



VISTA de la MONTAÑA

ECHOES

PASTOR'S PEN FEBRUARY 2019

I want to share with everyone the good news I shared with the congregation on Sunday January 27th. Not everyone can make it to church every Sunday or watch us at Vista Church Online.

2018 was an exceptional year for Vista Church. We brought in 34 full and affiliate members. These precious souls joined the 30 we brought in the year before. In 2017 we brought in the first Confirmation class in about 10 years. In February we begin another one! Praise God for church growth of all ages!!!

On January 20th we began worship at our Satellite site in San Manuel. There were 52 of us present that day to worship God and start something new. The start of a new church is one of the most basic and biblical forms of evangelism. I am so encouraged, not only for the lives we have touched, but also for the spiritual lives that have grown at Vista Catalina. Praise God for choosing and sending us.

At the end of 2018 we brought into play a new Adult Christian Education team that has provided many opportunities for us to deepen our faith through Bible study.

We ended the 2018 budget year in the black, which allowed us to transfer \$30,000.00 into the building fund. Our 2018 Stewardship pledges came in at the highest amount by the most people in the history of our church. Lot's of people worked so hard to give everyone the opportunity to make their faithful response to God.

On top of your faithful giving and pledging for the budget, we now have \$1,040,000.00 in cash and pledges on hand for our new Education and Administrative building. Giving to this project and to the budget have been exceedingly strong! We are now at the point of going to the District Committee on Building and Location in order to proceed. We also will have a Church Conference on February 19th as required by the Discipline to move forward in terms of funding.

Currently we are a bit short of the amount needed to break ground, but we are continuing our efforts towards this on two fronts. First, we are "value engineering" the project to make cuts and cost savings where possible. Second, we are out raising more money to close the gap.

Thanks for your faithful response in all areas of the church. God's Spirit is calling us forward into ministry and mission for the world.

In Christ's Love

Pastor Fred



Good news must be shared!!

On Sunday, January 20th, we began our Inaugural Satellite Fellowship at Vista-San Manuel with 52 in attendance including the contingent from Vista Catalina. One woman told Pastor Fred that this church start was a direct answer to her prayers!! Thanks be to God for all those who worked and prayed so hard to bring this into being!!!

There is still room for you to join us. Please contact Pastor Fred or Donna Boring for more information. We will be in San Manuel every Sunday @ 4pm. There is a place for you.

Mission Outreach Ministry

I want to thank our wonderful congregation at Vista for your generous Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings and give you a report on the good work that is being done with your donations. The Thanksgiving offering was \$2,291.00 and the Christmas offering was \$3,848.00.

With these resources we were able to send \$2000.00 to the food bank at Impact in Catalina.

We also sent \$2,500.00 to the Community Food Bank in Tucson to cover our part, for the next semester of food for the Snak Pak program at Coronado school in Catalina. We also sent \$1,500.00 to the Wesley Foundation for support for the ministry at 1st Church for the students at the University of Arizona. Additionally we sent \$1,000.00 to Esperanza en Escalante for the Housing facility for Homeless vets and their families in Tucson. Sister Jose Center for Homeless Women in Tucson received \$500.00 for public bus passes so they can visit the center for food and shelter and services. With the cold weather we have had this past month the \$ was well spent.

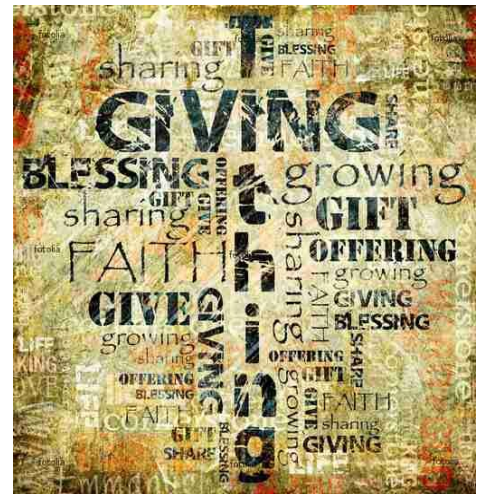


Continued page 7

Family 1st and our speaker Frank Grochochi and wife Clare.

Finance

2018 Annual Financial Results



We had a good year. Annual income was \$475,169 which was \$13,019 over budget but \$3,095 less than 2017. Expenses were \$393,771, which was \$2,647 under budget and \$11,542 greater than 2017. Net income for the General Fund was \$61,043. Our Operating Reserve is \$99,227 and the goal is 2 months of expenses which would be \$68,000 in 2019. It was approved by the Finance Committee to transfer \$30,000 to the New Building Fund.

Budgeted annual income for 2019 is \$470,440 and budgeted expenses are \$414,381.

December attendance was a 1,555 which was a 7.5% increase. but does not include live streaming viewers. We average 240-250 per week at the church service and quite a few more view our live streaming. Christmas attendance was higher than last year.

An audit of 2017 finances is currently in process.

As we have mentioned in the last Echoes and during January services, please consider the Many Ways to Give.

Sharon Scanlan, Finance Chair

Dennis Kimmel, Financial Secretary

Darrell Parson, Treasurer

Explore the Many Ways to Give to the Church

Pledges for 2019 are complete for the Stewardship Campaign and for the New Vistas Building Campaign. There are many ways to give to the Church that make it easier for you.

Please consider one of the following:

Non-cash Gifts to the Church

Anytime you wish to make a non-cash gift to the Church (i.e. stocks or property), it is critical that you contact Dennis Kimmel, Financial Secretary for the procedure. He is in charge of all contributions for the Church. You can complete your general pledge or building pledge through a stock gift, which may provide a tax incentive if you donate appreciated stock.

The Ease of Credit Card and Automatic Bank Giving

You can give to the Church using your credit card for a one-time gift, or set up an automated donation on a one-time, weekly or monthly schedule. To donate, go to our Vista UMC website <http://vistaumc.org/> and on the bottom of the Home page there is a link to our Donation Page. It's safe, secure and easy to use. Not only can you give to the Church, but you can collect miles or points from your credit card! If you have any questions, please call Valerie Hammons, Pastoral Assistant.

ACH – Automated Clearing House

Many of our members give through ACH – Automated Clearing House, which is a monthly direct deposit to the Church from your checking account. If you would like to do this, please contact Dennis Kimmel, Financial Secretary.

IRA Gift from your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)

Retirees ages 70 ½ or older can transfer money tax free directly from their IRA to a charity such as Vista UMC and it can count towards your RMD (Required Minimum Distribution). It is important to consult your Financial Adviser to set this up properly.

Fry's Community Rewards

Vista de la Montana UMC is now enrolled as a member of Fry's Community Rewards Program. Our Member Number is 22553. Our church will receive a cash rebate quarterly, calculated on how much our members have purchased at Fry's or any Kroger affiliate.

PLEASE NOTE: Before you can link your Fry's V.I.P card to an organization, you must have an email address and an on-line account. Email Sharon Scanlan for instructions or go on-line for Fry's. Sharon's email is sascanlan8548@me.com.

Please consider selecting one of these ways to give, then follow through. The spiritual progress of the church lives on member donations. Step up, be counted!

GOT COOKIES?

Can you believe that we just completed January? Oh, what happened to the Christmas and New Year celebration? It seems like we just did **“Walk through Bethlehem”**. Hospitality committee would like to extend a special thanks to those folks who helped us out during the **“Walk through Bethlehem”** event. Below is a list of things people helped at this special event:

Bringing cookies

Everyone who helped to set-up the drinks and cookies at the beginning of the event

Greeting people at the beginning of the tour and offering warm apple cider just before started the tour

Serving cookies in the patio at the end of the tour

Greeting and socializing with those people who just completed the tour

Everyone helping to clean-up and put things away at the end of the event



Hospitality committee are looking for Folks taking their turn to signing-up to

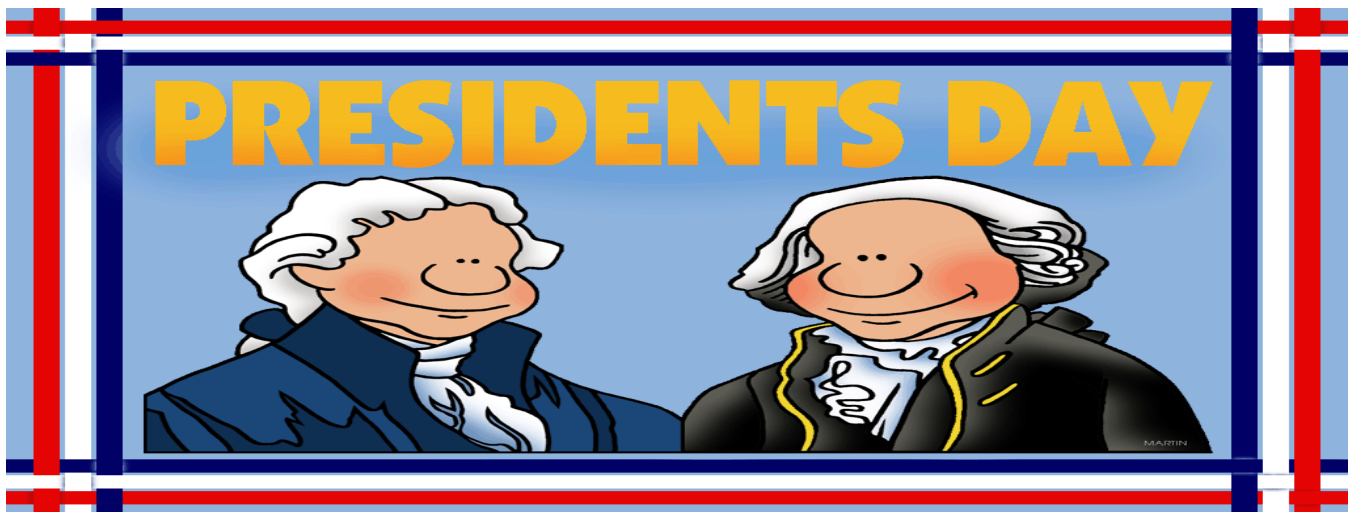
Bring goodies, serve and put things away

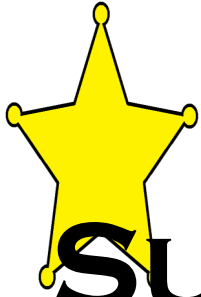
Volunteers to help occasionally to serve as a “hospitality partner”

Delores Brindle is available every Sunday to answer questions about signing -up for goodies or being a hospitality partner. There are also written instructions to help assist you in any of the above tasks.

Sign-up early if you are planning on wanting a Sunday to celebrate that occasion. If you bring a Cake, hospitality committee will cut the cake and even serve it so you can visit.

Delores Brindle, Hospitality Co-coordinator





RODEO LUNCH

SUNDAY, FEB. 24TH

(YOUTH FUNDRAISER)

BAKED



POTATO BAR

WITH ALL THE FIXINS

TAKE-OUTS AVAILABLE



DONATIONS GLADLY ACCEPTED



THANK YOU, VISTA MEMBERS AND FRIENDS!

Vista's Warm Clothing and Bedding Drive ended on January 27, 2019. The generosity of our congregation was apparent once again with a total donation of 168 items of clothing and eight quilts and blankets (as of January 21). Items given this season were as a whole, outstanding in quality! Many of the coats, jackets and sweaters donated looked brand new, as did several pairs of heavy socks! Thank you on behalf of all in our greater community who were snug and warm during this season's chilly days and nights!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The Vista United Methodist Women Christmas Stocking drive was successful once more. A grant of \$250.00 was approved and given by Thrivent Insurance with which we could buy essentials, but those only filled ½ half of a stocking. Many thanks to all of you that participated by placing more personal items to finish stuffing those stockings.

All 100 were this time brought to "Eagles Wings of Grace Int'l", at a location here in Tucson. The volunteers there helped us unload the car and showed us their small but well sorted facility. An area where women are helped filling out applications for jobs. In addition 3 well stocked rooms according to clothes and shoe sizes are tastefully displayed in boutique style for women to also select donated items of jewelry as well a some unused make-up and hand bags.

Most women that are ready to re-enter a work place are send to this facility by other local charities of Tucson. The women bring a voucher and are able to chose from the donated items from head to toe to make them feel comfortable. Eagles Wings of Grace - welcomes any kind of gentle used items, underwear however is bought by them at various store sales and therefore some cash donations are also needed.

Should you like to have additional information, please contact me or Jan Hopke-Almer, who applied for the grant and selected this charity.

Again Thank YOU for helping many women to get back on their feet and making their last Christmas a little brighter.

Wishing for an abundance of blessings to you and yours,
your sister in Christ, Loni Degen/President UM Women – unit Vista

Missions continued from page 2

We continue to minister to the community around us in Pima County and we are most grateful for your care for our Mission programs. Our program is supported mainly by 3 offerings a year, Easter, Thanksgiving & Christmas as we are not included into Vista's annual budget. Thank you one again for your support as we carry on with our Mission programs.

Last month we had planned to hear Sherry Wyland give us a report on UMCOR, but due to illness, the Mission committee meeting was canceled, so we will be hearing her report at our next meeting in Feb. Sherri & her late husband Rex have been volunteers at UMCOR for many years and I am sure you will want to come and learn more about this important mission that the Methodist Church provides to our country and the whole world in times of disaster.

We also want to invite you to be our guest, at a nice lunch on Saturday, Feb 9th at 11:30 AM at Vista. We will be showering Family First with a Baby shower to support their ministry to the community. The lunch is FREE with the donation of a baby item for each attendee. The ladies of UMW and Mission have done this baby shower before and had a great time, so this year we are also inviting the gentlemen to come and share in the fun. Our speaker will be Frank Grochochi the Executive Director of Family First. (see Picture below) This is a wonderful program that meets the needs for babies and their parent with training and family education. We always enjoy seeing the tables full of baby and young children items up to size 4T. Diapers for babies and for adult for all sizes are also needed. Please come, bring an unwrapped item, and share in the fun and learn more about what services are provided to our community and up the Copper Trail. Reservation table will be set up in the Narthex so you may sign up for the Lunch on Sunday.

These are busy times for Vista, with the new challenge of our extended church in San Manuel and we want to include these folks into our Mission programs. Our scripture last Sunday stated in part "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord" Jeremiah 29:11 I Am grateful that God knows the good work we attempt to do even before it is done. How exciting it is to feel that we are doing what God has planned for each of us!!

I hope to see you all at our next Mission Meeting in the Patio Room at 1:00 PM, Wed, the 13th of Feb. As always our meetings are open to the entire congregation:

Yours in Mission service:

Dee Berman.... Chairman

520-825-7115 or deerick1968@gmail.com



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

JACKSON, Jim & Ginny	02/01
JOHNSON, Robert & Barbara	02/13
HALL, Jay & Gale	02/18
RUTKOWSKI, Marv & Marilyn	02/25
SIMON, Jim & Jimmie	02/28



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO :

SCANLAN, Sharon	02/01
BAUM, Deede	02/02
ARNETT, Paul	02/04
BELLAH, Mary	02/04
SCHAEFER, Jackie	02/06
CAMPBELL, Alan	02/07
HALL, Gale	02/10
OVERMAN, Anna Margaret	02/10
PARKER, Elizabeth Rose	02/10
HERD, Robert	02/11

GARCIA, Al	02/12
SANDERS, Teresa	02/13
LANDRUM, Mattie	02/15
BLEESS, Jim	02/16
RADTKE, Paula	02/17
LARMOUR, Margaret	02/19
REMPEL, Barbara	02/19
BLANGO, Cecelia	02/25
HOMAN, Lila	02/26
WARD, Dillis	02/26
BAUDER, Kathleen	02/28
HOLDER, Craig	02/28
VERMILYE, Jillian	02/28

