



VISTA de la MONTAÑA

ECHOES

PASTOR'S PEN DECEMBER 2018

I blinked and its Christmas Again!!! Where did all the year go? The older I get the more I understand the scripture that says, "But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day." 2 Peter 3:8 Time either seems to drag on and on or speed by in the blink of an eye. Didn't we just do the "Walk to Bethlehem" and here it is again, this week! And what happened to Thanksgiving?!!

Part of Advent is a study in the passage of time. The prophecy in Isaiah 40 of John the Baptist was made about 700 years before John the Baptist began his preaching. John the Baptist was the "one crying in the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God." John began his ministry about 30 years after the baby Jesus lay in the cradle of hay. One of John's earliest acts was he prophesied and proclaimed Jesus "as the lamb who takes away the sins of the world."

Advent indeed is a time of "waiting for Christmas". The anticipation of children waiting for their presents recalls to our minds the anticipation we should have awaiting the return of Jesus. We remember and celebrate Jesus' first advent as we prepare our hearts and wait for his second advent. Advent is indeed a time in which we look back, celebrate in the present, and look forward with hope to the return of the Prince of Peace who indeed one day will "bring peace on earth, good will to all men."

In the life of Vista Church, we prepare our hearts and lives for things that we have prepared for over a number of years. Our New Vistas Building campaign moves forward. We await a final word on the cost as the plans are finalized and we continue to raise funds. Our Vista Church San Manuel mission moves forward with the reality of the work and promise of fruitfulness grow ever closer. January 20th, 2019 is our launch date.

In the meantime, during Advent, we will join together in worship and small group study as I preach, and others teach on "Because of Bethlehem" a sermon series and a study by Max Lucado. Christmas eve we will have 3 services that you can invite people to join with you in the worship of God. The 3pm we call "Carols and Communion." The 6pm is "Family and the Blessing of the Children". The 8pm is "Carols, Candles and Communion" a very beautiful and traditional Christmas eve service.

I look forward to worshipping with you at this Advent/Christmas time.

"Maranatha" which means, "our Lord come!"

In Christ's love

Pastor Fred



The Vista Endowment program was chartered specifically to financially support projects in Missions, Property, Scholarship and General (special needs and ministries) that are not funded in Vista's operating budget. For example, Endowment funded both the recent interns and celebration services projects: special projects outside Vista's operating budget. The Endowment Committee makes monies available based on approved requests.. If you have a vision for our church consistent with the above charter, please consider Endowment for funding. For information, please contact **Jay O'Donald** at **825-6970** or **jodonald@earthlink.net**.



May your **Home** be warm,
your **Holidays** grand,
& may your **Heart** be
held gently in the Lord's hands.
dazzlejunction.com

Christmas Eve Services

December 24th, Christmas Eve

Services:

3pm – Carols & Communion

6pm – Family Service Blessing of the Children, Nativity
Memories

8pm – Carols, Communion and

Candlelight



Building Committee Report



Activities

The Building Committee met on Tuesday 9 November at 3pm in Ed's and discussed the following;

John Nyman of Concord discussed the activities leading up to our scheduled ground breaking.

Pastor Fred recommended moving the scheduled ground-breaking date from 1 May to 13 May due to Easter being on 21 April 2019

Pastor Fred suggested that moving the nursery to the patio rooms should be scheduled as one of the last items of this project to enable maximizing Patio Room use for meetings during construction

Tim Smith of Swaim discussed the impact of our 16 October plenary design session on the architectural drawings and presented the updates

We discussed the three courses of action to address the Church-wide storage issue

Build a 3,000 sqft storage shed at an estimated cost of \$150K

Repurpose the 2,880 sqft Admin Bldg at an estimated cost of \$40K

Take no action because of cost constraints

The District Superintendent noted that the Book of Discipline (Section VI. Local Church Property, pages 717-741) requires that three separate Church Conferences be held to approve any new building activities

Funding

Sharon Scanlan, the Finance Committee Chair, is now the Church's primary point of contact for any potential Building Committee loan sourcing. The Building Committee Chair the secondary point of contact

Approximately \$1M of the estimated \$1.8M needed has already been successfully pledged for Phase 1 – no change

The initial funding estimates have not increased and there have been no substantial requirement changes or additional costs incurred – no change

Approximately 50% of the congregation's households have already pledged an average of approximately \$8110 each to the New Vistas Capitol Campaign which means that approximately 50% of the congregation's households have not yet joined the effort and pledged to the New Vistas Capitol Campaign

Next

The Building Committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday 11 December at 3pm in Ed's. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Consecration Sunday Celebrates Generosity!

Consecration Sunday is in our rear view mirror, but the generosity of Vista's members and constituents is yet to be realized as we move into 2019. Pledge totals as of November 11 were 11% above those received a year ago, truly a cause for celebration! We extend a hearty thank you all involved in Consecration Sunday's festivities. A special thank you to those who transformed the sanctuary to accommodate the 180 lunch participants, and for Vista's youth who served the meal, refilled pitchers and assisted individuals going through the line. Sunday's ushers also deserve special recognition for their adaptability with an altered worship service. Thanks also to our unsung heroes - the "behind the scenes" kitchen workers. Most of all, we thank the congregation for their patience as lunch was delayed due to a break-down in Jason's Deli food truck.

We encourage those who have not yet submitted "Estimate of Giving" cards to do so as soon as possible. Accurate income projections for 2019 will help Vista fulfill its mission to our congregation, our community, and the world at large. We are a loving, giving, warm-hearted extended family! Thanks to everyone for contributing your time, your money, your prayers and talents.

Vista's Stewardship Team



DECEMBER 2018 Finance

In October, our income was under budget by -\$6,146 and expenses were under budget by -\$2,442. The net fund increase was +\$1,416, which was -\$5,120 under budget. Year-to-date we are behind budgeted income by -\$8,650. However, we had \$21,200 in prepaid pledges last December so we should be on budget by year-end.

Our 2019 Stewardship campaign wrapped up on Sunday, November 11 with a wonderful Celebration Luncheon. Our co-chairs, Benith and Craig MacPherson have a separate article in Echoes about the campaign, but the Finance Team would like to thank them for doing another fabulous job in planning a great campaign that was very well organized, executed and successful!

Sharon Scanlan, Finance Chair

Dennis Kimmel, Financial Secretary

Darrell Parson, Treasurer



It is difficult to believe that Christmas is just around the corner. I find when the weather turns chilly that alerts me that fall is here. The holiday still comes faster thereafter.

Stewardship Sunday was a busy time for the committee and the hospitality volunteers. I hope you all enjoyed the menu this year from Jason Deli. I want to thank the youth and Valerie Hammons for the superb job they did again. We added a new position to the youth training and those who did served food did a great job. They had good adults alongside them demonstrating how to handle this new role. Great job to those that signed up to help in that role. I was also so proud of those youths that wanted to assist in the dining room again. They knew exactly what needed to be done and did it which made meal time go smoothly. We were all to make everything to work so smoothly. Thank you to those adults that helped behind the scene and during the meal. Great job done by all. What would we do without all the volunteers? We would not be able to have the luncheon go so smoothly. Thanks a bunch, from the Stewardship and hospitality committee.

The chilly weather brings thoughts of the upcoming holidays. I find the desire to do some baking of goodies to serve to you at the social hour. I also like shopping this time of the year because I find great holiday treats to buy to share with others. Please feel free to sign up to share those purchased treats with us. I will be looking for you at the sign-up table. We do need your help and I am there to assist you in any way that I can. If you have been away for the summer, this is a great time to sign-up. Remember we are Methodist, we gather to eat and to visit. You do not want to break that tradition.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!! May we all find ways to bless others this holiday season.

Delores Brindle

Vista Outreach Ministry

It's hard to believe that winter is just around the corner, as we all prepare for the Walk to Bethlehem and the Advent Season. It is our hope, that during this busy season, we will stop and remember that the reason we celebrate Christmas, is the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. It is in His name that we carry on our Mission Outreach at Vista to our neighbors and beyond. We thank you all so very much, for the wonderful support you have given to our various Mission ministries this past year and look forward to what God has for us to do this next year 2019.

As I promised last month, I want to give you a report on our Celebration of Learning Trip to our sister church Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta, Mexico. We ended up with 40 of us on the bus and after a short delay we were on our way to the border. We made a quick stop off I 10 to pick up Pastor Fred & Valerie on the southeast side of town, and then on to Douglas and into the line of vehicles to cross the border into Mexico. Everyone was given a job assignment on the bus and introduced to the leaders of each team. We had a bit of a wait at the border but eventually we were on our way to the Colonia with Pasto Gela aboard to guide the way. The day was just lovely, no rain like last year, cool weather and a nice crowd to meet us. After unloading our supplies we were ushered into the Community Center full of folks waiting for us. In short order we got set up and on with the program. After a greeting, we called by name all the sponsors with us to come forward and greet their student and get their picture taken. Once again I had the joy of translating Pastor Fred's words as he gave a short talk on the benefits of an education to the students their families. This was followed by a delightful dance by a group of girls in bright orange costumes for our enjoyment. Then it was time to give out 47 Certificates of Achievement to the students who had a B+ or better average in their last school year. Each mother was called forward with her awarded child and presented with a lovely bag of goodies full of all your donations, as well as a name tag with their name and child's name on it. One mother had 3 names on her tag and several had 2. After receiving the Certificate, a picture was taken with the mother, students and Pastor Fred. It is very important to honor these parents and encourage them to keep their children in school. So many of these parents did not get to finish grade school, so the gift bag is a small but important show of our appreciation for their efforts in keep their kids in school and help them to achieve an education and ultimately a better future. Following the ceremony we were treated to a delicious lunch prepared by the women's co-op. The next event was art & craft projects and then on to the games. We had 9 games going at one time and the kids ran from one to the next collecting their tickets and rushing to the prize room to get a prize and then rush back to play again. What a fun day!! We stopped when the prizes ran out. The ladies of the church had laid out all the prizes on shelves and tables wall to wall in the old prefab trailer that had been their church building. It is truly on it's "last leg" but still provides classroom space for Christian education.

Two new classrooms are under construction on the grounds and they will be welcome for sure!! By 2:30 PM we were ready to go. Brian Cowman, our great photographer, took our group picture and we were on the bus and back to the border crossing. Very smooth crossing and after inspection by the customs officers, we were back in the bus and on our way home. We had a great time on the return trip sharing our experiences of the day. I was so glad we had 3 of our youth with us Kiana Hernandez, Karime Penuelos & Cialyn Floyd as well as 10 first timers. We arrived back to Vista near 6:00 PM and were greeted by a lovely sunset at the end of another great trip to our sister church. Thanking God for a great day of sharing with our partners in faith in Agua Prieta, Mexico.

I want to thank all of you who gave so generously of your resources and time to make this a most successful event. You will never know how much joy you brought to these kids. The smiles on their faces, was worth all the effort, to once again recognize their achievements. God Bless you one and all. For those of you who were not able to go with us, please plan to go in 2019 on the 26th of October. You will truly be glad you did.!

For student sponsors who would like to send a Christmas greeting to your student: the mail goes to Douglas Arizona to a PO box and will be delivered by Pastor Gela to your student.

Address : To Maria de los Angeles Villacana

For: (your student's name)

PO Box 749,

Douglas, Arizona 85607

I want to thank you all for your contributions to our Thanksgiving offering that will be shared with the food bank in Catalina and the Snak Pak program at Coronado School. I also want to thank you for your support of our Greeting card ministry for our Women's Co-op in Agua Prieta. Please take a look at all the lovely cards we are selling in the narthex for the Christmas season. They only cost 50 cents!!

In December thru January we have our Warm Winter collection of winter clothes for the Clothing Bank at Impact in Catalina. There will be a box in the narthex to receive your contributions. Gently used clean items are welcome as well as new. Thank you in advance for your contribution for the needy in our community.

Our next Mission Outreach Meeting will be on Dec.12th at 1:00 PM in the patio room. Please feel free to join us as we welcome you all to meetings. I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and God's blessing in the New Year 2019.

Yours in Mission service:

Dee BermanChairman Mission Outreach Ministry

520-825-7115 deerick1968@gmail.com



Are you currently a member of another Methodist Church?

Did you know you can become an AFFILIATE member here at Vista and retain your full membership at your home church? If you are a member at a non-Methodist church you can join us as an ASSOCIATE member! We would love to have you join us. We have a membership lunch on December 16th or please call Pastor Fred or Valerie in the church office (825-1985) for more information.

Associate Member - from a non-Methodist Church

A lay member of another denomination, residing away from home for an extended period, who attends a United Methodist church, may be enrolled as an associate member. The associate member may hold office, but may not become a voting member of the church council. The associate member is considered a member of the home church.

Affiliate Member - from a Methodist Church

A lay person residing away from home for an extended period who is enrolled in a nearby church for fellowship, pastoral care, and participation in activities. The affiliate member may hold office, except such as would allow a vote in a United Methodist body other than the local church. The affiliate member is reported as a professing

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

O'DONALD, Jay & Louise	12/01
KUHN, Jack & Barb	12/04
NEVINS, Dick & Ilene	12/08
HOTCHKISS, Curtis & Michelle	12/15
MILLER, Linda & Ray	12/16
FLOYD, T. J. & Linda	12/28
ANDERSON, Dave & Maureen	12/29



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO :

DANIELS, Bill	12/01
HOTCHKISS, Curtis	12/01
MILLER, Shirley	12/01
WALDO, Marilyn	12/08
WATKINS, Stuart	12/09
BOLAR, Marlin	12/10
NEWMAN, Shirley	12/10
ZIMMERMAN, Terrence	12/15
RAYNOR, Mary	12/16
MILLER, Paul	12/17
CURTIS, Carol	12/18
MADDEN, Barb	12/18

KARCHER, Cynthia	12/19
RUTKOWSKI, Marv	12/19
TERRY, Carl	12/20
BULL, Fred	12/21
DE WINDT, Charlotte	12/22
GRIFFIN, Linda	12/23
POHNERT, William	12/23
BLEESS, Von Ceil	12/24
AUGUST, Don	12/25
RUPE, Marvin	12/25
KUHN, Barb	12/27
MC FARLAND, Glenda	12/28
LITTLE, Betty	12/30
MILLER, Bob	12/30

DECEMBER 2018

Vista UMC

Dec 2018 (Mountain Standard Time - Phoenix)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
						UMM CANCELLED
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10am - Worship 11:15am - Adult	9:30am - Ladies' 10:30am - Staff 11am - Loretta Tom	9am - Vocal Sen 2pm - Evangelism 6:30pm - Trustees	Walk to Bethlehem 8:30am - Intercessor 10:30am - Advent	8am - Landscaping 12:30pm - Snak Pak 6:30pm - Bell Choir		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10am - Worship 11am - Holiday 11:15am - Adult	9:30am - Ladies' 10:30am - Staff 11am - Loretta Tom 2:30pm - Worship	9am - Vocal Sen 10am - Susanna & 3pm - Building Com	8:30am - Intercessor 10:30am - Advent 1pm - Missions 6:30pm - Den 7pm - Chancel Choir	8am - Landscaping 12:30pm - Snak Pak 1:30pm - Huddle 6:30pm - Bell Choir	9am - Cre. Hands @	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10am - Worship 11am - New Member 11am - UMW Sweet 11:15am - Adult	9:30am - Ladies' 10:30am - Staff 11am - Loretta Tom 1pm - Planning	9am - Vocal Sen 12pm - Staff 2:45pm - Finance 4pm - Church	8:30am - Intercessor 10:30am - Advent 6:30pm - Pack 7pm - Chancel Choir	Echoes Article Due 8am - Landscaping 12:30pm - Snak Pak 1:30pm - Satellite 6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Girl Scouts		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10am - Worship 11:15am - Adult	Christmas Eve 9:30am - Ladies' 10:30am - Staff 11am - Loretta Tom 3pm - Service with 6pm - Family 8pm - Service with	Christmas Day- 9am - Vocal Sen	Office Closed 8:30am - Intercessor 1pm - CYFM, Ed's 7pm - Chancel Choir	8am - Landscaping 9am - Stephen 12:30pm - Snak Pak 6:30pm - Bell Choir	9am - Cre. Hands @	
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
Family Worship 10am - Worship 11:15am - Adult	9:30am - Ladies' 10:30am - Staff 11am - Loretta Tom 8pm - Service with					

VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC

3001 EAST MIRAVISTA LANE

TUCSON, AZ 85739

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

8:30 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

PHONE 520-825-1985

E-mail: Vista UMC@aol.com

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK

AND AT OUR WEBSITE:

www.Vistaumc.org



NON PROFIT ORG

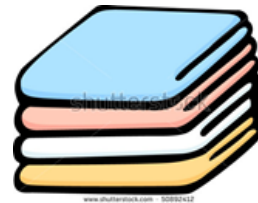
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TUCSON, AZ

PERMIT #648



Warm Clothing and Bedding Drive is Heating Up Again!



As you critique your “winter wardrobe,” please consider donating those items that remain in the back of your closet – or bottom of your drawer year after year! Each year, during the months of December and January, Vista collects new and/or gently used warm clothing (socks, jackets, gloves, scarves, robes, sweaters, etc.) and bedding (blankets and bedspreads). Items placed in a large Christmas Box in the Narthex will be delivered weekly to IMPACT’S Clothing Bank where they can be distributed in a timely manner to area residents in need.