

# KALOS

Congregational Church of Almaden Valley — United Church of Christ

September 2012

## Pastor's Corner



“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3: 1)

As the fall season approaches I am reminded of the many changes that occur in our lives. We begin to see changes in our landscape as the autumn leaves

on trees begin to change their color from green to shades of yellow, orange and red. Some of us return to a school schedule after enjoying summer vacation and days off to rest and travel. My older son, Micah, will be moving away for college for the very first time and we have been in the midst of helping him to transition for his new move. Yes, the fall season is upon us and many changes and transitions are coming our way.

Here at CCAV, fall marks a time of changes and transitions as well. We are currently in the midst of remodeling the area under our sanctuary so the space can be utilized as a combination conference and Sunday school meeting area. Sunday school will soon restart and our church choir will once again grace our worship service with inspirational music. The Quest group will gather once again on Wednesday mornings to study and support each other in fellowship. I hope we will all sense a feeling of new energy and rebirth as we anticipate the changes and transitions coming our way.

## In This Issue

Pastor's Corner .....	1
Welcome Visitor .....	2
Moderator's Message .....	2
Pastoral Search Committee .....	3
Christian Education .....	3
Men's Breakfast.....	4
Quest .....	5
Outreach.....	5
Obituary: Someone Else .....	5

Speaking of transitions, the search committee continues to move forward in their work of finding a new part time pastor. I continue to remain hopeful that they will find the “right” person for this church and that my interim/transitional ministry with you will come to an end soon. Let me assure you that I remain faithful to the work that I do and look forward to serving with you as we work toward this transition in our lives. For everything there is a season; let's make this fall season, a good season!

Blessings,  
Pastor Rod

## God Is Still Speaking

# KALOS

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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](http://www.CongregationalChurchOfAlmadenValley.org).

We hope you'll return to us soon!

## Moderator's Message



### *Time to Get Busy Again!*

Summer is almost over—my how the time flies. To me, summer is a time of relaxing, taking a break from the business of life, and spending a little more time

with family and friends. Then fall arrives and all the “busy-ness” starts back up again. Kids are going back to school busy with their studies, after school activities, and of course friends. We fall back into our same ol’ patterns for work, managing home-life, and anything else we can squeeze in.

Wow! Life sure can be an exhausting experience! My work hours alone are very long as I’m sure it is for many of you and your families. I’m very grateful, therefore, to have my “Sunday Club”—aka church family. I love coming to church—even now with a longer drive for Jim and me. Coming to church gives me a break from the pressures of work, from the drama my sons experience with their school/work/friends, from the self-induced burdens I put on myself to “get things done.”

I always look forward to hearing inspiring words from **Pastor Rodney**, and seeing all of you simply makes my day. And, there’s the added benefit of continuing the wonderful feelings for the upcoming week, giving me the energy and a bit of wisdom that helps me keep balance in my life—I don’t have to be busy just because!

Blessings,  
Kathryn McAbee  
Moderator

God Is Still Speaking

# KALOS

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## Pastoral Search Committee

We worked for three months to put together a new pastoral search profile for our church. The profile was posted by UCC in June on the UCC.org website and is available to those who are seeking to be called as pastors.

We have been very fortunate to have received 24 formal inquiries since June 29th and are in various stages of communicating with all of the candidates.

We hope you will attend the Sept. 9th Congregational Meeting, after the church service, for a more in depth report on our progress!

Ted Feely

## Christian Education

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

Our Sunday School program starts on September 9th with our unit “*We Remember Moses.*” The children will begin with the story of baby Moses floating on the Nile. From there we will be witnesses of God calling Moses to a special task, meet Pharaoh, and go with the Israelites through the Red Sea. To help me share these stories this month we have **Wendy Martin, Ashley** and **Nick Martin, Phyllis Chai** and **Sandie Mueller** as our teachers.

We also have been blessed with some outstanding representations of the stories and personalities by **Mary and Dennis Moran** and **Alex Alvarado**. Their artwork is sure to bring a very special visual excitement and life to our lessons. I hope you will take time to come by our Learning and Conference Center and see for yourself these treasures by our resident artists.

To begin this school year we have 11 adults (besides those listed above: **Gwen Hacker, Janice Krahenbuhl, Debbie Estill, Leslie Rousseau, Ann Mayers, Alex Alvarado, Kelly Yamanishi, & Mike Hertzler** willing to teach or shepherd with us. Isn't that fantastic! This begins a wonderful framework that will serve us well as our program grows from its “one room Sunday School” to multiple classes. I hope this year we will all work to expand our program so we can offer at least two classes beginning in 2013. If you would like to work on this “expansion idea,” please give me a call and let's brainstorm some new ideas and activities we might try to grow our Sunday School and churches.

## *Renovation Plans for Sunday School and Youth Facilities*

Are you as excited as I am about the impending renovations for our church? I know many of you, like me, have exciting visions for our joint programs and our individual churches. Let's continue to be positive and rally for the major renovations that are vital to restore a new energy and appeal for visiting and church

God Is Still Speaking

# KALOS

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## September 2012

shopping families. Let's put the health and safety of our children and youth and those yet to join us in the foreground and make our areas for them more welcoming and inviting with new life—bright, shining, clean, and age appropriate. Let's be proud of our facility so we are comfortable inviting new families, especially those with young children to join us. Are you on board? I hope so. Let's continue moving forward. Let's build a better and brighter future for our churches.

We have many things that have served their life expectancies with us and now need to move on to make room for new exciting additions that will enhance our current programs. We are finding them new homes where they can continue "productive lives," so to speak. One such example was some cabinetry and counters that have now been relocated to the Santa Maria Urban Ministries building in downtown San Jose. Special thanks go to **Betty Consorte** for her help in this relocation. We will continue to work towards recycling our old as best we can.

Susie Ferguson  
Your Christian Education Director

## Mens Breakfast—May Report

A special Men's Breakfast was held on May 5th in Fellowship Hall. There were three separate presentations:

1. The 8th annual photographic presentation was made by **George Stone** and **Ed Grossmith**, the former coming down from Seattle especially for the event. As with prior shows given each May, photos were shared of their annual trip, this time in Yosemite and Utah.
2. Nature photos with haiku poems were also presented.
3. The highlight of this year's presentation, however, was a photographic tribute to our good friend and congregant, **Dr. Richard Okimura**, who passed away on February 4th. This well-attended tribute was essentially a celebration of a life well lived. Dick's ever-ready camaraderie, compassion, medical advice, and example on how to live a fulfilling life with family and friends will be greatly missed.

**Dick and Joan** have been active members of our church for the past 38 years. Dick was a passionate supporter and among other activities was the leading

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# KALOS

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## September 2012

light of the Men's Breakfast, planning Valentine's Day parties, arranging monthly speakers, and orchestrating the cooking squad.

DVD copies of the photographic/musical tribute are available on loan from the church office and better portray his virtues than these few words.

### Upcoming Events

#### *Quest*

The Quest ladies group will resume meeting on Wednesday, September 5, at 9:00 a.m. in the choir room. The discussion will continue with study of Revelation 21 and 22. Information may be found at: [www.pcusa.org/horizons](http://www.pcusa.org/horizons). Looking forward to seeing you!

### Outreach

#### *Beneficio Coffee—More Than Fair Trade*

Beneficio More Than Fair Trade Coffee Company continues to sell a 12 oz. bag for \$10.50. You say, "But I can get coffee cheaper than that." Of course we can! I feel good though, about "pushing," preparing, and smelling the aroma of Beneficio, whose mission is to improve the lives of the small farmers and their families in Costa Rica. Thank you for your support! To order Beneficio please contact **Phyllis Chai** at: 226-7150 or [hidong@pacbell.net](mailto:hidong@pacbell.net)

#### *Imagining Another World is Possible*

On World Communion Sunday, October 7, 2012, we will receive our annual "Neighbors in Need" special mission offering which supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

Our church is "5 for 5," meaning that we support each of the four annual special mission offerings as well as contributing to the basic support of the UCC.

### Obituary: Someone Else

#### *From Pat McGarvin—Author Unknown*

Our church was saddened to learn this week of the death of one of our most valued members Someone Else.

Someone's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for many years and for every one of those years. Someone did far more than a normal person's share of the work.

Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, or a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's list, "Let Someone Else do it." Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results: "Someone Else can work with that group."

**God Is Still Speaking**

# KALOS

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## September 2012

It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the most liberal givers in our church. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed Someone Else would make up the difference.

Someone Else was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing superhuman. Were the truth known everybody expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone! We wonder what we are going to do. Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did? When you are asked to help this year, remember: we can't depend on Someone Else anymore.

### **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](mailto:kalos@ccavucc.org). *Kalos* editors are **Sue Scaff**, **Kathryn McAbee** and **Risa Feely**.

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