



VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC

Echoes

July 2020

PASTOR'S PEN

On June 28th of last month, I preached on a scripture (Matt. 10:40-42) that I first preached Sunday June 28th, 1981. It seems like yesterday! It is striking how some time periods in our life can be so firmly implanted in our memories. A four week stretch of time in that year had amazingly significant impact on me. On June 14th, 1981 I was ordained a Deacon in the UMC. My finance (Deede Zimmerman at the time) stood behind me as the Bishop and District Superintendents laid hands on me and ordained me. During that era of the life of our church, our spouse stood with us as we were ordained as a recognition that the whole family in some way or another was also going into ministry. This Deede certainly did as she later became a children's choir director at FUMC of Mesa and built one choir up into four over the 20 years she served there.

Two weeks later I preached my first sermon after Ordination on the above scripture. That month I also began fulltime work as the Christian Education director for Kavanaugh UMC in Greenville Texas. Two weeks after that Deede and I were married and honeymooned for a week in Hot Springs Arkansas. So, within a month I was ordained, began a fulltime job and got married. It was so overwhelming that I forgot to ask or even tell my Staff Parish Chair I was going on a honeymoon. I just left. That engendered my first "talking to" by the Staff Parish Chair.

All this occurred 39 years ago at the beginning of my vocation as a pastor and it seems like yesterday. I was looking forward to a rich career in ministry and now I am at the other side. As of July 1st I begin my 40th year of Ordained ministry and I know you feel like me, "It has gone by in the blink of an eye"!

The Bible spoke of this and I leave this thought with you as you contemplate the passage of time. From Psalm 39:4-5:

"Show me, Lord, my life's end
and the number of my days;
let me know how fleeting my life is.
You have made my days a mere handbreadth;
the span of my years is as nothing before you.
Everyone is but a breath, even those who seem secure."

I was reappointed to Vista Church for another year and as I said in my message on June 28th, "God could not have put me in a better place."

I miss your smiling faces and look forward to the time we can meet face-to-face.

Be well and Healthy, living in the Peace and Comfort of Jesus Christ!

Pastor Fred

From the Building Committee

The Building Committee continues to diligently work for you:

- Water Sheeting Repair
- Storm Damage Repair
- Hill Restoration & Improvement
- Nursery-**Toddler's Room Remodel**

Water Sheeting - We rejected the first two proposals to repair the water sheeting problem. After extensive discussions with both the architect and general contractor, we feel that they now completely understand our Best Value approach and cost efficiency criteria. We anticipate both initiating and completing this work - just in time to beat the monsoons.

Storm Damage - We rejected the Church Mutual attempt to settle our claim for a manifestly unsatisfactory amount and asked the Trustees to contract with a Public Adjuster to support our efforts to be made whole. As a result, we were able to cash the **insurance company's initial check and commit to initiating the first and most urgent** phase of work - just in time to beat the monsoons.

Hill Restoration - We engaged a civil engineer to develop a grading plan and with the compassionate generosity of one of our Church members will begin grading and **applying 4" of aggregate base to the hill around Independence Day** - just in time to beat the monsoons.

Nursery-**Toddler's Room** – We rejected the proposal to remodel the Patio Room. After extensive discussions and in-depth analysis, we found that the cost has increased such that this work will be revisited after the Water Sheeting and Storm Damage repairs have been successfully completed. We are committed to Nursery-**Toddler's Room** but have three separate time sensitive projects to complete before monsoons. **It's likely that additional funds will be required for us to initiate this work.**

For those who continue to pray for us, offer their goodwill and contributions we are very truly thankful. We cannot accomplish the work you have tasked us with doing without your help – this is truly a church-wide effort.

Vista Mission Outreach Ministry Report

Dear Vista Family:

We have all experienced the first half of 2020 and what an unforgettable 6 months it has been! This will be one for the History Books! In spite of the challenges we have all faced, our Mission Outreach Ministry continues to help our community and beyond.

I was in touch this week with our sister church Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta, Mexico and was amazed to see how they continue to minister to their community and congregation both materially and spiritually. They like us, are not meeting in person but rather over the internet both Sunday Services as well as Thursday night for prayer and Bible Study classes. Thanks to all of you and your generous Easter offering, we were able to send them \$2000 to help support the most needy in their church. Here is the translation of Pastor Gela's thank you letter written on 6/10/2020:

Dear Sister Dee:

I want to send my appreciation to Vista de la Montana, for their offering of \$2,000 that you sent us. Many of our people were left without work, and some are only receiving 50% of their monthly salaries and now in this next quarter of the year, they are not being paid at all! Your help is a great blessing to buy food and assist with water and electricity bills for the most needy families. As a congregation we have a prayer program that most of our members are participating in for an hour a day all 24/7 hours. Each day we pray for our sister church, Vista de la Montana, and we request of our Lord, that you all be protected and kept safe from the COVID-19 virus. We are grateful to God that no one of our church has suffered the virus and we pray for the same for Vista. We give you thanks for your generosity and how you always think of us at Fuente de Vida in our times of need and especially thru this difficult time we are now crossing thru.

We love you and do receive, from all of us, a hug and our gratitude. With Love.. Sister Gela

I want to let you know that we received \$2075 for the Hearts Apart program at Davis Monthan AFB in honor of Memorial Day. Our donation will support the monthly programs put on by DM's Family Support Services for the families of deployed troops from DM, Wounded Warrior families, and military families who have a member with Special Needs. Thank you so much for honoring our fallen heroes, by supporting the military families who are serving us right now!

Another piece of good news, our great Vista family was very generous in supporting our Annual Conference 2020 Mission project by donating \$3,431 to help bring running water to the Navajo Nation. The Navajos have been particularly hard hit in this Corona virus pandemic, and washing hands frequently is one of the necessities recommended to fight the virus. Just think what good could be done if every Methodist Church in Arizona did likewise!

This past month you provided \$500 to Impact's food bank for the needy in our area. We were also able to send Family First \$250 for diapers for babies and adults who need this help. In addition, both Jan Bohe and Jan Hopke-Almer have been making face masks for the Family First program in Oracle. Thank you to our great Jans for their good work. If any of our Vista folks have elastic or fabric that would work for masks, please contact Creative Hands team leader Jan Bohe at 520-825-9725. We would appreciate any help you want to give to this project.

At this writing, the Bighorn fire continues to devastate and threaten our community. We continue to pray for all our fire fighters, support teams and pilots as they bravely fight on to put the fire out. If you are acquainted with a family who has been badly affected by the fire, please give me a call.

God has been gracious to all of us as we go thru this rough patch in our lives and we all look forward to the day we can meet again and worship together. So until then, Zoom, email, or the telephone will have to do. I want to thank all our Vista family who so generously continue to support our Mission Outreach Ministry.

Yours in Mission Service, Dee Berman

deerick1968@gmail.com 520-825-7115

COMING IN JULY!



Vista VBS!

Family Friendly - all supplies included!

Kids will love this Virtual VBS curriculum for 2020. It features a 3 day VBS at home schedule!

This VBS program is built for families to share a virtual VBS experience at home during the Coronavirus stay-at-home order. Daily Videos will be shared along with devotions and all the things needed for this amazing new program. We even have invitations to invite your family and friends to join you at your house. Make it a VBS party.

All of our Vista families will be included! If you would like to share this exciting new ONLINE experience with your grandchildren, neighbors... please contact Valerie to be added to the distribution list. We will be checking in using ZOOM. Can't wait to 'see' all of you!

- **Bible story:** Video driven.
- **Games:** 3 games for each day of the VBS.
- **Crafts:** Origami! And more. So much fun and all you need is paper. (supplied!)
- **Game video:** A comedic duo illustrates each game while doing play-by-play.
- **Teaching video:** Ties together the Bible story, games, and craft in one powerful message.
- **Music:** It's going to be crazy good! The group - Citizen Way will be our music leader. So exciting.

Missions component: Yes! Details coming soon. Questions? Please contact Valerie 520-825-1985 or Valerievistaumc@gmail.com

Summer Fun for Vista Children and Youth!

Vista families have been receiving bi-weekly FUN packs with Bible Lessons. Following safe distancing, families find a bag on their doors, fence posts, front porch areas filled with fun items and a bible lesson to go along with.

Each one has a 'theme'. This one was Legos and was very well received. We have done Mother's Day, Father's Day, Easter and many more in between. Mini communion cups filled with juice and a wafer have been included during those Sundays, so the entire family can join us for communion online.

We miss our kids and families but are blessed to be able to continue our ministry in this small way. Thank you, Vista, for supporting us in these times.

Together we are **STRONG IN THE LORD!**



Getting Acquainted with our Church School Facilitators

Come! Meet Barbara Johnson, another one of our dedicated Church School teachers!

Barbara came to Arizona in 2003 and very shortly came to Vista Church. It didn't take us long to find out about her talents.

Barbara was born in Aberdeen, Maryland (an army town) and was, in her words, an "army brat". Early on Barbara was interested in learning about people and cultures different from her own, so in high school she met a teacher from Greece who was very influential in starting Barbara's interest in speaking French and a chance to go to Paris where she spoke only French.

When Barbara started her teaching career she taught French classes to middle school and high school students. She then went on to get a Master's Degree in "The Diagnosis and Prescription for Children with Reading Disabilities". In her 32 years of teaching, it was generally French, as well as a special program called ESOL, which is teaching English for speakers of other languages. Along with teaching French, she coached track and field, which she did with her husband, Robert, for 25 years.

Barbara said the most meaningful compliment she ever received was from a student who said "You were the best teacher I ever had because you taught us how to care for each other".

Shortly after arriving at Vista, Barbara was recruited to teach the middle school aged youth (4th thru 6th grades). Her goals for these last 18 years are making Christian principles and Bible stories relevant to what's happening in their lives, helping them to problem solve, and have a good self-image. Barbara tells them "God has a place for everyone" as well as the importance of learning about and helping others. She also emphasizes how they can contribute to the good in our society and how God relates to the decisions they make.

Vista de la Montaña thanks you for your inspirational service to the fortunate youth who have known you!



Vista UMC Giving Options

Online Giving Using 3 Easy Methods Using Your Credit or Debit Card

Vista UMC Website:

On our Vista UMC website click 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 25,000 churches nationally and recommended by the UMC. We have used it for many years.

GivePlus App - ***NEW!***

Download the GivePlus app from the app store. The process is the same as the Donate link and links with Vanco.

GivePlusText giving – ***NEW!***

Type in 8337862645 (Vista's secure text number that links to Vanco) and type in your gift amount. Only the amount with no \$ signs. The first time you use it you will be asked to set-up your account. After the first time you just have to type in the 9-digit text number and amount.

Cash Giving Through Your Bank and Investment Accounts

Automatic Clearing House - ACH

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.

Bank Bill Pay

You can set up paying a gift directly to Vista through your bank. Contact your banker for further information. (The church uses this method for all reoccurring monthly bills.)

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 contact Dennis Kimmel, Financial Secretary, 520-204-0451.*

Walk to Bethlehem Update



The 2020 Walk costumes are unpacked and on racks, ready for the committee to organize them. If you want the same costume you wore in 2018, let us know and we'll reserve it for you.

For you newer members, this is Vista's biggest event and everyone is welcome to help. We have lots of choices for assisting in this event: set up, take down, refreshments, villagers, shopkeepers, guides, etc.

Dates: December 9-12, 2020 (Pending Corona Virus situation)

Please call either Pam or Robin if you have any questions.

We have lots of choices for helping this event: set up, take down, refreshments, villagers, shopkeepers, guides, etc.

Robin Conner

520-818-1177 Home

916-549-4939 Cell

Pam Holder

520-343-1225 Cell

Agua Prieta School Supplies Mission Project

The Corona Virus situation has changed this year's process in matching sponsors to students. Normally we have a Celebration Sunday and an Apple Tree with photos so our sponsors can select their new students. Since we don't know when we will have this event, we will proceed with selecting your student for you (most of you have indicated you prefer this), and send you a letter with their picture. We still have students available and some of you haven't let us know if you want to keep your current student. Please let us know so we can reassign your student if you aren't participating this year. Several months ago we notified others that their student is no longer with AP and they would be welcome to pick another. While we haven't heard from some of you in that respect, you are still welcome to participate as long as the students are available.

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.** 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

July 2020 Finance Echoes Article

For the month of May income was slightly above budget and expenses were \$2,167 under budget. Because we have 3 payroll periods in May, our net Income was -\$3,716. YTD net income is \$11,015 over budget.

Our income in April and May was higher than 2019. June income will be less than 2019.

Methods of Giving

We have implemented Vanco's text giving option and GivePlus mobile application option, which use Vanco credit/debit card giving. See article.

Payroll Protection Program Loan:

Our loan was funded May 7 for \$44,763.25. In May we used \$8,553 and MTD in June we have used \$30,333. We will submit our Loan Forgiveness Application in late July after we use the entire amount. The PPP loan has greatly protected our cash position in the General Fund. We can use the loan for payroll, benefits, utilities and our interest payment.

Mortgage Principal:

We have begun making mortgage principal payments and we had a principal gift of \$1,000. The principal has been reduced to \$545,000.

Just another busy day at Vista!

New A/C Unit being installed June 25.



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.

FOOD FOR IMPACT

Sunday, July 5 would have been our monthly collection for Impact of So. Arizona, FOOD BANK. Since the Corona Virus arrived and took away our ability to attend church at Vista, we haven't been able to make our food and monetary contributions. The food bank needs our help now more than ever.

Since we aren't able to collect food at this time, checks are the best way to help. You can make checks payable to Vista with Impact Food Bank on the memo line and mail to Vista UMC, 3001 E Miravista Ln, Tucson AZ 85739. For further information about Impact of So. AZ, please contact Benith MacPherson @ 825-5891.

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.

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

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



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
Paul Tingley	7/9
Craig MacPherson	7/11
Alex Perakis	7/11
Kay Gragg	7/12
Jan Springer	7/14
Virginia Updegrave	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

Happy Birthday!

August Celebrations



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Robinson, Grant & Joan	8/7
Preston, Phil & Mary	8/8
Crown, John & Jan	8/9
Young, Howard & Mary Lou	8/9
Baum, Pastor Fred & Deede	8/15
Spencer, Phyllis & Dan	8/16
Extract, Clif & Laurie	8/17
Roberson, Walt & Mary Louise	8/19
Larmour, Paul & Margaret	8/22
Mehlhorn, Mary-Ann & Peter	8/23
Bellah, Bill & Mary	8/26
Bukes, Milt & Jan	8/26
Garcia, Al & Jacquie	8/28

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Floyd, Linda	8/4
Tonga, Sela	8/5
Browning, Jean	8/6
Higgins, Peggy	8/6
Podlasek, Ken	8/8
Jackson, Ginny	8/9
Rice, Karen	8/9
Moyer, JennaRae	8/12
Oelrich, Paul	8/12
Harwick, Kailyn	8/13
Hotchkiss, Michelle	8/13
Snider, Glenna	8/13
Alligood, Edna	8/15
Holden, Jackie	8/15
Plum, Kathy	8/16
Heiss, Judy	8/17
Radtke, Gene	8/17
Boring, Dan	8/19
Leedom, Marge	8/20
Isaac, Kathleen	8/21
Kelley, Lynn	8/21
Roberson, Mary Louise	8/22
Sherman, Bob	8/22
White, Natassja	8/23
Young, Howard	8/23
Davies, John	8/25
Hartman, Linda	8/25
Whittington, Linda	8/25
Alberts, Gerry	8/27
Valder, Linda	8/27
Eriksson, Lars	8/29
Marsh, Dan	8/31
Rupe, Jean	8/31



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



July 2020

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Vista VBS!

Family Friendly - all supplies included!

Details inside!