than the occasional help she now receives.

The discussion covered a number of areas:

It was proposed that we replace the present watering system (which is not working) with a new drip type system which will reach every rose individually and use a system which could be turned on manually rather than with batteries.

Installing a system using electricity would take time and money. John Graham said we could have a drip system installed in a half a day.

It was further suggested that we ask for volunteers to work in the Rose Garden with each volunteer taking a small job. Some months require more work, but with a sufficient number of volunteers no one would have a job that took a lot of time and effort. Solving the problem was handed over to John McPherson. The list of memorial roses and plaque signs will be studied.

Joint Venture Board Minutes, cont.

The problem with gophers and deer was also discussed. Rev. Mills said he had solved it. "I baptized three of them last week, so they won't be back except on Easter and Christmas.!!!"

Other items discussed included the *Nativity scene* which is presently stored in John McPhersons garage. It will be brought back to church storage. Bob Green volunteered to solve that problem.

Our *organ* blew an amp which supplies power. An organ tech is presently repairing or rebuilding the amp.

In response to our *energy audit*, we are going to replace many lamps around the church. T8's can be put in trash, but T12's will have to be taken to a collection facility.

Carpets: Carpets in the church need to be cleaned, and the carpet in the office needs to be replaced.

Water Leak: Pete Mayo discovered the leak in the corner behind the garden and repaired it. That accounts for a much lower water bill last month.

New amp was installed and rewired in Fellowship Hall.

New Sign: Rev. Mills would like two volunteers from from AVUCC to work on sign committee. Various types of signs were discussed along with size, location, and wording on sign. Should sign have "Joint Venture Churches" on it??

Back shed area still needs cleaning and reorganizing.

Closing Prayer: Rev. Mills

Jim Ballek

Stewardship

As Jay reported to us at the semi-annual meeting, your pledges are rolling in. As of the end of June, we have received \$85,209. This is 56% of the budgeted amount of \$151,724, so we are running right on schedule. Keep up the good work!

While we are on the subject of pledges, it is never too early to talk about next year. In a few short months, you will begin to hear from Pastor Kevin and the Stewardship Committee about making pledges for 2007. For those of you who already pledge, we thank you for your generosity and ask you to prayerfully consider your pledge and what it will be for next year. For those of you who do not yet pledge, we ask you to plan to pledge.

Why pledge when you already generously contribute to the plate on Sunday morning? Because you give yourself the opportunity to thoughtfully and prayerfully decide how much to financially support the church, and you give the council the solid information they need to make financial decisions and produce a budget for the church.

The Stewardship Committee

People In The Pews

Sunday Worship Services

Pastor Kevin was away for the first two Sundays in July and we were very fortunate to have Terry Shoup leading us in worship and administering Communion on the first Sunday of July. Terry always has such a great sermon message. Using baseball as an analogy for reasons not to attend church was well received by all of us in attendance. Thanks, Terry for your spiritual leadership.

People In The Pews, cont.

The following Sunday it was a delight to welcome to our church family the Rev. T'Shala Olivieri as our worship leader. She became the "Woman at the Well" and allowed us to get a sense of what that woman experienced in her encounter with Jesus and how it changed her life. Joining her in a beautiful musical offering was her husband Daniel. The music was composed by Daniel, and T'Shala accompanied him on her flute as he played his guitar and sang. We as a congregation were very blessed to have been a part of worship that morning.

Kevin was back leading us in Worship on Folk Sunday and it was great to welcome him home. Playing in our Folk Group that Sunday was Pam Crowley Fischer, visiting from WA. Always fun to see former members in our midst from time to time. Also joining the Folk Group was Josh Bemis and he was a great new addition.

We were glad to have Bessie Hutchins and Ariss Thomas back in worship with us. Both these ladies had a bout with pneumonia but were feeling well enough to join us at worship.

Toh-Bee Syn is doing very well after her knee surgery and she was back on Folk Sunday too. Wai Mun is being treated for congestive heart failure and awaiting surgery to relieve this problem. We pray for a successful surgery and a good recovery.

We also welcomed back Jean and Dick Shipe—Jean looks great and we are grateful she is back in the pews again. Jean and Dick are very appreciative of all the many kindnesses they experienced after her surgery and during her recovery period.

Missing from the Pews

We still miss Alice Bullard—She continues to recover slowly and is able to eat and be much more alert. She of course misses her precious dog "Sunny" and is grateful to all of Sunny's caretakers during her recovery.

People In The Pews, cont.

(Note: The Gerbers have been Sunny's coordinator for quite some time now and they are looking for help in this concern as they have some travel plans and Sunny will need someone to care for him during their time away. So if anyone would be willing to take Sunny for a week or even a weekend please give Tom and Carla a call.)

Still having some problems with dizziness is Morpha Caturay. She is looking into several other options that might relieve her of this serious problem.

Folks Who Need Our Prayers

Joanne Spark's son David Larson recently had his long awaited heart transplant. David is just 34 years old and is doing well after the surgery and we pray he will continue to grow stronger each day. Because so few awaiting heart transplants are able to get one, we know how grateful David and his family are that he was able to have this very special surgery.

It was good to see Chuck Smith back among us after his latest treatments that had resulted in a hospital stay. We know his family is grateful to have him home again with them. We hope the upcoming treatments will not lay him up so seriously this time.

Debbie Bemis is still having chemo treatments. She was able to play her flute in the "Anything Goes" orchestra, though, and is still keeping involved with all her children's activities. We pray Debbie's future chemos will not be as difficult as the first one.

Athena Ballek's mother is recovering from a fall and is back home after her stay in rehab.

Shirley Lucas is slowly recovering from pneumonia.

Hi-Dong Chai is recovering from a bout of shingles.

People In The Pews, cont.

“Anything Goes”

WOW! It was some show! Our JV Churches have so much talent! It was an all-star cast and they sang and danced their hearts out. John Leslie and his orchestra were outstanding and thanks to Cole Porter for the wonderful tunes. Thanks to all of you on stage, behind the curtain folks, the orchestra and John Leslie for encouraging all of you to be involved. We, the audience members, loved it and look forward to next year's JV Drama Group's presentation.

A quote from “Your Best Live Now” - Joel Osteen

“When we smile, it sends a message to our whole body, setting the tone for our lives. Studies tell us when we smile, certain chemicals are released that travel throughout our system, relaxing us and helping us stay healthy. Whether you have a reason to smile or not, make up your mind that you are going to smile anyway.”

Dot Allfrey

The Bread Lady

The "Bread Lady", a.k.a. Carolyn Dingman, wears MANY "hats"!

On the last Sunday of almost every month of each year, usually with two or so helpers, she leads the AVUCC children in making bread to be served the following Sunday during Communion. Most often, the children also create small breads to take home. Not everyone may know that all of the ingredients are brought from the Dingman home, along with a supply of wonderful games to be used during any extra time; not infrequently Carolyn has also made a poster available to color, which is appropriate to the theme of the upcoming Sunday.

When the children first arrive downstairs, they gather in the choir room where Carolyn may share with them some U.C.C. history or teach them a

The Bread Lady, cont.

hymn that may be sung the following Sunday. Ever flexible and creative, on the Sunday of our semi-annual meeting this summer, Carolyn and her daughter Betsy performed a WONDERFUL puppet show with lessons such as sharing and being kind to one another. The children listened and watched with rapt attention. Sunday School does not officially begin until after the church service, but with our former Christian Education Director, there is much wisdom to share during these very special Sundays. Some children have told their parents that they needed to return home from trips away to be able to participate in the bread making.

On the last Saturdays of the month, the Dingman test kitchen is in use, sometimes with a "dry run" of a new recipe, and with preparations underway for the following morning. Early on bread making Sunday, Carolyn arrives at church to set up before choir practice...She usually takes home the bread which has begun to rise to bake for the next Sunday.

This year on the Wednesday evening before the Maundy Thursday service, she went home from choir practice to bake bread for the next evening's service...never mind that she needed to get up early the next day to be at her full-time social worker's job!

When Carolyn isn't involved with bread making, she may be taking notes at an AVUCC Council meeting, where she is serving as Recorder for the second year in a row. Also, she serves on additional special committees...Sometimes she can be found "pinch-hitting" in the Folk Choir.

In the fall for many years, Carolyn has headed up the church Thanksgiving food drive to benefit the Second Harvest Food Bank...And each December at AVUCC she has also made time to organize gift-giving to several families who have an incarcerated relative and who are assisted by Friends Outside.

The Bread Lady, cont.

Since completing studies for her master's degree in Social Work back in MA, Carolyn was able this summer to join Betsy in singing in the J.V. musical ANYTHING GOES...Oh...did I mention that Carolyn is married to Joe and also has a son Chris who is in graduate school ???

We are truly blessed to have the ever faithful "Bread Lady" in our midst ! Thank you, Carolyn, for all that you are and do !!!

Phyllis Chai

Help Needed in the Rose Garden

We need volunteers to help with various tasks in the rose garden. The type of things we need help on are watering, pruning, fertilizing, and weeding. Any assistance on any of these tasks would be a big help. Don't worry about not being sure of how to do something, we'll be glad to show you what's needed!

I'd like to get enough volunteers so no one person has to spend any more than an hour or so a month. If you are willing to help, please call me, John McPherson, at 408-268-9559 or send me an email at jmcpfers@us.ibm.com. We'll arrange a short meeting at the rose garden in a few weeks to get organized. Thank you.

John McPherson
408-268-9559
jmcpfers@us.ibm.com

Thanks from the Shipes

We want to thank all of you for the many kindnesses shown to us following Jean's surgery. We appreciated so very much the prayers, meals, cards, flowers, calls and visits. How fortunate we are to be members of such a loving and caring church.

Dick and Jean Shipes

A Note from the Spechts

The Spechts are up and running with their e-mail connected into the new phone line--- 970-242-1857

Address:
454 Tiara Vista Dr.
Grand Junction, CO. 81503

Please let all our friends at AVUCC know this info and that they are welcome any TIME!

Joanne and I are down to the last of 350 plus boxes of STUFF and today Jo is working with her new horse at Susan's (sister in law) ranch some 14 miles south on a 6000 foot mesa. Richard is putting up his US Flags today and he has hooked up the computer--70 e-mails!

We Love you all, God Bless!

Rich and Joanne Specht

Outreach and Caring

Loss/Grief Support Group

—Is on hiatus for the summer.

Caring Committee

Thanks to Kathy Kisabeth and Sharon Cannon for Co-chairing the months of June and July.

The Co-chairs for the months of August and September are Dottie Allfrey 268-2973 and Barbara Alumbaugh 267-7785.

Please call if in need of assistance with food, transportation or home and hospital visits.

Thanks.

Bee Mannia
Caring Committee Chair

Beneficio Coffee

My "wish list" is not lengthy...Simple is my idea of a good time...One thing that can really "make my day," put a huge smile on my face, is when someone calls to order Beneficio More Than Fair Trade Coffee...(>) . It's such a good feeling, knowing that that purchase will make life just a little bit easier for the farmers and their families in Costa Rica..."Beneficio" is still just \$6.75 for a 12 oz. bag. Please contact Phyllis Chai (226-7150) with your request.

Phyllis Chai
408-266-7150

Events and Schedules

Women's Network Fall Retreat

It's not too late (however, space is limited) to register for the annual (NCNC UCC) Women's Network Fall Retreat to be held October 13-15 at Mercy Center in Burlingame. It is always a Spirit-filled, restorative time with wonderful worship services, singing, food, labyrinth (for those who choose), walking, fun, snoozing, reading, meeting new friends and renewing friendships, networking, and more. Please see the flyer and registration forms on the downstairs hallway bulletin board, or contact Phyllis Chai (408-226-7150) for more information.

Phyllis Chai
408-266-7150

Men's Breakfast—Notes from June

The speaker at the June Men's Breakfast was our own Bob Farnquist. Bob is a big fan of roller coasters and has ridden 400 in this country and abroad. His favorite is the Giant Dipper at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. The Giant Dipper was built in 1924 and is now a national historic landmark. Over 40 million have ridden this 70-foot high coaster. Bob likes to use roller coasters as a metaphor for

Men's Breakfast, cont.

life: you need to learn to enjoy both the ups and downs of life!

He reviewed the Leadership Effective Analysis and the changes that have occurred over the last 25 years. While the skills have remained constant: creating a vision, developing followership, implementing the vision, following through, achieving results and team playing, research is now showing that the each position now requires a different mixture of the skills. They are affected by age, sex, organization and country. The art is to find the position that uses your skills fairly and not taking positions that are a bad match.

Health Care and Pensions. Millions are seeing their retiree health coverage disappear and at the same time retirement benefits are being discontinued. The decline in health benefits from 46% in 1991 to 33% in 2005 is reason for concern. As employers reduce benefits and retirements, employees are unable to retire. We need to find better solutions to provide stable health and retirement benefits for workers. The new Medicare plan D will provide some help. We need more creative ideas. You must make a plan for your retirement.

Finding Happiness – The most popular course at Harvard University this semester is Psychology 1504, Positive Psychology, secrets of happiness. Here are six tips for happiness from the course: 1. Give yourself permission to be human. 2. Happiness lies at the intersection between pleasure and meaning. 3. Keep in mind that happiness is mostly dependent on our state of mind, not on our status or the state of our bank account. 4. Simplify. 5. Remember the mind-body connection. 6. Express gratitude, whenever possible.

He reviewed David Whyte's book The Heart Aroused: Poetry and the Preservation of the Soul in Corporate America. In the global world of organizations we need leaders who are creative, innovative and are team players. This requires us to be in

Men's Breakfast, cont.

touch with our spiritual consciousness. We need to constantly ask," Who am I and where am I going?"

David states that if work is all about doing, the soul is all about being: the indiscriminate enjoyer of everything that comes our way.

With changes in leadership, health and retirement benefit reductions, new employment relationship and possibility of major problems like the bird flu on the horizon, we need to be clear about who we are and where we are going spiritually.

Emergency Preparedness Skills Inventory

National disasters do happen and we need to be prepared. An Emergency Preparedness planning meeting was held on June 8th at the church. The purpose of this meeting was to share our ideas as to how our churches could assist the Almaden community.

In order to begin organizing ourselves, one of the ideas was to survey our congregations to see what local talent may be available before crises occur. Our joint congregations have an awesome collection of skills, talent and experience from the youth to our senior members. This could be a great opportunity for all of us to work together.

We are looking for people of the following professions or with specific skills: Doctors, Dentists, Nurses, Teachers, Trainers, Engineers, Civil, Electrical, Facility Planners, Purchasing agents, Project Managers, Human Resources, managing volunteers and donations, People trained in CPR and/or Red Cross, Cooks & Nutritionists, Counselors, mental health, Internet, systems people, Computer work, Construction, repairs and cleanup, plumbing, roofing, Child Care, Attorneys, Hospitality People, Spiritual caregiver, Other...

Please look over the list and let us know how you would like to help in case of a disaster. You may

Emergency Preparedness, cont.

have other suggestions, so please feel free to make additions. (Also, we need people to serve by helping our joint venture churches continue planning for emergencies.) If you would like to serve in this planning ministry, please let Pastor Kevin or Father Stephen know by sending us an email at office@avucc.org or office@eca-sj.org!

Music Notes

SUMMER MUSICAL – THANK YOU

Thanks to all our wonderful AVUCC cast members: Barbara Alumbaugh, Sandy Baldwin, Cliff, Karen & Laura Click, Chris & Steven Coutinho, Carolyn & Dave Crowley, Betsy & Carolyn Dingman, Robyn Dorsey, Dennis Elliott, Alec & Eric Fernandez, Gwen Hacker, Byron & Claire Henderson, Kendrick Hough, Matthew LaRoche, Susana Machado & Rex, Judy Martin, Kara & Kristen Nieders, Bart & Karen Smith, Dennis & Lynn Widman, Peggy Wright; and thanks to our AVUCC technical support: cast, Joe Dingman, Al Nieders & Janey Sanders (set work), Terry Shoup (electrician, sound), Ariss Thomas, Betty Benson, Carolyn Crowley & friends (sewing, alterations), Byron (set design), Marian Henderson (scenic artist), Don & Sharon Hall (furnishings), Debbie Bemis, Rae Harris, Bob Thomas (musicians), Bart Smith (cast photos), Josh & Alex Bemis (dog-handler & tech crew). Thanks to our JV administrative assistant, Desi Brown for joining our cast, helping with the girls' make-up and hair design, and all sorts of professional assistance! Grateful thanks from John and all the dancers (!) to Dennis Elliott who donated the dance floor rental. Praise and much thanks to both Melanie Click for her invaluable assistance with all aspects of the show and to P. J. Gallego for his creative choreography for the show and his other assistance at rehearsals. As you can see, there were a lot of people involved (my apologies to anyone I've omitted here.) You're all the Top!

Music Notes, cont.

SUMMER MUSIC at WORSHIP

John Hawes has scheduled some wonderful music for this summer's worship services. In August we will hear Sandy Baldwin with grandsons Alec & Eric Hernandez, Kevin Haley, the Bemis Family Orchestra, as well as the Folk Choir.

*I'm gonna sing, sing, sing!
I'm gonna shout, shout, shout!
I'm gonna sing!
I'm gonna shout!
Praise the Lord!*

John Leslie

Youth News

Vacation Bible School

Our archaeological "Big Dig" was great fun for all. The program was called the Adventure of the Treasure Seekers developed by Cokesbury. Each day the children started out with music in our 16' pyramid (built by Desi and her sister, Jennifer Villalobos) and a chat with Dr. Zig (Faith Mills) and Professor Who (an owl puppeted by Desi Brown). The kids saw a video and then a drama arranged by John Leslie about the Promise Point of the day. When I asked Stephen and Kevin to manage the Promise Point discussion section, Stephen said he wanted to be like Indiana Jones. Well, that just opened the door for my imagination and I built the stone that Mr. Jones runs from in the first movie. Some of you may have noticed the papier mache building going on a few weeks ago. Anyway, between Sean, Desi, Kristin and me, we sounded the rumbling of falling rock with the organ, cued the Indiana Jones theme and pushed the big rock down the stairs (it was tethered) just as Stephen stepped into the hallway to the classroom. We got him good! And we got Kevin the next day! I think the adults should get to have some fun too!

After the Promise Point the children rotated through recreation, crafts and mission work. At the end of the

Vacation Bible School, cont.

Day, we had snack in our cabanas and then we all gathered once again in the pyramid for more music, Dr. Zig and Professor Who and the ending video.

Every participant was given an explorer hat, treasure chest with the Promise Point tokens, and the crafts they made during the week. Some of the children left their love banners and they will be on the bulletin board in the hallway for pick up.

This was a successful program and I have many to thank for volunteering their time or donating supplies to the kids. Our adults were Desi Brown, Stephen Mills, Kevin Smith, Kerry Sisler, Melanie Click, Elaine LaValle, Sharon Mills, Mary Leal, Susan Gaydon, Evelyn Wing, Janie Sanders, Mary Moran, Phylis Chai, Robin Dorsey, Alex Dykes and John Leslie and his drama team. The drama team included Gwen Hacker, Mary Leal, Robin Dorsey, Bryron Henderson, Chris Coutinho, Josh Bemis, Joshua Click, Desi Brown, and Katie McCormick

The teens were amazing as usual as not only did most volunteer ahead of time but several just showed up and said, "What can I do!" They were Sean McCormick, Taylor Mills, Brooke Mills, Kaylie Erickson, Chris Coutinho, Guido Spanjaart, Faith Mills, Kristin Petruzzelli, Danielle Petruzzelli, Brian Gaydon, Kele Lavery, Karen Click, Caitlyn McPherson, and Desi's Niece, Nicole Blair.

Thank you everyone for your support of Vacation Bible School. Save these dates for next year's VBS - it's scheduled for July 30 to August 3. Our theme is yet to be determined but I know this, it's going to be fun!

*God Bless,
Katie McCormick*

SHYGS Summer Stuff

SHYGS are here, SHYGS are there, SHYGS are everywhere. Sometimes we see them, sometimes we don't. They are on the go this summer and while SHYGS meet every Thursday night to play volleyball at 7:00, we never know who will turn up. It's a great, lazy time before school and activities crank up again. Thanks to Russ Petruzzelli, Don Hall, Jon Mills, Ann Tysanner, and Al Neiders who have joined us on these nights, as well as Roger (the ball boy) Hoyt and Jenny (the cheering squad) Hoyt. We've seen some of our freshmen out there-Doug Lukanc and Isaac Tysanner have fearlessly hit the courts as new SHYGS. If you haven't joined us yet, come on out! We've still got some new SHYGS t-shirts to give out.

On July 8, ten of us hopped the train (not a freight train, but CalTrain) with our bikes at San Jose-Diridon Station and travelled to SF where we disembarked and rode past Pac Bell park all the way to Pier 41. That stretch was only 3.5 miles but it was *interesting!* There happened to be a punk rock concert along the pier that day as well as summer/weekend tourists, so we were dodging LOTS of people! We then took the Blue and Gold ferry to Angel Island stopping briefly to pick up people at Alcatraz and Tiburon-it was beautiful weather and a good trip out. And then we began our bike ride. The one Terry said was only 7 miles around the island and pretty FLAT. Hmmmm. Our SHYGS are a pretty polite group in that they waited for me to get up to the top of the hills, only telling me a few times to USE YOUR GEARS! It was a fun ride with gorgeous views of the bridge, the bay, the SF skyline and boats, and we reversed the route to get back to San Jose around 6:15. Thanks to Anne Tysanner who came along with us and was very encouraging to the lagger (me)!

Our upper-classmen, Brad Bond, Alexx Bishop, Beth Nollette, Taylor Mills, Ryan Hall, and Val Tysanner, met on July 12 for lunch and an afternoon leadership retreat. We want to thank Sharon Mills for hosting us and to Bob Farnquist who brought his valuable Executive Leadership training skills to share with us.

With only 8 upper-classmen and 20 freshmen and **SHYGS Summer Stuff, cont.**

sophomores, we'll be counting more and more on the older SHYGS to lead our break-out discussions and help in the planning of events.

August brings our 2nd annual beach camping trip to Half Moon Bay State Beach. We'll be going over on the 15th and will return on the 18th. We're looking forward to having a great, relaxing time just hanging out and getting to know each other better. Freshmen, this is a great time to jump in and see how fun it is to be a SHYG! Permission slips were due back to Robin by July 31st, but if you've found you can go, give a call and we'll find a way to get you in a car.

Our end of the summer family bbq will be held at church on August 27th at 5:30. SHYGS (the teens) will meet at 3:00 to plan our 2006-07 year and the families will join us for dinner afterwards.

So that's it for the summer! Hope it's great for you too.

Robin Root

August Birthdays

Jim Wright	Aug. 02
Peggy Elo	Aug. 04
Jason Smith	Aug. 05
Betty Benson	Aug. 06
Bob Elo	Aug. 08
Kimberly Garg	Aug. 09
Regina Hearn	Aug. 10
Helen Emerson	Aug. 12
Mary Kingsley	Aug. 14
Kristin Nieders	Aug. 16
Gwen Hacker	Aug. 17
Amanda Phillips	Aug. 18
Michael Buzzell	Aug. 19
Carolyn Crowley	Aug. 20
Esther Phillips	Aug. 21
Pam Fischer	Aug. 22
Debbie Bemis	Aug. 24
Janey Sanders	Aug. 24
Kelly Yamanishi	Aug. 24
Steven Fischer	Aug. 29

August Anniversaries

Carolyn & Dave Hennings	Aug. 1
Leilani & Bob Farnquist	Aug. 9
Carolyn & Joseph Dingman	Aug. 13
Carol & Dave Pullen	Aug. 22
Dot & Bill Allfrey	Aug. 27

Worship Schedule

Lay Readers:

Ladies Lunch/Dinner

Ladies dinner for August is:

Tues, August 8th, 6 pm,
At PFChang's, Oakridge Mall.
Meet at 5:30 pm at church to carpool.

More information:

Amy Griffith
408-268-0920

JV Book Club

JV Book Club will meet on August 17, 2006, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Robyn Dorsey.

We will discuss "The Mermaid Chair" by Sue Monk Kidd.

This group is open to women of both churches and meets monthly. You are invited.

RSVP 323-9230. Happy Reading!

Robyn Dorsey

AUGUST 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 8:00 AM AVUCC Children Bread Making 9:00 AM AVUCC Worship 9:15 AM AVUCC Children Bread Making	31	1 7:30 PM Christian Ed Committee Meeting	2	3 SHYG Beach Camping Trip 7:00 PM SHYG Volleyball	4 SHYG Beach Camping Trip	5 SHYG Beach Camping Trip
6 9:00 AM AVUCC Worship	7	8 7:00 PM UCC Council	9	10 Kalos Deadline 7:00 PM SHYG Volleyball	11	12
13 9:00 AM AVUCC Worship	14	15 SHYG Beach Camping Trip Kalos Deadline 4:15 PM Avucc Shelter Food Service 7:30 PM JV Board Meeting	16 SHYG Beach Camping Trip	17 SHYG Beach Camping Trip 7:30 PM JV Book Club	18	19
20 9:00 AM AVUCC Worship	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 8:00 AM AVUCC Children Bread Making 9:00 AM AVUCC Worship 9:15 AM AVUCC Children Bread Making 5:00 PM SHYG Family Potluck and BBQ	28	29	30	31	1	2

For Current Updates, Please visit the online calendar at www.avucc.org

-Daily Lectionary- August, 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
Tues.	Aug. 1	2 Sam. 7:18-29	Mark 6:53-7:8	Acts 22:12-21
Wed.	Aug. 2	2 Sam. 9:1-13	Mark 7:9-19	Acts 22:22-30
Thu.	Aug. 3	2 Sam. 10:1-19	Mark 7:20-30	Acts 23:1-5
Fri.	Aug. 4	2 Sam. 11:1-27	Mark 7:31-37	Acts 23:6-11
Sat.	Aug. 5	2 Sam. 12:1-14	Mark 8:1-10	Acts 23:12-30
*Sun.	Aug. 6	2 Sam. 11:26-12:13 or Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15	John 6:24-35	Eph. 4:1-16
Mon.	Aug. 7	2 Sam. 13:1-22	Mark 8:11-21	Acts 23:31-24:9
Tues.	Aug. 8	2 Sam. 13:23-39	Mark 8:22-30	Acts 24:10-16
Wed.	Aug. 9	2 Sam. 14:1-20	Mark 8:31-9:1	Acts 24:17-21
Thu.	Aug. 10	2 Sam. 14:21-33	Mark 9:2-13	Acts 24:22-27
Fri.	Aug. 11	2 Sam. 15:1-18	Mark 9:14-29	Acts 25:1-12
Sat.	Aug. 12	2 Sam. 15:19-37	Mark 9:30-41	Acts 25:13-22
*Sun.	Aug. 13	2 Sam. 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 or 1 Kings 19:4-8	John 6:35, 41-51	Eph. 4:25-5:2
Mon.	Aug. 14	2 Sam. 16:1-23	Mark 9:42-50	Acts 25:23-26:8
Tues.	Aug. 15	2 Sam. 17:1-23	Mark 10:1-12	Acts 26:9-18
Wed.	Aug. 16	2 Sam. 17:24-18:8	Mark 10:13-22	Acts 26:19-23
Thu.	Aug. 17	2 Sam. 18:9-18	Mark 10:23-31	Acts 26:24-32
Fri.	Aug. 18	2 Sam. 18:19-33	Mark 10:32-41	Acts 27:1-8
Sat.	Aug. 19	2 Sam. 19:1-23	Mark 10:42-52	Acts 27:9-20
*Sun.	Aug. 20	1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14	John 6:51-58	Eph. 5:15-20
Mon.	Aug. 21	2 Sam. 19:24-43	Mark 11:1-11	Acts 27:21-26
Tues.	Aug. 22	2 Sam. 21:1-22	Mark 11:12-19	Acts 27:27-32
Wed.	Aug. 23	2 Sam. 22:1-20	Mark 11:20-26	Acts 27:33-38
Thu.	Aug. 24	2 Sam. 22:21-51	Mark 11:27-33	Acts 27:39-44
Fri.	Aug. 25	2 Sam. 23:1-17	Mark 12:1-11	Acts 28:1-10
Sat.	Aug. 26	2 Sam. 24:1-2 (3-9), 10-25	Mark 12:12-17	Acts 28:11-22
Sun.	Aug. 27	1 Kings 8: (1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43	John 6:56-69	Eph. 6:10-20
Mon.	Aug. 28	1 Chron. 16:8-22	Mark 12:18-27	Acts 28:23-31
Tue.	Aug. 29	1 Chron. 8:23-26	Mark 12:28-34	James 1:1-11
Wed.	Aug. 30	1 Chron. 17:1-15	Mark 12:35-44	James 1:12-18
Thu.	Aug. 31	1 Chron. 17:16-27	Mark 13:1-7	James 1:19-27

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KALOS—August 2006

KALOS Deadline for the August Issue

The deadline for the **September** issue of the Kalos is Tuesday, **August 15th**. 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)