

KALOS

Congregational Church of Almaden Valley — United Church of Christ

March 2012

Pastor's Corner



The Season of Lent

By the time many of you read this reflection we may well be into the season of Lent. Lent begins on February 22 with Ash Wednesday and ends on the Saturday before Easter. Lent traditionally has been marked by

penitential prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Some churches today still observe a rigid schedule of fasting during certain days of Lent, especially the giving up of meat, alcohol, sweets, and other types of foods. Other traditions focus on charitable deeds, especially helping those in physical need with food and clothing or simply giving money to charities. Most churches that observe Lent will focus on a time of prayer and penance, repenting for failures and sin as a way to focus on the need for God's grace. Hopefully, all this will help Christians prepare for Easter and bring greater awareness to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

One year during Lent, I fasted by giving up eating lunch twice a week. During this time of fasting, I thought about and prayed for those who were hungry and in need. I also donated the money I saved for lunch to a local soup kitchen. I have to admit that I felt greater empathy and awareness to those who were without food by fasting during Lent.

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Some questions for us to ponder as we enter the season of Lent this year is does Lent have any place in our spiritual lives? Can we practice some of the spiritual disciplines of Lent, such as disciplined prayer time and fasting or will we carry on as if everything is the same? I invite each one of us to ponder these questions as we live into the Lenten season this year. May God grace you with a Lenten season that will enrich your spirit and bring you new life and abundant life!

Blessings,
Pastor Rod

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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.

We hope you'll return to us soon!

Moderator's Message



March is here and spring will soon be in the air, budding flowers and longer days. I love this time of year. As you may have noticed, the *Kalos* came out a bit late for February, but

fear not—the dynamic duo of *Sue Scuff* and *Risa Feely* have worked out the kinks to refine and publish the *Kalos* (I was the weak link causing the delay, but happily have not been “voted off” the team). As they say, many hands make for light work, and I'm thrilled to have Sue and Risa at the helm, with me as their back up.

A few updates:

New Elevator. The elevator will be installed in a little over a week! *Mike Moore* has been keeping me informed of the status, and per Mike this has been a big effort by both ECA and CCAV (*Bob Green, Sue Scuff, Connie Moore, Bryan Bond, Ron Howie*). Another example of how “many hands make for light work”! This is going to be a great improvement to the building. Per Mike this elevator is not only safe and reliable, but it is also silent and swift—the Cadillac of elevators. Many thanks to all who helped with this project.

Cement Work. *Dennis Widman* gave me an update about the cement work that will be done around the building—and happy to report that the patio will be ready to use once our spring days are here. It will be nice to start using the patio again for barbeques or just enjoying the lovely weather under the big shady tree.

Search Committee. *Pastor Yee* is just about ready to commence with the Search Committee, and if there are any others in the Congregation who would like to help with this very important committee, please let me or Pastor Yee know.

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Fun Activities. *Dave Harris* has moved from Council to JV—but he’s still pulling together fun activities to plan throughout the year—one of which will be a Spaghetti Feed. The date is Friday, April 13th. I’m arranging a short entertainment treat for those who attend, so bring your family and friends. All are welcome. A sign-up sheet will be in Fellowship Hall with more details.

Finances. I’m sending a separate letter to the Congregation outlining our 2012 final budget. This is an important topic, and I didn’t want it to get buried with all the rest of the news and commentary. However, we are including the 2011 annual report in the *Kalos* for your information, which was prepared by *David Hough*. We all owe David many thanks for his tireless and excellent work to ensure we accurately track and record our financial status. His insights this past year have been invaluable to me, and I, for one, am very grateful he’s helping Council again this year. Thank you David!

I’ll end with a reference to the *Daily Devotional* that I like to read when I have the time. This one was especially meaningful to me and I hope to you as well. If you would like to see the entire commentary, let me know. The author, Anthony B. Robinson, a UCC minister was essentially telling us that that we don’t have to be perfect, good enough is, well, good enough! Our contributions do make a difference. He ended his message with this, “*Go easy into this day—it doesn’t all depend on you. But go into it with joy—you have a part to play and a contribution to make, and without you it won’t be the same.*”

A Prayer

Thanks, God, for being such a wise and good God and creating a very good world with a place for each and every one of us to make a contribution. Amen.”

Shalom,
Kathryn McAbee
Moderator

People in the Pews

My second chance to do this column. Pray I will have words to share that will keep you current and knowing that the folks at CCAVUCC are always open and welcoming to new visitors. We pray that some of those folks who have been apart from us for a while will return and be a presence in our worship time together.

We have been blessed with the gifts of *Pastor Rodney Yee* for a year now. His leadership, his presence among us, his good listening ear, and his sermons are insightful and always with a bit of humor thrown in. Rodney is a great addition to our choir, too. Thank you Pastor Rodney for your leadership and caring for all of us.

We were deeply saddened at the loss of *Dr. Richard Okumura*. Dick served our church in so many ways. He has left a mark upon our hearts, and we will miss his presence among us all. We gathered together with his family and all his many, many friends to honor Dick and show our love for him and his very special family. Dick is now released from all pain, and though we had to say goodbye, we know he is no longer in pain but watching over all who loved and cared for him.

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Alice Bullard passed away recently, and we miss her of course. She was such a strong person and stubborn too. But we were blessed to have had her among all of us for all these many years. May she be at peace and at rest. She is missed.

Thank You's

Probably not my place to say what follows but just need to express my gratefulness and proudness of my son *Bill Allfrey*. Bill was asked on Thursday, just before Dr. Okumura's service on Saturday, to come and clean up several of our carpets. He managed to work his schedule so that he could clean the narthex, choir room and several hall rugs on Friday. So, as a proud mother I have to say, "Thank you Bill for your generous gift to all of us at our Joint Venture churches."

We are grateful for our wonderful organist and Choir Director *Kristal Kim*. Our churches are blessed by her presence and her skills. Thank you Kristal for your gift of music both on the organ and piano and in directing our choirs.

Thank you *John Hawes* for our Folk Choir. Know that we always have room for more musicians, so don't be shy. Just give John a call and join in the fun.

Thank you to *Rev. Jack and Mary* for their presence among us as we celebrated the life of Dr. Okumura. Always a blessing when we get to see them.

The Annual Ladies Day Valentine Breakfast was a big success. Thanks to all the gentlemen who made this special occasion extra special. The food, the band and

all the handsome gentlemen who served the ladies were much appreciated. Thank you again for this gift.

Please keep me up to date on what is happening in your lives and the lives of your loved ones, so I can pass it on through our *Kalos*.

Something to Think About

James 1:19–20

My dear brothers, take note of this:

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.

Joel Osteen

If you want to live your best life now, you must be quick to forgive.

Learn to let go of the hurts and pains of the past.

Don't let bitterness take root in your life.

It doesn't make any sense to stay angry for what somebody's already done to you.

You can't do anything about the past, but you can do something about the future.

You might as well forgive and start trusting God to make it up to you.

Dot Allfrey

Christian Education

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

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Sunday School Visits

Many of you visited our Sunday School room in February—as teachers, shepherds, contributors to our environment; some just wanting to look at what’s going on, to help with a special and unique talent that you possess, and some as our students. Your reactions and responses to what you saw are most encouraging and propel us forward to continue our mission of providing a meaningful Christian Education program for our children and youth at our churches.

Bible Puppets

In February, we introduced to new aspects to our program, and both were very well received. First, we added Bible character puppets to our Storytelling Learning Center. To start this off, *Wendy Martin*, our guest teacher, and her son, *Nick*, gave our story *Calling the Disciples along the Sea of Galilee* a fresh look in our puppet theater. Their presentation was delightful, humorous, and a fun way to reinforce this unit’s learning for our students. The children followed up Wendy’s and Nick’s presentation with one of their own using our new puppets which was equally as entertaining. You should have been there!

The Drama!

Our second new addition to our program in February was with drama. *Sandie Mueller*, a very capable teacher in this area, joined our team to work with the children to act out our story *Calling the Disciples*. Sandie has a wonderful approach by getting children involved in the story emotionally and cognitively. Every child experiences the story from all sides and through all characters.

As we move forward we hope the children will be able to share some of these wonderful drama experiences with all of you in church.

Our Learning Center Approach

Our Learning Center approach is a wonderful way to meet children’s individual learning styles and interests as we truly engage our children in the wonderful stories of our Christian heritage and love of Christ. Currently we have eight different centers through which we teach our unit themes: art, music, cooking, games, science, drama, storytelling, and puppetry. No matter what basic curriculum is selected for next fall for our children, we will continue to develop exciting ways to present it through our Learning Centers.

The Welcome Mat is Always Out

Visitors are always welcome in our classroom—yes, even during our Sunday School hour. We want everyone to know what we are doing, how we go about it, and how our children are engaged and involved in learning. We want everyone to get caught up in our excitement so everyone can spread the Good News and the good news about what is happening at our churches. Let’s all be ready to invite new families and children to share this experience with us.

Special Thanks

Thanks to *Alex Alvarado*, for her new commitment to our Sunday School program; first, for photographing our classroom and students for our website, and then volunteering to be one of our shepherds. (A shepherd is one who comes to assist our teachers. It is important

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for us to have two adults in our classroom each week with our students.)

Thanks to *Wendy Martin, Gwen Hacker, Sandie Mueller, and Janice Krabenbuhl* for committing to be guest teachers during the month of February. They did our storytelling, music, drama, and games Learning Centers respectively. All of these centers were engaging and well received by our students.

Thanks to *Dot Allfrey* for her help doing a little more sorting and organizing in the Christian Education office.

In Your Faithful Service,
Susie Ferguson

Vacation Bible School: Look What We're Planning!

Help Us "Go for the Gold"

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is being planned for our churches. "Go for the Gold" will be our theme to tie into the summer olympics which are happening this year. Our dates for VBS will be June 11–15. We will offer VBS to children from age four through fifth grade. So mark your calendars and share the news. Registration forms and advertising plans are set to go by March 1st.

A New Year Brings Changes

We will be writing our own program this year and of course, including some new features that we haven't offered in the past. For example, we will be offering an

extended afternoon program to accommodate working moms and dads. We will include an outreach component by contributing to Montgomery Meals on June 15th. We can also freeze some of our contributions to be used for the shelter feeding of CCAVUCC. We also are hoping to have a JV BBQ and fellowship event for Friday, June 15th, with the intent of inviting new families that are part of our VBS to come and meet us all.

Yes, this all may seem a bit ambitious. But, with all the wonderful talent and spirit within our congregations we think it is very possible.

Bring Your Talent

Wouldn't you love to be part of this exciting creation? Here's how. First, we need a few people who would like to develop our program with us. We plan to offer Learning Centers. So if you are especially talented in cooking, music, art, drama, storytelling, puppetry, science, games or worship come help us plan activities for that Center around our theme and selected scripture verses.

We need volunteers to help with our program during the hours from 9 a.m. to 12 noon each day of VBS. Share whatever time you can. Just let me know the days, times and centers that work best and I will create a schedule that's convenient for you. Our goal is to have at least 30 attendees. We will want at least three guest teachers to run three Centers simultaneously, and three shepherds to support them during official VBS time.

Community Service Hours

Students needing community service hours can volunteer to work with us. If your school requires your

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community service hours to be approved beforehand, bring me the paperwork as soon as possible so we can get it and you approved.

JV BBQ

We will need special help and assistance with organizing the JV BBQ event. We might need special help making teaching materials and gathering miscellaneous supplies. We will want help walking our neighborhood in March to pass out flyers advertising our VBS. We would enjoy having extra volunteers as needed for our afternoon care program. We will want help for things we have yet to think of at the writing of this notice.

If you would like to be part of this exciting program for our churches this year, please contact me as soon as you feel called. Let's get this undertaking underway so that it can be the best VBS possible for us and for those who attend. You can reach me via email: susie@thinkuniversal.net or cell phone: (408) 499-6381, or catch me at church.

Yes, let's "Go for the Gold" together!
Susie Ferguson

Outreach

Shelter Feeding: It Takes a Village

On the third Tuesday of each month faithful CCA-VUCC volunteers gather to prepare dinner for and serve about 110 people at two downtown homeless shelters (Julian St. Inn and Commercial St. Inn). It does take a village so to speak. Additionally, on the previous Sunday, banana Jell-O is prepared after our service.

There are folks who donate cookies. *Linda Farr* arranges for and picks up donuts given by *Maple Leaf Donuts* at Almaden Plaza. Linda also has shared her fresh persimmons as well as donated books from the library for the shelter residents. Day-old bread is picked up on Monday evening at *Le Boulanger* at Main Street. The residents and shelter staff are always very appreciative of our gifts to them. And it all comes together through the willingness to share one's time, talent and treasure, and by the unending grace of God. If you feel called to participate in this Outreach ministry please contact Phyllis Chai at (408) 226-7150.

Phyllis Chai

Announcements

Aluminum Cans for Habitat for Humanity

Joint Venture Churches will be collecting empty aluminum cans for Habitat for Humanity the weekend of March 23 and 24. When you see the Habitat can sign in front of the church, aluminum cans can be left by the sheds at the back of the church parking lot near the rose garden. Left cans will be moved to a secure area periodically. Collected cans will eventually be taken to a recycler and the money received donated to Habitat for Humanity, Silicon Valley. Please, no plastic or glass.

Thank you,
Tom Gerber

Global Brigades

This June I have a unique opportunity to travel to Honduras with Global Medical Brigade, an

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organization comprised of students and medical professionals reaching out to less fortunate communities. I am currently a first year Physician Assistant student at USC, and will be making the trip with a group of fellow classmates as well as undergraduate students from UC Riverside. We will spend a week traveling to underserved, rural areas around the city of Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, setting up temporary clinics where people can come and receive medical treatment free of charge.

Honduras: Poverty and Disease

Honduras is one of the poorest countries in Latin America with 53% of the population living in poverty. Disease and malnutrition are the leading causes of death in children under five years old. The basic needs of education, health care, and clean water are luxuries for the majority of the people there, and in the rural communities where we will be working, they are even scarcer. We are entering an era where the community is global, and as global citizens, we must do our part to contribute what we can in helping those in need.

You Are Needed

In order for this trip to be a success, I need your support. I am looking for sponsors to support my trip and mission to help others. The total trip cost is \$1500 and I must fundraise what I can to support my trip. Extra donations will go directly towards necessary medicines and medical supplies needed to run the medical clinics each day. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss your donation further. You can donate

to my trip at <http://www.empowered.org/donate> and searching under Elizabeth Hoyt.

I truly appreciate your time and consideration. Your contribution will be a greatly valued gift to the people in Honduras.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Hoyt
elizabmh@usc.edu

Joint Venture: Still Unique After 40 Years

On February 11, 1972, the Articles of Incorporation for the Joint Venture Churches of Almaden were filed with the office of the Secretary of State of California (Edmund G. Brown, Jr., as it happens).

That action followed at least 5–6 years of sharing space, thinking about making it permanent, figuring out the pitfalls, etc. Kind of like a courtship before the engagement.

The 1972 document solidified that “marriage.” To my knowledge, there is no other like it. Yes, many churches share their space, but none actually own the premises together.

So, this is the 40th anniversary of that union. Through those years, we have survived a number of clergy, most of whom started out skeptical; growth or decline of one congregation or the other; dealing with the

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differences in denominational cultures and requirements; building a larger space; in short, the things that making living together interesting, as well as demanding.

A 40th anniversary is something to celebrate, give thanks for, and offer prayers for continued understanding and fellowship as we move toward 50 and beyond.

Brenda McHenry
Joint Venture Treasurer

Joint Venture Recycling

Hear Ye One and All! From the look of the bin contents in Fellowship Hall and other church locations on Sunday mornings, it seems that a reminder about recycling is in order.

Hopefully, everyone knows that the blue bins with the recycling logo on them are the only ones for depositing clean (rinsed cups) recyclables. Not infrequently, one can see cups tossed in those containers which still have colored beverages in them. When that happens, everything in the bin must be tossed out. It's best to put anything that does not fit the criteria for recycling in the trash bins. If you find a bin without a plastic liner, please get one in the kitchen. Also, let us help the coffee hosts by not putting liquids in the blue recycling bin (with the white logo). Otherwise, the bin needs to be emptied and dried if it has no liner.

Thanks much for your renewed attention to being good stewards of our environment!

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Beliefs Questionnaire

With our church always welcoming new visitors and about to start a search for a permanent pastor, a small group of us* believed that an anonymous questionnaire about our beliefs would be a good idea. It might help visitors know us better and perhaps help them decide if they want to attend. Also, it should help prospective pastors know more about our church members.

Those attending an after-church meeting in December 2011 answered the questionnaire. The questionnaire is 16 statements (see below) that respondents answered by indicating one of the following: Agree Strongly, Agree, Not Sure, Disagree, or Disagree Strongly.

We present the results here.

Anonymous Questionnaire About Beliefs: Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC

From an After-Church Meeting, December 2011

Statements	Agree		Not Sure	Disagree	Disagree		Total
	Strongly	Agree			Strongly		
1. God exists	16	10	4	0	0	30	
2. God is guiding us all the time	6	12	9	2	1	30	
3. God punishes us for our sins	1	3	7	12	6	29	
4. God rewards us for our good deeds	1	6	10	8	4	29	
5. The bible is an accurate word of God	3	3	9	12	3	30	
6. The bible is a useful guide to life	8	18	1	2	0	29	
7. Heaven exists in an afterlife	2	11	13	2	2	30	
8. Hell exists in an afterlife	1	2	9	11	6	29	
9. Christ is the only son of God	6	6	8	7	3	30	
10. Christ was only a revered teacher	3	8	7	6	4	28	
11. Evolution is the best explanation of human life on earth	9	8	5	7	1	30	
12. There is only one true way to interpret Christianity	1	5	3	9	11	29	
13. I feel that the members of our church are a family	14	16	0	0	0	30	
14. A church should be open to all including gays	19	11	0	0	0	30	
15. A church should be open to people of all religions	16	9	2	2	1	30	
16. A church should have a set of beliefs which all members must believe	0	3	2	8	16	29	

* Dave Harris, Charles Krahenbuhl, Risa Feely and Ted Feely

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Treasurer's Report

Please find the annual treasurer's report at one of these two links:

- <http://avucc.oakapple.net/treasury/2011-final/2011-annual-report.pdf>
- <http://avucc.oakapple.net/treasury/2011-final/2011-annual-report.doc>

Treasurer's Annual Report for 2011—Audited Results

David Hough
15 February 2012

Accounts and Funds

ACCOUNT and FUND BALANCES

	AUDITED Balance 12/31/10	FINAL Balance 3/31/11	Final Balance 6/30/11	Final Balance 9/30/11	AUDITED Balance 12/31/11
Bank Account Statement Amounts:					
Checking	37,790	35,312	39,254	22,897	48,523
MM	12,884	12,892	12,900	12,908	12,915
CD	10,333	10,346	10,356	10,364	10,372
SmithBarney	0	4,240	4,480	4,586	20
SmithBarney Transfer	0	0	0	0	0
Total Bank Accounts	61,007	62,789	66,990	50,754	71,829
Fund Allocations:					
Budget income	145,287	20,046	55,847	75,429	128,375
Budget expense	-166,222	-22,837	-55,692	-92,407	-120,507
Transient funds	1,198	4,842	6,196	7,093	3,231
Persistent funds	80,744	60,739	60,639	60,639	60,730
Total Fund Allocations	61,007	62,789	66,990	50,754	71,829

Accounts are at financial institutions. *Funds* are the way we think about the purposes of the money we have in the accounts. The Accounts and Funds always add up equal. Some income and expense funds are part of the annual budget, and others are not.

The non-budget funds are *Transient*, mostly for annual donations flowing through to activities like Shelter Feeding and Habitat, and *Persistent*, mostly from memorial donations used for the specified purposes as the need arises.

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Budgeted Operations on Cash Basis

BUDGETED INCOME and EXPENSE

	Balance 12/31/10	Balance 3/31/11	Balance 6/30/11	Balance 9/30/11	AUDITED Balance 12/31/11	%	FINAL Budget 10/26/10
Income							
Pledge	129,391	17,709	45,269	60,394	108,362	91	119,000
Plate	15,397	2,246	10,398	14,792	19,703	141	14,000
Interest	199	21	39	55	70	35	200
MiscInc	300	70	141	188	240	120	200
Fund Raising	0	0	0	0	0		0
Total Income	145,287	20,046	55,847	75,429	128,375	96	133,400
Expenses							
Salary	-35,223	0	-573	-1,069	-1,565	5	-34,625
Housing	-21,510	0	-6,929	-12,929	-18,929	88	-21,510
SETaxOffset	-4,262	0	-574	-1,071	-1,568	37	-4,269
Benefits	-13,341	0	-3,955	-7,908	-11,862	60	-19,865
MinistersExp	-464	0	-1,098	-1,996	-1,996	100	-2,000
Minister's Package	-74,801	0	-13,129	-24,973	-35,919	44	-82,269
UCCShare	-4,000	0	0	0	-4,000	100	-4,000
Insurance	-2,276	0	-2,262	-2,262	-2,845	124	-2,300
Miscellaneous	-1,578	-2,000	-2,305	-2,335	-2,485	124	-2,000
Nursery	-140	0	0	0	0		0
Postage	-79	0	0	0	0	0	-100
Admin/General	-8,074	-2,000	-4,567	-4,597	-9,330	111	-8,400
JVOperating	-83,347	-19,337	-34,996	-57,837	-69,257	83	-83,347
JVCapital	0	-1,500	-3,000	-5,000	-6,000		0
Total Expenses	-166,222	-22,837	-55,692	-92,407	-120,507	69	-174,016
Excess/(Deficit)	-20,935	-2,791	155	-16,978	7,868	-19	-40,616

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Council never revised the budget, set late in 2010 and based on a full-time pastor and another large deficit. But instead we hired a half-time interim pastor and so our expenses were reduced substantially and we finished the year with a cash-basis surplus for the first time in several years, just under \$8000. This surplus reduces the cumulative budget deficit of recent years.

Cash-basis accounting counts items in the month they are received or paid by the bank. This is easier to audit

since no interpretation is required of printed bank statements.

Consistent with the cash-basis financial reporting used last year, all pledges are counted in the year deposited in our bank. The Pledge Recorder will continue to keep track, in individual pledge accounts, of which pledge amounts are for current years and which for future years.

NON-BUDGETED INCOME and EXPENSE

	Balance 12/31/10	Balance 3/31/11	Balance 6/30/11	Balance 9/30/11	AUDITED Balance 12/31/11
Endowment	17	17	17	17	17
ShelterFeed	21	584	752	1,459	1,857
Christmas	405	0	0	0	449
CropWalk	0	0	0	0	0
Disaster	0	0	50	50	0
Habitat	385	0	0	0	380
Heifer	320	0	0	0	509
InnVision	0	0	0	0	0
NIN	0	0	0	0	0
OGHS	0	0	700	700	0
Strengthen	50	0	197	282	0
SB	0	4,240	4,480	4,586	20
SBTransfer	0	0	0	0	0
TaxShelter	0	0	0	0	0
PrepaidPledge	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer	0	0	0	0	0
Transient funds:	1,198	4,842	6,196	7,093	3,231
Pastoral	65,959	65,959	65,959	65,959	65,959
Growth	28,878	28,878	28,928	28,928	28,928
Music	3,771	3,771	3,621	3,621	3,621
Venture	1,872	2,801	2,801	2,801	2,892
PastDeficit	-19,735	-40,670	-40,670	-40,670	-40,670
Persistent funds:	80,744	60,739	60,639	60,639	60,730

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Congregational Church of Almaden Valley – United Church of Christ

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Off-budget Donations

Besides our operating budget, we received these amounts in 2011:

Shelter Feeding	\$2901
Christmas Fund	\$ 449
Habitat	\$ 380
Heifer	\$ 509
Neighbors in Need	\$ 536
Strengthen our Church	\$ 282
Disaster Relief	\$ 50
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 700

- Amounts received in December were transmitted in January.
- We now have off-budget funding for the Shelter Feeding for all of 2012.
- The cumulative operating deficit from prior years is counted as a negative line item among persistent funds, rather than being zero'ed by transferring from one of the named persistent funds.

Endowment

The value of our Endowment continues to reflect the volatility of the stock market, and the zero returns of risk-free cash investments:

Endowment Market Value	Balance 12/31/10	Balance 3/31/11	Balance 6/30/11	Balance 9/30/11	AUDITED Balance 12/31/11
Cornerstone1	6,539	6,593	6,642	6,642	6,684
Cornerstone2	3,170	3,230	3,290	3,290	3,320
Fixed	8,973	9,026	9,187	9,543	9,627
Equity	22,802	24,100	24,100	19,653	21,220
Cash	5,335	5,335	5,335	5,335	5,335
Balanced	24,653	25,592	25,757	23,122	24,361
Total Market Value	71,472	73,876	74,310	67,584	70,545

For 2012, an Endowment Committee needs to be reformed to review why and how we are investing these funds in order to align investments with our goals.

God Is Still Speaking

KALOS

Congregational Church of Almaden Valley – United Church of Christ

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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 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, 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.

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

God Is Still Speaking