

# KALOS

Congregational Church of Almaden Valley—United Church of Christ

Summer 2015

## Pastor's Reflection



Dear members and friends,

Anniversaries are wonderful times to stop and be grateful for the celebration of life together. It is my honor and privilege to be pastor at this special time of turning “50” at CCAV and asking what that means for all of us. My thoughts have turned to scripture and poetry.

I thought of the journey of the Apostle Paul who met people in different new faith communities on his travels who wanted to identify as followers of Christ. Today we know those churches and their unique personalities through some of his writings and the ancient texts that identify these people in their particular settings. Some of those cities he visited are no longer on the map, but others are still recognizable. We wonder what it was like for them to mark anniversaries, to talk about their worship life, their church government, their financial needs or their hopes for the future. Did they have worries about their future, their survival? I think they did just as we do. With the ups and downs of their circumstances and the given unpredictability in their lives, they turned to faith to give them meaning, purpose and a sense of belonging to someone/something greater than themselves, just as we do. They took Paul’s words to heart and they let those words be lived out in “church” life. My hope is that we may do this as well.

Paul’s wisdom teachings helped them affirm God’s care and their purpose even when they were at difficult turning points. From Philippians 1:12–14 we learn that Paul was in prison when he wrote letters to some of the churches; yet he was still praising God and sharing the good news. Through his hardships and suffering, Paul

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knew the outcome of a life lived for Christ, a life lived with faith at the center. He trusted God for everything as he wrote, “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21). His call was to be a “messenger” of good news in the midst of pain, suffering and chaos and he encouraged the struggling churches to keep this before them.

This is the calling of the church today, too, isn’t it? Pain, suffering and chaos have not gone away; we all know them in some personal way. People in every corner of the world know the depth of tragedy and pain with great intensity at some point in their lives! Paul asked those dear friends, people he called “saints of God,” in the churches where he preached and visited to persevere and remember that living in Christ meant they were called to love the world as Jesus loved the world. They were called to live out God’s compassion and care in a world where justice and healing was always in demand. The call has not changed. Their work was “loving” the world; that was the message of Jesus and the message of the early church.

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We are called to live in a spirit of unity and peace and serve as Christ's "body" in the world. As Isaiah 52:7 (NRS) reads, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Now, I offer the "poetry" my thoughts have turned to as I remember the writings of the early church writers and ponder the call for us in the 21st century. Mary Oliver said it so well in her poem she titled "The Messenger."

*My work is loving the world.  
Here the sunflowers, there the hummingbird—equal  
seekers of sweetness.  
Here the quickening yeast; there the blue plums.  
Here the clam deep in the speckled sand.  
Are my boots old? Is my coat torn?  
Am I no longer young, and still not half-perfect?  
Let me keep my mind on what matters, which is my work,  
which is mostly standing still and learning to be astonished.  
The phoebe, the delphinium. The sheep in the pasture,  
and the pasture.  
Which is mostly rejoicing, since all ingredients are here,  
which is gratitude, to be given a mind and a heart  
and these body-clothes, a mouth with which to give shouts  
of joy to the moth  
and the wren, to the sleepy dug-up clam, telling them all,  
over and over, how it is that we live forever.*

On this occasion of our 50th year, we still ask if our work is to "love" the world? Is this the calling of our church? I believe it is and we will go down in history as a caring, sharing church because we have been faithful to this calling. We will, in a sense, "live forever" as we are known as "messengers" of God's love and peace. Again, I'm so happy to be with you to celebrate "50" years and mark it by giving thanks to God and asking for God's blessing. I am grateful for the past leadership of those in lay and

clergy offices, of those who are currently leading us, and for your generous gifts of support, prayer, encouragement. We treasure each member and friend who calls the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley their "church family," their "church home!" May we share this prayer below for our anniversary celebration?

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Ann Michele Rogers Brigham, Pastor

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, United Church of Christ

*Loving God, we give thanks for the past, the present and the future of our church. As we remember the past, we think back to those who first had a vision of a church in this place.*

*to those who put their names on a loan so it could come to happen, to those who gave of their labor, their treasure, their time to make it happen. And as we remember the efforts of the founders and builders we offer words of thanks and praise.*

*God of growth, we remember those who helped a new church in the Almaden Valley to grow in wisdom and in faith. And so we think of lay leaders, clergy, choir directors, Sunday School teachers, and many others who provided leadership. We remember men and women who stepped forward to provide governance, leadership, and wise counsel for important decisions about life together as new church. We are glad people cared about forming a faith community where worship was central to life as well as outreach to those who were in great need. We are grateful for the many varied forms of leadership throughout the years and the dedication of those who stepped forward to take a part and commit to support the life and*

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*programs of our church. We are grateful we were accepted into the family of our local churches in the Northern California Nevada Conference, United Church of Christ.*

*God of community, we remember events that brought us together; Worship, Coffee Hours, Youth and Theater programs, InnVision Service, Quest Study Group, Luau's, Phun Stuff, Men's Breakfasts, Ski Trips, Sunrise Services, Progressive Dinners and many more. For the gifts of friendship and fellowship, we say thanks. We think also of the many groups that have met in this space: groups that provided times of fellowship and times of growth in community.*

*And in this time of memory we take special note of the opportunity to share our space with the Episcopal Church in Almaden. God of Creation, we give great thanks and praise for joint worship, Joint Venture Board leadership, our building and grounds, our rose garden, JV Christian Education and Youth Programs and all we share as a two communities of faith in one place. For leaders young and old and for all who worked in making our "joint venture" a journey of faith and sharing, we are wondrously grateful.*

*God of our present, on this day we remember all that led this congregation to this day.*

*For 50 years of ministry to and with this community, for 50 years of growing together in love, for all that has made us what we are now, we give you thanks. Through times of joy and times of sorrow, you have been with us, Compassionate God, and we give you praise. Show us your light and your path for our continued growth in your Spirit of Love. Bless our leaders and all those who journey together in this place and time! Amen.*

## 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!

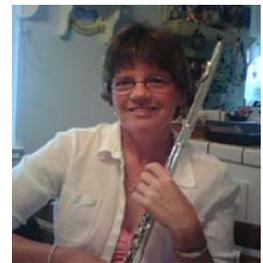
We welcome all who would join us on our journey—for a day, a week or a lifetime—to discover who we are now and who we can become on this road of faith and inquiry.

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).

## Moderator's Note

I happen to be writing this memo on Mother's Day while looking out my window at the beautiful day outside. I find my mind wandering often as I reflect back on "sweet memories," as Pastor Michele asked us to think about in worship this morning. I am reflecting both on memories of my own mother when I was a kid as well as on memories of myself as a mother of my own three kids. Memories are funny things, because each of us remembers things a little bit differently. When I talk with my brothers about things we shared as kids, or ask Jan or one of our kids about something they remember that we



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did as a family, we don't always remember things the same way. We all remember those things of most significance to us, and because we are each so different, things of significance to each of us are also different; therefore, it is rare when two of us remember even a common memory we share in exactly the same way. This phenomenon is something that has always fascinated me.

When you reflect on your sweet memories of our life together at church, what do you remember? We have gone through a lot here at CCAV, and we share many memories, but the sweetness for me always remains the same. It is in the loving, caring people I have come to consider my family. I am proud to be a member of this church, even in these tough and sometimes discouraging times, and I am excited to be sharing in our 50th year together.

I was privileged to attend the Council retreat earlier this year, where we had time to reflect on ourselves as well as how we interact together. It led us into ongoing discussion about where we want to go as a church and what kinds of things we might want to do in order to get there. There are fewer of us, but we are still determined to maintain and create sweet memories of CCAV.

I hope you will join in our 50th anniversary activities. You will find some of them listed in a separate article here in the Kalos. You are each important to our life here at CCAV, and we need each of you to keep the memories alive and to help us create sweet memories for generations to come.

Blessings and joy to each of you! Thank you for being a part of my family.

Debbie Bemis

## **50 Years of Faith, Fellowship, and Family!**

As you know, we are celebrating 50 years of the life of our wonderful church, and the anniversary committee has several things planned for you!

In June, we will be having a "Musical Potluck" celebrating memories of times past when we put on musicals here at the church. We hope you will come enjoy the evening with us. It promises to be fun and entertaining! Please plan to join us on June 5th for a potluck dinner and entertainment at the church beginning at 6:00.

In July, we have several surprise "blasts from the past" coming to worship with us. We hope you will make it a point to come to church this summer to see who will be in the pulpit!

In August, we have the big Luau planned. This will commemorate our actual anniversary and should be lots of fun. We are also putting together a 50th anniversary commemorative book to have available for this event, and a Sunday brunch after a special worship service will complete the weekend. There are a lot of people working on many aspects of this weekend, and we hope you will plan to join us. The event will take place on August 29 and 30. Details will follow in a special invitation to all.

In September, the year won't be over yet. Stay tuned for some activities to finish off our 50th year later in the fall. We have much to celebrate, and we want you to be a part of it. Please contact Kelly Yamanishi, Connie Moore, Diane Hawes, or Debbie Bemis if you would like to help and/or have some ideas about how we could celebrate the life of our church. The more people we have involved, the more things we will be able to put together!

Debbie Bemis

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## Music Committee

We would like to thank Maria Brodsky for a wonderful year. Maria became our director of music in September and jumped in with both feet immediately with the choir. Now that the choir is winding down for the year, we would like to express our appreciation to Maria. We have enjoyed her patience, flexibility, willingness to learn, and her kind and competent leadership—but most importantly, we have loved having her play for us each week. Her musical talent is amazing, and we are blessed to have her! Thank you Maria, for a great year. We look forward to more of Maria's music throughout the summer.

Thanks also to the Shalom Choir and each of its members for their hard work and dedication this year. Their last Sunday of the year will be June 7, after which time they will take a break until September. Please thank the members of the choir for their musical leadership when you have a moment. We know they will appreciate your kind words.

Shalom Choir members: Judy Martin, Lynn Widman, Carolyn Crowley, Rae Harris, Phyllis Chai, Kelly Yamanishi, Allison Yamanishi; Debbie Bemis, Dennis Widman, John Hawes, Hi Dong Chai, and Dennis Elliott.

Finally, the Folk Choir, which faithfully plays once a month, will be playing through the summer. On other Sundays, there is special music, which is provided by various members of our congregation. If you are someone who has some musical talent and you are willing to share your gift of music with us, please contact John Hawes to let him know. He will gladly find a Sunday for you to play—or sing—or dance—or do whatever it is that you do. Keep on singing, for music is the joy of life!

Debbie Bemis

## Would You Like to Be Involved at the Conference Level?

Michele received the following email from John Aney, and I wanted to share it with all of you. Please prayerfully consider whether this is something that you would like to be a part of. If you are interested, please talk with Michele or me. We would love to have a representative from our church be a part of this!

Debbie Bemis

*Dear Friends and Colleagues in Christ,*

*As June and our conference annual gathering draw near, most associations and sections of the Committee on Ministry are reaching out for new members to replenish their ranks. The Santa Clara Association Executive Committee is no different. We have several members whose terms end in June of this year, so we are asking all of you in our association to consider serving on the Executive Committee of the SCCA. The committee generally meet once a month, at various times and locations to help ease the burden of commuting across our association.*

*We are an association of large churches, the very small, and those in between. In our county, we are witnessing church memberships grow, and some numbers decline. We are celebrating the faith communities that are just forming as we come alongside those who may be bringing their communal life to a close. The burgeoning population of our county is resulting in escalating housing prices, long commutes, a dramatic disparity of economic resources, and environmental strains. The challenges are many, but isn't that exactly where we Christians are called to serve? Please consider bringing your skills and interests to the committee. You will learn more about the*

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*diverse churches and other ministry sites in our association, and help us all explore how all of us can best support our authorized ministers, laity, and seminary students.*

*Questions? Please contact our moderator, John Aney at [johnaney@gmail.com](mailto:johnaney@gmail.com) or our vice-moderator, Sue Ann Yarbrough at [revyarbrough@gmail.com](mailto:revyarbrough@gmail.com).*

*We hope to see you all at annual gathering and learning about your ideas and questions about how we move forward. Thank you!*

## Calendar

### Worship

June 7	Communion and Book Study ( <i>Credo</i> ) after Coffee Hour
June 14	Folk Choir/Worship Committee after Coffee Hour
June 21	Father's Day Worship and Mid-Year Congregational Meeting at Coffee Hour
June 28	Guest Preacher
July 5	Communion, Guest, Rev. Al Williams Leading
July 12	Folk Sunday/Rev. Michele Leading
July 19	Lay Leader Kelly Yamanishi Leading
July 26	Guest Preacher
August 2	Communion, Guest, Rev. Julianne Stokstad Leading
August 9	Folk Choir Sunday/Rev. Michele Leading
August 16	Rev. Michele Leading
August 23	Rev. Michele Leading
August 30	Anniversary Celebration Sunday
Sept 6	Communion/Rev. Michele Leading

### Activities

**Book Study and Discussion**—Every first Sunday we will have the opportunity after Coffee Hour for Book Study/Discussion. We are reading the book *Credo* by William Sloane Coffin. Join us when you can.

**Birthdays and Anniversaries**—On the last Sunday of each month, we have opportunity to announce our birthdays, anniversaries or other “joys” and share a prayer of blessing!

**Volunteers**—Don't forget to call the church office or contact Debbie Bemis if you would like to serve as reader, coffee hour host, greeter, or communion server. We welcome flower donations; please sign up on the JV Board for flowers or just bring in your bouquet to share with us. Thank you for volunteering to lead and giving so generously of time, talents and treasure!

**JV Book Group**—May book group meeting is cancelled. The group will meet Wed, June 17th, 5:15 p.m., at the Mandarin Gourmet. The book is *The Colour of Milk* by Nell Leyson. RSVP to Amy at (408) 268-0920 or [amy-g@pacbell.net](mailto:amy-g@pacbell.net). All are welcome and bring a friend. The June book is *Proof of Heaven* by Eben Alexander.

**Quest**—The Quest ladies group which meets in the choir room on Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m.–11:00 a.m. has been reading and discussing *Credo* by William Sloane Coffin, finding it interesting, informative, and inspiring. Please know that you are welcome to join. The members have sorely missed Jean Shipe's presence most of this year, and also Mary Kingsley whose passing we mourn and whose life we celebrate. We're grateful for Audrey Wiedrick's healing, and will very much welcome her return. The group's last meeting until Wednesday, September 9, will be on Wednesday June 17. For questions please contact Phyllis Chai, (408) 226-7150.

### Musical Evening

Friday, June 5, at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please plan to join us for our first official 50th anniversary event. We plan to have a potluck dinner with entertainment from church musicals put on by our illustrious congregation in years past. Come see what we have put together for you to enjoy. (See attached flier.)

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A sign-up sheet is in the fellowship hall for this event. Please sign up to bring something for our potluck—and plan to enjoy a fun evening with your church family!

Any questions, please contact Debbie Bemis.

## *Sunday Brunch!*

A Sunday brunch is coming! Please plan to join us for brunch on Sunday, May 24, in the fellowship hall after worship. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board. Sign up to bring something to share, and plan to be there!

We will be welcoming Nicole Betteridge, who will be with us in worship that Sunday to talk about her work in Thailand with Global Ministries. She has a lot to share, and it should be a very interesting presentation. And what better way to welcome someone than with a BRUNCH?

Please plan to join us. It won't be the same without you.

## **NCNC News**

Special Meeting for the Purpose of Electing a Conference Minister: On Saturday April 11, and after more than four years of "interims," Rev. Diane Weible was elected at a glorious service of discernment and worship as the NCNC (Northern California-Nevada Conference) settled Conference Minister. The nearly all-day event, attended by 246 people, was gratefully hosted by First Congregational Church, UCC, of Palo Alto. Phyllis Chai and Bessie Hutchins felt blessed to be in attendance, and to serve as the voting delegates from CCAV,UCC. Rev. Rev. Weible will be installed as Conference Minister of the NCNC at the Annual Gathering in June.

## *NCNC Annual Gathering*

The Annual Gathering of the NCNC will be held for the first time on the Sonoma State University campus in Rohnert Park, from June 11–14, 2015. Participating in this annual event is truly a blessed gift to oneself. The joy is palpable as the attendees meet old friends, make new ones, learn, meditate, and experience unique, creative worship, not to mention the glorious singing. Phyllis Chai is grateful to serve this year as a voting delegate from our congregation.

## **Outreach**

### *Shelter Feeling*

Our congregation continues to serve the evening meal on the third Tuesdays of each month at Julian St. Inn and Commercial St. Inn. Because of varied reasons, getting volunteers has become increasingly more of a challenge. Two servers are needed to go to "J.S.I." and one to "C.S.I." Additionally, banana Jell-O is prepared at church after our service on the Sunday prior to the "feeding." If you are able to help either of these times, or to donate cookies, please contact Phyllis Chai, (408) 226-7150.

### *Second Harvest Food Bank*

There continues to be a bin in the downstairs hallway of the church, outside the choir room, for our contributions of non-perishable, non-sugary food items, in cans vs. glass. On Communion Sundays we can expect to see a picnic basket by the altar in the sanctuary, to receive our food gifts. Especially during the summer months our donations are welcome, realizing that hunger never takes a vacation, even though school may not be in session. For more information please contact Phyllis Chai at (408) 226-7150

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## *Backpacks*

Look for more information to come, in an upcoming Mid-week message, regarding the need for back packs, school supplies, and even perhaps preferably, monetary contributions for the children living at IVSN (InnVision Shelter Network) shelters. For more information please contact Phyllis Chai, (408) 226-7150.

## *Homelessness Solution Conference*

We are proud of the conference our churches hosted on April 22, that despite our worst fears was surprisingly well attended. We had over 70 people, including representatives and clergy from our neighboring churches as well as San Jose City Councilman Johnny Khamis.

The support required of us to host this was greater than expected. Our church provided the fliers (600 including a reorder—thank you Kathryn McAbee) that were mailed; we bought the stamps, addressed the envelopes and mailed them all. Mary Macpherson, Bryan Bond, Karen Cuffie and others of ECA were also involved. Tom Gerber made the banner! Shortly before the event, our congregations came through again and did their best to telephone 100 more potential attendees from a sketchy call list. This was an ad hoc group of volunteers including Carolyn Crowley, Linda Farr, Kathryn McAbee, Connie Moore and Phyllis Chai.

Our conference objective was to get faith communities more connected to help shape public policy on homelessness in Santa Clara County. Our wish also was to understand what we in the faith community could be doing to help.

Emcee Bryan Bond did his usual excellent job.

Our speakers were Brian Greenberg, PhD, Vice-President Programs and Services, and Lorena Collins, Associate

Vice-President, Programs and Services of InnVision Networks. Both of the speakers have had decades of experience in dealing with behavioral health and substance abuse. Dr B (as he is known) has published many articles in peer-reviewed journals about his work. He is famous for his common sense “beyond a bed” strategy to eliminate homelessness. I was interested to hear him speak and especially to hear the Q&A part because of some questions I had. Lorena was a Director of Julian St in its earlier days and had a lot to say about the positive effect the shelters had and the volunteer’s impact.

People have different attitudes about homelessness, what causes it, and what to do about it. Some believe (with some justification) that helping the homeless enables them so that they refuse to support efforts to alleviate it. On this basis many want to eliminate taxpayer support. We often hear that it is the churches and charity’s job, not the government’s. At the same time, support available from the shrinking church memberships is declining. Others believe homeless people prefer to be homeless and ought to be left alone. (Note: As a member, along with Connie and Ted, of the Julian St Support Committee, I was surprised to learn the amount of financial support being provided by corporations and other secular groups.)

Our Congregational church has long supported the Julian Street InnVision shelter. Its guests are all there by psychiatric referrals. For me, this eliminates any excuses not to help, as these guests are not in their situation by choice. (The same may be said for the PTSD veterans, also guests at INVJS.) The InnVision goal is to get them sober, stabilized, in a job (or on SSI or SSDI if disabled), and into permanent housing.

I still wanted to know what motivates the ones who allegedly wish to remain homeless. The question I wanted to ask Dr. Greenberg and was finally able to ask was this:

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“Do you believe a large number of homeless people prefer to be homeless? If that is the case, what should our Public Policy be, i.e., should we continue to support them? Or should we ignore them and hope they go away?”

His answer surprised me. Dr. B said that many homeless people prefer to be homeless and to be left alone with their alcohol or other drug of choice. They want to be in a quiet safe place with their “medicine” and not support themselves. (WOW! I thought when he said that!)

But then he continued with his belief in this vein: “But after we get them out of their warm sanctuary, away from their bottle or drugs, and get them sober, after 30 days or so, they generally become very interested in getting back on their feet again and then would not choose to remain homeless.”

Everyone is right. My conclusion is that until they’re sober, the homeless may want to be homeless and enabled by money to buy alcohol or other drugs. The shelters serve a noble and necessary purpose by getting people sober, working, and in permanent housing.

The theme of our conference (thanks to Risa Feely and Marissa Robbins) was “Homelessness: Solutions That Work.” Dr. B’s surprising solution came at the end of his talk. The greatest homeless related problem Santa Clara County has is the high cost of housing. When people get stabilized, sober, and start a job, it is usually a very low paying job. Rent is so expensive they simply cannot afford it. Dr. B said they try to get the person working and stable, then help them find a similar job somewhere outside of this county where more affordable housing is available and the cost of living is lower.

We recently received a very nice thank you note from InnVision that reads as follows:

*Dearest Mike, Connie, Phyllis, Debbie, Bryan, etc.,*

*Thank You all so very much for putting together an outstanding community event at Almaden Valley UCC & ECA. With your hard work and dedication, we had an outstanding turnout, wonderful refreshments and a stellar MC. You made this event seamless and easy for our team to collaborate on. I’m looking forward to future collaboration.*

*Sincerely,  
Marissa & the Development Team*

*Thank You for hosting this important event. We appreciate your partnership and many ways you support us!*

*Ruth Richerson*

*Thank You so much for your dedication and support and the many ways you partner with IVSN. You are an inspiration! Blessings!*

*Harriet Pecot*

And I want to thank all the members of both churches who made this all possible. Many people provided food and refreshments. Because of the great refreshments, the warm fellowship and discussion afterwards was as good if not better than any other part of the meeting!

Mike Moore

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## Christian Education

Much has happened since the first of the year in the Christian Education department at our Joint Venture Church. First, we offered a new program for our neighborhood children during their winter break in February. “Celebrations around the World for Kids” was a very exciting week. We created four special days for 26 children ranging in age from five to 10 years old with over 15 fabulous volunteers helping with the day-to-day activities. Every morning was highlighted with cooking, drama/storytelling and art. In the afternoon we offered choice time of centers which often included something extra special like donut making with Ellen Lukanc, tai chi with Joan Wagner, and of course, snow day with our infamous igloo made by Marty Tysanner with a little help from Wendy Martin, Nadine Kurita and her daughter Isabella.

Every day the children went home with a long list of exciting things they had done which amazed their parents. Many asked, “How could you possibly fit so much into one day?” Children who were hesitant to join us on the first day couldn’t wait to come back. I suppose the Snow Day had to be a real climax for the week. Many doubted its feasibility for a variety of reasons. But it happened and was wonderful. The igloo was the perfect target for snow balls and being gently showered with snow if you were on the inside. Our campers had the first hour of snow just for them and after were joined by 51 other neighborhood children and their parents as the afternoon waned. Some very special memories were made that afternoon for children of all ages.

Easter was another highlight. Easter favors were made special for any children who may have visited your CCA-VUCC service on that special feast day. As last year, children could find Easter Bucks in some of their eggs. The children were asked to choose where they would like their

Easter Bucks to go. We offered three outreach opportunities, the ABC program at Santa Maria Ministry, the Sudanese Youth Program supporting Yar and Rachel, or the Starfish Program feeding the poor. The children’s Easter Bucks were matched by an ECA parish family in support of the outreach programs the children selected. Parishioners were invited to support these programs by special donations on Easter Sunday and many did so.

After Easter, plans and preparations began for this year’s VBS program, “Let’s Rock!” June 15–19. It takes lots of hands to produce the kind of program for which we are becoming known. There is much to do ahead of time as well as during the week. There are jobs with and without kids, crafty jobs and some not, shopping, clerical jobs, and jobs requiring a little elbow grease. So you see there is plenty of variety. Surely something might just suit your talents and style. If you haven’t had a chance to volunteer and want to do so, please don’t hesitate to give me a call.

We are planning a fun week around five exciting stories from the Bible with “rocks” in them. Our science will include water wise gardening and creating a “butterfly garden.” Our French chef will be back for cooking. Many wonderful art projects are being developed now to go along with our theme. On Friday that week we will have another “family event” like we did for our Winter Break and Snow Day. We are arranging for a Rock Climbing Wall for Friday afternoon to follow a “family picnic and BBQ.” The “wall” has climbing levels suitable for children three years to adults. We will also have other activities and art in the afternoon for families and children of all ages.

Sharing about this program to neighboring families is a great outreach for our churches. Information and registration forms can be found on your website and in our church narthex.

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The Sunday School hour did change time beginning in January to a 10:30 a.m. start time. Please know if you have children who do want to join the Sunday School program we can readjust again to accommodate your families and children. We do provide curriculum for children four years through fifth grade. Sunday School continues until May 31. Sunday, June 7, will be a teacher and student appreciation day. We will resume a Sunday School program in September.

In your faithful service  
Susie Ferguson

## Summer Birthdays

### June

Risa Feely	6/20
Patricia Garcia	6/20
Karen Smith	6/22
Dennis Widman	6/24
David Crowley	6/25
Janice Krahenbuhl	6/28
Ariss Thomas	6/28

### July

John Hawes	7/24
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### August

Ted Feely	8/2
Betty Benson	8/6
Kristin Nieders	8/16
Gwen Hacker	8/16
Carolyn Crowley	8/20
Debbie Bemis	8/24
Kelly Yamanishi	8/24

## Kalos Publication

Please remember you may take a copy of our *Kalos* Newsletter home each month if you are not reading on line. It is located along with other UCC info on the wall to the left of the sanctuary entrance.

*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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to [kalos@ccavucc.org](mailto:kalos@ccavucc.org). *Kalos* editors are Sue Scaff, Kathryn McAbee and Risa Feely.

God is Still Speaking



## **A Sunday BRUNCH is coming!**

Please plan to join us for brunch on Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall after worship.

There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board. Sign up to bring something to share, and plan to be there!

We will be welcoming *Nicole Betteridge*, who will be with us in worship that Sunday to talk about her work in Thailand with Global Ministries. She has a lot to share, and it should be a very interesting presentation.

## **What better way to welcome someone than a BRUNCH?**

**Please plan to join us.  
It won't be the same without you.**



## **You're Invited to a Musical Evening!**

- What?** A Potluck with Musical Entertainment from the Past  
**When?** Friday, June 5, 6:00 p.m.  
**Where?** Fellowship Hall at Church  
**Why?** Fun and Fellowship

Please plan to join us for our first official 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event.

We plan to have a potluck dinner with entertainment from church musicals put on by our illustrious congregation in years past.

**South Pacific    Sound of Music    Fiddler on the Roof**  
**Anything Goes    I See Sunshine    I Do! I Do!**

All musicals are up for grabs—Come see what we put together for you.

The sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up to bring something for our potluck—and plan to enjoy a fun evening with your church family!

Any questions, please contact Debbie Bemis