



VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC

Echoes

December 2019

PASTOR'S PEN

When my oldest daughter Sarah was about 1 month old, she spiked a high fever. She was born with a birth defect that if it had gone undetected would have resulted in the loss of both her kidneys. She had surgery at 2 months old that failed; so that at 4 months old she had another surgery, that thank God, was successful. She spent a month of her first 6 months on earth in the hospital. Later she received a donation of bone tissue from a person who had passed on. This is part of the reason I occasionally preach on the gift of organ donation which I did on our pledge Sunday Nov. 11th. I had planned that sermon 4 months before and God had plans to use it to touch the lives of others whose story you will see below who are praying for a Christmas miracle of an organ donation. (Used with permission)

"This is our story. We used to go to this church (Vista) when Monty and Matt were here. Some people may still even remember us because we have eight adopted children. When Matt and Cathy moved on from the church a lot of the youth, including ourselves, left the church and found other churches. We started to attend Casa. It's very big but my children would always said, "let's go back to the little church". We actually just stopped going to any church at all, because my husband and I both work and schedules get busy. Well two weeks before school started, we got a phone call and it was a doctor on the other end of the phone and he told me that I needed to rush my son Shane to the hospital because he needed a blood transfusion. We had told our doctor a week before that we thought Shane was looking really skinny, so my husband made them do blood work. Boy we were not ready for this horrible journey that was going to happen to us!

We got to the hospital and they told us that Shane needed not one but two blood transfusions and that he was in complete kidney failure. We sat in the hospital in complete shock like, "what is happening?" They told us that a healthy number for a kidney is below 30, Shane was at 843. They said they didn't even know how he walked through the door. They rushed him to the ICU and that's where we stayed for a week hoping that he survived through the week. His numbers start to come down and he got out of the ICU. He was in the hospital another week where they told us that the one kidney he had never grew the way it should have and that he needs a kidney donation and that we need to start kidney dialysis three days a week until he can get his numbers down and be put on the kidney donation list. He's only 16.

We were all lost, upset, scared and did not know what to do; so, I said, "I feel we need to go back to the little church, because it had so many happy memories." The strangest thing happened last Sunday while we sat at Vista, the minister started talking about organ donation and how important it is for people to do it. I believe with all my might that God works in mysterious ways and that somehow, we were supposed to be at that service. The odds of us being there when we have not gone to church in so long and the minister talking about organ donation is 1 in a million. It is fate that we were there. I hope everyone will keep Shane Gallo and all of us in your prayers as we go through this horrible journey and pray that we get a kidney donation so he can have a great future.

*Thanks so much
The Gallos"*

Indeed, my friends, join with me and the Gallos in praying for a Christmas miracle for Shane. He was in worship with us these last two Sundays and we pray for this miracle so that he can have many more. If you or someone you know can donate, please enter into a deep prayer for this gift of life!

In Christ's love

Pastor Fred

Construction Progress

We're almost there!



The offices are scheduled to return to the Vista campus on Dec. 18. Following that move-in, movers will proceed to empty storage containers, returning furniture, files, etc. The building has doors, windows, ceilings, paint, and sidewalks. All should be finished by the 18th!

New Vista View from Miravista Lane



Vista UMC December 2019 Finance Report

October 2019 Financial Results

October income exceeded last year and budget. We had lower income in September, but the total of the two months equaled last year. Expenses continue to be on budget.

Attendance was off a little the first two weeks but we had an increase over last year for the last two weeks. We had 314 watch on Live Streaming which is a nice increase over the last several months.

Special thanks to those of you who use ACH or credit card payments because it has made a big difference in steady monthly income in the summer months instead of a big dip! If you aren't using an automatic monthly payment for your pledge, please consider it! Contact Dennis Kimmel to set up your account.

Sharon Scanlan, Finance Chair
Dennis Kimmel, Financial Secretary
Darrell Parson, Treasurer

Explore the Many Ways to Give to the Church

Pledges for 2020 are complete for the Stewardship 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.

Please consider selecting one of these ways to give, then follow through. The spiritual progress of the church

Hospitality



December is a busy time of the year. It is the time to close things down for the year. I look at it as the beginning of a special time in a Christian life. It is the time we receive the new baby called Jesus.

In hospitality it is closing out the old year. It is a time our church families bring to the goodies table on Sunday their favorite treats. These treats are probably bringing old memories back. I look forward to hearing about the special treats. It also brings memories of my childhood days.

Hospitality committee want to say thank you to everyone who has brought goodies for us on Sunday. I have said it before, it reminds me of Christmas morning when we open our presents. The package has a surprise inside. This is the same as seeing the goodies that you have brought for us to enjoy. We walk out of church and there is the package opened and we now see the surprise. If you are new to signing up to do goodies, we will help you with the task. There is a work sheet that you are given to guide. Do hope to see you.

Oh yes, we cannot forget that hot coffee or hot tea. Thanks goes out to those who signed up to make coffee before church starts. A special thanks to La Verne Tucker who continues to sign folks up to make coffee on Sunday. She has been doing this task for over 10 years. WOW!! Please continue to sign up. We will help you to make the coffee. La Verne was able to get some new faces to make coffee. We hope you will sign up again.

Memorial services: I want to thank everyone who has been involved with the memorial services. You have been there for the families to help them make their loved one's celebration a grand one. This is a very trying time for the families. It is new territory for all of us when we lose a loved one. We are sad and now are faced with making final arrangements for our loved one that just passed away. Thanks again for your help with the celebration.

Pat Reykdal, Don Smith and I (Hospitality co-chairmen) want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We are looking forward to working we you next year.

2020 FLOWER CHART IS READY FOR SIGNUP!

The Flower Chart is now available in the narthex for you to sign up to sponsor altar flowers in 2020. Please indicate your name and the event that you are celebrating on the calendar. Certain dates are reserved for special events and are so marked on the calendar, so please do not select one of those dates. Price is still \$45, with check payable to Vista UMC and altar flowers in the memo. For questions, please call Janet (719-323-4806) or Lue (360-791-6324)

Mission Outreach Ministry

December 2019 Report

It's hard to believe that the year 2019 is drawing to an end but we still have the greatest of all Holidays to celebrate before the year's end, CHRISTMAS, the celebration of the birth of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ. As we look back at this past year, it truly has been an eventful one, not only for our Mission team work, but our Vista Church and our Nation. Thru it all, we have seen God's mighty hand leading us to new ministries, new buildings, new members, and new ways to serve Him. I want to thank this wonderful Church for all your support for our various Mission programs that reach out into our community and beyond, to show the face of Christ's Love and Grace.

I want to remind you that on the 1st Sunday of the month, Dec. the 1st, we will be collecting food goods for the food bank at Impact. The shopping cart will be out in the breezeway for your donations or you may deposit a check in the offering plate marked on the memo line "food bank". Also, as always, we will be initiating the Warm Winter program with a collection box in the narthex to receive coats, sweaters, socks, scarf's, gloves, as well as bedding. Please know that all used items are appreciated, as long as they are clean and in good condition. For further information you may call Team Leader Benith MacPherson at 520-825-5891.

Another reminder is the Concert at Vista on Sunday Dec. 15th at 2:00 PM of the memory choir Songs of Joy Chorus. Please come and support this very special group as they help us celebrate Christmas. A reception will follow the concert. For further Information please contact Dr. Jane Stump at 520-288-6840.

I will be selling Christmas cards in the narthex starting on Sunday Dec. 1st. We have received a lovely shipment of new cards from the women's Co-op at our sister church Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta, Mexico. You will be delighted with how pretty they are. They only cost 50 cents, and the money for the cards is such as blessing to the women who create them and also to the receiver who you will be sending the cards to.

In closing I once again want to THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT this past year for the Mission program at Vista and especially **your wonderful Mission team that have shown so much dedication to Vista's Mission Ministry. Our Christmas offering will once again support the work of the Wesley Foundation at the University of Arizona as well as the numerous mission programs at Vista.**

Wishing you a Very Merry Christmas.

Yours in Mission service:

Dee Berman....Chairman

520-825-7115 deerick1968@gmail.com



A few of our folks in Agua Prieta for the Celebration of Learning



The Cookbooks are ready! 200 Cookbooks have been created using recipes from the ladies at Vista and they are beautiful! These cookbooks are perfect for hostess gifts, Christmas gifts – and for anyone who likes to cook or likes to eat. There are still some available, so look for Sandy Schwartz on the patio after service. \$10 each.

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.



Christmas Poinsettias



As in Christmases past, Vista again offers you the opportunity to make memorial donations to purchase poinsettias which will be added to our sanctuary decorations beginning on Sunday, December 22. Names of those honored by these contributions will be printed in the bulletin. Envelopes in which to place these order forms and your payment will be available in a basket in the Narthex on Sunday Dec 1 thru Dec 15. Dec 15 will be the very last Sunday to place

Vista's SONG OF JOY CHORUS



The Vista Song of Joy Chorus will present it's first

Christmas Concert

on

December 15, 2019 at 2:00 pm

at

Vista de la Montana United Methodist Church

3001 Miravista Lane, Tucson, Arizona 85739

(@15000 N Oracle Rd.)

It is located between Wilds Road and Golder Ranch Road, off Oracle Road. The Song of Joy Chorus is composed of the short term memory impaired, their caregivers and church support singers. Please join us for the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child, our short term memory impaired, their caregivers and music.

A reception follows the concert.

The Christmas Concert and reception are free and
open to the public.

Please call the church office if you have questions at 520-825-1985.





Adopt-A-Family

Vista's Youth and Children

Are adopting a family for Christmas 2019.

This family consists of a single mom, ill grandmother,
11 yr old boy and 7 yr old girl.

11 yr old boy would like: Basketball, books, wallet,
Backpack (heavy duty) solid green.

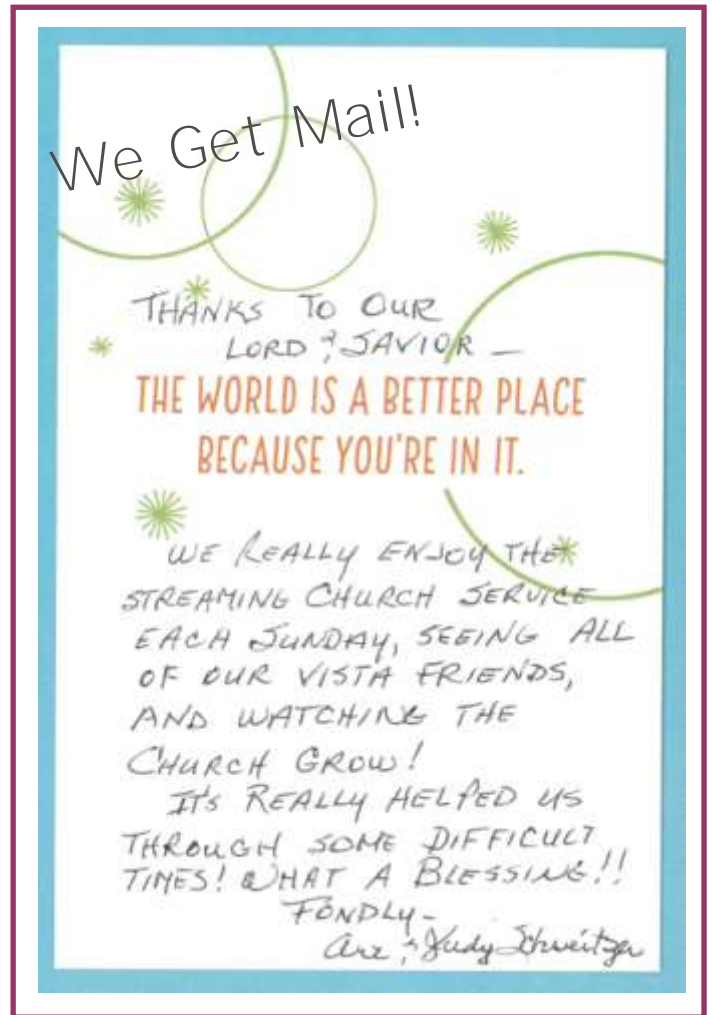
Clothes size 12-14 kids.

7 yr old girl: LOL dolls (gold hair), Girly things, hair
bows, books. Clothes size 8-20 kids.

Both of the kids have asked Santa for bikes. Boy would
like a BMX bike. Maybe a couple of families could go

MOVING AGAIN!

By December 18, the office should be installed in our new Admin/Education building! We may need a few days to get situated, but we will be there! Important to note is that we are no longer receiving U.S. mail at the PO Box. So please, if you have been using the PO Box address during our construction, PLEASE resume using the church address of 3001 E Miravista Ln, Tucson AZ 85739.



THANK YOU, MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF VISTA, FOR A SUCCESSFUL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN!

Consecration Sunday on November 10 was a joyous occasion, with more than 170 individuals staying after the service to enjoy fellowship with one another over a Jason's Deli box lunch. "Estimate of Giving" cards consecrated that Sunday totaled \$366,000, exceeding last year's total by \$6,000. As typically happens, there are several individuals who for various reasons, make their pledges later in November or even in December. So, the pledge totals which drive our 2020 budget will continue to increase. A year-end report will give the congregation an "up to date" accounting of available funds as we move into our expanded facilities and continue to grow spiritually in 2020. We extend a hearty thank you to all who so willingly gave of their time and energy during the Stewardship Campaign and on Consecration Sunday. We especially thank our Vista youth who are always so ready to help out in any way they can. Aren't we fortunate to have an ever growing number of young people as part of our church family!

The Vista Song of Joy Concert

Sunday, December 15th at 2 pm in the Sanctuary!

We hope the congregation will join us at our first annual Christmas Concert on December 15th at the church at 2 pm. The choir is composed of the short term memory impaired, their caregivers and church support singers. Our chorus will sing Christmas carols and one of our chorus members will recite a Christmas story which she wrote when she was teaching. Santa, his elves, a few angels, Rudolph and the little drummer boy will join us later in the program!

Following, the chorus will host a reception on the patio.

Please join us in the celebration of the birth of the Christ child, our memory impaired and the wonders of music!

Jane Stump. Ph.D. Vista Song of Joy Chorus Director



Christmas Stocking Project

This year we will be donating 100+ Christmas stockings to Eagles Wings of Grace in Tucson. This Christian based organization provides training and assistance to women trying to go from homelessness or unemployment to the world of work. Pick up your stocking(s) in the narthex and return it filled with little gifts by Wednesday, December 18th. For more information contact Jan Bohe (520-825-9725) or



Calling the Men of Vista

Gentlemen; If you love to sing and the fellowship of other men who enjoy singing, we have the group for you. Vocal Seniority is a long-standing and well respected men's choral group of Vista. We invite you to come and sing with us. We sing a full repertoire of religious and secular musical literature, from "Salvation is Created" to "Lydia, the Tattooed Lady" and everything in between, and have fun doing it. We meet on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 am in the sanctuary and would love to have you. Join us.



Celebrations



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

O'DONALD, Jay & Louise	12/1
NEVINS, Dick & Ilene	12/8
HOTCHKISS, Curtis & Michelle	12/15
MILLER, Linda & Ray	12/16
FLOYD, Tom & Linda	12/28
ANDERSON, Dave & Maureen	12/29

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

SMITH, Don & Pat	01/01
HOLDER, Pam & Craig	01/06
POHNERT, Bill & Tricia	01/07
LINDAHL, Greg & Carol	01/20

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

DANIELS, Bill	12/1
HOTCHKISS, Curtis	12/1
MILLER, Shirley	12/1
WALDO, Marilyn	12/8
WATKINS, Stuart	12/9
BOLAR, Marlin	12/10
NEWMAN, Shirley	12/10
ZIMMERMAN, Terry	12/15
RAYNOR, Mary	12/16
MILLER, Paul	12/17
CURTIS, Carol	12/18
MADDEN, Barab	12/18
KARCHER, Cynthia	12/19
RUTKOWSKI, Marv	12/19
BULL, Fred	12/21
DE WINDT, Charlotte	12/22
GRIFFIN, Linda	12/23
POHNERT, Dr. Bill	12/23
BLEESS, Von Ceil	12/24
AUGUST, sDon	12/25
RUPE, Marv	12/25
MC FARLAND, Glenda	12/28
LITTLE, Betty	12/30
MILLER, Bob	12/30

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

HEYWOOD, Jim	01/01
HOLDEN, Larry	01/02
STEVENSON, Ken	01/02
HERNANDEZ, Antonio (AJ)	01/03
AUTHUR, Janelle	01/07
HIGGINS, Dennis	01/07
HOTCHKISS, Kourtney	01/07
PRICE, Ursula	01/08
MANN, Diane	01/11
DEVRIES, Shirley	01/12
WATTS, Cheryl	01/12
JOHNSON, Barbara	01/13
WITTKOSKI, Thomas	01/13
TONGA, Mia	01/14
AGUIRRE, Roman	01/15
EVANS, Joanne	01/15
CONNER, Robin	01/17
HOLMAN, Joyce	01/17
CARY, Mary	01/18
DEDRICK, Char	01/18
KASTE, Howard	01/19
CAMPBELL, Lori	01/20
FOWLER, Valarie	01/21
LAFLEUR JR, Theodore	01/22
MILLER, Fran	01/22
WALDO, Duane	01/22
KASTE, Sharon	01/23
YOB, Nancy	01/23
WILLIAMS, Norm	01/24
KOELLING, Jerry	01/25
AGUIRRE, Michelle	01/28
HARWICK, Rebecca	01/30

VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC
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TUCSON, AZ 85739

OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
9:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.
PHONE 520-825-1985

E-mail: VistaUMC@aol.com
VISIT US ON FACEBOOK
AND AT OUR WEBSITE:
www.Vistaumc.org

Temporary Business Office Location:
16131 N Vernon Dr, Catalina



DECEMBER 2019

NON PROFIT ORG

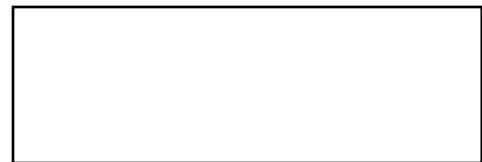
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PAID

TUCSON, AZ

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Vista Christmas Eve Services

Traditional Service with Carols & Communion	3:00 pm
Family Service & Blessing of the Children	6:00 pm
Traditional Service with Carols, Communion & Candle Lighting	8:00 pm