

# KALOS

Congregational Church of Almaden Valley — United Church of Christ

February 2012

## Pastor's Corner



### *A New Year's Resolution*

One of my favorite holiday traditions while growing up in Hawaii was celebrating the coming of a new year. Every year in Honolulu, my family would gather with relatives and friends on New Year's Eve. Our celebration always included

feasting on grilled meats, eating lots of sashimi (raw fish) and sushi. Some of us would purchase fireworks and we would spend our time burning firecrackers all evening. Our evening would conclude by burning a string of fireworks that made a lot of noise and smoke. By the time the New Year rolled around, all the air around Honolulu would be filled with loud explosions and smoke from the burning fireworks.

As we entered the New Year, some of us would share our New Year's resolutions to live by for the coming year. Some of the most popular resolutions included eating less, losing weight, and exercising more. I've often wondered why we made New Year's resolutions that so many of us rarely tried to keep. (I haven't been able to lose 10 pounds for the past 20 years!)

Maybe resolutions shouldn't be focused so much on ourselves as it should be about others. What if we made resolutions like being more concerned about other people or improving the environment? What if we looked for opportunities to serve and be helpful?

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Consider the following story:

A young man was busy at his job of taking out the groceries at a local supermarket. He had been in and out of the store helping customers when he noticed a woman in the parking lot struggling with her groceries. Her cart was full, as were her arms.

His path back to the store took him in her direction. Like many people, she put a bundle she had in her arm on the roof of her car while she hunted for her keys and opened the door. Then she began to load her packages from the cart into her car. But as she got in,

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started up her car and began to drive away, the young man saw that she had forgotten the bundle she had placed on the roof. Now he was closer to the car and began to run after her. When she made a turn to exit the parking lot the bundle on the roof slid off. Fortunately, the young man caught the bundle as it was falling to the ground. Inside the bundle was her baby.

What will be some of your resolutions for this new Year? I invite you to consider looking for opportunities to help and serve wherever and whenever you can. It may save a person's life!

Blessings,  
Pastor Rodney

## Welcome Visitor!

Whether you're visiting with us because you're looking for a church, or accompanying a friend or family member, we bid you a hearty welcome!

We welcome all who would join us on our journey—for a day, a week or a lifetime—to discover who we are now and who we can become on this road of faith and inquiry.

We embrace our diversity of thought and scriptural understanding. We respect and honor all who seek to be in covenant with us as we share in the joys and responsibilities of our church family.

We are a warm and friendly bunch, but we're not perfect! So, if in our excitement to greet our church family

members, we forget our manners, please talk to us, introduce yourself and ask us lots of questions!

And if you want to dig deeper and learn more about our church, please visit us at :  
[www.CongregationalChurchOfAlmadenValley.org](http://www.CongregationalChurchOfAlmadenValley.org).

We hope you'll return to us soon!

## Moderator's Note

Happy New Year everyone!

We just had our first Council meeting for 2012 and I was delighted to see new faces on Council (*Phyllis Green, Debbie Bemis, Sue Scaff*) and a few returnees (*Carolyn Crowley, David Hough, Dennis Widman* and *My Better Half*).



I felt our first meeting was thoughtful, productive and infused with enthusiasm for the opportunities that lie ahead. Before I move on, I want to acknowledge and give a big THANK YOU to last year's Council for their creativity, perseverance and support.

## A Look Ahead

So what is ahead? For one, we'll be ramping up our search efforts for a new pastor (*Pastor Yee* is helping with this by leading a small search team). More fun stuff will be planned for the year (I believe there is a spaghetti dinner in the March time frame for example).

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## *Angels in Our Midst*

Of course there are many “angels” in our church who take it upon themselves to do some wonderful things all on their own and put their talents to work. For example, the *Feely’s*, *Charles Krabenbuhel* and *Dave Harris* have been pulling together an outreach project for our local community—THANK YOU! *Mike Moore* has been helping to keep our building functioning and safe. His most recent effort is figuring out how to fix our elevator. *Dennis Widman* is getting pretty handy with the pruning shears. These are classic examples of folks jumping in to help where they can.

And I can’t end here. As someone at our Council meeting pointed out, we are very fortunate to have two other gems in our midst—*Krystal Kim* and *Susie Ferguson*—who have brought energy, fun and enthusiasm to their respective programs. Wow! I must say, I really love coming to church on Sunday. From Pastor Yee’s inspiring sermons, to the fellowship and sense of love I feel from all, and the stirring music from our talented choir—what’s not to love?

I’ll end by sharing a prayer I was recently delighted with from the *Stillspeaking Daily Devotional* I get from UCC online. I hope you enjoy it as well.

## *A Prayer*

*God, let my successes bring glory to you and to others. Let my failures prepare me for whatever is next. Don’t allow either one to define me. Or you, for that matter. Amen.*

Shalom,  
Kathryn McAbee  
Moderator

## *People in the Pews*

It has been many moons since I have typed “People in the Pews” and must admit I have missed being a part of our Kalos. So I am grateful to Sue Scaff for being willing to get us started again.

So I am asking all of you to keep me up on happenings in your lives so we can share with others. We have always been a caring community and it is important to us to be aware of our church family in their good times and their sad times.

## *Pastor Rodney*

We are very fortunate to have *Pastor Rodney Yee* with us. His sermons are very thoughtful and on many Sundays his words were just what I needed to hear. He joins the choir when he can and his presence among us truly is a very special gift. So if you haven’t been with us on Sundays, I encourage all of you to make a special effort to join us each Sunday as we gather as a family to be in prayer, music and fellowship. We miss you when you aren’t there.

## *Krystal Kim*

Have you heard our new organist play on Sundays? You are missing some very special musical talent. *Krystal* is amazing with an organ and piano. She keeps us choir folks on our toes and challenges us to be our best. She is a delight to work with. Choir also welcomes new members who love to sing. We rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

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## *Linda Farr*

A big thank you to Linda Farr. Linda is the one who creates and prints all the Birthday cards. She has been doing this for many, many years. Linda also keeps our bulletin board up to date and decorates for each season. There are many angels in our congregation who work silently behind the scenes and they need to be recognized. THANK YOU LINDA!

## *You Are Needed*

Volunteers are always needed for the following:

- Ushering
- Lay reading
- Coffee hosts/greeters

Don't be shy—say “yes” when you are recruited to cover one or all (not on the same Sunday of course).

## *Prayers for Members*

We have several members who are in need of our prayers and visits when possible:

*Ariss Thomas, Alice Bullard, Shirley Lucas, Barbara Alumbaugh, Jim and Ruth Breseke, David Dunlap, Karen Smith, Dick Okumura, Audrey and Orlon Wiedrick.*

A card or a note is always welcome to those who are shut-ins. It lets them know they are still a part of our church family.

## *A Prayer*

This prayer comes from the devotional life of the 17th Century Church of England (Anglican)

*Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will someday be old.*

*Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.*

*Release me from the craving to straighten out everybody's affairs.*

*Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful, but not bossy.*

*With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all, but thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end.*

*Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains, they are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.*

*I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessing cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memory of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.*

*Keep me reasonable sweet; I do not want to be a Saint — some of them are so hard to live with — a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so. Amen.*

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## Inspiration

In January we celebrated Martin Luther King Day in honor of this great leader. Please enjoy this tribute to Dr. King on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UFNqYOgoUXE>

## Youth News

*Know it in your head, stow it in your heart, show it in your life and sow it in the world.*

## Epiphany Party

Our Epiphany party is now a memory, but a great one. The support from both congregations for the renewal of this idea was wonderful. The attendance—88 people—was certainly far greater than I ever expected or hoped for. It was a special way to end our Christmas season and so many people helped in a variety of ways to make it the success it was. From CCAVUCC I especially want to acknowledge **Hannah** and **Alison Yamanishi** for their help with our program at the service and with dessert. I also want to thank **Pat McGarvin**, **Phyllis Chai**, and **Robyn Dorsey** for their special assistance before and after the event. Also, we must extend kudos to **John Hawes** for being such a fantastic “king.”

## Christian Education

In January we transformed our Sunday School classroom in some very exciting ways as we began a new unit of study, *Calling the Disciples*. If you haven't stopped by our classroom please do, so you will know how exciting our program is becoming.

## *Everyone is a Marketer!*

Whether you have children or grandchildren in our program it is important for you to know firsthand what we are doing. Every one of us is in marketing. We must be ready for that moment when someone inquires of us what our church offers for children in the way of Sunday School and faith formation. Take a handout of what is planned in the weeks ahead and be willing to share it with families you know who may not have a church home. Everyone can help us grow.

## *Your Talents Are Needed*

There are lots of opportunities to be involved with our Christian Education and Youth Programs. Teaching is only one way. We are blessed to have the following guest teachers from the CCAVUCC ranks: **Phyllis Chai**, **Janice Krabenbuhl**, **Gwen Hacker**, and **Kelly Yamanishi**. Shepherding is another way. This is someone who comes just to help the guest teacher, to be an extra set of hands. It is important for us to have two responsible people in our classroom at all times with our children. If you could help us in this way, please let me know.

## *New Storytelling Group*

We are also starting a Storytelling Group to share Bible stories through puppetry, drama, and dramatic readings. Could that be your forte? We always have things we need to cut, paste, design, and more if that might suit you. Give me a call and share your gifts and talents with us. You can be a blessing and be blessed by your involvement.

In Your Faithful Service,  
Susie Ferguson

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### Announcements

#### *Search Committee*

A search committee to help find a new pastor for the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley is now being formed. **Debbie Bemis, Carla Gerber, Ted Feely** and **Connie Moore** are some of the members who have volunteered to be on the committee. We are still looking to add a few more members.

The first task of the committee is to develop a church profile provided by our United Church of Christ denomination. After the church profile is completed, we will begin to receive profiles from prospective candidates. After reviewing candidates' profiles, the search committee will select candidates to interview and a candidate will be selected to meet with the congregation. At a congregational meeting, members will be able to approve the candidate recommended.

Please pray for this committee as they begin the important task of finding a new permanent pastor.

#### *Joint Venture Book Group*

JV Book Group is open to everyone—bring a guest and join us. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the home of the person who selected the book for that month. The number of people that attend vary each month. For more information, call Amy Griffith, 408-268-0920.

Book Group meeting schedule through June:

Date	Location	Book & Author
January 18	Suzanne Mayo	Loving Frank by Nancy Horan
February 15	Kathryn Hussain	Dreams of Joy by Lisa Lee
March 21	Jackie Whitlock or Linda Farr	TBD
April 18	Betty Benson	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Locks by Rebecca Skloot
May 15	Kathy Kisabeth	TBD
June 20	Virginia Jones	TBD

#### *Worship Service Flowers*

Do you enjoy the flowers at our worship services?

Would you like to share in providing the flowers?

You are probably aware that the flowers are provided by members of both congregations and that there is a signup sheet for flower contributions on the Joint Venture board in Fellowship Hall.

#### **When No One Signs Up**

We find that many Sundays go by with no one signed up to provide flowers. In this event, flowers are provided by the ECA Altar Guild and have to be paid for by one of the congregations (January to June by CCAVUCC, July to December by ECA).

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## A Simple Solution

An informal survey finds that people would like to sign up more often but the logistics of getting the flowers to church gets in the way. So, in an effort to encourage you to sign up, we have come up with a new plan.

On the signup sheet are two columns and you can choose what works best for you.

### • Column One—I Will Provide

You will provide the flowers yourself. The arrangement must be in place for the 7:30 a.m. ECA service on Sunday. Flowers may be placed in the sanctuary as early as Thursday afternoon. Reminder: the church is closed on Friday and Saturday. Flowers may be purchased by you or come from your own garden.

### • Column Two—I Will Pay

Simply check this option and the flowers will be provided. You will receive a bill for payment. The arrangements are small. Jenny Hoyt from ECA has agreed to provide the flowers for \$20–\$35, and will deliver them to the sanctuary. Call Jenny by Wednesday at 408-997-1826 to make arrangements.

Couldn't be simpler!

You may sign up for any Sunday in the year. Signups do not reflect either congregation, just the responsibility for payment when there are no signups.

We hope you will help enrich our worship with flowers in the sanctuary.

Bobbi Finley  
Flower Chair  
408-622-6598  
bobbi\_finley@msn.com

## Kalos Publication

*Kalos* appears on the CCAVUCC website and in a few printed copies for those who request a mailing. If you would like *Kalos* to be sent to your home, please contact Sue Scaff (sscaff@sbcglobal.net or 408-960-4452).

We encourage you to share stories and inspirations in our newsletter! Tell us about your experiences, your reflections, your hopes for the church, and anything of interest to the community that you would like to share. Send us images, poems, links for our Inspiration Section. We want to hear from you!

To submit an article, send it by the 15th of the month to [kalos@ccavucc.org](mailto:kalos@ccavucc.org).

*Kalos* editors are *Sue Scaff, Kathryn McAbee and Risa Feely.*

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