

# KALOS

Congregational Church of Almaden Valley — United Church of Christ

July 2013

## Minister's Message



Dear Members and Friends,

As we enter July, I would like to “formally” thank you (after the event) for the wonderful Service of Installation on May 19. I appreciate your presence, affirmation of our covenant, hospitality to visitors, and the out pouring of your energy to

arrange the service and reception. Thank you for every aspect that was memorable and treasured. I believe we all felt the outpouring of the Spirit on that special Pentecost day.

What beauty and joy I remember! I really loved the show of yellow and red, the gift of the beautiful rose corsage for me to wear, the gift of the Annunciation Feast icon, and the gift of the flower planter that was on the altar from our Search Committee. I feel overwhelmed, being on the receiving end of your love and affection and thankful for the music, prayers, and attendance. We are grateful as well for the afternoon offering of \$456, given to support the shelter feedings for InnVision and the UCC Strengthen the Church offering.

Installations mark “beginnings.” My attention continues to be drawn to the Installation Prayer at the end of the service which summed up much of what we expect

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and hope for the future. The words speak of how we may honor the covenant we have made. Here are some parts that I highlight as instructive for what is next:

*Almighty God, you have called your servants to make promises before you; now enable us to keep our vows that we may remain steadfast in faith and fruitful in every good work. May we serve in our mutual ministry with faithfulness, diligence and courage. Grant us the spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind. Make our ministry a means of awakening the careless, strengthening the faithful, comforting the afflicted, and building up your church.*

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For me prayer is, in this context, a commitment to service, action, and mindful, meaningful work. It is a “building up of Christ’s church.” Each time we have opportunity to be together let’s strive to remember this prayer and let it be our focus. We have some nice summer days ahead to be bathed in summer light and feel the touch of God’s Spirit on our days of leisure or work or worship. We pray we will be in a place to know God’s leadership and direction as we serve in our mutual ministry with faithfulness, diligence and courage. I hope we will find opportunity to talk about what those words in the sentence mean: faithfulness, diligence and courage!

I look forward to summer worship and ongoing conversations about how we may engage in creative fellowship and growth for our life together at CCAV-UCC! If you have any interest in getting more involved in some leadership area, please speak to me or any Council member! AND, thank you for all the financial support you give especially through the summer months and during a time when we are struggling to maintain our church budget needs. Every gift, every giver is greatly appreciated!

May we continue to know God’s blessing of creative energy drawing us together to be the church and build the church. May we be faithful, diligent and courageous, weaving together, with the Spirit, the Tapestry of a New Creation.

Grace and peace,,

Pastor Michele

## Notes of Thanks and Congratulations

We are grateful to CE Director, **Susie Ferguson**, and her team of teachers who taught our children through the school year and recently conducted the “Splash Zone, Water for Life” VBS program, June 10–14. Our own **Phyllis Chai** was a VBS teacher; how grateful we are for her dedication to teaching our children. AND, there are others who work behind the scenes to insure success in our program. **Tom Gerber** deserves thanks for hanging the banners and responding with help for those needs. Thank you to others who are not named here!

Thank you! We are grateful to **Rev. Charles Krahenbuhl** for leading our 9 a.m. worship service on July 7. He generously gives his gift of worship leadership to our church during the Pastor’s absence. We are grateful, Charles.

Congratulations to **Melanie Weiner** who graduated from Pacific School of Religion with her Masters of Divinity degree (May 26). We continue to pray for Melanie as she meets the NCNC Conference Committee to be approved for ordination and seeks an ordainable call to ministry.

Congratulations to all high school, college and seminary graduates of our congregation!

Pastor Michele

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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 Note

Hope all the dads in our congregation had a nice Father's Day. We had a fairly good turnout for church service on Father's Day morning.

Next Sunday is our mid-year congregational meeting, which will be held during coffee hour. We will be sharing and reviewing all the positive actions that have been taken by your council since the first of this year.

One of the topics we will discuss is getting organized to celebrate CCAV's 50th anniversary! I took some time after church today to look for scrapbooks and binders that have been kept over the years showing activities and marking special events in our church's life. I found one section of a cabinet full of UCC books in the storage area under the steps to the sanctuary. The next step is to get some volunteers to start gathering and planning for this milestone! I believe Diane Hawes is interesting in helping work on a Birthday Committee. If you are interested in helping, let a council member know.



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We had a good response to folks getting their photos updated for our new Photo Board. This will fit right in with our celebrating our anniversary with bulletin boards and displays! I am looking forward to seeing past photos and hearing the stories that go with them.

Shalom  
Connie

## Christian Education

It's very early morning, and no one else is stirring. All last week I was up very early (VBS week), and it is hard to break that habit. I am watching the fog lift and pull back gently. The Monterey Aquarium and Cannery Row are now highlighted with sunshine. By the time I finish this article there will be sunshine right over me, too. I couldn't ask for a nicer spot to reflect, review, and rejuvenate from a most exciting VBS week.

Yes, our VBS program, Splash Zone—Water for Life—was an amazing week. It did take an unbelievable number of hours of research and preparation to develop our own curriculum and program for this year. But I believe it was well worth all the time and energy. Those children that experience more than one VBS in a summer can be guaranteed their week with us will not be duplicated!

How exciting to blend five wonderful water stories from the Bible with science of today in the conservation and preservation of clean water. Of course, we began with the story of creation (Gen1:1 – 2:3) and in science focused on the water cycle. We followed that with the story of Moses and water from the rock

(Exodus 17:1-7) and in science looked at our own daily water use. Our oldest children (9, 10, & 11 year olds) actually studied hydroponics and made their own systems in those two-liter plastic bottles many of you saved for me. Wednesday we had the story of Jesus' baptism (Mark1:1-11) and paired that with the study of clean water. We learned about a "watershed" and how pollutants are transported into many of our water sources. We also did an experiment to show how hard and long it takes to clean up our water sources once polluted. Our fourth story for the week was how Jesus calmed the storm (Mark 4:35-41). As we learned God is with us through everything we made "twirlibirds" stating ways we each personally could trust God in our own individual lives. This was also our "water play day" so there was lots of water fun happening in our parking lots around the church. When have you gone clamming for marbles with your toes, trusted a partner in "blind squirt bottle fun," played Sprinkle, Sprinkle, Dunk, and just been totally soaked for the fun of it. Our last story of the week, the woman at the well (John 4:1-15, 28-30) helped us look at what quenches our thirsts of the heart and sharing Jesus with others which we did in our closing program for our families.

Every day we had a special memory verse, song, and art activity that tied to our story of the day as well. During our active play outside we introduced the parachute. Check out the photo album for VBS in fellowship hall and see the great mushroom our group created with the parachute. We had a very active and full program from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. all week. To accomplish all that we did it took many, many hands from lots of volunteers. Just look at our list:

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- Our teachers for the week: **Phyllis Chai**, Bible Time; **Elizabeth Cihon**, Water Works, Science; and **Anne Van der Staay**, Art Time
- Our counselors: **Emily De La Rosa & Kara Nieders** (4 & 5 yr. olds); **Julia Samuel & Kylie Watanabe** (6,7,8 yr. olds); **Susanna Machado** (9,10,11 yr. olds)
- Our snack helpers: **Susanne Moore, Nancy Romer, Maryke Williams, Suzanne & Peter Mayo, Carol MacDonald, & Betty Consorte**
- Videographer for our closing program: **Ed Mueller**
- Drama props and costumes: **Sandie Mueller & Melinda Jennings**
- Materials and special project construction: **Betty & Dom Consorte**
- Memory verse materials: **Wendy Martin**
- Testing experiments and art ideas: **Nancy & George Romer, Susanne & Arnold Moore, Suzanne & Peter Mayo, Phyllis Chai, and Elizabeth Cihon**
- Volleyball Court preparation: **Mary McPherson, Ellen & Todd Lukanc, Pat McGarvin, Maryke Williams**
- Tot Lot cleanup: **Debbie Estill, Suzanne & Peter Mayo**
- Curriculum consulting: **Kate Flexer and Dana Renfrand**
- Logo Design: **Nicole Develbiss**
- Banner Design and water bottle label design: **Kelly Yamanishi**
- Prayer Support: Many of you behind the scenes

I sincerely appreciate all the help I was given to produce this year's VBS week. It is not possible for me to thank all my helpers enough for all that they did to add to our success. I hope their experience made it worthwhile for them. I hope all the children that participated left with many wonderful memories, some new knowledge, and most importantly a sense that they are a beloved child of God which all our volunteers made possible.

In Your Faithful Service,  
Susie Ferguson  
Director, Christian Education

## Outreach

### *Shelter Feeding*

The number of residents has increased at the two downtown shelters to which we serve dinner monthly; some of the women from the shelter which burned are now being housed at Commercial St. Inn, and additional residents from Montgomery St. Inn now eat at Julian St. Inn.

Hence, we are providing more food than previously. Any donations of cookies and/or checks (made out to CCAV,UCC with "shelter feeding" in the memo section, and placed in the offering plate or taken/mailed to the church office) to help pay for the groceries is very much appreciated.

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## *Second Harvest Food Bank Bin*

Poverty/hunger doesn't take the summer off. Perhaps you've seen the local news articles which indicate that the numbers of those needing aid has increased dramatically. With that in mind, the Second Harvest Food Bank bin continues to set in the downstairs hallway near the choir room; any donations of the usual preferred canned goods are much appreciated.

## *Sacred Heart Community Service Backpack Drive*

If it's summer, the annual Sacred Heart Community Service Backpack Drive is underway. Our congregation is again being invited to help meet the goal of 2,300 filled backpacks for needy children. The fact that the Sacred Heart staff can purchase the necessary supplies for the best price suggests that those who feel called to help meet this need write checks payable to Sacred Heart Community Service with "Pack-A-Back Education" in the memo section of the check. The checks may be given to Phyllis Chai or Dian Hawes. We are aiming to have the donations by Sunday, July 14. Every donation will be appreciated.

## **Upcoming Events**

### *Third Sundays Roundtable Discussion July 21*

After worship, during fellowship, Rev Michele will choose a topic and encourage discussion around the questions posed. If you have a topic of interest, please speak to Rev. Michele.

## *Summer Opportunity*

*Where in the world have you been?* Bring back some water and a photo from your travels. This summer when you travel, whether near or far, we invite you to bring back a little water. It may be from a river, a lake, the ocean, a stream, or even a water fountain. As all of our water sources flow and blend together in God's creation so we will flow and blend back together as a community in September after our summer travels. Pick up a 2 oz. cobalt blue bottle in fellowship hall to use to bring back your water. A display will be growing in fellowship hall. Have a picture taken on your travels and let us post that near our display as well. Plan to join us on Labor Day weekend for a Joint Venture worship celebration (10 a.m.) of our community and blend our water sources together.

## *JV Worship September 1!*

Rev. Kate Flexer will lead. Rev. Michele will be away and encourages CCAV-UCC volunteers to lead with Rev. Kate.

## *Church Directory Updates*

If you know of any changes for addresses/phone numbers/emails, please let Margot (in the church office) know. Thank You! (office@ccavucc.org or 268-0244).

Would you like to volunteer to be a liturgist, greeter, coffee hour host, or communion server. Please call the office or sign up on the CCAV bulletin board?

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## *Save the Date—February 21–22, 2014*

Progressive Christian Forum of Santa Cruz invites us to hear Diana Butler-Bass speak about the future of the church. She's the author of *Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening*. Many from our Association and Conference will be attending; let's think about going together.

## *Quest*

The ladies Quest group Wednesday meetings will not happen again until September 4 at 9 a.m. in the choir room.

## *July Birthdays*

John Hawes	7/24
Karen Click	7/27
Evan Quint	7/30
Susan Gaydon	7/31
Victoria Juanitas	7/31

## **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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