

AVUCC KALOS

*Newsletter for the
Almaden Valley
United Church of Christ*

Pastor Kevin's Corner:

Cultural Restraints

Humanity
has been sleeping
-- and still sleeps—
lulled within the
narrowly confining
joys of its
closed loves.

*--Telhard de Chardin
Theologian*

Each one of us, is a product of the culture we were raised in and still live within today. Much of who we are was shaped by our parents, our childhood friends, our church (synagogue or mosque), our schools, our work environments and the mass media we pay attention to on a daily basis. There is a saying that all culture is relative, and it surely is. The culture that you and I are immersed in is very different than the culture of a young African from Kenya or Zimbabwe. Sometimes the differences are extremely stark. Is one culture right and the other wrong? Or, are they just different? Does God want everyone to be molded into one simple and universal culture, or not?

One might say that Jesus of Nazareth and Jesus the Christ were two very different persons molded into one human existence. The Jesus of Nazareth was immersed in the first century Jewish Palestinian culture. Jesus the Christ was immersed and engaged in the reign of God. Those two cultures were not necessarily the same. And Jesus the Christ, as we have learned in many of the gospel lessons we have

KALOS

Monthly Newsletter

Almaden Valley United Church of Christ
6581 Camden Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120
(408) 268-0243; Fax: (408) 268-4207

Visit our website: www.avucc.org

Editors, Sue Scaff (448-3038)
Kelly Yamanishi (997-3373)
Kalos email: kalos@avucc.org



September 2007

In this issue

*Pastor Kevin's
Corner — 1 -2*

ONA — 2-7

Moderator's Notes — 8-9

Outreach — 9

Finances — 9

*People in the Pews —
10-11*

Youth News — 11-13

Adult Education— 13

*Events and Activities —
14*

*Birthdays and
Anniversaries — 15*

Worship — 15

Calendar — Insert

Lectionary — Insert

heard in worship over the last year, said and did things that upset the social, political, and religious culture of his home.

The way we speak, react to social and interpersonal stimuli, the way we think (our thought patterns), the needs and wants we have, and what we believe in our core beings are much the result of the culture in which we were formed and in which we exist now. Too often, though, each of us finds ourselves believing that someone who speaks and acts differently than we do is just plain wrong. Their words, actions, and beliefs, which do not match yours and mine, are just plain wrong, so we say to ourselves. So often these assumptions that we make *even unconsciously* are no more than the “narrowly confining joys of closed loves,” as Teilhard de Chardin says. Each one of us is enclosed in a velvet (and sometimes not-so-velvet) glove of our cultural immersion.

Would Jesus the Christ get into trouble today, in our culture? Would his preference for the oppressed of our culture make him enemies? Would his challenging of our own cultural attitudes cause us to want to throw him off the nearest cliff? Would his willingness to forgive anyone of anything meet with our standards of cultural forgiveness? Would Jesus be able to liberate himself from the cultural restraints that have been placed upon us? Would he want to? Would he even know they existed within himself? Would he be threatened or afraid of difference or debate?

Once we begin to dig really deep into how we learned what we learned and understand the sources from which those cultural attitudes sprang and then begin to think about how we act toward others from a different culture, we might just begin the first step in acting toward our neighbor who is different with humility and grace. And, remember, our different neighbor may be the person sitting in the opposite pew from you in church. I believe Jesus of Nazareth and Jesus the Christ was able to do just that—to spring loose from the cultural restraints he was clothed with and he saw everyone from *within the reign or kingdom of God*. He had a very different and grace-filled way of looking at every creature and of responding to very different people. As people of the Way, of the Christian faith, we are asked to do our best to do the same as Jesus. *Amen.*

Pastor Kevin

ONA: Why I Care

I am a proponent of ONA, and over the past few weeks through our discussions about whether to begin an ONA exploratory process at AVUCC, I have been asking myself why I feel so strongly about this issue. I am writing to share my thoughts, and I want to begin with a personal story.

Homosexuality when I was growing up was a “hush hush” and “maybe it will just go away” proposition. I can’t recall anyone ever telling me about homosexuality – not my parents, not my teachers, not my friends, not anyone at church. Nothing was mentioned in my sex education class at Berkeley High either. How I even became aware of homosexuality is a mystery to me. My best guess is that it was through my brother’s friend, John, son of our minister at First Congregational Church of Berkeley, who was discovering himself to be gay and was too scared to tell his father the pastor, a startling situation to say the least.

During those years I also experienced the unspoken awkwardness around homosexuality in another venerable institution, the Pacific School of Religion, where one of my father’s female colleagues came regularly to faculty functions with her “roommate,” another woman. Something was “wrong” about this, I could tell from the secretive tones that surrounded the few comments I overheard, but what? When I finally guessed and got up the nerve to confront my father about this lesbian relationship, he hesitated, coughed, and finally conceded that it was probably so. This was around 1961, long before the topic of homosexuality was out of the closet in public discourse.

Ten years later my father produced one of the earliest exploratory discussions of homosexuality and Christianity “to promote,” as he wrote, “further dialogue” on the “rehabilitation of Christian thinking itself concerning homosexuality.”¹ Obviously, he had been doing some serious thinking. Twenty-five years after that, both he and my mother supported Reverend Pat de Jong, their pastor at First Congregational Church of Berkeley, in leading that church through the ONA process in the mid-1990s. I heard often in long-distance phone calls about the tribulations and disagreements during those two years that concluded with the church’s adoption of ONA. First Congregational had come a long way from John’s fear of coming out in the early Sixties and the general passivity of the United Church of Christ prior to the General Synod’s adoption of Open and Affirming in 1985.

Why would my parents, and why would I, care enough about homosexuality to take the trouble to speak out on ONA at church? We have no gay family members. We have no personal axe to grind. We have no particular allegiance to a gay, lesbian and bisexual association or coalition. We have no reputation to uphold with any political constituency. It would certainly be easier to keep quiet and stay out of the fray! After all, as my father observed, Christianity has for centuries condemned “all homosexuality as sin. Concerning this type of deviation, its judgment has been quite undeviating” (75). Why take that on? And yet the stigma of homosexuality in Christian churches rubs against another, I believe, deeper strain in Christianity. Let me explain.

First to the Bible. Much gets said around ONA regarding biblical authority, and of course it is true that the law of Leviticus forbids homosexuality, that the destruction of Sodom has mostly been read as God’s wrath against sodomy, and that Paul in Romans remarks against female-female relationships. But in my view, these and other scattered condemnations compare little with Jesus’ teaching of love reiterated by Paul in First Corinthians 13. “But now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; and the greatest of these is love.” Jesus himself said nothing about homosexuality. Jesus’ teaching leaves us to find our own way in the faith on this matter of sexual preference. I believe that by offering ONA, the UCC invites us to examine homosexuality through our faith in Jesus’ gospel of love.

Second, regarding the problem of evil. What if homosexuality is a sin? Mass culture certainly associates homosexuality with depravity, and we don’t have to look far to find the stereotype of gay people as predators, pedophiles, and hedonists. Sin is the act of destroying God’s work and opposing God’s love, and the serious question for ONA is whether same-sex sexuality defies God’s creation of men and women as the beings intended to fall in love and reproduce their kind. Does homosexuality violate “the order of nature?” If so, Christians are left in a posture of forgiveness toward homosexuality just as we are asked to forgive adultery and dishonesty and betrayal and all other human foibles and missteps that continually unmake God’s original creation after the fall. But I believe that it is important for our faith to set aside misleading equations of homosexuality with “deviant” behavior and decadent “lifestyles.” Forgiveness and a need to rehabilitate to do not pertain to homosexual relationships in my view.

Indeed, I ask myself, why anyone’s love for another human being would ever need to be forgiven? The sexual

acts that demean love through meaningless sex permeate our culture. Nothing seems more pervasive in the media than the trivializing of heterosexual sex in movie magazines, tabloids, and TV ads. Love with commitment, “true love,” is another order of experience entirely, as we all know, one that enhances our spiritual being. It is my sense from all our various ways of loving our partners, children, relations, and friends that the crux of love is faithfulness and generosity through thick and thin. I see partners and families all around me in myriad relationships ranging from distant and suspicious to devoted and abiding. I see this among my straight friends and my gay friends. It is the quality of love that counts in all of these relationships, not sexual orientation. I do not feel called upon by my Christian faith to denounce those whose love falls on a fellow human being of the same sex.

Even those who agree with me thus far might ask, why ONA at this time in this church? Why, especially since we already have our own mission statement that clearly includes everyone who comes to our door? This is the third issue I would like to discuss: inclusiveness. AVUCC is a warm and hospitable community, as I found when I arrived several years ago. Moreover, we are already a mixed group with a small number of gay and lesbian members.

As I understand the purpose of ONA, the question is not whether a particular parish knows itself to be caring, but whether those outside – people living in a world in which their sexual preference has not been taken for granted – can know how they will be received. Plenty of Christian churches refuse gay people. Christians seeking a UCC today will want to know if the church is ONA or has rejected ONA or has perhaps refused to consider ONA. This reality extends to gay people looking for a place to worship and to anyone looking for a church that has taken the extra trouble to extend itself through ONA to all believers, explicitly homo- and bisexuals. ONA is a matter of outreach, and without it we convey a tacit exclusiveness to every newcomer seeking a faith community.

But why ONA for homosexuals and bisexuals specifically? In addition to improving outreach, ONA should help relieve the repressiveness around homosexuality. Too often families with gay members draw back from saying so, unsure of the response from the congregation. Young people coming of age and exploring their sexual identity have no venue to talk at church where they need and deserve support within their spiritual community.² Church members may not want to bring their gay friends

to church with them, or an individual might hesitate at church to broach ONA with an acquaintance or at a meeting for fear that interest in ONA could provoke tension and bad feeling. In contrast to this unintended repressiveness in churches, ONA provides us with an opportunity to break down these barriers of silence and to understand and support each other more fully within the church.

Where would an ONA process go? No one knows. I hope we would come to understand each other's viewpoints better and grow closer as a community. The anxiety triggered by the prospect of ONA tells me that we need to learn to disagree and live better with our differences. While we might run into conflict along the way, the encounters need not be divisive.

Yet I fear that *without* an open conversation, ONA is already dividing us. We can push that reality under the rug or address it, but only on-topic discussion will enable us to get past it. As a proponent of ONA, I also personally hope that AVUCC will eventually adopt an ONA statement; but if not, I will accept the choice of the congregation. What I am advocating right now is that we initiate the ONA learning process so that we can hear each other out and also learn and grow as a spiritual body.

The world is a different place today from what it was when I was growing up. I have been pleasantly surprised to find myself in a work environment at San Jose State free from all the old whispers and frowns that I experienced as a child around homosexuality. My department has a number of gay and lesbian members, all of whom are unambiguously "out," and the environment is open, friendly, and productive. I wish the same ease for our church community.

As my father put it long ago, "In both church and society there is a need for a more wholesome restoration of the homosexual to the life of the community" (96). Let us talk about all of this together. After all, God is still speaking, and so much of life lies ahead.

Sue Scuff, Kalos editor

The above views are my own and in no way speak for the Kalos staff or AVUCC Council, where I am currently a member.

¹ John von Rohr, "Toward a Theology of Homosexuality," *Is Gay Good?* ed. W. Dwight Oberholtzer (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1971), p. 75.

² See the ONA web page, question 8 (<http://www.ucc.org/lgbt/ona.html>).

ONA: Thoughts on a Survey or Poll

I am writing in response to the council's proposal to vote on whether or not to poll the congregation's opinion about doing an in-depth study of Open and Affirming. For me the questions concerning Open and Affirming are too important to be approached with anger and mistrust. We need to learn to deal passionately and respectfully with these issues about which many of us are so passionate. There seems to be no better way to do this than to be willing to sit down together to study and discuss the real meaning of what we are trying to decide.

How can we expect to make morally responsible decisions on the basis of too little information? As a church and as individuals, we have access to the experience of so many people of faith and wisdom. Why not use these resources to become more knowledgeable ourselves? Certainly none of us is so arrogant as to believe we know all there is to know about human love and kindness. To suppress such a study is unthinkable to me. How could we put limits on the ethical search of the people of a church which prides itself on free thinking and openness? A vote of any sort before a prayerful study seems inappropriate.

Bessie Hutchins

ONA: Letter to Council on the La Selva Forum

May 27, 2007

Hi Kelly:

Thanks for doing such a great job of moderating at the Sunday morning session [with the representatives from La Selva UCC] on the Open and Affirming process; it was a challenging task to balance the sensitivities of a mixed audience, and you handled it perfectly. Attending the meeting with an open mind, what I heard reinforced my earlier position and the following itemizes my conclusions which, with feedback from others, may be of some worth:

1. Before discussion of any new process the problem or issue needs to be defined. The first step should be the writing of a mission statement for the project by the

Committee, which I have not seen. The second step would be to itemize specific “goals and objectives” that support the mission. Next comes “strategies” which is the place for the process to be introduced.

As it stands today, without addressing problem-solving in a clear sequence, it seems to me we have skipped two critical planning steps and wind up with a solution looking for a problem. Also, any potential success cannot be measured without these preliminaries being quantified.

2. Among the various “Goals & Objectives” should be a realistic estimate of the number of gays we expect to respond and join our churches. This estimate must be balanced by defining the guaranteed losses from among the existing membership that will ensue.

3. Comments from most AVUCC responders clarified that we do not have a perceived problem. I believe that most of the AVUCC members will continue to welcome any and all worshipers “off the street” including gays. Our AVUCC constitution already affirms this welcoming position.

4. The church mission statement read out by our guest presenters could well be our church statement except it was not inclusive of all the many factions as was made clear in AVUCC responses. By listing some, there will always be those who are omitted. What is wrong with the existing AVUCC “All” statement? Nobody can ever be excluded!

5. By labeling the mission of a church to be “Open & Affirming,” it is well understood in our society that it means “homosexuals and lesbians are welcome.” By such a label, a preference for just one special group is emphasized. Besides being undemocratic it also introduces a divisive element within our congregations. A decision now has to be individually made whether to afford such preferential treatment. The existing community feeling of Oneness will be compromised. After all, we are the United Church of Christ!

6. Although I would welcome any attendee to AVUCC, I do not need to know their sexual proclivities and vice versa.

7. By adopting this new proposal we are disrespecting the biblical beliefs of some of our existing members who consider homosexuality a sin. Whether one agrees or not with this opinion they have a perfect right to it. By openly welcoming the gay group specifically we intentionally drive a wedge through our church. Surely the

church ministry is meant to unite and not divide.

8. Separation between church and state should be maintained. As the presenter agreed, by adopting this first political accommodation we are on a very slippery slope as, in the future, social, economic, environmental, and other issues will assuredly crop up in the dynamic affairs of State. “Give unto Caesar that which is Caesar’s.” I see no place in our churches for the affairs of State.

9. The issue is undoubtedly political, one of political correctness that is currently a hot topic in our increasingly secular society. It is an issue that consumes much time and effort by our governmental agencies. I go to church to leave the affairs of man behind and attend solely for spiritual growth. Fellowship is a bonus that I will continue to share with members of any race, creed, political affiliation, sexual preference, or other divisions we may have in our human affairs.

10. The presenter stated that, as a divorced man, he did not know whether his church would welcome him. Significantly, he took the necessary step and was accepted. Jesus asked his followers to discard all their possessions and family in order to seek God. Although this today is not a prerequisite, I do believe that finding God does entail some level of commitment and even minor risk; this is an inherent penalty faced by any individual who is seeking God. Does this group want special treatment, a red carpet spread out exclusively for them to make them feel “comfortable?” “Seek and you will find” is a bold approach taken by the many disparate groups we have already warmly embraced.

11. The “secret ballot” terminology made me uncomfortable. How about “anonymous” if that is what it was? Was the agenda pushed by just a few proponents? Certainly responses of 35 people seem less than the claimed “unanimous” vote. Similarly, I am a little uncomfortable that we in AVUCC have possibly not addressed the so-called “problem” in an ordered fashion. Is there an attempt to shortcut the decision toward a fast ‘solution?’

12. We heard a presentation from just one church who has adopted the Open & Affirmative approach. To be democratic and understand the pitfalls our churches might be entering into should there not be a presentation by a church that has rejected it?

13. Preceding this, however, I suggest the Committee outline a O&A project mission statement, goals and objectives, and strategies that it hopes to achieve. Should you need any help in formatting these steps I will be happy to help out.

From the above it is apparent I am not presently in support of the project. In fairness, however, as the problem has not yet been explained, I shall remain open to other viewpoints.

These thoughts, while clarifying my personal position, are offered in a spirit of good fellowship to all members of our church.

My best wishes, *Ed Grossmith*

Regarding ONA

Regarding the ONA question, we without doubt are an “open” church. We welcome everyone and certainly do not discriminate anyone due to age, sexual orientation, race, color or political views, liberals, conservatives or moderates. In my 34 years as member of this Church, I have never experienced discrimination, nor have I heard of anyone asked to leave. We are a very intelligent and congenial group of people who are caring, considerate and sensitive to others’ problems. We have an excellent Caring Committee at AVUCC. There is a spirit of family and togetherness that is unique in many respects, which we must continue to retain.

Unfortunately, the ONA question has been approached at different times in the past but has never gained ground because it does not have a positive effect of bringing people together to create harmony and stimulate growth. Despite UCC synod’s emphasis on ONA, less than 20% of UCC churches have accepted this agenda. This highly political and controversial issue has not been readily acceptable, but has caused tremendous dissention and divisiveness so that UCC churches have lost many members. Many churches have departed (over 200) from UCC in total disagreement. Do we need to press this agenda?

AVUCC being a local autonomous church, allows us to make an intelligent decision on our own. There is no question that we do not need the ONA problem in a thoughtful AVUCC Church .

Yes, we do respect gay people as we respect all persons that believe in God and in the teachings of Jesus Christ. But at the same time we promote every one equally rather than a part of a community.

There is no moral right or strength in being divisive, as this will eventually lead to a negative feeling which will destroy this wonderful feeling of warm, humble, considerate, caring and intelligent Church Community that I have known for the past 34 years. The principle of “faithful and welcoming” certainly is reasonable, tolerant and earns God’s grace.

One must seriously consider the financial aspect that ONA may create if this is pushed forward. Historically many UC Churches have lost many members disagreeing with this agenda. We are a small Church and we count on each and every member’s commitment to survive on an economic basis. If we lose many unhappy individuals the coming sequence will be very severe.

Over the past two years we have not seen our Church grow. We must analyze the various reasons and research various ways and means to stimulate more growth and spend less time on divisive issues.

There is no question in my mind that we must discuss the urgent need for growth and consider important issues that confront our AVUCC. The best solution is to drop this ONA agenda and focus on working together, united with a healthy and positive attitude to grow and some day be stable enough to expand our facility for our young children that are growing rapidly.

Dick Okumura

ONA: It’s Just Politics!

Recently a lesbian lady took E-Harmony.com to court. For anyone who might not know E-Harmony.com, it is an internet computer dating service. The lady in question sued them because they did not offer service to ladies who want to date other ladies. I was curious... were there no gay internet dating sites? I Googled “lesbian dating services.” Google registered 2,360,000 hits for “lesbian dating services.” There were nine sites just on page one! But she sued E-Harmony because they did not offer that service.

Two Oakland city workers who claim their civil rights were violated by the removal of their anti-homosexuality flyer from a workplace bulletin board have asked the U. S. Supreme Court to review their case. Regina Rederford and Robin Christy posted a flyer in 2003 in their office at Oakland’s Community & Economic Development Agency promoting their Good News Employee Association. The flyer urged people

to “preserve our workplace with integrity” and said their association “is a forum for people of faith to express their views on contemporary issues of the day with respect for natural family, marriage and family values.” The flyer was in response to the city allowing its e-mail system be used to disseminate information on a National Coming Out Day rally. A fellow worker who is a lesbian complained to her supervisor and had the flyer removed from the bulletin board. Rederford and Christy sued claiming their rights were violated.

A federal judge dismissed the city as a defendant in March 2004, and the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the lower court ruling. It is somewhat ironic that Rederford and Christy are African-American.

Obviously it is a complicated situation. But what do these two stories have to do with AVUCC? Nothing directly, but they are just a couple of many such stories that go to the heart of my belief about Open and Affirming. As you all know, AVUCC is about to embark on a discussion of becoming an Open and Affirming church. It begins with a questionnaire that each of you will receive in the mail in the very near future. The results of that survey will determine how AVUCC will proceed with a study of ONA. But it has become obvious that you cannot give meaningful answers if you do not already have an understanding of what ONA means.

In my opinion, ONA has nothing to do with AVUCC or religion. I believe it has to do with political objectives. When the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender) has accumulated enough court decisions, secured enough local, state, and federal support, to accomplish their objectives, they can ask for legalization of gay marriage, and all the benefits that a heterosexual marriage affords. It’s all being done legally, and it certainly is their right to push for it. There has been, and still is, discrimination against gays. I understand their efforts to stop that discrimination and I support them.

So should AVUCC become an ONA church? Has there been any discrimination at AVUCC? ONA supporters would say that that is not the point. The point is that gays need to know up front before they seek out a church that they are going to be accepted. I think it is just part of the political agenda. Other races and creeds don’t have code words so that they will know they are welcome. They just fall under our vision statement:

WE WELCOME ALL WHO SEEK TO FOLLOW THE WAY OF JESUS CHRIST.

They, the other races and creeds, are affirmed by our vision statement”

WE AFFIRM THE WORTH OF EACH INDIVIDUAL AND THE MINISTRY OF EACH PERSON.

But for some reason it is necessary to single out this specific group, as though they are more welcome than any other group that has experienced discrimination. Why?

Having acknowledged support from as many churches as possible looks very good on your resume when you attempt to change the governments stance on gay marriage. There have been suggestions that the wording can be changed from Open and Affirming, to perhaps Open and (another word indicating affirming) but the words open and affirming are important to the political goal. And no matter what word changes are made, AVUCC will be listed as an Open and Affirming church.

Perhaps becoming ONA will not change anything at AVUCC. We will probably not gain any new members, probably not increase our financial situation, or strengthen our already strong resolve not to allow discrimination. Please don’t misunderstand me. We have had gay people in our church over the years, and I believe that we have members now who are gay. They have been wonderful people and a credit to our congregation. To my knowledge no one has ever made them feel unwelcome.

Please take some time to research ONA. If you have a computer all you have to do is go to Google, or Yahoo, or any search engine, and type in the words “Open and Affirming.” You will get lots of information on both sides of the discussion. This is YOUR church. YOU will decide, but please decide with a full understanding of what ONA is and what it means to your church.

This is a sensitive issue in this church, and other churches too. Only 10% of UCC churches have voted to be ONA. The discussion itself can be very divisive and I hope that that will not be the case here at AVUCC. It’s a wonderful church filled with wonderful people. I pray that we can keep it that way.

Jim Ballek

Moderator's Notes

Summer is supposed to be a time for renewal and relaxation. The long days allow us to spend more daylight hours enjoying the lovely weather with family and friends. Many of us take long vacations and visit favorite spots, or extended family. However your council has been hard at work this summer on matters important to our church family. While it's customary for council to skip a meeting during the summer, we decided we needed to press through and meet every month.

At our August meeting we spent significant time in discussion of proposed updates to the JV by-laws. We remain committed to doing our utmost to have a version submitted for your approval at the annual meeting in November. We found that we need someone to review the by-laws who has more legal expertise than we possess on council. David Sanders has generously volunteered to go through them very carefully from that perspective. There remain a few issues that we need to ensure are addressed, including responsibilities with respect to personnel management, limiting the roles of secretary and treasurer to two year terms alternating between churches, and some other clarifications. We are asking that references to recognizing the potential for future JV member organizations be limited to "congregations" so that we are clearly speaking about other churches, rather than just any organization. The issue of facility use remains to be addressed, but will be handled through policies and procedures rather than by-laws.

You'll see elsewhere in this edition Stan Yumen's update on our financial situation. We find ourselves spending much more than we are taking in. Though our budget expenditures are actually pretty much in line, we're not realizing the donations on which the budget was based. A committee has been formed to support Stan in making decisions should we exhaust our general fund and need to transfer funds from another long term category. Some suspect the shortfall will be alleviated when more folks are back from their vacations, back at church, and getting caught up with pledges. If that is the case, we should be fine without touching any long term reserves.

We received \$250 from the congregation at large to support the purchase of a defibrillator that will reside at the church. A contribution of \$250 from the Men's Breakfast fund will allow us to pay our \$500 share for this purchase. ECA and the JV are each also chipping in \$500.

Last month I mentioned that we were informed of a lien that national UCC holds against a grant/loan of \$15,000 we received many years ago, prior to the existence of the Joint Venture. It turns out that we need only repay this grant/loan under two conditions; one is if we decide to sever our relationship with national UCC and no longer be a UCC church, the other is if the property is sold. However as long as the grant/loan remains unpaid, the lien remains in effect. We are taking action to ensure that the existence of the lien is addressed by the JV by-laws, so that we are in integrity with our ECA partners. Other than that, we are taking no action at this time. It would be nice in the future to repay the funds, have the lien released, and allow those monies to help other UCC churches get started. But given that we're struggling to balance the books this year, now does not appear to be the time.

There was a discussion of the fact that we still have no nominating committee and now is the time for this work to begin. Expect to be hearing more about that at church and elsewhere in the near future. If you are interested in serving on council or the JV board, do let a council member know and we'll pass your name along to the nominating committee as soon as we can get it formed.

And, well, this year it wouldn't be a council meeting if there wasn't some discussion on the matter of ONA. I've previously mentioned a survey, and that remains in the works. As folks get back from summer vacations, there will be a meeting taking place to get some closure on a recommendation to council. There has been much discussion with respect to how we might reach the congregation and understand where we are collectively. Those who feel strongly one way or another seek us out and communicate their views loud and clear. Some have made clear that they do not see this as a priority, regardless of their feelings about the issue itself. However that leaves the majority of the congregation who has remained silent. Council feels the need to gauge the level of interest in learning about ONA, and we welcome any ideas or support in helping us do so. The survey would be one way, but there may be others. We also want to ensure that folks really understand what ONA is and is not so they can make informed decisions.

I am one of those people who frequently see many sides of an issue (Meyers Briggs "P" to the max). So it's easier for me than some, I suppose, to view this exploration of where we are as a natural process of uncovering and discovering what's there without judgment, rather than trying to reach some particular conclusion. (Of course

the other side of that, as any scientist worth their salt will tell you, is that by simply observing something it will inevitably change....)

I continue to believe we have nothing to fear in this discussion. We will agree on some things, we will disagree on others. That is to be expected. At some point there will be a decision to be made with respect to how to proceed, and we are not there yet. Let's make sure we're prepared to make any decision required in a reasoned way based on the needs and will of the whole congregation.

The way I believe we can do this is if all will not only speak their truth with integrity and courage, but will also listen for understanding of others' views. Try on the views of someone who feels differently than you do. Not because it might change your mind, but because it is a gesture of love and compassion. We do not have to agree to understand one another. We don't have to acquiesce to continue to worship together in a Christ centered community. It is through love and understanding that we will be able to come to a place where we can move forward together with respect and grace.

Kelly Yamanishi, Moderator

Outreach

Beneficio More Than Fair Trade Coffee: Thank you for supporting the farmers in Costa Rica by purchasing "Beneficio More Than Fair Trade Coffee" (still a great value at \$7.00 per 12 oz. bag). To place an order please call Phyllis Chai at: 226-7150.

Phyllis Chai

Crop/CWS Responds to Tahoe Fires: Thanks to the Spring CROP Walk, and others like it, CWS/CROP was able to send 700 blankets, assisting the most vulnerable communities, in response to the recent fires in Lake Tahoe. If you walked/supported the walk, good for you! If you missed it, maybe this will encourage you for next year.

Kathy Kisabeth

Church Finances

New Campaign Coming Soon

No, not those pesky political campaigns, a campaign you can really feel good about. Our Stewardship Campaign will be kicking off in September. We hope to have another successful year of pledges and to learn of all of those hidden volunteer talents you'd like to contribute to our church family.

You'll be reading more about our pledge campaign in the next Kalos and hearing about it in church beginning soon. If you have any questions or suggestions for the upcoming Stewardship Campaign, please contact one of your Stewardship Committee Members: Melanie Click, Londa Larson, Byron Henderson, Betsy Shoup, or Pastor Kevin. And thanks for all your past (and future!) support.

Your Stewardship Committee

Monthly Financial Report

July 2007	
Total Income for this month:	\$12,532
Total Expenses for this month:	13,069
Deficit for this month:	\$ - 537
Year to Date Report	
Total 2007 Income through July:	\$113,975
Total Expenses for this period:	112,659
Excess for this period:	\$ +1,317
Cash Balance on July 31	
Citibank Checking:	\$15,346
Citibank Money Market:	53,018
Corp America CU:	62,602
Total Cash Balances:	\$130,966

A detailed Financial Report for the month of July is posted on our bulletin board.

Try to be current on your pledge. This will help us tremendously in meeting our commitment. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted, *Stan Yumen*

People in the Pews

Prayers of concern for several members of our church family...

- Betsy Shoup is recovering from knee surgery and doing very well, back at worship and back to work.
- Dick Okumura still recovering from his most recent surgery and we hope to have him back in church soon.
- Robyn Dorsey's daughter Leigh Ann suffers from a brain disease and her condition has worsened to the point where she is now living in a Care Facility in Oregon. Our thoughts and prayers are with Robyn and Leigh Ann's husband and daughter as they deal with this change in Leigh Ann's health.

Carson McAbee, and his fiancé were married the first part of August in MD. We wish the newlyweds a bright future. Their time together will be short, though, as Carson is being redeployed to Iraq in early Sept. and his bride will begin training at flight school in Pensacola, FL. We pray for Carson's safety in the year ahead and also for all our brave soldiers as they face danger every day.

Home from their travels are the Click Family. They spent time in Texas. Then Melanie and Cliff traveled to Europe, and upon their return the whole family cruised to Alaska. Lots of great memories!

The Grossmiths, George & Joanne Stone, and Dick and Joanne Specht are meeting in London and will fly to Italy and visit several Italian cities, then cruise and visit Greece and onto Spain. The Grossmiths will return to London, and Ed will attend a reunion of his classmates there.

We pray all our vacationing families will have wonderful memories to share and will return safely home and back worshipping with all of us.

Pastor Kevin and Nancy are still awaiting completion of their condo repairs. The flood caused a great deal of damage and so they are currently living in an apartment near Oakridge. This will probably be necessary for about three months.

During the summer months it is always a treat to have so many of our talented members offer their musical gifts to those of us fortunate to be in worship each Sunday. We know that John Leslie plays a very important part in encouraging so many of our members to share their musical talents with our congregation. Thank you to all who add so much to our Sunday worship time.

Time for Betsy Dingman to return to college in the east where she will be a senior. En route to school, Betsy and her Dad will check into schools for graduate studies. We had the gift of hearing Betsy sing for us on Communion Sunday. Her voice continues to get stronger and she brings joy to all of us in sharing her talents. Have a great year ahead!

Welcome back Patty Bergantz -- always great to have you at home among all of us. We miss you when you are gone.

Nice to welcome Rosse Hemeon as he worshipped with us recently. We miss him, but know it is great for him to be so near to all his family in Gilroy. He is enjoying his golf games and watching his grandchildren grow and looking forward to the upcoming birth of a Great Grandchild.

Our deepest sympathy to Gloria Dunlap in the recent death of her mother. Not easy to say "goodbye" to someone who is such an important part of our life.

WELCOME to our visitors from Gilroy. Janet Gross and her son Tyler, Barbara Nickerson and her two daughters and Grandmother Teresa Fry who lives in San Jose. They recently moved from AZ. They attended a UCC church there and found we are the closest UCC, so we are grateful they found us and look forward to getting better acquainted in the months ahead.

Another newcomer to our midst is Brad Bauer. Brad and his wife live in Campbell. Brad is an Archivist at Stanford Univ. and attends our worship when he is in town. We look forward to getting better acquainted with Brad in the days ahead.

Many of you probably receive the ECA's SHAPE NEWS but I wanted to highlight a portion of Fr. Stephen's most recent article.

Fr. Stephen says... "I need a weekly experience of corporate worship in my life just as surely as I need air, water and food. I need the opportunity to celebrate God's presence in my life and in the life of the gathered community. I need to hear about God's Kingdom to counter-balance the big, blaring, banal voice of our popular culture which seems to scream out that money and power are the most important things in life. I need to hear over and over again that love is stronger than death, and that death is only the gateway to a new and richer life I need to know that God, our God, is a loving and forgiving God who chiefly expresses power by showing mercy – a God who invites us continually to bask in love and grace."

“Let us celebrate God’s love. You are important. If you are not here, you are missed. This is your home on earth.”

WHEN YOUR HUT IS ON FIRE

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him. Everyday he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements, and to store his few possessions. One day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, with smoke rolling up to the sky. He felt the worst had happened, and everything was lost. He was stunned with disbelief, grief and anger. He cried out, “God! How could you do this to me?” Early the next day, he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching the island! It had come to rescue him! “How did you know I was here?” asked the weary man of his rescuers. “We saw your smoke signal,” they replied.

The Moral of This Story: It’s easy to get discouraged when things are going bad, but we shouldn’t lose heart, because God is at work in our lives...even in the midst of our pain and suffering. Remember that the next time your little hut seems to be burning to the ground, it just may be a smoke signal that summons the Grace of God

Dot Allfrey

Youth News

5th & 6th Grade Sunday School Opportunities

Our 5th and 6th graders focus each year on learning a Bible foundation. With each passing year, we say good-bye to a crop of graduates and hello to incoming 5th graders. This past year, two of our teachers have graduated as well to other church commitments -- thanks to Melanie Click and Tom Fahlen for all their help. That leaves an opening for one or two volunteers who would like to team-teach with Sandy Baldwin and Byron Henderson for the coming year.

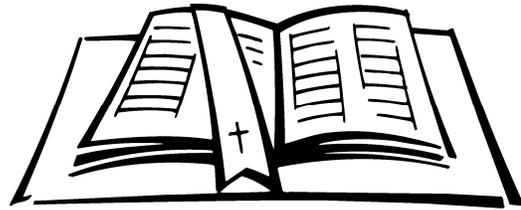
For 2007-8 we’ll be focusing primarily on the Old Testament along with all the Bible basics. If you’re the parent of a 5th or 6th grader (or a 4th grade parent looking ahead!), we’d love to have you join our team. If you don’t have a child in the age range, we welcome you to bring your life experience and enthusiasm into our classroom. No scholarly Bible background required, just a willing-

ness to help out.

Come enjoy Bible-lympics, Bible Jeopardy, Prophet Search, and our annual Bible drama. Lessons are fun and preparation is easy and enriching. And it’s a great group of students! If you are interested, please contact Byron Henderson at 408 398 6395 or by email at cuyama@earthlink.net. Thanks!

Byron Henderson

Vacation Bible School



Once again this year it was my privilege to volunteer at our JV VBS. First of all, my hat is off to Katie McCormick for her hard work and creative imagination. I am not sure how many hours she put into the effort, but it had to be a significant number. I was responsible for only one station, she had to make the whole thing run smoothly and she was awesome.

Last year I was in charge of crafts. I am probably the world’s least crafty person, so when I told Katie I would work this year my one proviso was that it be anything but crafts. And so I found myself in charge of drama. Four of the five days I helped present a dramatic version of a particular Bible Story, from the walls of Jericho falling down to Jesus rising from the dead. I thank Susan Gaydon for taking over on the day I had to miss.

I cannot tell you what a pleasure it was to see at least 30 children eagerly (mostly) learning more about the Bible and God’s love for them. I was even more moved by the SHYGS and JHYGS youth who were the crew leaders and their assistants. Their care and concern for the children and their spiritual growth was very evident.

I won’t try to name them all here. You know who you are and I hope you know how much I enjoyed working with you and watching you work with the children. I have to say a special thanks to Kele Lavery who assisted at the drama station every day. It was not her first choice, but she never complained to me and she did everything asked of her and then some. Note for next year - it is much easier to release helium balloons from their covering than to corral them back in again.

Most of all, I have to say how proud I am of our two congregations who provided this leadership from adult and youth volunteers alike. My sister is a member of a large Roman Catholic church in Bellevue, WA. They had to cancel their Vacation Bible School this year because they could not get enough volunteers. I am not saying this to put that church down. I attend it when I am visiting there, and it is an active Christian community. I am simply saying how great it is that from our two relatively small congregations we were able to muster such impressive volunteers.

Mary Leal

SHYG's ROCKnWATER Rafting 2007



Our group of 17 headed out from the church parking lot at around 5PM Wednesday August 15th. Coloma was our destination, and it took everyone about 3 1/2 hours to arrive at ROCKnWATER. Eden, the staff guide, met us in the parking lot and she learned our names in a few minutes. A couple of our names had changed for the duration in that process. Eden aka Dainty took us on a tour of the camp, gave us some rules to follow, and lit the campfire. We were encouraged to sleep under the stars, and most of us did. I was feeling kind of whippy having set up my condo-tent when a skunk crossed my path as I came back from the experience chambers (out houses), and at that moment I felt very happy about sleeping in my tent!

Cowboy potatoes were the fare for breakfast which after eating a gallon of water was required. Oh and Cliff saved us coffee drinkers with his coffee press as no coffee was served at camp. Anyway, we loaded up in our cars with Eden and our camp director, Eric, for the canyon exploration. It was a 45 minute drive to the canyon and about a 30 minute hike in and down to the river. The hike was not too bad; however there was a section of the trail that was probably at a 40 degree slope. Most of us slid on our backsides for some of this section of the trail.

When we arrived at the river it was a welcome cold dip in the water. What we didn't know at the time was that we would be spending approximately 50 percent of our exploration in the river. It was a very challenging day of swimming, trying to walk in shallow water over very slippery rocks, and climbing along the river banks over large rocks. This became exhausting for some and at least tiring for everyone. The energy of youth is definitely to be admired!

There was plenty of play time in beautiful pools. We encountered wonderful rocks to jump off of, scream producing water snakes, bugs, and a few fish on our trek. The canyon was all our own. Of course we had our bruises, scrapes, blisters and sunburns to show for our efforts.

We made it back to camp just in time for dinner. I can't remember what we ate, but I know I was ravenous and grateful that someone else had prepared the meal. Eden lit a campfire and showed some of the kids how to braid bracelets while others played cards. Eden is a youth minister in San Diego, and she led a discussion starting with what was our thorn and rose for the day. The roses outweighed the thorns. She then led us in an odd game of rhythmic Samurai sword slashing. Cliff excelled at this game. I'm not sure what that means, but I was proud of him. She talked to us about her faith journey and challenged us to think about our own journey. We ended the campfire with a promise of steamed rolls in the morning.

The next morning we were up around 7AM with Eden lying down on the kids and rolling over them to wake them up. Her version of "steamed rolls." We were so tired the night before several of us fell for the ruse, and we were somewhat disappointed. Of course this was another advantage of being in a tent. Oh well, no steamed rolls for Gloria, Jess, Serena or Katie.

After breakfast we were on the bus heading to the class 3 rapids on the American River. Many of our group had not been rafting before, so straight off the guides were instructing us about how to paddle. Their goal was to develop our skill so we looked like Olympic rowers. Well, the guys probably came the closest as many of them had rafted several times before. As far as our other two rafts, let's see, if you could imagine a drunken spider - well, there you have it.

This portion of the river ran water at a much lower temperature than the North Fork of the previous day. It

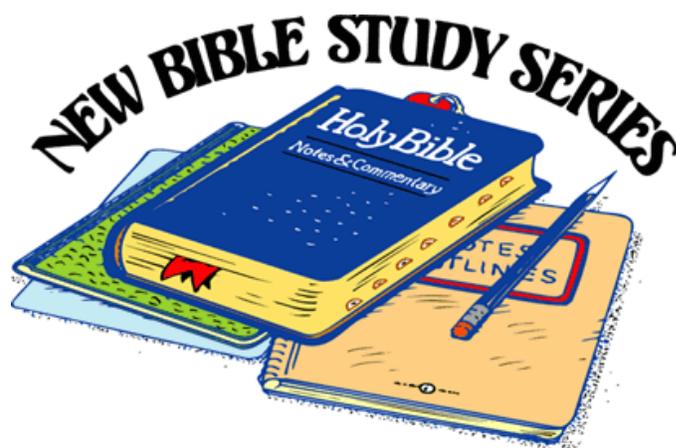
was made quite clear at the first rapid which we “surfed.” The waves poured over the up stream rafters, myself included. After nearly freezing and yelling “that’s enough,” we made our way through numerous rapids of great fun. We had three rafts named as follows: The six chicks (later renamed the 5 chicks, 1 hen, and a rooster), the Princess Pirates (the guys) boat plus Eden, and the leader boat with Eric as our guide. In between the rapids it was all out war! Water guns came out, paddle splashing was perfected sort of, and dragging or rather sneak attack grabbing people out of boats was the order of the day. I fell victim to this courtesy of Ryan McPherson, Faith; you gave a good fight too! Oars were stolen only to be retrieved by singing silly songs. Kids were balancing on the front of the rafts while the others paddled in circles. The ugly song was sung as a taunt and the drumming river version of a Queen tune were the battle cries. These were just some of our antics.

About a third of us experienced being thrown out of the rafts during a run. The most infamous was Gloria Ashdown-Skowronski’s disappearance into the rushing water caught on film. Here’s a play by play. First the lean, then the tilt, the grabbing of the hair, only one arm and one leg visible, then nothing but white water and Serena’s look of horror, a paddle handle, the occupants of the raft now turn their attention to the second part of the rapid, Oh! It’s Gloria’s head bobbing up and then thankfully the rescue! Check out the pictures on the website. I must say that I was impressed by Gloria’s tenacity and ultimate good spirits through out the entire excursion. (which was only 2 days but at times felt like 10!)

Toward the end of the 12 mile float as the energy and splashing waned, we in the leader raft paused to take note of the Bible verses written on the paddles of the oars. It was a comforting reminder that even in the most challenging experience the Lord is with us. What a blessing to play in His beautiful creation.

Our awesome youth are Marc Bond aka Alexander, Stephen McPherson aka Kid, Ryan McPherson aka Rastawabby, Ryan Hall aka pretty boy, Sean McCormick, Faith Mills, Kristen and Danielle Petruzzelli, Jessica Skowronski, Serena Desai, Caitlin McPherson, and Karen Click were helpful and kind to each other and a great joy to be around the whole trip. Cliff Click, Gloria Ashdown-Skowronski, Russ Petruzzelli, and Bonnie McPherson were wonderful and showed great courage and enthusiasm. Thank you everyone for coming.

God Bless, Katie Taplin



Coming to a classroom near you! [Adult Christian Education Classes]

Adult education classes are gearing up for the fall. We have a wonderful group of gifted teachers signed up and ready to lead the Joint Venture adults.

We begin on Sunday, September 16, with a series entitled “How I understand the Bible.” For the next six weeks, different teachers will tackle the week’s appointed lectionary, focusing on the various ways of interpreting the Scripture. The issues of interpretation affect how we view the world and view the Divine and exploring the richness of the Christian tradition is worth the journey. You don’t need to plan to attend them all – they are designed to be independent. So whether you attend one or all, please mark your calendar and plan to be there. We will be meeting during the 10:10 – 10:50 a.m. Sunday School hour. We look forward to seeing you there.

Kimberly Axtell

Events and Activities

Quest: The Quest ladies' group will resume meeting on Wednesday, September 5th, at 9:30 a.m. in the church choir room. It was decided at the June meeting to discuss "Who or What is God?" when the group meets again. Similar to the AVUCC Men's Discussion Group, the ladies have decided to select different focus topics for meetings at this time. Some of the reasons suggested for why the group gathers were to create a safe space for meaningful fellowship; to nourish ourselves spiritually; for caring and sharing; and to stay in contact. It was agreed that the meeting will start "on time." New members are always welcome. If Quest seems to be an experience that appeals to you, "come on down"! We'll be happy to have you join us.



Men's Steak and Stein - ECA and UCC men September 8, 2007, 5:00- 9:00 p.m.



AVUCC Wine Tasting will be held on Saturday, September 15th, 4 - 8 PM, at the home of Dave and Carol Pullen in Gilroy. Relax and enjoy tasting a selection of fine South County wines, aired with an array of appetizers. Other beverages will be served if you prefer not to drink wine. Carpooling is recommended as parking space is limited. Sign up in Fellowship Hall today!



Janey Sanders

JV Book Group: JV Book Club meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Robyn Dorsey.

Robyn Dorsey



UCC Women's Network Fall Retreat: There will be an autumn day-long retreat of fun and inspiration on Saturday, September 29th, from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at First Congregational Church, Santa Cruz UCC. Young women (12 -18 years) attending with an adult are also invited. The cost, including lunch, is \$30.00 with > advance registration before September 15th. (\$15.00 for young women).



The keynote address "In Silence, Laughter and Shouting: The Divine Revealed In The Lives Of Women" will be delivered by Rev. Heather Dillshaw, an associate minister at the host church. There will be several workshops offered, and attendees will make Tree of Life necklaces at the closing session. See more information including registration forms, on the AVUCC downstairs hallway bulletin board. Call Phyllis Chai: 226-7150 if you have questions. Let's get a group and go "over the hill" to Molly and Chris Ohlsen's > (Charlotte's daughter-in-law and son) church!

Phyllis Chai

Ladies Lunch: Thursday, September 20th, Cantor Museum at Stanford. Leaving Church at 11 am for lunch and museum tour Sign up in Fellowship Hall. Everyone welcome - please invite friends More information - contact Amy Griffith: 268-0920 or amy-g@pacbell.net



Amy Griffith

Progressive Dinner: Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 15, to attend AVUCC's Annual Christmas Progressive Dinner. You won't want to miss this.



Progressive Dinner

Janey Sanders

September Birthdays

Jim McAbee	9/6
Al Neiders	9/6
Rebecca Sunseri	9/9
Hi-Dong Chai	9/10
Alice Bullard	9/11
Londa Larson-Daley	9/11
Dick Shipe	9/12
Jean Shipe	9/14
Kyle Dando	9/18
Pat McGarvin	9/19
Delaney Gaydon	9/20
Laura Hall	9/21
Robyn Dorsey	9/22
Caprice Endeman	9/22
Frank Yamada	9/26
Alex Bemis	9/28
Christian Daley	9/20

September Anniversaries

Bob & Phyllis Green	9/6
Dick & Jean Shipe	9/7
John & Kathy Graham	9/16
Kevin & Karen Haley	9/19

September Worship

Sermons **Rev. Kevin Smith 268-0243**

	pastor@avucc.org
Sept 2, 9, 16, 30	Kevin Smith
Sept 23	Byron Henderson

Lay Readers **Tom Rose 268-5632**

	tcrose@prodigy.com
Sept 2	Betsy Shoup
Sept 9	Kathy Kisabeth
Sept 16	Judy Martin
Sept 23	Kevin Smith
Sept 30	Terry Shoup

Ushers **Dot Allfrey 268-2973**

dballfre@pacbell.net

Sept 2	Stan Yumen Diane Hawes Kathy Kisabeth
--------	---

Sept 9 TBD

Sept 16 TBD

Sept 23 TBD

Sept 30 TBD

Greeters **Carol Pullen 842-3653**

d.c.pullen@pacbell.net

Sept 2 Hi-Dong & Phyllis Chai

Sept 9 Judy Martin & Dennis Elliott

Sept 16 Carolyn & Joe Dingman

Sept 23 Greg & Kelly Yamanishi

Sept 30 Carol Martin & Barbara Alumbaugh

Communion **Kathy Kisabeth 227-3898**

kckbridge@aol.com

Sept 2 Tom Rose & Steve Coutinho

Flowers **Betty Wood 997-3573**

jdougwood@sbcglobal.net

Sign-up in Fellowship Hall

Sept 2 Kathy Kisabeth

Sept 9 Phyllis Chai

Sept 16 TBD

Sept 23 Carol Martin

(In Honor of her sister)

Sept 30 Richard & Londa Daley

Caring **Carolyn Crowley 997-0819**

nuclearDavebo@yahoo.com

Ariss Thomas 997-0819

roberththomas@msm.com

September Barbara Alumbaugh

Audrey Wiedrick

Robyn Dorsey

Perforation parallel

Perforation parallel

Almaden Valley United Church of Christ
6581 Camden Avenue
San Jose, CA 95120
(408) 268-0243

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 37
New Almaden, CA
95042



KALOS—September

**Monthly Newsletter for the
Almaden Valley United
Church of Christ
6581 Camden Avenue
San Jose, CA 95120**

The deadline for the **October** issue of the Kalos is **Saturday, September 15th.**

Email you items to: kalos@avucc.org or
leave items in the mail slot labeled Kalos.

Questions—Contact one of the editors:
Sue Scaff (448-3038) or
Kelly Yamanishi (997-3373)

Perforation parallel

Perforation parallel

-Daily Lectionary-

September, 2007

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
Sat.	Sept. 1	Jeremiah 23:16-32	Luke 7:36-50	Acts 9:1-9
*Sun.	Sept. 2	Jeremiah 2:4-13	Luke 14:1, 7-14	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Mon.	Sept. 3	Ezek. 1:1-14	Luke 8:1-15	Acts 9:10-19a
Tues.	Sept. 4	Ezek. 1:15-28	Luke 8:16-25	Acts 9:19b-31
Wed.	Sept. 5	Ezek. 2:1-3:3	Luke 8:26-39	Rev. 15:1-8
Thu.	Sept. 6	Ezek. 3:4-17	Luke 8:40-56	Rev. 16:1-11
Fri.	Sept. 7	Ezek. 3:16-27	Luke 9:1-17	Rev. 16:12-21
Sat.	Sept. 8	Ezek. 4:1-17	Luke 9:18-27	Rev. 17:1-6a
*Sun.	Sept. 9	Jeremiah 18:1-11	Luke 14:25-33	Philemon 1-21
Mon.	Sept. 10	Ezek. 7:10-27	Luke 9:28-36	Rev. 17:6b-18
Tues.	Sept. 11	Ezek. 11:14-25	Luke 9:37-50	Rev. 18:1-8
Wed.	Sept. 12	Ezek. 16:1-22	Luke 9:51-62	Rev. 18:9-14
Thu.	Sept. 13	Ezek. 16:35-52	Luke 10:1-16	Rev. 18:15-24
Fri.	Sept. 14	Ezek. 16:53-63	Luke 10:17-24	Rev. 19:1-10
Sat.	Sept. 15	Ezek. 23:1-21	Luke 10:25-37	Rev. 19:11-21
*Sun.	Sept. 16	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28	Luke 15:1-10	1 Timothy 1:12-17
Mon.	Sept. 17	Ezek. 23:36-49	Luke 10:38-42	Rev. 20:1-6
Tues.	Sept. 18	Ezek. 34:17-31	Luke 11:1-13	Rev. 20:7-15
Wed.	Sept. 19	Ezek. 43:1-12	Luke 11:14-26	Rev. 21:1-8
Thu.	Sept. 20	Hosea 1:1-2:1	Luke 11:27-36	Rev. 21:9-17
Fri.	Sept. 21	Hosea 2:2-14	Luke 11:37-52	Rev. 21:18-27
Sat.	Sept. 22	Hosea 2:14-23	Luke 11:53-12:12	Rev. 22:1-7
*Sun.	Sept. 23	Jeremiah 8:18-9:1	Luke 16:1-13	1 Timothy 2:1-7
Mon.	Sept. 24	Hosea 4:1-10	Luke 12:13-31	Rev. 22:8-15
Tue.	Sept. 25	Hosea 4:11-19	Luke 12:32-48	Rev. 22:16-21
Wed.	Sept. 26	Hosea 5:8-6:6	Luke 12:49-59	Romans 1:1-15
Thu.	Sept. 27	Hosea 10:1-15	Luke 13:1-9	Romans 1:16-25
Fri.	Sept. 28	Hosea 11:1-9	Luke 13:10-17	Romans 1:26-32
Sat.	Sept. 29	Hosea 14:1-9	Luke 13:18-30	Romans 2:1-11
Sun.	Sept. 30	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15	Luke 16:19-31	1 Timothy 6:6-19



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

Made possible by your contributions to
Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support and Fellowship Dues

SEPTEMBER 2007

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
26	7:30 AM ECA Holy Eucharist 7:45 AM AVUCC Breadingmaking 9:00 AM AVUCC Worship 10:30 AM ECA Holy Eucharist	27	7:30 PM Boy Scout Troop #294 meeting	28		29	6:30 PM Wednesday Night Bible Study	30	8:00 AM ECA Men's Breakfast	31	3:00 PM ECA Montgomery Meals	1	
2	7:30 AM ECA Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM AVUCC Worship 10:30 AM ECA Holy Eucharist	3	Labor Day 7:30 PM Boy Scout Troop #294 meeting	4	6:30 PM Almaden Valley Women's Club 7:30 PM Christian Education and Youth Meeting	5	6:30 PM Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:30 PM Folk Choir rehearsal	6	8:00 AM ECA Men's Breakfast 10:00 AM ECA Bible Study	7		8	5:00 PM Men's Steak and Stein
9	Folk Sunday 7:30 AM ECA Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM AVUCC Worship 11:00 AM ECA Holy Eucharist 12:30 PM <i>South Hills Picnic and BBQ</i> 1:00 PM Sunday School Teachers meeting 6:00 PM SHYG meeting	10	1:30 PM Unicorn Thrift Shop 7:30 PM Boy Scout Troop #294 meeting	11	Patriot Day 7:00 PM AVUCC Council Meeting	12		13	8:00 AM ECA Men's Breakfast 10:00 AM ECA Bible Study #1365 3:15 PM Girl Scout Troop 7:15 PM Men's Discuss Group	14	3:00 PM ECA Montgomery Meals	15	Kalos Deadline 4:00 PM Wine Tasting Event
16	7:30 AM ECA Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM AVUCC Worship 10:10 AM Adult Education Class 10:10 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM ECA Holy Eucharist 6:00 PM JHYG meeting	17	7:30 PM Boy Scout Troop #294 meeting	18	4:00 PM AVUCC Shelter Food Service	19	6:30 PM Wednesday Night Bible Study	20	8:00 AM ECA Men's Breakfast 9:30 AM Unicorn Thrift Shop 10:00 AM Assistance League of San Jose 10:00 AM ECA Bible Study 11:00 AM Ladies Lunch	21		22	
23	First Day of Autumn 7:30 AM ECA Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM AVUCC Worship 10:10 AM Adult Education Class 10:10 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM ECA Holy Eucharist 6:00 PM SHYG meeting	24	7:30 PM Boy Scout Troop #294 meeting	25	10:00 AM Assistance League of San Jose	26	2:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #825 7:00 PM ECA Vestry meeting	27	8:00 AM ECA Men's Breakfast 10:00 AM ECA Bible Study 12:00 PM JV Staff meeting 3:15 PM Girl Scout Troop #1365	28	SHYG beach camping 3:00 PM ECA Montgomery Meals	29	SHYG beach camping 8:00 AM UCC WOMEN'S NETWORK FALL RETREAT
30	SHYG beach camping 7:30 AM ECA Holy Eucharist 7:45 AM AVUCC Breadingmaking 9:00 AM AVUCC Worship 10:10 AM Adult Education Class 10:10 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM ECA Holy Eucharist 6:00 PM JHYG meeting	1	7:00 PM JV Duplicate Bridge 7:30 PM Boy Scout Troop #294 meeting	2	9:45 AM Assistance League of San Jose 6:30 PM Almaden Valley Women's Club 7:30 PM Christian Education and Youth Meeting	3	6:30 PM Wednesday Night Bible Study	4	8:00 AM ECA Men's Breakfast 10:00 AM ECA Bible Study	5		6	8:00 AM AVUCC Men's Breakfast

<http://www.avucc.org/>