



VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC

Echoes

March 2020

PASTOR'S PEN

By the time you receive this, the month of March and the season of Lent will be well on the way. The observance of the Christian season of Lent has usually included the giving up of something or “fasting” from something in remembrance and solidarity with Jesus’ 40 days of fasting in the wilderness before he began his public mission.

I want you to consider deeply something I wrote about Lent in the past and used in a recent sermon. “Many people for the season of Lent give up something sweet and pleasant as a reminder of Jesus’ 40 days of trial in the wilderness. May I suggest something else this Lenten season? Give up something bad and in its place put in something new and good. Both you and the world will be blessed. Can’t think of something bad to give up? That’s fine just do something good.”

Isaiah 58:6-7 records true fasting in these terms:

⁶“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?”

The rest of Isaiah 58 goes on to record more things that entail true fasting of which the bottom line is “true fasting” means giving up something of yourself to help others. If you read through this list, you will find that many of the things asked for are many of the things Vista Church does through its’ mission and outreach programs. Call Dee Berman up and offer to serve in some capacity to which you feel called and the season of Lent and the spiritual growth and blessing that comes with it will last all year long.

One area of mission that needs refreshment in terms of numbers is our Satellite fellowship in San Manuel. We have been offering worship there now for over a year and some of the saints at Vista Church Catalina need others to step alongside them to help carry the load. Cliff Terry has an article about this later in this newsletter.

One thing you can set your heart on doing is making the effort to invite someone to join with you in the worship of God this Lenten season either here in Catalina, or San Manuel or at Vista Church Online. Jesus in one way or another was always inviting people into the worship and devotion of God. The sermon messages are following the traditional scriptures read and preached on as Jesus sets his face towards Jerusalem, the Cross and Resurrection. The Choir is working hard to bring you into the presence of God through their anthems, special music and the leading of our hymns. See you in worship!!

In Christ’s love,

Pastor Fred

From the Building Committee

The Finance Committee, the Trustees and the Building Committee are synchronizing our efforts on the Nursery-Toddler's Room with the storm damage restoration work. As a result, the remodel will take place after the storm damage repairs are completed. This repair work is scheduled to commence in the immediate future and will include roof repairs and stucco repairs among other things. The storm damage repair work is being accomplished by Strategic Construction & Building Services (SCBS), a general contractor, through an insurance claim made by Vista Church to Church Mutual, our Insurance carrier.



A beautiful and welcoming lobby complete with coffee service!



Our multi-purpose Elizabeth Room plays host to meetings, choir rehearsals and fellowship events.

The staff loves its spacious, luxury kitchenette!



The Beauty Within!

You've seen lots of pictures of the exterior of our new building as it went thru its construction. Now you can see the beauty that we behold inside!



Hospitality

Did you ever wonder how Vista is able to do all the things that we do in-house or out in the community? The answer is by many, many volunteers. Churches are one of those organizations that rely on volunteers.

When I joined Vista in 1999, the pastor asked if I would support the church financially and to serve others. I take this very seriously and I am sure you do too. You are probably one of those who give many hours to the church as a volunteer.

If you are one who wants to volunteer but for whatever reason cannot do it, I am one who, due to my severe pain in the left hip & leg area, I cannot do volunteering on a consistent basis. I have found a solution for me and that is to volunteer as the hospitality co-chairperson and the Memorial Coordinator. I can do this type of volunteering because of folks that also volunteer with me for these two events.

How can you volunteer with limited time or abilities? You have some choices to do some volunteering. Please read on to see if one of these choices will work for you.

Choice one: Sign up to do goodies following the service once or twice a year. You can either buy or bake the goodies. You will need to be there to work along with the other folks that signed up with you to serve the goodies and then tidy up the kitchen.

Choice two: If you are not able to buy or bake then give me some money and I will buy the goodies for you. I still would want you to be there to serve the goodies. If you are not able to stand during the serving, we can provide a chair for you. It is a great time to visit with others as they pick up a goodie or two.

Memorial services choices:

Sign up to volunteer to serve the goodies and then tidy up the kitchen.

Call and volunteer to bring the goodies that are needed for the service. I have a few folks that will call me to volunteer to provide goodies or to help in the kitchen.

What is nice about selecting one of the above volunteering choices is that it is limited in the length of time required to do it. It is a type of volunteering that you can do if you are holding down a job, either working in the home or out of the home.

Please contact me, Delores Brindle, either on Sunday after the service on the patio or email: deloresjb@gmail.com or call me at 520 907 5706.

Looking forward to helping you get in your volunteering to help run the church different events.

Delores Brindle, Hospitality Co-chairperson

Mission Outreach Ministry

Spring is upon us and we will soon be getting ready to start our Backpack & School Supply program for the students of our sister Church, Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta Mexico, as well as Family First in Oracle. Jan Hopke Almer and her helpers, Peggy Smith & Robin Connor, will be gathering new pictures of the students and creating the lists of students and sponsors. You will be receiving the translated notes the kids have written to many of you. I have now finished, with the help of Joy Oram, the translation of over 50 letters from the students to their sponsors. Many of them are really cute with drawn pictures and flowers. I want to thank you all in advance for your sponsorship of these wonderful young people. You will have an opportunity to meet your sponsored child on our next trip to Agua Prieta for the Celebration of Learning Festival that will be held on the 4th Saturday of October the 24th. Please note that this is a new date changed from the date mentioned in the last Echoes as the last Saturday falls on Halloween, so we will not be going that day. **SAVE THE DATE Oct 24th 2020.**

I have been in communication with Pastor Gela in regards to the work her church is doing to help the immigrant refugees who come to the border as applicants for entry into the United States. They make their request for refugee status and then are sent back across the border into Mexico to wait for their hearing before the US authorities on the US side. Only 20 at a time can line up on the walk in front of the border crossing building. They must keep their place in line day and night, wait to be called, and hope they are one of the fortunate applicants who is accepted as a legal refugee and can enter the US. They only have a tarp to shelter them from the elements next to the wall.

There are people there from all over the world. Fuente de Vida brings food 2 times a day to feed these 20 applicants every Monday, and other churches take a turn another day of the week. There are over 40 people at Fuente de Vida Methodist church who take turns supplying the food goods, cooking the meals in their Community Center, and delivering the food to the sidewalk. Each Monday a different group from the church takes their turn raising the food money and being responsible for this ministry, this includes the youth group, **the music team, the men's, the women's group, the Christian education group, etc etc.**

So you see, we are not the only ones in mission ministry to others in need. The remainders of the people who are waiting for their application to be considered, are being sheltered in a Hostel in the community and other churches are helping to keep food and supplies and clothing going to the Hostel while the people wait to be called to the wall. I have been asked numerous times about what was being done to assist the border problems. If you have a concern about this work, feel free to call me and I will try to get you an answer.

Our Mission work continues to reach out in many ways to help the needy round us and we always welcome you to join us in our efforts to help those in need in our community and beyond. Our Mission Outreach meets on the 2nd Wed, of every month and we will look forward to seeing you on March 11th at 1:00PM in the Matthew room in our new building.

May God's Grace be with you as we try to show His love thru our Mission Outreach Ministry.

Yours in Mission Service:

Dee Berman..... Chairman

520-825-7115.....!deerick1968@gmail.com

Volunteer with IMPACT of Southern Arizona!

IMPACT of Southern Arizona provides food, clothing, and resources for low income families and individuals in Catalina and the surrounding areas. We are looking for additional volunteers to help keep all our programs running smoothly. We have the greatest need in two areas - sorting donations in our clothing bank and also with driving and picking up food donations from corporate stores for our food bank.

There are many benefits to volunteering including improved physical health, feeling a sense of purpose, and social/emotional wellbeing. Contact Christina Micek, Volunteer Coordinator , at 520-825-0009, or email volunteer@impactsoaz.org to learn more and see how you can make an IMPACT in the community!

Vista UMC Finance Committee

January 2020 Financial Results

Income was -\$2,563 under budget. Expenses were \$2,611 under budget.

The January income budget was front-loaded since we had \$30,000 in pre-paid pledges. We will have many months this summer when we have a negative cash flow so the early income is great to have in the bank! Thanks to all of you who prepaid!!

January attendance was 1,162 (including streaming) for both this year and last year. This was a -16% decrease. Actual church attendance was 1,162 vs. 1,381 last year.

The Finance Committee transferred \$65,000 from the General Fund to the New Building Fund. Our cash flow projection for the Building fund, is a very, very small positive balance after our final expenses next month. Thanks to all of you who have been fulfilling your building pledge payments!

It is important to begin paying down the mortgage principle in addition to the monthly interest payments we will be making to Canyon Community Bank. We borrowed \$550,000 to supplement our building pledges. When we make a principle payment, we reduce our interest payments. If you want to consider additional gifts to the church, gifts designated to pay down the mortgage principle would be extremely beneficial.

From your Finance Team;

Sharon Scanlan, Finance Chair

Darrell Parson, Treasurer

George Butkovich, Assistant Treasurer

Dennis Kimmel, Financial Secretary

Valerie Hammons, Pastoral Assistant

Vista Church San Manuel

Making a dream come to reality!

Pastor Fred had a God given dream several years ago to preach to the world beyond Vista Church in Catalina through live streaming. One mark of distinction bringing reality to that dream is the technical equipment to record and produce the services that go out to the world through the magic of live streaming.

Vista San Manuel United Methodist Church is now moving ahead, in its second year!

We bring the loving face of God to our disciples beyond with the use of that technical equipment. While our distant congregation around the world receives our live streaming worship services, we also record them on a "Thumb Drive". After editing parts of that which we prefer to occur live in San Manuel, that device is plugged into a large 65" TV to view the Children program, Pastoral Prayer, Hymns, choir, organ and pastor's sermon. It all happens just the way you experience it in our church.

Those who brought this reality to San Manuel have diligently applied their efforts since January 20, 2019. When you see the following, ask them if you too could help in this endeavor:
Pastor Fred, Cliff Terry, Jim & Joyce Holman, Dan & Donna Boring, DR. Bill & Tricia Pohnert, Jim Bleess, Leslie Hawkins, Valerie Hammons, Pam Holder, Marty & Alice Lenzini, Ken & Liz Zebal, Dee Berman, Gerry Alberts, Peggy Hoeft, Phyllis Spenser, Loni Degan, Fred & Sally Winkler.

We greatly appreciate all who serve the Lord in this work!



Endowment Committee — Update

Following is a short update of the changes made by the Endowment Committee on project funding, funds management, and the status of the endowment fund.

First, beginning in 2020, projects will be funded within the year they are approved. (Previously, projects were funded in the following year after approval.) Available funds will be fifty percent (50%) of the average of the previous 3 years' gain. Funding will be as requested or the maximum available, whichever is lower.

Second, our funds have been moved to Charles Schwab for better visibility, availability, and elimination of management fees.

Lastly, the Endowment fund balance now exceeds \$335,000, which represents nearly 125% growth in 2019.

Should you wish to contribute to Endowment, please see any committee member (**Boyd Carpenter, Jay O'Donald, Dan Radke, or John Witt**) or refer to the forms and information on the Vista website (<https://www.vistaumc.org/permanent-endowment-fund/>).



OOPS! There are two corrections for main dish recipes in the UMW cookbook. If you purchased and gave as a gift, please let the recipient know. On page 39, CHICKEN HONEY RICE BOWLS (SLOW COOKER): 1 LB boneless, skinless chicken breasts. On page 52, SEA BASS PICCATA: 1½ LB sea bass.

New to Vista or just want to serve?

Receptionists are needed for Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know Vista's family in our beautiful new office! Answer phones, greet visitors, and assist with miscellaneous clerical duties when needed. Call office managers at 825-1985 for more information.

Walk to Bethlehem is here again: December 9, 10, 11!



Our first meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 7th, 1:00 pm, in the Elizabeth Room.

Sign-up sheets will be available for areas of your interest, whether it be set up or taking down, hospitality, costumed folks. A function location drawing has been designed to coincide with our beautiful new building.

Watch for announcements in your Sunday bulletins as we get closer to the event. If you have a burning desire for a particular job, feel free to call Pam or Robin. No need to wait for the sign-ups to let us know!

This local community event is getting popular and we've already had inquiries, so don't hesitate to sign up for something! Your help is needed and greatly appreciated!

Pam: 520-825-1985 (work)
520-343-1225 (cell)

Robin: 520-818-1177 (home)
916-549-4939 (cell)

Are you a Leader with compassion and a desire to serve GOD and Vista Church?

STEPHEN MINISTRY LEADER'S TRAINING

"An amazing week that will fully equip you to serve as a Stephen Leader. Stephen Leaders are pastors, church staff and lay leaders who work together as a team to lead Stephen Ministry. They come from all ages and backgrounds but they all share a common passion – bringing Christ's love to hurting people."

2020 SCHEDULE:

February 16-22 in Anaheim CA

April 19-25 in St Louis MO

June 7-13 in Orlando FL

July 12-18 in Dallas TX

August 16-22 in Pittsburgh PA

All expenses paid – we just need YOU to serve. Please contact Karen Rice at (520) 468-2528, or speak to Pastor Fred or Valerie Hammons.


Catalinas
Community Chorus
...Music For All Ages

Spring Choral Showcase

March 22, 2020

3:00 pm

**Vista de la Montaña
United Methodist Church
3001 E. Miravista Lane, Tucson**

**Tickets available from chorus members, at
(520) 303-6474, PayPal, or online at
catalinascommunitychorus.org**

- **Advance Ticket Price: \$10**
- **At the door: \$15**
- **Online purchase: \$10 (plus a \$2 transaction fee per online order)**
- **Age 18 and under free**

Come and join the chorus as they present a concert of pop standards, classical, easy listening, and light jazz for your listening pleasure. The program is eclectic fun that will leave you delighted and smiling to such rhythmic classics as **"Hold My Mule While I Dance Josey"** and **"Elijah Rock,"** reminiscing to **"Pretty Little Angel Eyes"** and **"Kokomo,"** and relaxing to such classics as **"If," "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother," "Ashokan Farewell"** and **"Choose Something Like a Star."** The goal of CCC is to present light, inspiring music for audiences. Our motto is **Music for all Ages** and our mission is to provide support for youth and children's music programs in the greater Tucson region. To that end, Catalinas Community Chorus has donated in excess of \$15,000 to schools and youth music organizations. The 50 member all volunteer Catalinas Community Chorus, led by Artistic Director, Bill Bellah, is now in its 14th season and anticipating our upcoming date at Vista. We hope you will be a part of the day.

WHAT IS A LABYRINTH?

Labyrinths are designed to help us invite God into every aspect of our lives. You may walk the labyrinth...

- *to listen to what God is saying to you.
- *to release your worries or concerns.
- *to confess your sins and receive forgiveness.
- *to discover your calling.
- *to walk in thanksgiving and gratitude.
- *to walk in remembrance.

While there is no WRONG way to walk the labyrinth, this two-session class will offer suggestions to enrich your experience. During the second session we will walk the labyrinth alone together, meaning that this is a solitary experience which can be walked with other people.

You can certainly walk the labyrinth without taking the class, but please take your cell phone and do not walk it alone.

This two-session class will be held on March 25 and April 1 at 10:00 AM in St John room.

For further information call either Donna Boring @ 703-980-0750 or Gerry Alberts @ 520-825-4642

DO YOU KNOW WHAT A PRAYER SHAWL IS OR WHY WE MAKE THEM?

In 2016 an idea became a reality when the 'Prayer Shawl' ministry was formed here at Vista. During that time there have been numerous shawls crocheted or knitted and donated to the in-home and or in-hospital patients who are members and former members of our congregation.

These shawls are all hand made with quality yarn and easy to care for. All are prayerfully made with care and with hope that the recipient find comfort in wearing these priceless garments. The skill level is anywhere from basic to intermediate and all of the materials and supplies are provided. The finished size for our shawls is approximately 30"X 60" and 43"X 30". We are small in number with respect to how many crochet and knitters we are however; we are dedicated to doing our best in providing this comfort to those in need.

There has been some interest in learning how to knit/crochet and because of this, we are considering giving lessons on the subject. More about that later. Should you be a former crochet/knitter and would like to participate, please let us know. We would love to have you join us.

Should you be interested in learning more about this ministry, please contact Sharon Hunt at 520-896-2319 for further information regarding meeting times and location etc. Meanwhile we remain, dedicated and devoted to making a difference.



Celebrations



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

VENHUIZEN, Ron & Juan	3/6
CARPENTER, Boyd & Karon	3/10
OLSON, Ron & Linda	3/15
KELLEY, Ed & Lynn	3/18
ARNETT, Paul & Janet	3/28

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

ALLIGOOD, David	03/01
EGGEBRATEN, Cathy	03/01
HOLMAN, Jim	03/02
RIDDLE, Bill	03/03
ZEBAL, Liz	03/05
HEDRICK, Jim	03/06
BIXBY, Dave	03/07
BRETZ, Linda	03/09
LOGAN, Bob	03/09
BRACKETT, Nancy	03/10
KELLY, Cayla	03/11
PHILLIPPI, Lou	03/11
VERMILYE, Joel	03/1
ALLEN, Bill	03/12
ARNETT, Janet	03/12
HAMPTON, Fran	03/13
MILLER, Barbara	03/13
ROBERSON, Walt	03/17
RUFFINI, Susan	03/18
RICE, Pete	03/19
STUMP, Jane	03/20
LANGWIG, Bob	03/21
LENZINI, Marty	03/23
SANDERS, Marshall	03/23
CROWN, John	03/24
EXTRACT, Alexis	03/24
BAUM, Pastor Fred	03/25
ALLEN, Marge	03/27
ALLEN, Olivia	03/27
COLBY, Dottie Lou	03/27
SCHWARTZ, Pete	03/28
SPENCER, Phyllis	03/29
AUGUST, Alice	03/31
DUENKEL, George	03/31

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

RUPE, Marvin & Jean	04/03
OBEAR, Jim & Jody	04/04
HUNT, Ken & Sharon	04/09
BRINDLE, Kermit & Delores	04/13
PHILLIPPI, Lou & Nancy	04/20
YOUNG, Joe & June	04/21
LITTLE, Don & Betty	04/29

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

NEVINS, Ilene	04/02
BUKES, Janet	04/03
BELLAH, Bill	04/05
DURBIN, Curt	04/06
SMITH, Leo	04/06
BESCH, Jo Anne	04/07
OLSON, Linda	04/07
PHILLIPPI, Nancy	04/07
ROOKER, Joanie	04/07
EXTRACT, Clif	04/08
EGGEBRATEN, Dean	04/09
WARD, Linda	04/09
SIMON, Jim	04/11
ZELLO, Linda	04/12
COOKE, Lois	04/14
HOWES, Keith	04/14
RYTTER, Jane	04/17
WATTS, Beler	04/17
TERRY, Cliff	04/18
JACKSON, Jim	04/22
LANGWIG, Donna	04/22
MILLER, Linda	04/23
MOYER, Michael	04/24
OBEAR, Jody	04/26
SALAVA, Fern	04/27
REYNOLDS, Richard	04/29

VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC
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TUCSON, AZ 85739

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.
PHONE 520-825-1985

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VISIT US ON FACEBOOK
AND AT OUR WEBSITE:
www.Vistaumc.org



March 2020

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Lenten & Easter Services

Palm Sunday

April 5 10:00 am

Holy Thursday

April 9 3 & 7 pm with Communion

Good Friday

April 10 7 pm "Darkness Descends"

Easter Sunday

April 12

Sunrise Service 6:30 am

Worship Service 8:30 am

Worship Service 10:00 am

(Communion at all 3 Easter Sunday Services)