



VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC

Echoes

June 2020

PASTOR'S PEN

It's mid-May when I write this, and we are at the beginning of a transition. We've already hit the 100-degree mark and will soon in June have many more with the heat transitioning us into the sticky Monsoon. The "stay at home" restriction has been lifted and our society and economy is transitioning into new health and new life. It is my hope that the hotter it gets the more the Coronavirus will die. I pray for a vaccine and more effective treatments for those who do get sick.

This has been a remarkable season that we have been through and though we have not been able as a whole to gather in our Sanctuary to worship God and our Education building to study God and fellowship with one another things have still been going on. You might notice as you participate in the Livestream worship that the background for the service has changed colors. The hot mustard yellow of the choir loft has been replaced with a cool sky blue. Our parking lot has been resurfaced and restriped. The work of our Landscape Crew has carried on. When we all get back together again, we indeed will have new and refreshed places to worship and meet.

The big question is when will we get to meet face-to-face again for worship? My best guess is sometime in June. The Bishop and our church leaders are erring on the side of caution for this Coronavirus is a terrible disease for some. The mysterious thing is that some get this disease and don't even know it, and for others it is a mortal disease. So, stealing the words of Jesus, "not wanting one to perish not even one." (Of course, Jesus was talking about eternal life, but he has promised us abundant life here on earth.) We wait and see. Much wisdom and return for waiting.

I have been working on memorizing Isaiah 40:29-31

²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹ but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

What wisdom it is indeed to "wait on the Lord." With you in heart and spirit in this time of waiting.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Fred

From the Building Committee

The Building Committee hopes to receive three different proposals in the near future:

Water Sheeting Repair

Nursery-Toddler's Room Remodel

Storm Damage Repair

Each proposal was expected to have been received over a month ago but through circumstances **beyond the Church's control there were a series of delays on each of the three. We are still** pushing to have the majority of the weatherproofing work done prior to the monsoons

Good News - in response to the appeal for support to help restore the Hill, a member of our Congregation stepped forward and had the parking lot crack sealed, two separate damaged areas repaired, and the entire parking lot recoated and then restriped – fantastic generosity and compassion for our Church – THANK YOU.

The Building Committee has been providing liaison to the Trustees on the insurance claim to repair the storm damage on the Fellowship Center. This now appears to be a lengthier process than previously envisioned but we have been informed that a partial payment check is being sent.

The Building Committee is very thankful for the generosity of our Congregation member that is supporting the hill restoration and for all the prayers, encouragement, goodwill and donations from the rest of our Congregation to successfully complete this project.



Vista Mission Outreach Ministry Report

Dear Vista family,

As I write you this report, I find myself in the 3rd month of lockdown, I can't say it has been easy, as I tend to be a people person who finds great joy in being in the company of family, friends and especially my church family, but it has been a time of finding gratitude for the blessings of my life and God's provision and care for me. I am grateful for the Mission Ministry of our Vista Church and the great generosity of our Vista Family. During this pandemic, that has so devastated the whole world, you have not forgotten those in need and I do want to thank you personally and also on behalf of your Mission team. Your care and generosity has been a blessing to hundreds of people in our own community and beyond.

When you receive this month's Echoes you will also be receiving a Memorial Day letter, giving you an opportunity to once again reach out to others. We do not want to forget our Military families, as well as our Southwest District Conference's annual Mission Project for the Navajo Nation water project. I encourage you to use the internet to look up the plight that the Navajo nation is suffering right now and be informed of the great problems they are facing. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Make your checks out to Vista UMC and write Memorial Day Fund or Navajo Project in the memo line. If you wish to give to both projects please make out separate checks.

I look forward to the day when we can all gather and once again worship at our beautiful church. Until then we will continue to meet on line, thru ZOOM, and on the phone. My daily prayers are with each of you for your good health, your safety and your recognition of God's presence in your lives.

Yours in Mission service:

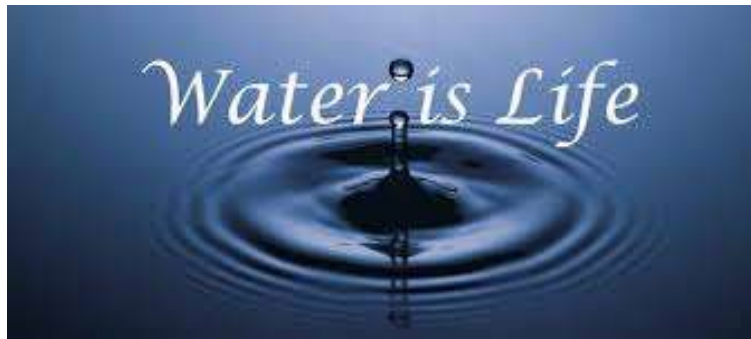
Dee Berman... Chairman Mission Outreach Ministry

520-825-7115 deerick1968@gmail.com



Our Beautiful Newly-Painted Chancel Walls

Annual Conference Mission Project



Of the nearly 200,000 Navajo people spread across that land, about 30 percent do not have access to reliable, clean drinking water and roughly 40 percent lack running water in their homes. Some people haul water more than 50 miles to replenish their cisterns. Now a new tragedy plagues the Navajo Nation: A shortage of running water is contributing to sickness and death.

As the coronavirus pandemic swept across the United States, few places were harder hit than Navajo land. Its 24,700 square miles are sparsely populated, with only 175,000 Navajo citizens living in an area the size of West Virginia. Yet as of late last month it had confirmed more than 1,000 cases of COVID-19. As a percentage of the population, the nation's infection rate is nearly 10 times that

This year's Annual Conference Mission Project is to receive donations that will be put toward providing water where it is needed on the reservation. While we understand that many of us have experienced furloughs or job lay-offs, we also understand the mission heart of the Desert Southwest Conference. Your donation can be made electronically or by post mail. Please remember to indicate that this is for Mission Project 2020: Water!

<https://dscumc.org/secure/payments/>

NOTE: In "Purpose of Payment" please note AC Mission Project 2020. In "Other Details" please list your church name

Mail in giving: Desert Southwest Conference PO Box 32830 Phoenix, AZ 85064

NOTE: On your check please note AC Mission Project 2020 & please list your church name.

We know these are difficult times for all of us. Please help as you can, but also know the most important help of all is prayer.

Your Endowment Fund

As it's been nearly a year since the Vista Endowment Committee moved the management of our funds from the Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation (DSUMF) to Schwab, this is a good time to review the fund performance.

The funds actually moved to Schwab in July 2019 but were not fully invested until August. During the last half of 2019, the fund returned 3.8% net of contributions and distributions. As you may have guessed, 2020 has been quite a different story. The Covid-19 virus has had a significant negative impact on the stock market, but because of the conservative nature of our investments, our fund has actually fared quite well. As I write this in mid-May, our fund losses in 2020 have been offset by the gains in 2019. In fact, the fund is up .4%, net of contributions and distributions, for the period of July 2019 to mid-May 2020.

By moving to Schwab, moreover, we have reduced our management fees to zero. In the 12 months prior to July 2019, DSUMF fees had totaled \$1,912.22, and that was based on 51% of the current fund value. Eliminating the monthly management fees charged by DSUMF has helped, and will continue to help, the Endowment fund to grow.

If you would like to make a donation to Endowment or have questions or concerns about how to do so, please see any committee member (Jay O'Donald, John Witt, Dan Radke, or Boyd Carpenter) or refer to the forms and information available on Vista's website (<https://www.vistaumc.org/permanent-endowment-fund/>).

—Jay O'Donald

We Get Mail!

My husband and I have had a labyrinth fascination for years. Where ever we travelled we would try to find one to experience a little sacred quiet time in our usual hectic schedule. So it was natural when we started spending time in Tucson that we should seek out labyrinths here. Through labyrinthlocator.com we found over 30.

In December we moved to Tucson permanently. When the coronavirus begin to surface, we decided it might be a good time to walk more labyrinths for a source of solace it this unusual time. It also provides a method to explore different areas of this city we now call home and gives an opportunity for an outing with Zoe, our dog. Needless to say, there's been no problem with social-distancing.

In the process we visited your labyrinth. What a beautiful setting and thank you for making it available. To show our appreciation, please find enclosed a check to help maintain your special sacred space.

Peace,

Buddy and Charlotte

More Than Music: The Song of Joy Chorus Update

The Song of Joy Chorus will soon celebrate a year of service.

We actually began singing in August. Prior to that time, we trained our volunteers and met with our short term memory impaired to see what songs they remembered. (If one has short-term memory impairment, he or she is unable to learn new songs, so we sing what they remember.)

We sang and we sang and we sang! It was glorious. We sang at various local clubs and memory care homes throughout the rest of the year and presented a Christmas Concert in December. We got rave reviews and we were grateful to God for being able to begin the program and to Vista for believing with us that He was calling us to this mission.

So, what happened during the first few months of the program? The most significant was that our short term memory impaired were able to work hard and retake their place as participating members of the community as they had done prior to being stricken with this disease. In other words, aspects of their identity was restored. We found that everybody was happier. Anxiety and depression lessened, and we discovered the wonders of laughter, being together, social support and working on a shared mission together.

But it was only since January that it became clear that there was more going on other than partial identity restoration, fun, lessened anxiety and depression. With the blessing, guidance and intervention of the Holy Spirit, a Christian community emerged. **The result was that each member was almost “glowing.” They were happy, enthusiastic, and overflowing with creative ideas. We all were “alive inside”!**

The promise of Christ for an abundant life was becoming a reality.

A “sense of community” is a cherished goal of any group. As a stress reducer, it cannot be praised enough. Many have pointed to the circus as a low stress community attributed to the group’s shared goals, support for one another and the fact that they are part of and committed to an activity outside themselves.

So where did this gift come from? Many people never experience a sense of community which offers a sense of security, validation and all the power of love! Why was this group so blessed?

We are Christians who believe in a Holy Spirit who reveals, guides, gives power for service, intervenes and blesses. We believe that the Holy Spirit revealed what music can do when one has lost his/ her short term memory. The Holy Spirit guided individual members to join the group and has given us power for service. He has intervened in difficult times and blessed our program in innumerable ways.

Jeremiah wrote that if you call on Him, He will answer you and show you great and wonderful things.

This He has done and continues to do and we are grateful.

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

Walk to Bethlehem Update



We are continuing to plan for the Walk to Bethlehem event in a “Leap of Faith”!

Some projects are already in the works for this summer. We are taking reservations for participants now, so be sure to contact Robin or Pam with your preference. If you are willing to repeat the position that you had in 2018, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can start to fill in the blanks. Hopefully, by the end of July we will have a clearer vision of the Corona Virus situation and can proceed with planning this greatly anticipated community event!

Robin Conner

Pam Holder

520-818-1177 Home

520-343-1225 Cell

16-549-4939 Cell

Agua Prieta School Supplies Mission Project

The AP School Supplies Sponsors' Appreciation Sunday is still being delayed due to the Corona Virus situation. The School Supplies Mission Project is part of our Mission Committee's Economic Development Program in Agua Prieta (AP), Mexico. A donation of \$25 per student buys the long list of school supplies and a backpack required for students to attend the public schools. If your student is no longer at Fuente de Vida you will be given the opportunity to choose a different student from our Adopt-a-Student Apple Tree later in the future, or we can select one for you. Jan Hopke-Almer, Benith MacPherson and Dee Berman will focus on purchasing new school supplies and organizing their delivery to the students at Fuente de Vida Church. Any additional donations will be used to buy Academic Achievement Awards, student gift certificates and prizes for the Celebration of Learning on October 24th in Agua Prieta. Thank you for your generous support of these needy students and families from our sister church.

Trust in God that this pandemic will be over soon and we will all be back doing good things at Vista!

Blessings, Robin Conner and Peggy Smith

AP School Supplies Mission Project Coordinators

POST OFFICE DELIVERY HELP NEEDED

As most of you know, we send the Echoes newsletter out by mail to those who wish to receive the hard copy. We send them by Bulk Mail, which gives us a significant savings in postage. However, it does mean that it needs to be delivered to the Bulk Mail Division at the Post Office near Campbell and 22nd St. For many years, Betty Jacob has **been our 'regular' for the job, with a couple of back-up folks on tap. Betty is no longer able to be our 'regular'.** We are looking for someone who would like to make it their ministry to get our bulk mail to the post office every month. We also have additional bulk mailings from time to time. If you think this is something you might be able to provide and have questions, please call the church office at 825-1985.

Vista UMC Finance Committee

April 2020 Financial Results

We had a good month. Members are using the prepaid envelopes to send in their pledges. We doubled our credit card income and had almost 3X as many credit card givers! Income YTD is on budget. Expenses are slightly under budget YTD. *If you need more envelopes, please contact the church office.*

Budget Revisions:

We have revised the income and expense budgets to reflect the impact of not meeting in person for church services, meetings and other gatherings.

SBA Payroll Protection Program:

Our application for the SBA - PPP program was approved and funded in mid-May. It will provide 2.5 months of payroll and benefits as a grant if we retain all of our employees, which we intend to do. We will only be charged interest.

The church has ongoing bills and payroll to take care of every month. We are STRONGLY encouraging people to send checks to Vista Church UMC 3001 E. Miravista Lane Tucson AZ 85739. Or you can use your "bank bill pay" app. Another option is to set up an ACH transfer between your bank and the church's bank. Contact our Assistant Financial Secretary Mary Berg at 240-5666 or maryktucson@yahoo.com. Easier yet, use online giving using your credit card at our website. Click on the *Donate* link. You can set-up regular payments or do one-time gifts with your credit card through Vanco, which is a very safe site used by more than 22,000 churches nationally and recommended by the UMC. We have used it for many years.

It is important to begin paying down our mortgage principal 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

Mary Berg, Assistant Financial Secretary

Valerie Hammons, Pastoral Assistant

TO OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER READERS

Please let the office know if you no longer wish to receive the Echoes by U.S. mail. Newsletters are emailed to those who have requested it, and is also available on the website, vistaumc.org.

Did You Know?

If you missed the 10 am service on Sunday, you can watch Vista's Sunday Worship ANYTIME! Click on Previous Broadcasts at vistaumc.org. If you are on Facebook, go to Vista UMC and find the service you would like to view and click. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 825-1985.

Getting Acquainted with our Church School Facilitators

This is our second interview to get acquainted with our church school personnel. Please meet our joyously, buoyant Shirley Miller. Shirley has a challenging group of children who range in age from kindergarten thru 5th grade.

She started her career in Maryland, teaching first grade. Then she said she was demoted to kindergarten which she found challenging. It was, at that time, basically a baby sitting job but she felt it could be much more. She developed lesson plans for that age group. She discovered that most of them were eager to learn to read so she found ways to make this relevant to the needs in their lives.

Most of Shirley's teaching career of 40 years was spent in Maryland. However, in 1968 she and Paul came to Arizona. Paul was getting a college degree at ASU and Shirley taught a class in Higley, Arizona. Then, in 2010, came retirement and they moved to Saddlebrooke. Right away they came to Vista Church and she started teaching Sunday School here, which has continued for 10 years.

Shirley now has accumulated 50 years of contributing to children's comprehension of the world they live in. Her goals here at Vista started with making comprehension and significance of the various stories of the Old Testament that they are familiar with. This past year she was introducing the New Testament and Jesus' life story.

Shirley's ultimate goal as she teaches is to show the boys and girls how the Bible is relevant to their lives; to give them a more mature understanding of scriptures. Another of her gifts to children is that she has also tutored four of our children of preschool age in how to be ready for kindergarten.

Shirley is a great example of what a loving, enthusiastic teacher is all about – a true "rabbi"! She says to all – "Come – we've got something wonderful to share!"

Dottie Lou Colby



June Celebrations



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Campbell, Alan & Kathy	6/1
Boring, Dan & Donna	6/2
Schaefer, Dick & Jackie	6/2
Isaac, Al & Kathleen	6/4
Salava, Roger & Fern	6/4
Leonard, Jon & Carolyn	6/5
Heiss, Lyle & Judy	6/6
Heywood, Jim & Mimi	6/7
Hampton, Paul & Fran	6/9
Ward, Dillis & Linda	6/12
Radke, Dan & Carla	6/13
Tompkins, Gifford & Alice	6/13
Ayers, Bill & Dixie	6/14
Meise, Stan & Pat	6/14
Odell, Gordon & Carol	6/15
Goetz, John & Elaine	6/17
Koelling, Jerry & Danna	6/17
Eggebraten, Dean & Cathy	6/18
Coleman, Rob & Diane	6/19
Mawhinney, Robert & Susan	6/19
Miller, Paul & Shirley	6/19
Phillips, Allen & Barbara	6/19
LaFleur, Ted & Joyce	6/22
Nelson, Lance & Ruth	6/23
Hedrick, Jim & Sue	6/25
Kaste, Howard & Sharon	6/25
Witt, John & Carol	6/25
Dedrick, Steve & Char	6/26
Winkler, Fred & Sallie	6/27
Price, Maurice & Ursula	6/28

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Boyce, Sharon	6/3
Dedrick, Steve	6/6
Howes, Ginny	6/6
Hunt, Ken	6/7
Witt, John	6/8
Parson, Darrell	6/9
Winkler, Fred	6/10
Young, June	6/11
Bode, Jan	6/12
Tucker, LaVerne	6/12
Emberton, Betty Jean	6/13
Grant, Cheryl	6/14
Mann, Bernie	6/16
Bills, Taylor	6/17
Byrd, Shirley	6/17
Bull, Pat	6/18
Hawkins, Leslie	6/18
Degen, Loni	6/19
Boring, Donna	6/20
Daniels, Becki	6/20
Hotchkiss, Emily	6/20
MacPherson, Benith	6/20
Yob, David	6/20
Greer, Kathleen	6/21
Koelling, Danna	6/21
Schwartz, Sandy	6/21
Berman, Dee	6/22
Sanders, Lexi	6/22
Lundsten, Jane	6/23
Kimmel, Dennis	6/25
Raue, Donna	6/25
Schaefer, Dick	6/27
Authur, Robert	6/29
Hammons, Valerie	6/29
Schemenauer, Rosetta	6/29
Kuhn, Jack	6/30

July Celebrations



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Bill & Marge Allen	7/1
Craig & Benith MacPherson	7/2
Bill & Mary Jane Hillmann	7/11
Pete & Karen Rice	7/17
Bob & Eileen Herd	7/21
George & Kathleen Bauder	7/26



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Bill Gureck	7/2
Laurie Extract	7/3
Sharon Hunt	7/4
Carol Witt	7/5
Jan Bohe	7/6
Loretta Tom	7/6
Dan Radke	7/7
Jose Salcedo	7/7
Polly Elson	7/8
Betty Jacob	7/9
Paul Tingley	7/9
Craig MacPherson	7/11
Alex Perakis	7/11
Kay Gragg	7/12
Jan Springer	7/14
Virginia Updegrove	7/15
Paul Hampton	7/16
Nancy Fowler	7/17
Yvonne LeCornu	7/19
Lance Nelson	7/20
Linda Whitlatch	7/21
Dorothy Conner	7/22
Peggy Marks	7/22
Sharon Poole	7/22
Dave Anderson	7/25
Carolyn Leonard	7/25
Sherri Wyland	7/25
Joan Robinson	7/26
Joe Young	7/26
Steven Extract	7/27
Carol Odell	7/28
Dick N evins	7/28

VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC
3001 EAST MIRAVISTA LANE
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
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www.Vistaumc.org



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