

KALOS

Congregational Church of Almaden Valley — United Church of Christ

August 2013

Minister's Message



Dear Members and Friends,

Hope my message finds you well. As usual, I like to speak what is happening in the life of our congregation and highlight an event to come. This summer, "Where in the "world" have you been?" has been a question posed for us.

The question gives us opportunity to talk about our "comings and goings" these summer days. The "blue bottles" in the Fellowship Hall are available for anyone who'd like to take a bottle and bring back a little water as a symbol of the places they visited. (Yes, I believe I can even bring some of the muddy Mississippi River water from my MS/LA visits.) The idea is to gather the water bottles and share, through this symbol of water, a remembrance of the world, God's love for the world and what we've experienced in the Almaden Valley and beyond! (see paragraph with more detail about this invitation below)

What a great idea and a continuation of the "water" theme from Vacation Bible School last June. The words of the song, "Water, River, Spirit, Grace," (*Chalice Hymnal*, No. 366) come to mind for me: "*Water, River, Spirit, Grace, sweep over me, sweep over me! Re-carve the depths your fingers traced in sculpting me, in sculpting me.*" The words are a prayer as we know that the places we go and people we meet help us to not only know the world better and ourselves better but God's divine "sculpting"

In This Issue

Minister's Message	1
Welcome Visitor	2
Moderator's Note.....	2
Christian Education	3
Upcoming Events	4
Improvements.....	6
A Concern	7
A Life Changing Experience	7

of who we are becoming, day by day and week by week. In God's design, this is carried over into who we are becoming as the "Church!" The blending of the waters will help us remember that we are never alone; through God's grace, we blend our lives and our unity brings us strength and hope.

I'm sorry I will not be with you for that **Joint Venture Service on September 1, 10 a.m.**, to share the "pouring of the water" from the "blue bottles," yet, I'll be with you in spirit, remembering you and supporting all that we do together. I am grateful to Rev. Kate Flexer for her willingness to lead this special Joint Venture Service of Word and Sacrament over the Labor Day weekend.

Meanwhile, during these August Sundays, we may pause to continue to treasure the opportunity for worship (9 a.m. every Sunday morning with childcare always provided) and for time to share in outreach to one another. We have opportunity to be grateful for those

God Is Still Speaking

KALOS

Congregational Church of Almaden Valley – United Church of Christ

August 2013

who lead us and volunteer in many capacities to serve our church, even with “summer” breaks. We continue to thank **Connie Moore**, our Moderator, and all those on our Church Council who are working hard this year to carry out Church Council business/objectives. We are grateful for those who are representatives to our Joint Venture Board; they, also, share ways we may serve our Joint Venture building/program needs.

Whatever the summer days are bringing, whatever your condition or need, I hope you feel the love and prayers of your church family and the invitation to let people know what you are needing for support. AND, if you are a visitor reading this message, I hope you know you have a “standing” invitation to join us whenever you are able to be present! Whatever our age or our circumstance, our prayer may be that God, will “re-carve and sculpt us” and help us know the Spirit sweeping over us like the waters of our baptism to love, protect, encourage and buoy us for whatever we may face for the future.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Michele

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 Note

Thanks to some volunteers at our Congregational meeting in June we have some PhunStuff activities planned! Last Saturday we had a nice group of about 25 gather at **Audrey’s** home for a potluck and good conversation. **Carolyn and Dave Crowley** will be our hosts for an August 17



get-together at their home. On September 7 we will take ourselves over to **Diane and John Hawes’** home in Capitola. More information will be coming, so mark your calendar and join us!

Another thing to watch for will be our new church banner. **Tom Gerber** has been busy looking into banners for our Welcome and Visibility Initiative. I believe the plan is to have a main banner with the

God Is Still Speaking

KALOS

Congregational Church of Almaden Valley – United Church of Christ

August 2013

church information and then to have an additional smaller banner showing scheduled events as they come up. **Ted and Risa Feely** had a hand in helping with the design! Thank you, Tom, Risa, and Ted.

I have been hearing some conversations about our 50th birthday. **Diane, Audrey, Debbie, and Dot** have had their heads together about collecting memorabilia and looking for addresses of members who have moved away. If you'd like to be a part of this just ask one of the ladies or me about what is going on. We do plan on getting organized and getting our lists started soon! Our Worship Committee will be meeting with Pastor Michele on August 20, for a planning session. If you have any comments or suggestions, feel free to speak to someone on the committee: **Carla Gerber, Debbie Bemis, Dot Allfrey** (head usher), **Connie Moore** (Moderator).

Shalom
Connie

Christian Education

Summer has been far from downtime in the Christian Education department. By the reading of this article, Krystal and I should be enjoying our new office with its fresh coat of paint and new floor—a major project for July. A great many people contributed to this transformation. As of this article's deadline, my list to thank includes **Suzanne and Peter Mayo, Roger Hoyt, Anne Tysanner, Susanne Moore, Mel Stonehocker, Diane Hawes, Ron Howie, Betty and Dom**

Consorte, Todd Lukanc, Leslie Rousseau, and David Byers. I know there will be many more to add to this list and I will certainly do that next month.

August is a busy month in Christian education as we prepare for our new Sunday school year which will begin September 8, at 10 a.m. I am most excited to be preparing for two classes this year. We will hold a class for four- and five-year-olds in our beautiful pre-school room. We will hold a class for children through fifth grade in our learning center. I am anticipating that 13 children will be registered for our program starting in September, with the potential of many more with the new friends we made during our VBS program. Please pray that our church will be blessed by many new families and children this fall.

I will be holding a Teacher and Shepherd Training time on Saturday, August 24, 9 a.m. to Noon. Anyone interested in learning about our curriculum and plans for the coming year is welcome to join us. Come find out what we will be teaching and how we plan to inspire our children and share the love of Christ with them. This opportunity is not only for teachers and shepherds. Everyone is welcome. Please let me know if you are coming as I always have special things planned for everyone who attends.

Don't miss the exciting Sunday being planned for Labor Day weekend! We will be inviting all our VBS campers back for that Sunday with water from their summer travels. This will be a great opportunity to meet these families and share the exciting things that

God Is Still Speaking

KALOS

Congregational Church of Almaden Valley – United Church of Christ

August 2013

happen around our church. So do plan to be here on September 1, at the 10 a.m. JV service. If you are interested in helping me with a special lunch for that day, please give me a call. Let's make it a very special kickoff for our new year!

In Your Faithful Service,
Susie Ferguson
Director, Christian Education

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Joint Venture Worship September 1

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 two-ounce 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.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **David Dunlop** who is savoring the experience of being newly retired! Congratulations, David.

Thank You

Thank you, again to **Rev. Charles Krahenbuhl** for leading our 9 a.m. worship service on July 7. We are grateful, Charles, for you and your gift of leadership!!

Remembering in Prayer

- **Laura Hall**, grieving the death of her mother.
- **Pat McGarvin**, grieving the death of her mother.
- **Jim McCabe**, grieving the death of his father.
- **Judy Martin and Dennis Elliott**, grieving the deaths of her brother and brother-in-law. We pray for Judy's other family members who are in recovery from surgery.
- **Sue Scaff, Lori Yang, Laurel Sue Moore, Kathy Kisabeth, Phyllis Green, Shirley Lucas, Ariss Thomas** and others (family and friends) who continue to be on our weekly prayer list.
- **Melanie Weiner**, recent graduate from Pacific School of Religion as she meets the COM of the NCNC, UCC, to be approved for ordination, pending call.

Third Sunday Round Table Discussions

Mark your calendars for August 18, after worship, during coffee hour! Rev. Michele will choose a topic and she encourages to have a lively discussion around the questions posed. If you have a topic of interest, please speak to Rev. Michele.

God Is Still Speaking

KALOS

Congregational Church of Almaden Valley — United Church of Christ

August 2013

Taize Worship

For our Joint Venture churches and community, there will be a Taize worship service on Sunday evening, September 22, at 7 p.m. and Sunday evening, December 15, at 7 p.m.

Church Directory Updates

We are still working on the production of a new directory. If you know of any changes for addresses/phone numbers/emails, please tell Margot Janiak, Assistant Administrator. Margo can be reached in the church office at 268-0244 or office@ccavucc.org. Also, we hope you'll have an updated picture to post on the "picture" wall! We are grateful to Bart Smith for taking photos for us.

Liturgists, Greeters, Coffee Hosts

Would you like to volunteer to be a liturgist, greeter, coffee hour host, or communion server? Please call the church office or email Margot. She'll pass on the info to the person who is organizing the volunteer roster for those duties. Margot keeps our master calendar and can let you know what openings are available.

Diana Butler-Bass Lecture—Save the Date

Mark your calendar for February 21–22, 2014. The 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.

Free Bike Clinic for Youth

On Friday August 9, 30 young adults with Bike & Build Inc., a national non-profit committed to affordable housing (www.bikeandbuild.org), are hosting a free bike clinic for children ages 5–14 at the church at 6 p.m. The bike clinic will consist of helmet and bike fittings, road rules, hand signals and general safety for all ages. The clinic should last about 30 minutes, depending upon the number of participants, and will feature a short ride of about a half mile. Everyone in the community is welcome to attend. Please tell family and friends with children about the bike clinic.

When the bike riders arrive in Almaden on Friday afternoon, they will have traveled for more than 10 weeks and helped to build affordable housing in nine locations, including Davis, CA and Twin Falls, ID, and a week-long blitz build in Colorado Springs, CO. In order to participate in the trip, each rider raised at least \$4,500 to help fund the trip and affordable housing efforts nationwide. The cyclists started their ride in Charleston, SC. Almaden will be their last overnight stop on their way to their final destination in Santa Cruz.

We will provide the riders a BBQ dinner Friday evening, a place to sleep and an egg/bacon/pancake breakfast before they leave Saturday morning. Questions regarding the bike clinic or riders' visit should be directed to **Jon Mills** at (408) 316-0182.

Jon Mills

God Is Still Speaking

KALOS

Congregational Church of Almaden Valley – United Church of Christ

August 2013

Book Group

There will be no book group meeting in August. The group will meet in September at Amy Griffith's. The book is *Defending Jacob* by William Landay. Everyone is welcome!

Amy Griffith

Joint Venture Maintenance and Improvements

Have you noticed all the work that has gone on around the church in the last six months? There have been a number of people putting great effort into improving the look, function and safety of our building. I want to let you know some of what has been accomplished.

At Our JV Work Day in March:

- Boy Scout troop 294 weeded the grounds around the church and volleyball area. Workers from the congregations washed windows, trimmed bushes, lined kitchen shelves, cleaned closets, replaced light bulbs, did garden work and general cleanup.
- Bartlett Tree Service trimmed many of the trees lining the edge of the parking lot, two large pines in the tree lot, a broken limb over the gazebo, and the eucalyptus tree near the children's lot.
- For fire safety we installed all new smoke alarms, a fire extinguisher for the kitchen, some new emergency lighting and/or battery replacement, occupancy signs. Soon a replacement fire suppression system over the stove/oven in the kitchen will be installed. (Ours was not up to code in fire inspection late May.)

- In the kitchen we have a beautifully scrubbed clean stove and oven and a new, easy-to-operate large can opener.
- Our joint Library is getting a major overhaul in sorting and is becoming organized in Fellowship Hall. The renovations to the Sunday school rooms, Youth Area and the Center look fantastic, with new drapes coming soon to complete the nursery and preschool area.
- By the end of summer work will have been completed on new paint and carpeting for the office, workroom and the clergy's offices. New carpeting will have been placed on the stairs and hallway area of the Center. New flooring and painting will have been finished to brighten up the Music/Christian Education Office. Finally, we also hope to have the completion of our roof repairs done.

So Many people have donated their time, talents and money to help improve the appearance of our church. THANK YOU to each of you! Just like each of our own homes, there is always something we want or need to do here at the church. If you have an idea, give me a call. If you have an interest in donating funds that we can use towards a special project, let **Ann Mayer**, JV member, know. A number of the projects accomplished here were by generous monetary donations by individual members of either congregation. Take a look at or add to the wishlist located on the Joint Venture bulletin board. Great job everyone!!

Ellen Lukanc

Property chairperson, JV board

Home: (408) 997-3859 Cell: (408) 203-3222

God Is Still Speaking

KALOS

Congregational Church of Almaden Valley – United Church of Christ

August 2013

Anniversaries and Birthdays

Ted Feely	8/2
Betty Benson	8/6
Mary Kingsley	8/14
Kristin Nieders	8/16
Gwen Hacker	8/16
Carolyn Crowley	8/20
Torin Marshall	8/21
Debbie Bemis	8/24
Kelly Yamanishi	8/24

Security Site: Something to Be Concerned About

We should be aware of the website, www.spokeo.com. Spokeo collects personal data about people and consolidates it into a common file by person name.

I recommend that every person visit the site, type in your name, find yourself, and delete your file.

When you type your name in, it may show a picture of your house, a map of where it is, the street name, part of a telephone number and part of a house number.

The information may be partially incorrect or outdated but for \$3.95 more complete info can be obtained. It may well say who lives in the house with you, your age, their age, and the value of the home.

Burglars don't like to take risks if they're avoidable. So if I were a burglar, I would likely look for a house with a single lady, living by herself, over 65, and in an expensive neighborhood. The value of the home, which

may also be shown, indicates what kind of property might be inside.

Spokeo had to pay a huge fine recently, but it looks like this has just caused them to remove some free data and offer it for a \$3.95 a month service charge for complete info on anyone.

If you go to www.spokeo.com, and find you are listed, removal is simple. Go to the bottom of the page and look for the tiny writing that says "privacy."

Click on that, and follow directions to remove yourself. If I can help, just send me an email or give me a call. I checked a number of people a few years ago, and removed some but just notified others. I see many of the same people are still listed. I do not think anyone is in any danger. (I subscribe to a weekly crime update bulletin on all crimes within a two mile radius of the church, and I can say the congregation lives in a very safe area with little likelihood of burglaries.)

Mike Moore

A Life Changing Experience

I once made an introspective list of personal life shaping experiences. One of those, which I wrote about earlier, was being physically thrown off a bus for sitting next to a black lady in Birmingham in 1955. This story is similar, but earlier. I fully participated, and I still remember and regret being a part of.

God Is Still Speaking

KALOS

Congregational Church of Almaden Valley – United Church of Christ

August 2013

In 1953, I lived with maternal grandparents in the rural outskirts of Birmingham, Alabama.

I attended sixth grade at Crumley's Chapel School. I had a long walk to school through the woods, across the "4 lane," up the hill, and down a road past the tiny broom shop (an old teetering shed, in which a man was usually making brooms). It was always dark inside. Although I could hear different machines running, I never saw the man who made the brooms because the lights were never on. Mama said he was blind.

Past the broommaker was a tiny store where I would buy gum, pencils, nifty paper, and snacks sometimes. It had a double screen door with two huge "Merita Bread" bars on them. Merita Bread was the bread of the Lone Ranger! I turned right there on Crumley's Chapel Road and my school was on the left.

(I had finished fifth grade at Sagamihara Elementary school on Camp Zama Army Base, Japan the year before, so this was all new to me.)

I had a challenging teacher, brilliantly red-haired-from-a-bottle, middle-aged Mrs. Wade. I didn't have a lot of respect for Mrs. Wade, (even though she taught me how to paint birds) . For one thing her 1950 Studebaker Champion had a chrome propeller on the bullet nose which I thought was a terrible thing to do to the car. She also insisted we should pronounce Yosemite "Yoh-Mite", because she said that's how it was properly pronounced in California. Never mind

that I told her that I had lived in California and our neighbors owned a cabin in Yosemite, and they never said, "Yoh-Mite". She said they were just wrong. She said "s" was silent in California.

My classroom had a wall of crank out windows (there was no air conditioning). The view outside the window was our playground, extending to my right to Crumleys Chapel Road all the way to the corner. Crumleys Chapel Road made a sharp left and formed the other boundary. That entire corner was our softball field and playground.

One afternoon, during class, someone said "Look at that n****r kid! " Sure enough, there was a very young black boy; I would guess five or six, walking up Crumleys Chapel Road (across the far end of the playground) towards the corner where it turned. I recall our lesson lurched on with Mrs. Wade occasionally checking his progress. He disappeared from view and the class settled down.

Then, maybe ten minutes later, the child appeared again carrying a brown paper bag. This time though, he was on OUR playground. He had made the mistake of cutting the corner short and walking diagonally across our playground. My classmates began yelling and making noises about how he couldn't do that etc.

Then, Mrs. Wade went to the door on the opposite side of the classroom, opened it, and said "Chase that n#\$\$\$@r off our property, he doesn't belong here. Teach him

God Is Still Speaking

KALOS

Congregational Church of Almaden Valley – United Church of Christ

August 2013

a lesson”. We twelve and thirteen year olds ran out, yelling, screaming at this six year old and chasing him. We threw rocks at him, and I’m sure some hit him because I could hear him cying out. He finally dropped the bag on the ground so he could run for his life. I threw rocks at him.

The terrified child disappeared down the road. As we victoriously walked back, I saw the torn brown sack and slices of bread scattered in the dirt. I remember it was a red and blue diamond wrapper with a Meritas bread label. I had enthusiastically participated, something I regret and always will. I thought about it a lot. How did his mom react? What did she say to him? I was surprised that they ate the same Meritas bread white people did. Did that kid listen to the Lone Ranger? Was that the only bread they had? Would they go hungry? Why did he do that so wrong? Why did I throw rocks at him?

Mike Moore

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