



VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC

Echoes

May 2020

PASTOR'S PEN

I have spent a lot of time thinking about what God is doing with his church in the this Coronavirus pandemic. We have ceased meeting together face-to-face for worship and gather now online at vistaumc.org. We began Livestreaming our services as an add on to worship mainly for our shut-ins and our many snowbirds, but what was once an “add-on” has become our worship experience. We were blessed in that we had 3 years to practice this type of worship and had many, many “learning experiences”, but for many churches, they were suddenly thrust into using technology to lead worship from afar. As painful as it was for many churches it has blessed them and the world.

Our church’s experience is reflected in so many others. We now have about 2-3 times our membership joining us in worship each week online. One small church in Bisbee (14 active members) their pastor went to Facebook for worship and connection. They have now over 100 followers!! All around the world people have been reaching out in this crisis to find God. And the outreach of the Christian church has expanded exponentially through the internet.

In my mind I see circles of influence stacked one on top of another spread out across the world tapping into different audiences and touching the lives of so many who are looking for the love of God and purpose in their lives in this time of crisis. Churches of all stripes are meeting this need online. It is my prayer that once we have passed through this time that these people who have joined us online will find a local expression of the church in which to participate.

In terms of our purpose, to make the love of God real to others, many members our church and other church have been making masks that collectively will be in the 1000s for hospital personnel and others. Many churches have had food drives and reached out to help in so many other ways. Vista Church has donated \$5,000 to the Impact Community food bank in Catalina and another \$2,000 to pay for food for our sister church in Agua Prieta Mexico. I mention these two things that are only a small portion of what the 1000’s of churches in Arizona are doing and the 100,000’s of thousands of Churches in America and around the world.

I join with many others saying this is a unique time to invite people into a relationship with Christ that begins with your relationship with them. It is a unique time to invite people into a life of compassion and purpose by helping/loving others which is a hallmark of the Christian faith. Be open to the searching question and ready to give an answer for the hope that is within you.

And when this current crisis is ending and ends, the needs of those in our community will be great. Many have lost jobs and businesses/livelihoods. We need to support them in whatever way we can and be ready to donate more to the Food Bank and other avenues of support.

Stay in pray. Ask God to open the eyes of your hearts for opportunities to help and share. Know for sure God walked into this mess with us. God is in this mess with us and will walk us out the other side.

In Christ’s love,

Pastor Fred C. Baum

From the Building Committee

As previously reported, the Building Committee is preparing to remodel the Nursery-Toddler's room and then restore and improve the hill location.

The new Education & Administration building has been up and running for several months now although there are a few predictable warranty items being resolved and, except for the monthly mortgage, those bills are almost paid.

The Nursery-Toddler's Room remodel is fully funded and work is expected to begin in May. However, completing the hill restoration and improvement tasks this fall depends solely on those who signed a pledge to support the New Vistas Building Fund to honor the pledges they made.

You should know that New Vistas Building pledges for 2019 are lagging behind by approximately \$22,814. Pledges due for 2020 are steadily arriving but \$42,173 is still due. Those for 2021 are \$13,549 and will be sorely needed. The total outstanding pledges for 2019, 2020 and 2021 is approximately \$55,722. Each pledge, no matter how small, is important because they do add up.

Just as with the successfully completed Education & Administration building, completion of the hill restoration depends on your prayers, your support and your donations. The **Building Committee remains extremely thankful for the Congregation's generous** donations, prayers and well wishes as we continue to do our best to complete the tasks that you, the Congregation, assigned us.

Hill restoration & improvement estimated expenses are:

- Drawings, Civil Engineering, Permit \$2,000.
- Excavation \$1,500
- Water well preservation & protection \$1,500
- Parking lot lighting (3 lights) \$15,000
- Electrical Engineering Drawings & Plan \$1,500
- Landscape Drawings & Plan \$1,500
- Parking across from the new building \$18,000
- Chip seal & Pea gravel \$20,000
- Fog coat and restripe parking lot \$17,500
- Contingency \$3,000

Total \$81,000

Note: These hill expenses were budgeted within the pledged amounts.

Any excess funds will go towards purchasing replacement furniture.

Vista Mission Outreach Ministry Report

As I write to you today we find our nation in a far different place than where we were last month! So many lives have **been changed and sadly so many lives lost. We all are resting in God's promise of His Love & Grace in our lives, as we face hardships we never imagined.** It is heart breaking to watch the news every evening and see the numbers of sick people that keep rising in our nation and of lives lost, jobs gone and the warmth of an embrace of our loved ones on hold. Your Mission Committee is doing what we can, with all the restrictions on our daily lives, to be of as much help to our community and beyond, as we can. We want to thank you from the depth of our hearts for your most generous Easter Offering of \$6,067.00 that allows us to help people in need. God bless you one and all!! We have given \$4,000.00 plus \$1,000.00 from the generosity of the UMM for a total of \$5,000.00 to Impact to help the needy in our Catalina area. In discussion with Impact, they advised us that so many new families have asked for help for the 1st time and seem embarrassed to do so. We are so happy that Vista can be part of helping our community. Also thanks to Kathy Campbell, Team leader for Snak Pak, we were able to give Impact the 7 weeks of food that could not be used by Coronado School due to the school shutdown. This food was picked up by Impact from the Tucson Food Bank in the amount of 470 meals worth over \$2000.00. We may be considered a small church but we have a big impact on our community. Please read the letter from Barbara McClure Director of Impact attached and the flyer that she has provided, as you may want to share it **with a neighbor or family that may be able to use Impact's services.**

Today I had a good conversation with Pastor Gela Villicana of our sister church Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta, Mexico. Needless to say, things are rough in their church community, the church income has dropped by 80% and people are struggling to get by with all the border factories shut down, the US border closure and new strict rules, like in Arizona, in place for the city. The good news is that only one person has died that has been reported with the Coved 19 virus and that was a person who returned from the US already ill. They have discontinued the programs at the church facility, and **have gone to Facebook to transmit their Church services, Bible study, Youth & Children's programs and daily activities.** They have established a Prayer Call Center in service to the church and general public that is manned by 3 or 4 people 24/7 as an outreach to the City. They have committed to keep the program in place until the pandemic is over. Pastor Gela gives the Governor of Sonora great credit for immediately shutting down the state and thus they have a very low rate of those with the corona virus. The problem is the economic impact on the state with the shut down at the border that is basically closed. Please keep our sister church Fuente de Vida in your prayers. I am pleased to share with you that \$2000.00 of the Easter offering will go to help feed our Brothers & Sisters of our sister Church in Agua Prieta, Mexico who are having a hard time meeting the food needs of their congregation.

We are continuing to keep our school supply program in place and we want to thank team leader Jan Hopke Almer and team members Robin Connor & Peggy Smith for the good work they are doing with the School Backpack and School Supply program. We are trying to get new pictures for new students but right now with the shut down, it is hard to do.

I also want to acknowledge Jan Bohe & Jan Hopke Almer for working diligently on making face masks for those who need them. I was given 2 and shared one with a neighbor here at Fairwinds. This coming Sunday we start our 7th week of being **in complete lock down and we are all trying to be good, patient and follow the rules but "Boy oh Boy" am I going to be glad to just get in my car and goooooooooooooo!!! Can't wait to see all of you and hugs are in order when this is all over.** Again, thank you so much for your continued support of our Mission program. Stay safe and patient and may God bless you one and all!!

Yours in Mission Service: Dee Berman

520-825-7115

deerick1968@gmail.com

Hello again Dee,

It is almost impossible to express in words just how moved Michele and I are by Vista's congregation; their spirit of helping others, and their passionate support of IMPACT. I am sure many of your members have known us from the very beginning, since we were your first mission project; so we know they recognize the impact their support has had on our ability to grow over the years and provide more robust programming for our community. It is a partnership we truly treasure. Thank you!

Attached you will find the flyer we discussed that would be a wonderful addition to your newsletter. We are hoping your congregation can help spread the word that the IMPACT Food Bank is here for anyone who has lost a job, or had a reduction of hours. As you said, people who have not needed help before, do not necessarily know where to turn. We are here as a resource for them, so perhaps your members can share the flyer with a friend, neighbor, or family member who is struggling due to this COVID crisis.

Thank you again Dee for all you and your amazing teams, and Pastor Fred do for the community! Vista is truly a blessing to many!

Fondly,
Barbara (McClure)

Walk to Bethlehem is here again (maybe):

December 9, 10, 11!

Our first meeting was scheduled to be held on Tuesday, April 7th, but the Covid-19 pandemic has preempted our plans! It may be necessary to postpone the Walk until 2021, depending on what developments occur in the next few weeks. Forecasts of a winter outbreak also makes it hard to decide what path we should take. For now, we are continuing to plan for December 2020.



So, in the meantime, as we wait, be thinking about what part you wish to play in the 2020 Walk to Bethlehem. 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)

We're here when you need us!

IMPACT of Southern Arizona is your food shortage solution during the **COVID-19** crisis...and beyond.

ENROLL NOW & RECEIVE FOOD TODAY!

"There were a few months my husband and I probably would have gone without food to make sure our kids had something to eat if it weren't for getting a monthly cart of food from the IMPACT Food Bank. It has really helped us out."

"I was super nervous the first time I went, thinking I wouldn't qualify for the system. But, waiting in line I saw so many people who were just like me, and that really eased my mind. IMPACT was very welcoming and enrolling was simple!"



Eligibility is based upon size of family/income, on a sliding scale; such as **a family of 4 with an income below \$44,863 per year are eligible for benefits**. If you're already on food stamps or enrolled in AHCCCS, you are already qualified!

By providing food for families, children and seniors, IMPACT is helping people stretch their money. Our inventory changes daily, but you will typically receive frozen meat, fresh produce, milk, eggs and other items. We also have other wonderful services, which include school supplies & backpacks, and so much more!

What you need to enroll

A government issued I.D. and an official piece of mail, like a utility bill with your name and address on it. You will be able to receive food the same day as you enroll.

IF YOU'RE A SNACK PACK FAMILY - PICK IT UP AT OUR OFFICE LOBBY THROUGH MAY 22ND!



3535 E. Hawser St., Tucson, AZ 85739 • 520-825-0009 • impactsoaz.org

VISTA SNAK PAK PROGRAM

As you are probably aware, the Snak Pak program had to be suspended due to schools not being in session and concerns about transmission of COVID-19. We still had 8 weeks of Snak Pak food remaining at the **Community Food Bank of Arizona**. **The first week's food was delivered to Keeling Elementary School** in midtown in the Amphitheater School District. They have a food pantry there each week, and parents were able to pick up the Snak Pak food for their children along with the regular pantry items.

Impact was experiencing a heavy volume of families coming for food, and they were delighted to be able to send their large food truck down to the Community Food Bank to pick up all at once that final 7 weeks of food, worth approximately \$2,250. They serve many of the same children who received Snak Paks at Coronado, so those children and their families were the primary recipients of the food.

Kathy Campbell

Agua Prieta School Supplies Mission Project

The May 17th **AP School Supplies Sponsors' Appreciation Sunday** has been delayed due to the Corona Virus situation. The committee is proceeding with collecting the sponsorship fee as we move forward with **purchasing the supplies**. **As we stated in last month's Echoes, we told you about last summer and Vista** church members providing school supplies and backpacks for 162 children and University students at our sister church Fuente de Vida (Fountain of Life). The School Supplies Mission Project is part of our Mission **Committee's Economic Development Program in Aqua 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. Letters were sent in April to past student sponsors giving them an opportunity to keep their same student(s) for the 2020-2021 school year. If you would like to continue sponsoring your student(s), please make your check to Vista UMC with AP School Supplies in the memo line no later than May 17th. 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 May or early June. Our goal is to complete fundraising for school supplies no later than Sunday, June 14th. After that date, 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

Vista UMC Finance Committee

March 2020 Financial Results

Income YTD is on budget and Expenses YTD are on budget.

March attendance was 1,670 (including streaming). This was a 11% decrease. Due to being closed for two Sundays, our actual attendance had a significant decrease. However, our streaming viewership has been very high (1079)!

When the SBA Payroll Protection Program became available April 3, Vista UMC immediately submitted an application through Canyon Community Bank. They are an SBA lender and reached out to us that day. Unfortunately, on Thursday April 16 as our application was being submitted, applications were shut down by the SBA when they ran out of funds. Congress has now passed additional funding for the SBA and Vista will be the next application submitted by the bank. Hopefully, by the time you read this it will be approved. If you have any questions about the process, please email Sharon Scanlan: sascanlan8548@me.com

The church has ongoing bills and payroll to take care of every month. Since not many can be present in person in the near future, 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 Financial Secretary Dennis Kimmel at 204-0451.) 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 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

TO OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER READERS

To our monthly newsletter readers who still have the Echoes newsletter mailed to your home, please consider saving numerous resources by reading Echoes online. You will help the church save money by not printing color copies, purchasing less paper, eliminating label handling, saving both staff and volunteer hours who assemble the mailings, and ultimately saving landfill space. Please email the office at vistaumc@aol.com or call 825-1985 to say that you no longer want the newsletter mailed to your home. You can view the articles, in full color, online at vistaumc.org/newsletter, or we can send the Echoes newsletter to you by email. You will receive a PDF attachment and a link to the on-line newsletter.

Of course, if you still wish to have it mailed to your home, you will continue to have it delivered through the **mail and you don't need to do anything.**

Thanks for considering this offer,

Linda Bretz (Trustee Chair) and Sharon Scanlan (Finance Chair)

Getting Acquainted with our Church School Facilitators

When you drive up to Vista and turn the corner, do you see a beautiful new building or a place for exciting opportunities such as education, service in missions outreach or musical ministry for uplifting worship experiences?

One large function is Christian education which puts a large emphasis on Sunday School for children because without being nurtured in the Christian faith, there is no church of the future.

The second emphasis is on adult education which offers various opportunities for spiritual growth, Biblical knowledge, prayer and meditation experiences.

I would like to better acquaint you with our loyal, inspiring church school facilitators, beginning with Jan Springer, our Nursery-Toddler senior leader.

Jan has been serving this area for 16 years. When she was asked what were her goals for taking care of the babies, she said to keep them happy by being fed, changed and rocked to sleep. The goals for the toddlers was that the atmosphere was loving and the room is attractive, as well as procedures for child safety. The children are read a story, learn songs and have many choices of toys to play with. The biggest goal is **teaching them to share which generally they don't do well.**

Jan feels the most satisfying thing for her about being with the little ones is seeing them grow, mature in behavior, being happy to be there, especially if the child was very shy, cried loudly about being brought there when they first started coming.

Next month you will meet more of our inspirational leaders!

Dottie Lou Colby

Vista Church San Manuel

How Satellite Fellowship got started

A committee of people worked over a year identifying details of what may be needed to create a website **that would go out to the public following Pastor Fred's God-given dream** to do live streaming. At times it seemed like they got bogged down in detail defining a website and the many items that would be put into it before committing any action to move forward

Pastor Fred was anxious to begin the other part of his dream to have a somewhat distant location performing a satellite fellowship. This would spin off the live streaming services. By this time some research of available facilities in San Manuel had been done, so Pastor Fred and Cliff Terry made a trip to investigate them. After reviewing many facilities including the schools, they found that very possibly, an opportunity existed to rent the Presbyterian Church for this purpose, if Pastor Jeff Dixon and its congregation agreed.

While arranging a meeting with Pastor Dixon in August, 2018 for this purpose, he appointed Pete Schwartz as the chair person to establish what technical equipment would be needed to accomplish the services at a satellite location in San Manuel and to make it happen. Pastor Fred and Cliff met with Pastor Dixon and he agreed to the idea of our renting the church on Sunday afternoons, provided the congregation would agree to it. On the next Sunday, Pete, Sandy, Cliff and Barbara Sorensen attended the Presbyterian morning service and the proposal presented to the congregation attending was unanimously approved.

At a trip to Best Buy, Pete and Cliff purchased a large 65" TV, a computer, editing software and a thumb drive. They also found a large rolling stand on the internet, which Pete began to assemble with the TV and establish the program and computer techniques to edit and operate the proposed services. It was a lot to do **in order to meet Pete's schedule of starting Vista San Manuel's 4:00 pm services on January 20, 2019.** In the interim of all this, Pete accomplished many other things. He got the truck which was loaned to us repaired, painted, signed and brought it to various events to advertise our endeavor in San Manuel while setting up and operating the equipment in the Presbyterian Church. All of which was funded by a grant approved by the bishop.

Those who served Pete's committee through 2019 in support of getting it started on January 20 were many; the people carrying it forward in its second year, were additionally Sandy Schwartz, Jean Rupe, Dottie Lou Colby, John & Carol Witt, Linda Gray, Gail and Darrell Parson and from San Manuel, Dave, Yvonne & Jenni Prough.

We honor all and are grateful to Pete Schwartz for making it happen!

May Celebrations



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

HIGGINS, Dennis & Peggy	5/8
BIXBY, Dave & Lynn	5/10
MOYER, Michael & Jenna Rae	5/10
PARSON, Darrell & Gail	5/10
BLEESS, Jim & Bon Ceil	5/11
DAVIES, John & Joan	5/23
BULL, Fred & Kim	5/25
AUGUST, Don & Alice	5/27
WILLIAMS, Norm & Andrea	5/27
ZEBAL, Ken & Liz	5/27
DANIELS, Bill & Becki	5/28
AUTHUR, Bob & Janelle	5/31
PODLASEK, Ken & Diane	5/31

MAY BIRTHDAYS

BYWATER, Gene	5/3
MILLARD, Jan	5/3
HERD, Eileen	5/5
MEISE, Pat	5/5
O'DONALD, Jay	5/6
SMITH, Don	5/6
GRAY, Linda	5/7
PRESTON, Mary	5/7
HUBBARD, Jo Ann	5/8
JOHNSON, Pat	5/10
PHILLIPS, Allen	5/10
FARNUM, Jeanne	5/11
HERNANDEZ, Kiana	5/13
BERG, Mary	5/14
MAWHINNEY, Susan	5/15
YOUNG, Mary Lou	5/16
BROWNING, Jerry	5/17
BILLS, Harper	5/21
MILLER, Robert	5/21
FUJITA-HERNANDEZ, Ami	5/23
RUTKOWSKI, Marilyn	5/23
CAMPBELL, Kathy	5/24
ATWOOD, Jan	5/26
BULL, Kim	5/26
GOETZ, John	5/26
ISAAC, AI	5/27
NELSON, Ruth	5/28
GUPTILL, June	5/29
AGUIRRE, Jasmine	5/31
COFFMAN, Anne	5/31



Thank you
for
everything

Dear Mrs. Christ, I am so
happy I can say
thank you to
you for
everything.

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

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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www.Vistaumc.org



May 2020

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