



VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC

Echoes

November 2020

Pastor's Pen,

November 2020

Sometime this month I believe we will return to in-person worship. We have had the chairs of the Church Council, Trustees, SPRC, Finance and Worship along with health professionals in our church work to produce a rigorous sanitation/health protocol to be used on the reopening of our Sanctuary for worship. This protocol was reviewed by the District Superintendent and approved. We did a practice run of the protocols at my mother's memorial and it went well.

In order to attend worship, here are some of the guidelines everyone has to follow in order to worship together. First, read, sign, and return the "Covenant and Waiver" that was sent to you. It contains much of what you need to know to gather in person to worship. Worship will be by reservation on our website by "Sign Up Genius" and by phone. We have 90 spots that can be filled. If many more reserve seats, we will probably use the patio or go to two services. At this time of year, we usually have had over 200 in worship. But we expect many to stay home and continue worshipping on Livestream until some future date or event (a vaccine).

You will need to wear a mask and practice social distancing from the time you leave your vehicles until you return. On the patio your temperature will be taken, your hands sanitized and the check off list for waivers will be checked. Entrance will be by one door as well as exiting. We will do the entire liturgy on the screen without bulletins. The offering will be dropped in a box by the inner door. We are doing everything we can to keep people from touching common surfaces including propping doors open.

The entire Sanctuary building will be fog sanitized before the service. Fog sanitizing eliminates viruses on all surfaces and even in our air-conditioning system. Many more protocols for keeping you healthy and safe will be used and you can find them on our website under "Protocol for Reopening", which we wrote for the DS to apply for permission to resume in-person worship.

The worship service itself will be different without a choir and other measures in place, but by being here to worship God in whatever form, you will witness to the world your faith in Jesus Christ.

I know some cannot and should not be present to worship until there is a Coronavirus vaccine. I have great hopes for this soon happening in that I am involved as a test subject in one of the vaccines that has shown great promise in older adults. The word this morning on the news is the Moderna vaccine will probably be released this November.

If you cannot be present in person to worship please continue as you are to support our church with your presence on Livestream, your prayers, gifts, service and witness.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Fred

November 2020 Finance Report

September income was +\$3,337 above budget and expenses were -\$433 under budget. YTD expenses are - \$8,472 under budget but +\$44,669 more than 2019. \$36,600 of the increase is in interest and principal payments on the mortgage. The principal has been reduced to \$536,533 from \$550,000.

Live Streaming attendance in September was 996.

Payroll Protection Program Loan:

We have completed using our PPP load of \$44,739 in July for payroll and Pastor Fred's benefits. We submitted our Forgiveness Application September 11 to Canyon Community Bank and at this time Canyon Bank said that applications have not been processed for approval yet by the SBA.

2021 Financial Budget

We are in the process of compiling the draft expense budget for 2021, in partnership with the committee chairs and church staff. The budget will not be finalized until the 2021 Stewardship drive is completed in early December. At that time the Finance Committee will recommend a budget to submit to the Church Council for approval.

Welcome back Dennis Kimmel from his summer in Ohio and thanks to Mary Berg and the rest of the counting team for doing a super job in his absence!

Your Finance Team;

Sharon, Darrell, Dennis, George and Mary

Stewardship Campaign

As the November Echoes deadline approaches, we do not have a beginning date for in-person worship at Vista. Hopefully, our doors will be open on Consecration Sunday, November 15, a date that marks the culmination of our Stewardship Campaign. But even if so, our celebration will look different this year. – No sitting shoulder to shoulder in the pews, no hugs or handshakes, no communal singing – AND, no all church luncheon following the service. Yet, we WILL celebrate – with joy in our hearts for our members' belief in our church and its mission. God is with us as always. And remember, "You were created for such a time as this." (Esther 4:14). Pull up Vista's website, tune in to Vista's live streaming services, and watch for all-church emails for up-to-date information about Consecration Sunday as the date gets closer.

From the Building Committee

The Concord Contract

The contract with Concord General Contracting has been closed out and the Trustees have accepted responsibility for the Education and Administration Building. However, there are three warranty items remaining for the Building Committee to work: 1-Stucco, 2-Hydro-Seed, 3-Parking space (1) rain drainage.

Storm Damage Repair

The final insurance company check was received. Many thanks to Ken Hunt, Paul Lamour, Fred Buck and Dana Belyea who initiated this effort and to Dennis Higgins and Dan Radke for their professional expertise and technical assistance completing this effort. A kickoff meeting with SCBS, the contractor, was held and work is expected to begin in the near future. This work may last a month or two and will be coordinated with the water sheeting repair effort.

Water Sheeting

Beyond Construction, the contractor, is approximately 70% complete repairing the water sheeting problem. Both the south parking lot and the Patio Room will remain temporarily closed due to ongoing construction, safety hazards and insurance concerns.

Hill Restoration

Phase-1. Work is complete.

Phase-2. We are waiting for payback funds before initiating any work. This includes; paving, striping and then pouring a long, extruded cement curb and adding parking bumpers at the new, small parking area directly across from the Education and Administration Building.

Phase-3. We remain optimistic that the second increment of pre-designated estate funds will become available before the end of 2020. This work entails having the restored portion of the hill chip sealed and then having a 165-foot long storm gutter poured.

For those of you who pray for us – THANK YOU

For those of you who made pledges and are honoring them – THANK YOU

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



Mission Outreach Ministry Report

Great News for our Mission Committee members, we will resume our monthly meetings, beginning Wed. Nov 11th at 1:00 PM in the Elizabeth room. I took a poll of all our Mission Team and it was definitely a big YES!! So here are the rules 1) wear a mask, 2) Keep the proper distancing, 3) Make a reservation message at 520-825-7115, 4) only 2 people per big table across from each other, 5) no hugging allowed, so sad!!) but WE CAN DO THIS!! We have not met in 8 months. but have had plenty of phone calls and emails back & forth to keep our Mission program at Vista going. We will be reviewing each of our programs and seeing where we go from here. God has laid it on so many of your precious hearts to continue to support our Mission Ministry across these last 8 months and we can't thank you enough.

2020 has challenged us all in so many ways, as never before, but the Lord has been with us and we look forward to see what He has for us to do in the New Year. We will be taking our annual Thanksgiving offering to support Vista's Mission Program in the coming year. We thank you in advance for your support! I look forward to seeing you on the 11th.

Yours in Mission Service:

Dee Berman... Chairman

520-825-7115 deerick1968@gmail.com

Mission Needs:

There is a sewing machine and cabinet, provided by the Creative Hands Group, available to anyone who is interested. Must pick up. For further information, please contact Dee Berman at (520) 825- 7115.

The missions team is in need of someone who may pick up and transfer a refrigerator to the Douglas storage unit for our sister church in Agua Prieta. Please contact Dee Berman for more details at (520) 825- 7115.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Dear Vista Congregation. We thought it was time to provide an update on what's been happening with respect to our Pray Shawl Ministry during this long absence.

We have all been busy either knitting or crocheting items for our home bound and former Vista members. Shawls and pocket pray shawls are now available to be blessed by Pastor Fred once we reopen. According to my sources, October 11th, 2020 seems to be the target date provided all continues to go well with respect to the CoronaVirus downward trend. Let us all hope and pray that trend is maintained.

While the livestreaming has been a great substitute during this time, it hardly compares to actually being there in church, mingling with all of you, the members, and greeting as we used to. Once we can reopen, it might not be possible to shake hands as before but at least a friendly smile, a wave of acknowledgement, a nod of one's head. Something to indicate hi, good to see you, how have you been etc. I think I can say, we all look forward to that time.

Some information you might not be aware of:

Some years ago a lady from Maine who owned a yarn store at the time had a need to pattern the first handmade prosthesis. She had had mastectomy surgery and having looked at her choices of prosthetics at that time decided her option was to make one for herself. She became the first, and with the help of her friends, provided them to many more patients having had this surgery. Later, Barbara Demorest of Washington State, a cancer survivor herself, asked permission to make and distribute free of charge to anyone requesting such a prosthesis. With permission granted, the charity was founded and is now called "KnittedKnockers Charities, Inc.". This nonprofit organization is now throughout the United States and is worldwide. With the help of several other volunteers these ladies are able to supply these prostheses to every woman asking for them in whatever size necessary or color requested.

Today it is quite the organization with distribution, quality control and mailings being performed weekly. There are now more than 700 groups involved in the making and distribution of these mailings.

The difference between these handmade and the silicone placements is vast. First the silicone is very heavy, hot, not washable and expensive. The knitted knockers handmade prostheses are washable, soft, lightweight, free of charge and overall more comfortable to wear all day. Since they are flexible, one can add or subtract the filling to suit your particular fit. They are also great for patients undergoing lumpectomies and radiation, and/or undergoing reconstruction.

If anyone either in our congregation or perhaps has a friend/relative in need of such a prostheses, please let our Pray Shawl Ministry know. We would be happy to discuss the matter privately, in your home or one of our homes in order to offer discreet conversation and comfortable surroundings. Should you prefer to look into this matter yourself, please take a look at: <http://www.knittedknockers.org/> Many thanks and please stay safe.

Yours Prayer Shawl Ministry

Sharon Hunt

Ilene Nevins

Shirley Newman

Please join me for the following event which I believe promises some time for rest and healing. If you have questions feel free to contact me. This will be via Zoom!

Gail Parson

Vista UMC Worship Coordinator

gailvistaworship@comcast.net

(520) 275-7117

Theme: “Finding Your Voice: A Contemplative Writing Retreat” (virtual/online)

Faculty: Robin Pippin

Contact: Jerry Haas or Judy Boroto

Sponsors: Desert Southwest Conference of the UMC and Upper Room Ministries

During these very challenging times, we need places to help us listen to God as well as ways to express our deepest thoughts and prayers. This online retreat is offered as one of those places in the midst of pandemic and polarization to help you “find your voice”. Robin Pippin, recently retired from The Upper Room, is well equipped to be our guide in this process. You don’t have to be a published author or even a dedicated scribbler to benefit from this experience. The retreat experience itself is designed to be contemplative, with quiet song and gentle prayers, providing room for the soul to speak. Please join us for this online adventure.

Website: www.az5dayacademy.org/

Jerry Haas: jndhaas@gmail.com

Judy Boroto: jeboroto@aol.com



November Celebrations



Anniversaries

HOAGLUND, Larry & Coralyn	11/01
WALDO, Duane & Marilyn	11/22
SCHWARTZ, Pete & Sandy	11/28
MILLARD, Ben & Jan	11/27
RYTTER, Noel & Jane	11/29

Birthdays

DAVIES, Joan	11/01
MEHLHORN, Mary-Ann	11/01
WHITE, Logan	11/02
VAKERICS, Molly	11/03
BOERDING, Sue	11/04
STEGINK, David	11/06
HARWICK, Peggy Jo	11/07
CROWN, Jan	11/09
FOSTER, Mia	11/10
LAFLEUR, Joyce	11/12
RADKE, Carla	11/12
SALAVA, Roger	11/12
FLOYD, Cialyn	11/13
HILLMANN, Bill	11/15
TOMPKINS, Alice	11/16
HILLMANN, Mary Jane	11/17
HOAGLUND, Larry	11/18
TRIBOULET, Linda	11/18
PODLASEK, Diane	11/19
AYERS, Dixie	11/21
PARSON, Gail	11/21
HOLDER, Pamela	11/22
ANDERSON, Maureen	11/25
BUKES, Milt	11/25
SHERMAN, Barbara	11/25
WINKLER, Sallie	11/25
VERMILYE, Juliette	11/26
WHITE, Cameron	11/26
BILLS, Elsie	11/29
PRICE, Maurice	11/29

Happy
Birthday!



December Celebrations



Anniversaries

O'DONALD, Jay & Louise	12/01
NEVINS, Dick & Ilene	12/08
HOTCHKISS, Curtis & Michelle	12/15
MILLER, Linda & Ray	12/16
BYWATER, Gene & Diane	12/18
FLOYD, T. J. & Linda	12/28
ANDERSON, Dave & Maureen	12/29

Happy
Birthday!



Birthdays

DANIELS, Bill	12/01
HOTCHKISS, Curtis	12/01
MILLER, Shirley	12/01
KOELLING, Jerry	12/05
LENZINI, Alice Ann	12/05
WALDO, Marilyn	12/08
WATKINS, Stuart	12/09
BOLAR, Marlin	12/10
NEWMAN, Shirley	12/10
RAYNOR, Mary	12/16
MILLER, Paul	12/17
CURTIS, Carol	12/18
MADDEN, Barb	12/18
KARCHER, Cynthia	12/19
RUTKOWSKI, Marv	12/19
BULL, Fred	12/21
DE WINDT, Charlotte	12/22
GRIFFIN, Linda	12/23
POHNERT, William	12/23
BLEESS, Von Ceil	12/24
AUGUST, Don	12/25
RUPE, Marvin	12/25
MC FARLAND, Glenda	12/28
LITTLE, Betty	12/30

You have mail!



Dear Vista Family,

Oh my, how can I find the words to express my thanks and how very blessed I am to have such a loving and caring family. Thank you so much for your cards and the love offering. What a shock and surprise that was. The parade of cars & trucks was awesome and loud and fun! Love all the signs. All in all it was a very special day, a day to absolutely not to be forgotten.

Love you all,

Pat

During our recent health issues we received many of God's healing blessings, prayers, the excellent medical staff, church members, prayers, phone calls and family.

Thank you for all your expressions of caring which brought us peace and joyful hearts!

- Howard and Sharon Kaste

WE HOPE AND PRAY EVERYONE IS
WELL. WE WATCH STREAM LINE EVERY
SUNDAY. THANK ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR
TIME AND SERVICE -

GOD BLESS YOU ALL

C E Crowson family

Dear Vista family,

I am overwhelmed and humbled by the generous monetary gift you have given to me, and for the many wonderful cards with your caring and loving wishes for my future. You are truly amazing people of God! Rest assured that I will still be here, volunteering wherever I am permitted. It is very difficult to say goodbye to a job I have thoroughly enjoyed, but being able to continue to be part of Vista and hopefully see you ALL again face-to-face in church cheers me greatly. Thank you for your love and support and prayers for my health, which is stable at this time. But don't quit praying! I am convinced that it is your prayers that have kept here on earth this long! Bless you all. I hope to see you soon!

Love in Christ,

Pam Holder

Dear Vista Church family,

Thank you all so much for your prayers and beautiful card! It truly made my day! I am feeling stronger every day with less pain. I know your prayers have helped me in many ways. I will always remember and appreciate all that you have done for me during my challenging times. Hope to see everyone soon!
God bless, Sharon D.



Photo by Pixabay

Please, Please Adopt Me
Stuart Watkins

Please, please adopt me on Christmas Day.
I'll be your friendly pet,
the very best one you've had yet,
if you'll just adopt me on Christmas Day.

There's room for me in your shopping
cart. I'll place a smile in your great big
heart.

Put me in a stocking with ribbons so bright.
You'll learn to love me with all your might.

I've often dreamed of having a home,
don't leave me here all alone.
Bundle me under your Christmas tree,
I'll make you happy, just wait and see.

Please, please adopt me on Christmas
Day. I knew when your eyes met mine,
you were very nice and kind.
Please, please adopt me on Christmas Day!

VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC

3001 EAST MIRAVISTA LANE

TUCSON, AZ 85739

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

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VISIT US ON FACEBOOK

AND AT OUR WEBSITE:

www.Vistaumc.org



November 2020

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