

# AVUCC KALOS

Newsletter for the  
Almaden Valley  
United Church of Christ

## Pastor Kevin's Corner:

### *A Call to Renewal*

Our beloved congregation has been on a journey through the wilderness these past several years. The wilderness journey got especially hard in the last year as we have moved through the Open and Affirming process. While we have voted to become an Open and Affirming church, (affirming that everyone is beloved by God and welcome to participate in the full life and ministry of our church), the journey continues. This journey has been hard on us all and I expect that additional difficult passages are ahead, although I have sensed a greater awareness among us to let God's grace and compassion guide us on this trek.

I would suggest that the immediate passages in our path include developing a new intentional covenant of being with one another which will help us be good stewards of our life together in the midst of diverse people, theologies, and opinions. I also sense a need to very clearly define the mission of the church-- Why are we here? What is our ministry to Almaden Valley and the greater San Jose area? How do we witness in faith to the reign of God in our midst?

Finally, a word about evangelism. As Christians we are called to tell the Good News of Jesus Christ and his Way to the world. We are to be shepherds and leaders witnessing to our families, friends, and strangers. Some church leaders call this reaching out to others and asking them to join us at church a desire for church growth. There is no doubt that our church has lost members over the last 15-20 years as have all mainline Protestant churches. It does not have to be that way. We can start telling the Good News of Jesus by inviting those we know to church on Sunday morn-

## KALOS

Monthly Newsletter  
Almaden Valley United Church of Christ  
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## November 2008

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ing. Fancy and extravagant advertising campaigns to grow the church often result in mediocre and temporary results, and I'm not suggesting that approach. Jesus grew his movement by going out and in face-to-face encounters inviting people to follow him. Face-to-face, heart-to-heart invitations are still the best way not only to grow the church or increase church membership but to share this amazing thing we call "church" and the love and leadership of Jesus Christ with our neighbor. Sure, it's about growing the church, but the more important thing is to so firmly believe in the good thing our congregation can offer the world that we want to share it with as many people as possible. I would like to challenge each and every one of you to invite over the next year five people to attend a Sunday morning worship service.

Another challenge I want to make is for each and everyone of us to enter into a conversation with one another over the next year about developing our covenant of being with one another and creating a mission that witnesses to the reign of God in our midst. I believe God is calling us to renewal. Our church leadership will be discussing in the days and weeks ahead how to accomplish the renewal of our church. I hope you will participate in this discussion! I hope we explore several different ways to communicate with one another leading to a new covenant and mission.

The wilderness journey can be a very fruitful time. Let us grow together in abundance of love and ministry to each other, our neighbors, and the world. Amen.

*Pastor Kevin*

## **Moderator's Notes**

On Sunday, October 19, we, the congregation of AVUCC, voted to accept our proposed ONA statement and become an ONA church. So, what next? Well, procedurally what comes next is that we share our statement with the UCC Coalition for LGBT concerns and the UCC Coalition lists us publicly as an ONA church. But what really happens next? We have taken the first step on a journey to figure out, to discern, what it means to be fully, radically welcoming. How we walk this journey is up to us.

What is important is that we walk hand-in-hand and in covenant with one another. If we do this, we can support each other when the journey is difficult. We can encourage each other when the journey is exhausting. We can cheer each other on when the journey is joyful and exciting.

In finally reaching formal resolution, we have created an opportunity to recreate ourselves. I believe it is time to take a good look at what it means to be the body of Christ. We need to ask ourselves why we exist as a body. To do this, we must be in covenant. We must be able to trust each other so that no one need fear ostracism or feel like a second class citizen when their ideas are not the same as others' ideas. Being in covenant means we treat each other with respect in times of conflict and disagreement. We were able to do that at the special congregational meeting in our discussion about ONA. I have never been more proud of being a member of AVUCC than when I was witnessing the respect with which the congregation listened to each speaker and the respect each of the speakers had for the congregation. Now that we know we are able to achieve this, I know we will be able to rebuild our covenant and renew AVUCC.

These are exciting times. I look forward to sharing this journey with all of you.

*Melanie Click  
AVUCC Moderator*



## Monthly Financial Report September 30, 2008

Pledged and Cash Income for this month: \$ 9,115  
 Total Expenses for this month: 18,037  
 Deficit for the month of September: \$ - 8,922

### Our Year to Date (YTD) Report:

Pledged and Cash Income  
 as of September 30<sup>th</sup>: \$ 135,693  
 Total Expenses for 2008: 140,596  
 Our total deficit for the year: \$ - 4,904

### Cash Balances as of September 30<sup>th</sup>:

Citibank - Checking \$ 9,114  
 Citibank – Money Market 54,434  
 Corp America CU 64,600  
 Total Cash Balances: \$ 128,147

With the 4<sup>th</sup> QTR payment to our Pension Board of \$4,675, our Year-to Date expense has now exceeded our YTD Income by \$4,904. We expected this deficit back in January. Our goal was to have Fund Drives to balance our budget. We will have our first fund drive next month, and we will be tapping into our reserve to assist us in meeting our October expenses.

This year has been very challenging, and we need your continued support in pledges and in fund raising to make this year a success.

A detailed report for September is posted on the Bulletin Board.

*Respectfully submitted,  
 Stan Yumen*

## Building a Generous Covenant

It is that time of year again. The traditional time of harvest when those of us with culturally European religious roots begin to think about (or be reminded by our pesky “fellow stewards” of) the call for our first fruits to be given to God’s work.

The timing is very interesting this year. Our economy is in tremendous upheaval, and it may seem like the harvest is pretty meager and the first fruits rather scrawny.

## 2008 Gifts Above the Pledge



And yet, the harder the times (financially or otherwise), the greater the need for generosity. It doesn’t require much spiritual fortitude to share from a position of plenty. When our cup is full to overflowing, it’s pretty easy to pour a little off to share. And that is one kind of generosity. It is another level of generosity to share when it may mean sacrifice.

We are also on the path to rebuilding our church community in some very profound ways. We are taking seriously our summer guest Pastor Ann Muir’s recommendation that we re-covenant together and with our Pastor as a step to healing our woundedness. We are, in a very real sense, building a new covenant.

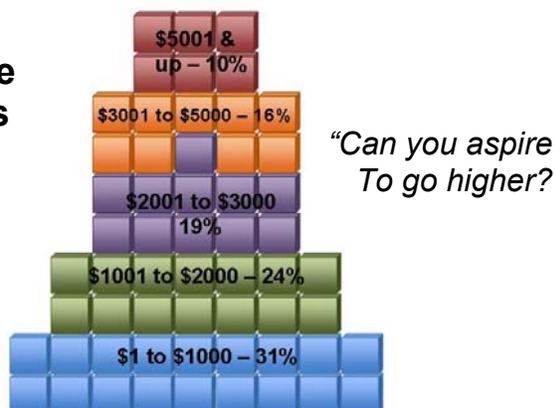
Let us build this new covenant on a foundation of generosity. Take some time to think about how you wish to participate with our church family. Are you here for the fellowship? Are you a seeker of spiritual growth who attends more than just Sunday services to feed your spirit? Are youth programs important to you? Are you eager to see the message of Jesus shared in our broader community? Is your participation at AVUCC in integral part of your life? Or something else? What is your vision for the future of AVUCC and how are you willing to participate to move us in that direction?

When it comes to church, I believe we all “get” and we all “give” in an incredible variety of ways according to our needs, our wants, our gifts, and our intentions—all factors which change radically over time and depending on circumstances. This fall’s pledge drive is a chance to explore your personal re-

relationship to AVUCC and your hope and intention for our future. Let our refreshed covenant be one of generous forgiveness,  
 generous love,  
 generous kindness,  
 generous mercy,  
 generous support,  
 and yes—generous financial gifts even in tough financial times, all in the spirit of the unity we profess and to the honor of Jesus Christ, the head of our church.

*Kelly Yamanishi  
 For the Stewardship Committee,  
 Chuck Smith, Carolyn Dingman*

## 2008 Pledge Levels



## Outreach

### Thanksgiving Food Drive for Second Harvest Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>



AVUCC children will be sending you home with bags for the food drive on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Please fill the bags with healthy, non-perishable foods and bring with you to church on the 23<sup>rd</sup> or leave in the narthex of the church.

Cash is also needed so that people can buy milk, eggs, cheese, meat, and produce. Checks may be made out to “Second Harvest Food Bank,” placed in an envelope, and attached to the outside of the collection bag. Out of every dollar donated to Second Harvest, 96 cents goes directly to buy food.

*Thank you for supporting our annual food drive and helping Second Harvest feed hungry people in our community. Carolyn Dingman & Janey Sanders  
 AVUCC Outreach*

## Beneficio More Than Fair Trade Coffee

The Fall/Winter holidays are fast approaching. So that you're not caught without tasty "Beneficio" to brew/give as gifts, please contact Phyllis Chai (226-7150).

## Alternative Christmas

The annual Joint Venture "ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS" will be on Sunday December 7th during coffee hours. This is an opportunity to support worthy "non-profits" such as "Habitat", "Heifer", "Turning Wheels for Kids", InnVision "Giving Tree" Santa Maria Urban Mission "Angel Tree", yummy baked goods by our JHYGs, opportunities to support our SHYGs in their Servant Auction, and lovely crafts supplied by the African Team Ministries. Please plan now to participate in this special Advent event.

## Neighbors in Need Offering

Thank you to all who supported our annual "Neighbors in Need" offering last month. On October 5th we received \$983.00, over half again as much as that of last year.

*Phyllis Chai*

## Fellowship

It's time to look toward the coming season of Advent and the fellowship event which has traditionally gathered us together as a church community. Our Annual Christmas Progressive Dinner will be held Saturday, December 6, 2008. It seems to be a December to make a few changes. We will be spending the entire evening in Fellowship Hall and sharing a different sort of progressive meal. We will start with a tantalizing buffet of finger foods, followed by joyful caroling, and ending with the sweetness of dessert.

I will again be requesting that guests contribute an appetizer or dessert, and assistance with set up or clean up is always appreciated. I encourage singles, couples and families to attend. Child care or supervision can be provided. Any questions – contact Janey Sanders.

## Women's Network Winter Retreat

The Women's Network Winter Retreat will be January 25-27, 2008 at Mercy Center, Burlingame. Please look for information about the retreat on the downstairs hallway bulletin board. This is a wonderful opportunity for an annual restorative experience with women from our NCNC (Conference) churches and our Disciples of Christ "sisters"; also, all women are welcome. Please contact Phyllis Chai (226-7150) if you have questions.

## Congregational News

On **Sunday, November 2**, at 10:15 AM, we will have our **annual congregational meeting**. We will hear reports from various leaders and committees, discuss and approve a provisional 2009 budget, elect officers and delegates, and conduct any necessary business. Friends are welcome; members are expected! Questions? Please contact Melanie Click at 323-8283.

We will **welcome new members** into our church family at the worship service on **Sunday, November 16th**. If you have been thinking about joining and would like to join the church at that time, please contact Pastor Kevin to arrange a meeting.

## November Birthdays

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

## November Anniversaries

David & Gloria Dunlap	11/4
Kevin Smith & Nancy Palmer Jones	11/9

## November Worship

Thanksgiving Sunday—November 23

### JOINT JV SERVICE AT 10 AM!

First Sunday of Advent — November 30

<u>Sermons</u>	<u>Rev. Kevin Smith</u>
All Nov.	Rev. Kevin Smith

<u>Lay Readers</u>	<u>Sandy Baldwin</u>	<u>227-3507</u>
Nov. 2:	Melanie Click	
Nov. 9:	Chuck Smith	

<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Dot Allfrey</u>	<u>268-2973</u>
All Nov.:	Bill & Dot Allfrey	

<u>Greeter/ Coffee Hosts</u>	<u>Carol Pullen</u>	<u>842-3653</u>
Nov. 2:	Jean & Dick Shipe	
Nov. 9:	Chuck & Amy Smith	
Nov. 16:	Sue Hamilton & Mary Kingsley	
Nov. 23:	Tom & Carla Gerber	
Nov. 30:	TBD	

<u>Communion</u>	<u>Kathy Kisabeth</u>	<u>227-3898</u>
Nov. 2:	Debbie Bemis & Jan Blake	

<u>Breakout</u>	<u>Tami Nieders</u>	<u>268-7681</u>
Nov. 9:	TBD	
Nov. 16:	Tami Nieders, Carolyn Dingman	
Nov. 23:	The Quints	

<u>Bread Making</u>	<u>Carolyn Dingman</u>	<u>997-7891</u>
Nov. 30:	Melanie Click	

<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Sign up in Fellowship Hall</u>
Nov. 2:	Elaine LaValle
Nov. 9:	TBA
Nov. 16:	TBA
Nov. 23:	TBA
Nov. 30:	TBA

<u>Caring Committee</u>	<u>Ariss Thomas</u>	<u>997-1916</u>
	<u>Carolyn Crowley</u>	<u>997-0819</u>
All Nov.	Kathy Kisabeth and Barbara Alumbaugh	

# NOVEMBER 2008

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
26 7:30 AM ECA Holy Eucharist 7:45 AM AVUCC Breadmaking 9:00 AM AVUCC Worship 10:10 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM ECA Holy Eucharist	27 7:30 PM Boy Scout Troop #294 meeting	28	29 9:30 AM Quest Meeting 10:00 AM Assistance League of San Jose 1:30 PM JV Staff meeting #825 2:30 PM Brownie Troop #825 6:30 PM Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7:30 PM Shalom Choir rehearsal	30 8:00 AM ECA Men's Breakfast 10:30 AM Thursday Morning Bible Study 7:30 PM ECA Choir Rehearsal	31 3:00 PM Montgomery Meals	1 All Saints Day 8:00 AM AVUCC Men's Breakfast 6:00 PM ECA Birthday Party & Annual Meeting							
2 Daylight-Saving Time Ends 7:30 AM ECA Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM AVUCC Worship 10:10 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM AVUCC Annual Congregational meeting 6:00 PM SHYG Meeting	3 7:00 PM JV Duplicate Bridge 7:30 PM Boy Scout Troop #294 meeting	4 6:30 PM Almaden Valley Women's Club 7:00 PM Christian Ed & Youth Committee Meeting	5 9:30 AM Quest Meeting 3:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #849 meeting 6:30 PM Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7:30 PM Shalom Choir rehearsal	6 8:00 AM ECA Men's Breakfast 10:30 AM Thursday Morning Bible Study	7 7:00 PM Cub Scout Pack 282, Pack 7 Meeting	8 Aluminum Cans for Habitat for Humanity							
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16 7:30 AM ECA Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM JV Youth - Thanksgiving food drive 9:00 AM AVUCC Worship 10:10 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM ECA Holy Eucharist 6:00 PM SHYG Meeting	17 7:30 PM Boy Scout Troop #294 meeting	18 4:15 PM AVUCC Shelter Food Service 7:30 PM JV Board Meeting	19 9:30 AM Quest Meeting 6:30 PM Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7:30 PM Shalom Choir rehearsal	20 8:00 AM ECA Men's Breakfast 10:30 AM Thursday Morning Bible Study 11:00 AM Assistance League of San Jose meeting 1:00 PM Unicorn Thrify Shop Board Meeting 7:30 PM ECA Choir Rehearsal	21	22 S&JHYG Pie Making 9:00 AM JV Workday							
23 7:30 AM ECA Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Thanksgiving JV worship service	24 7:30 PM Boy Scout Troop #294 meeting	25	26 1:30 PM JV Staff meeting #825 2:30 PM Brownie Troop #825 7:30 PM Shalom Choir rehearsal	27 JV Office Closed Thanksgiving Day 7:30 PM ECA Choir Rehearsal	28	29							
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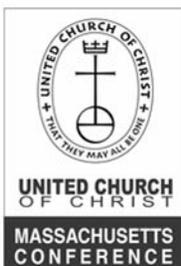
# -Daily Lectionary-

## November 2008

*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	Nov 1	Num 24:1-13	Matt 7:13-21	2 Thess 3:7-18
<b>*Sun</b>	<b>Nov 2</b>	<b>Josh 3:7-17</b>	<b>Matt 23:1-12</b>	<b>1 Thess 2:9-13</b>
Mon	Nov 3	Num 24:12-25	Matt 23:13-22	1 Thess 2:14-16
Tues	Nov 4	Num 27:12-23	Matt 23:23-28	1 Thess 3:1-5
Wed	Nov 5	Num 32:1-6,16-27	Matt 23:29-39	1 Thess 3:6-10
Thurs	Nov 6	Num 35:1-3,9-15,30-34	Matt 24:1-14	1 Thess 3:11-13
Fri	Nov 7	Ruth 2:1-13	Matt 24:15-28	1 Thess 4:1-8
Sat	Nov 8	Ruth 2:14-23	Matt 24:29-35	1 Thess 4:9-12
<b>*Sun</b>	<b>Nov 9</b>	<b>Josh 24:1-3a</b>	<b>Matt 25:1-13</b>	<b>1 Thess 4:13-18</b>
Mon	Nov 10	Ruth 3:1-13	Matt 24:36-43	2 Pet 1:1-4
Tues	Nov 11	Ruth 3:14-4:6	Matt 24:44-51	2 Pet 1:5-11
Wed	Nov 12	Amos 1:1-15	John 11:1-16	2 Pet 1:12-21
Thurs	Nov 13	Amos 2:1-16	John 11:17-29	2 Pet 2:1-10a
Fri	Nov 14	Amos 3:1-15	John 11:30-44	2 Pet 2:10b-16
Sat	Nov 15	Amos 4:1-13	John 11:45-54	2 Pet 2:17-22
<b>*Sun</b>	<b>Nov 16</b>	<b>Judg 4:1-7</b>	<b>Matt 25:14-30</b>	<b>1 Thess 5:1-11</b>
Mon	Nov 17	Amos 5:1-25	John 11:55-12:8	1 Thess 5:12-28
Tues	Nov 18	Amos 6:1-14	John 12:9-19	2 Pet 3:1-7
Wed	Nov 19	Amos 7:1-17	John 12:20-26	2 Pet 3:8-13
Thurs	Nov 20	Amos 8:1-14	Luke 19:11-27	2 Pet 3:14-18
Fri	Nov 21	Amos 9:1-15	Luke 19:28-40	1 Cor 15:1-11
Sat	Nov 22	Isa 19:19-25	Luke 19:41-48	1 Cor 15:12-20
<b>*Sun</b>	<b>Nov 23</b>	<b>Ezek 34:11-16</b>	<b>Matt 25:31-46</b>	<b>Eph 1:15-23</b>
Mon	Nov 24	Joel 3:1-2,9-17	Matt 22:41-46	Eph 1:16-23
Tues	Nov 25	Nah 1:1-13	Mark 13:1-8	Eph:3:8-19
Wed	Nov 26	Obad 15-21	Mark 13:9-16	Phil 3:17-21
Thurs	Nov 27	Zeph 3:1-13	Mark 13:17-23	2 Thess 2:1-6
Fri	Nov 28	Isa 24:14-23	Mark 13:24-31	2 Thess 2:7-12
Sat	Nov 29	Mic 7:11-20	Luke 21:5-19	Rom 8:18-25
<b>*Sun</b>	<b>Nov 30</b>	<b>Isa 64:1-9</b>	<b>Mark 13:24-37</b>	<b>1 Cor 1:3-9</b>



**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*

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Almaden Valley United Church of Christ  
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## **KALOS—November 2008**

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The deadline for the **December** issue of the Kalos is **Monday, November 15**. Email your items to: [kalos@avucc.org](mailto:kalos@avucc.org).

Questions—Contact one of the editors:  
Sue Scaff (960-4452) or  
Kelly Yamanishi (997-3373)

Perforation parallel

Perforation parallel