



VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC

Echoes

December 2020

Pastor's Pen

December 2020

I write this the week before Thanksgiving. It seems to me that this year more than other years Thanksgiving is being overrun by Christmas. In my neighborhood, earlier than ever before, the Christmas lights are going up and outnumber the Thanksgiving/Fall decorations by a lot. I think some people just want to be done with 2020 believing 2021 has got to be better. As I noted in my Thanksgiving letter 2020 has been a year of "Disease, hurricanes, politics, fires, riots, and job loss for many". In fact, I saw a Christmas decoration recently that was burning dumpster with "2020" on the side.

But you know there have been many years like 2020. Other years have been worse in which the world was engulfed in war. Some of our members lived through years of communist occupation and oppression. The current Millennial Generation has been marked by 9/11, the Great Recession and wars in Iraqi and Afghanistan all in a culture of dwindling faith and hope.

You would think this world needs a Savior? Well God thought it did and planned for the Savior long ago. The words of Isaiah read,

⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.

So in the fulness of time God sent his only begotten Son into this world, into the home of a poverty stricken couple who lived under military occupation and brought the Savior into the world without medical care or insurance or even midwife. God knows, God cares. As Romans 10:13 reminds us "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." And just who is this Lord? This Lord is "Jesus" whose name means "God Saves!"

May the God who saves watch over your hearts and lives as we worship him in this time of Advent and Christmas.

In Christ's love

Rev. Fred C. Baum

“Share the Warmth” Annual Collection

The Missions Outreach Team will be collecting warm clothing and bedding during December and January to assist those in need. A large box in the narthex is designated for your donations. Barbara McClure, Executive Director of IMPACT, says new or gently used socks are always a “high need” item during the winter months. Please contact Benith MacPherton (825-5891) (email – Benithmac@aol.com) if you would like to arrange for a pick-up at your home. Monetary donations to this worthy cause are also welcome.



United Methodist Men

Vista Men and friends held a UMM meeting, the first since Covid, and a fine time was had by all. Sixteen of us met at Ron Olsen’s house. Ron and Linda graciously hosted the bunch of us in their well-outfitted back yard. Seriously, one would think this was a highlight event on a Tauck Tour. Ron and Linda have this entertainment thing down and regularly host large groups.

Their back yard has every picnic amenity. UMM simply brought the hamburgers and beans and fixing’s and the Olsen’s had all the hardware! UMM wives, an especially important segment of the UMM scene, sent in cookies and other goodies. We sat, ate, and had a great time. Then we managed a business meeting. The whole evening was just too much fun! Precautions were taken due to Covid and were reasonably adhered to.

Any man attending Vista, intending to attend Vista or even thinking about attending Vista is welcome to our meetings. It is all about fellowship and helping out. There are no dues outside of pass the hat. A person does not join; just show up! When Covid finally diminishes we will meet again regularly. Look for an announcement in the bulletin and drop in. Regular meetings are always preceded by breakfast at Sunnyside Up. The next activity will be road clean-up (it surely needs it) to be announced. We will ask for 15 volunteers. Be ready!

GIVE A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Most of us give to our church and multiple other charities of our choice. Some of our gifts provide immediate relief in the form of food, clothing or shelter. When you give to a Permanent Endowment Fund, your gifts keep on giving. Vista's endowment asks you to consider a gift that will keep growing and giving long after you are gone. It is exciting to see the many ways that Vista's endowment earnings have contributed to our growth.

As you approach the year's end, consider a gift that keeps on giving.

Your Endowment Committee



Hospitality

Hospitality committee does not have any events planned currently. I know for sure we will not do anything until sometime in 2021. We miss seeing you all and miss the goodies that you provided us after church each Sunday. I have always told you for me on Sunday morning it was Christmas morning again, and I was rushing downstairs to open the gifts from Santa. You never knew what you were going to receive. We will be together again. We just must be patient.

I heard from different folks this year that since they were home, they were busy cleaning and organizing our cupboards and closets. You probably now have these items that you do not want, and they are setting somewhere until you can find a charity that will accept donated items. I found this article in the AARP October/November magazine under the topic "MoneySaver" and Pima County Wastewater Reclamation newsletter. Due to space limitations in the December Echoes, I will share this information in the January Echoes.

Written by Delores Brindle, Co- chairperson.

December 2020 Finance Report

October income was -\$4,795 under budget and expenses were -\$3,123 under budget. We budgeted a -\$14,561 General Fund Net Income but it was -\$17,530 due to the smallest income month we have had this year. YTD expenses are -- \$11,757 under budget but +\$60,844 more than 2019. \$40,356 of the increase is in interest and principal payments on the mortgage. The principal has been reduced to \$535,236 from \$550,000.

ACH and online giving represent about 25% of our giving annually. If you haven't considered it, please do. ACH is very easy to set up for you with your bank. Contact for Dennis Kimmel. To start credit card giving, just go to the *Donate* link on the Vista website and you can set up a regular schedule. Also consider using your RMD each year to fulfill your pledge, which many members are using.

Live Streaming attendance in October was 1,025.

Payroll Protection Program Loan:

We have completed our PPP loan 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 the first applications have been processed 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.

Stewardship Campaign

Many thanks to Benith and Craig MacPherson for chairing the campaign for the 4th time and doing such a wonderful job! Also, thanks to the committee and the speakers.

Vista Finance Team;
Sharon, Darrell, Dennis, and Mary



Family Advent Craft Fair



CDC guidelines followed.

Sunday, Dec. 6 @ 1pm

(in place of online Sunday School)

**Register by calling the church office
with name and number attending.**

Adopt a Family

Again, this year, Vista's CYFM (Children, Youth and Family Ministries) will be adopting a family for Christmas. We will be helping a Grandmother who has adopted her two grandchildren (8 & 9 yrs. old), along with her daughter, who has a newborn and a 1 year old. Stay tuned to the weekly bulletin for more information.

We are also checking into sending a care package to a Methodist young lady who just joined the Navy!

Please contact Valerie Hammons for more information. Thank you!

Bakeless Bake Sale

A lot of news we have today! A bakeless bake sale is on the way! In these busy days now who would bake pies and cookies or even a cake! You'd be surprised if you counted the cost of materials, heat and the time you have lost! Cooking for sales is extra work yet really nobody wishes to shirk! So, we've thought of a plan that's really grand and feel quite sure you will understand! In an envelope please put the price of a pie or cake or something nice, Without fuss or bother, you've done your part and we're sure you'll give with a willing heart! This is the end of our little tale and we hope for success in our "Bakeless Bake Sale." Vista's United Methodist Women is giving you the opportunity to help raise money for missions for women, children, and youth around the world. Mail a donation payable to UMW Vista to the Treasurer, Amy Butkovich, at 14244 N. Trade Winds Way Oro Valley, AZ 85755.

**Any questions,
contact Amy Butkovich
at 520-612-7006
or email
gbutko-
vich@comcast.net.**



Mission Outreach Ministry Report

What a year we have had in 2020! Really “one for the history books”. But here is the good news; God has been with us and thanks to our great Vista Family, our Mission Outreach Ministry has carried on and many needs have been met during this pandemic that has so greatly affected the Mission projects that we support.

In conversation with Pastor Gela, pastor of our sister church in Agua Prieta, Mexico, she sends her love and gratitude for our help and stated “She did not know how they would have make it thru this year without our help.” We have much more to do as the needs in many of our mission programs are great, and we will continue to help, as you continue to support your Mission program at Vista. As I write this, I want to thank you in advance for your part in the Thanks giving offering that will support feeding those who are going thru a very rough time right now in our community.

I want to remind you beginning Dec 1st we will start our Warm Winter program for Impact’s Clothing Bank. We are asking you to check out your closets for clean, and in good condition, your unneeded winter clothing and bedding. This year we especially need stockings for all ages. While you are out shopping, pick up a package of socks and throw it in your shopping cart. It will be a blessing to someone in need. You will find the Warm Winter box in Dec. & Jan. the narthex for your contributions.

Your Christmas offering this year will be dedicated to help many folks who have been affected by this dreadful Covid 19 virus, by giving them a helping hand with their special needs. We are trusting the Lord, with faith and hope, that this time next year, we will all have been given the antivirus vaccine and this pandemic will be history for the entire world. Please continue to pray for those in need, and those who have lost a family member or a friend to this pandemic, may God comfort their hearts.

It is always our goal, for everyone at Vista to be in Mission service. No gift is too small, as it is given with a heart of love for those in need.

We are planning to meet in the Elizabeth room for our next Mission meeting on Dec. 9th at 1:00 PM. Please remember to wear your masks, and we will be keeping our proper distancing by only 2 people at each table. We will be deciding where we will best use our Mission funds in the coming months.

Merry Christmas to each of you and know that you are a gift to those in need, as our Lord Jesus is our gift of Salvation from our heavenly Father, not only at Christmas but all year long.

Yours in Mission Service:

Dee Berman.....Chairman

Deerick1968@gmail.com

520-825-7115



Angel Encounters:

The easiest encounters with God, to me, are those viewed through hindsight. Life's rear-view mirror is 20 / 20 vision. The uncertainties of the future are crystal clear a month after. Even clearer a year later and so on. What we see and learn through hindsight is the unmistakable presence of the Spirit around us.

It is just about like the painting of an angel protecting and guiding 2 little kids, a boy and a girl, as they cross a faulty bridge over a deep ravine. Do the 2 little children see the angel? Probably not. Yet the children cross safely to the other side. The children may not even appreciate the danger present. They do not see the danger and they do not sense the presence of an angel.

It could be crossing a street. The light turns green and they do not recognize the red-light pedestrian hand. They were not run over in the busy street; it must have been luck. They had a lucky day. Test luck by going to a casino. How does luck work out over the long haul?

I cannot list, let alone remember, the times I was crossing one of life's bridges and later, through 20/20 hindsight, saw clearly where I was not responsible for the outcome of the day. What I earned was a mess. What I received was a blessing. It was as if an angel was there to protect me. I see clearly, in the past, those times when I was out of bounds and the boundaries were moved to accommodate me.

I did not notice then. Life is too busy; the big stage is filled with distractions. We simply do not realize just how near to us Divinely inspired help is. It is grace in 3 dimensions. Grace that interacts with physical objects. Grace that moves mountains! Grace that is unrequested and even unnoticed. Imagine that!

Any of us who cares to review our lives should easily find those times where how one crossed the bridge over the deep ravine cannot be explained. Now is the time to step up. Admit it, you had help along the way. Just like the little poem where there were two sets of footprints in the sand, then one set then two again. You ask why? The answer is you were carried. These things happen way more often than any of us care to realize.

Do an retrospection of your life journey. When you say your prayers in whatever form, always say thank you for those times you were carried. Angels are present, seeing them is not required. Amen!

James L. Bless CLM



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

January Celebrations

Anniversaries

SMITH, Don & Pat	01/01
HOLDER, Pam & Craig	01/06
POHNERT, Bill & Tricia	01/07

Birthdays

HEYWOOD, Jim	01/01
WATKINS, Jeanette	01/01
HOLDEN, Larry	01/02
HERNANDEZ, Antonio (AJ)	01/03
AUTHUR, Janelle	01/07
HIGGINS, Dennis	01/07
HOTCHKISS, Kourtney	01/07
PRICE, Ursula	01/08
MANN, Diane	01/11
DEVRIES, Shirley	01/12
WATTS, Cheryl	01/12
JOHNSON, Barbara	01/13
WITTKOSKI, Thomas	01/13
TONGA, Mia	01/14
AGUIRRE, Roman	01/15
COLEMAN, Diane	01/15
COLEMAN, Rob	01/15
MEISE, Stan	01/16
CONNER, Robin	01/17
HOLMAN, Joyce	01/17
DEDRICK, Char	01/18
KASTE, Howard	01/19
CAMPBELL, Lori	01/20
FOWLER, Valarie	01/21
LAFLEUR JR, Theodore	01/22
MILLER Ms., Ravin	01/22
WALDO, Duane	01/22
KASTE, Sharon	01/23
YOB, Nancy	01/23
WILLIAMS, Norm	01/24
AGUIRRE, Michelle	01/26
GOINS, Donna	01/29
THOMPSON, Sara	01/29
HARWICK, Rebecca	01/30



STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Due to the time lag between the Echoes' publication deadline and printing of articles submitted, any posting of pledges received will be outdated by the time you read this. However, having confidence and faith in the generosity of our church family, we anticipate another successful outcome for our Stewardship Campaign. We extend a hearty **THANK YOU** to all who have responded to the call. Your commitment to your membership vows will enable Vista to support one another and reach out with compassion and joy in our larger mission field. "You were made for such a time as this." Esther 4:14.

Merry
 *Christmas*

VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC

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MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

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VISIT US ON FACEBOOK

AND AT OUR WEBSITE:

www.Vistaumc.org



December 2020

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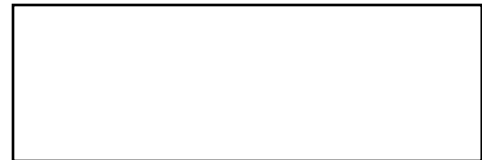
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



This Christmas Eve
gather with your families at 3pm or 6pm!

We will share the Christmas Message of
Hope, Faith and Love .

Join us for a live service online
or register to Worship in person with
us at our website – vistaumc.org

