



VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC

Echoes

January 2021

Pastor's Pen

January 6, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of Vista Church,

One year ago, this month, we were moving into and planning our grand opening of our new Education and Administration building with great plans for how it was going to be used for Children, Youth and Adult Sunday School classes. It was going to be the place for our choir to practice and great fellowship events to take place. Two months later on March 16th all the dreams for this new building and the ministries and missions it would house were put on hold. We're still holding, ... and still hanging on. It reminds me of the famous old Methodist hymn sung at every Annual Conference for over 200 years, "And Are We Yet Alive!" Yes, we are alive and strong and ready to take on all the challenges and opportunities of a New Year through the power and presence of the Spirit of Christ.

Though the building is built, the Building Program is not over. We still must remodel the Patio Room into the nursery. This project was put on hold due to hail damage that became a long-protracted odyssey dealing with insurance companies etc. Most of the hail damage has been repaired in time to get the Nursery Remodeling going this month, but we have waited, and waited, and waited. God gives me verses to guide my life a day, or year, or longer at a time. I had wondered why he gave me the word, "Wait on the Lord" as 2020 began. Now I know. 2020 has been a year of extreme waiting for the vaccines to come, the pandemic, quarantining, and social distancing to end. It has been a hard year in the political arena.

Vista Church in 2020 lost 18 members to death (they went home to their reward; their mission being completed). We had 13 members move, withdraw and transfer. But we brought in 3 preparatory members (children) and 16 adults. Many of those who went were great financial supporters, so that as 2020 ended well, 2021 is a challenge. As our Financial Chairperson says, "This is a year of needs, not wants when it comes to spending."

But the year coming up is also a year of great opportunity. Our church has opened to live in-person worship under strict guidelines. Our Livestreaming has touched thousands of lives with the Good News of Jesus Christ. I am not sure how to evaluate the statistics but up to March 16th we averaged 50 on Boxcast after that it jumped up to over 200 per Sunday. Our Facebook averages 50 to 100 views a Sunday and we are also seen on Fire TV, Roku and have been working on YouTube. Our Livestream worshippers are from all over the United States and we have some regular ones in Mexico, the Caribbean, and Switzerland. Occasionally someone joins us from Africa and the UK. Our Livestream Team has done a remarkable job of a high-quality production that invites us into the presence of God and while there we are in each other's presence. Thanks Paul, Pam, Bill, Clark, Nancy, and Teresa! Thanks to the brave people (musicians, liturgists etc.) who Sunday after Sunday have gathered to make sure we can worship together despite the lethality of this disease.

Yes, we have learned a lot in 2020 and 2021 will be a great year as we are released from this plague, and in each other's presence we will give praise to God and together sing (without masks:) "And Are We Yet Alive!"

Alive in Christ with you for another year.

Pastor Fred

We Welcome our New Members

Barbara and Bob Powers join the family at Vista by transfer of membership. Theirs' is a true love story. After meeting at a high school Presbyterian Church Camp, they were married when Bob was a senior in college. They both have their masters. Barbara still volunteers with Impact one of our outreach missions.

Dee Berisha lived in Oro Valley in the 2000's. She enjoyed selling real estate. She returned to Washington State and taught Special Ed for high school students. She returned to our area in 2019 and is enjoying watching our livestream Worship services. She has been a lifelong Methodist. Welcome to Vista UMC, Dee.

Gene & Diane Bywater joined Vista as affiliate members in 2019. Today they come in as full members. They have been Methodists since they were married. They have been very active at Vista in the short time they have been here. Just recently they teamed up to chair the Sister Jose Women's Shelter mission. Gene is a very helpful member of our landscape team along with our incoming finance team. Thank you Gene and Diane.

Denny and Laurrie Iceman come to us on transfer of membership. Denny became a Christian at 19. In previous churches he has worked with missions and evangelism. Laurrie is an organist and has played in many churches. She is a lifelong Methodist. Denny's cousin was Rev. Anita Iceman the DS at the time of the founding of Vista Church. A plaque honors her in our memorial garden.

Hospitality (To be continued...)

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 missing the goodies that you provided us after church each Sunday. I have always told you that 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 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 may be able to help you out today. I found this article in the AARP October/November magazine under the topic "MoneySaver" and Pima County Wastewater Reclamation newsletter. If you receive this magazine and read it then just ignore it. If you have not than this may be helpful stuff, so read on.

Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG)

Good news on January 9, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. the Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department and its partners invite you to start the year off right by taking your leftover holiday cooking grease to one of the six collection sites. There are 2 collection site that are close to us and they are:

The first site is Pima Community College Northwest Campus. The campus is located at 7600 N. Shannon Rd. and Magee Rd. The other site is in Midtown, Tucson City Council Ward 3 Office at 1510 E. Grant Rd.

Medical Supplies

Here are some suggestions that just might accept your items. When you contact the following charities be sure to find out who pays to get your items to you.

Project Cure and Advocates for World Health accept medical gear and unused supplies for worldwide use.

www.projectcure.org.

www.awhealth.org.

Med-Eq connects you with charities seeing supplies and equipment, mostly for overseas use; www.med-eq.org

Computers and other Electronic Devices:

"Cell Phone for Soldier" has a local Drop-off area for newer cell phones and other electronic devices at the following location:

Local Drop-off:

Desert Sunset Funeral Home at 3081 W. Orange Grove. I have dropped off items at this location. They are located west of the Northwest Hospital.

They will accept: Newer Cell phone, iPhones, iPods and M3 players, electronic tablets.

Go to their website: CellPhonesforsoldiers.com to locate other drop off sites and read more regarding this charity.

Donations to Medic Mobile support health care in 26 countries; www.medicmobile.org

A laptop you mail to www.Globetops.com will go to someone in need in the U.S. or elsewhere;

The National Cristina Foundation links you with charities in your neighborhood that could use your tech; www.cristina.org

Hearing aids

The Starkey Hearing Foundation and the Hearing Aid Project both distribute recycled devices; www.starkeyhearingfoundation.org;

Hearingaid donations.org

Your local Lions Club may also accept hearing aids; www.lionsclubs.org

Formal Wear

Brides Across America accepts wedding dresses and special-occasion gowns for military and first responder brides; www.bridesacrossamerica.com

Becca's Closet provides prom dresses for high schoolers; www.beccascloset.org

Shoes

Soles4Souls gives new and gently used footwear to people worldwide. www.Soles4souls.org

One World Running sends nearly new athletic shoes to needy athletes; www.oneworldrunning.com

Books

Books for Soldiers and Operation Paperback let you ship your books directly to service members with your reading tastes; www.booksforsoldier.com; www.operationpaperback.org

Musical Instruments

Hungry for Music takes most instruments in any condition and offers them to young musicians; www.hungryformusic.org

Guitars 4 Vets welcomes guitars and related gear for its program helping veterans in need; www.guitars4vets.org

Appliances

Many Habitat for Humanity ReStores, which sell construction supplies and household goods, will pick up large appliances. You can also drop off small appliances and other items; www.habitat.org

I hope the above information is useful to you either now or later. Hospitality committee members wish you all a safe and healthy rest of the year.

SNAK PAK ECHOES ARTICLE JANUARY 2021

There has been a lot to celebrate about the Snak Pak program this past fall semester.

Ordering the food from Amazon and having them deliver it directly to Coronado K-8 School has worked very well.

In addition to the \$4,500 provided by Vista, Santa Catalina is providing \$7,500 this school year, an increase of \$2,000. This has been a huge help given the increase in the cost of food during this pandemic and that our churches do not have the buying power of the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, which previously ordered the food for the program.

The social worker at Coronado, Connie Ammon, has been wonderful. Since no volunteers are allowed at school, she has been assembling the packs herself on Wednesday. (Coronado is currently on a hybrid learning schedule: Half the student body comes to school on Monday and Thursday, half on Tuesday and Friday. There are no students at school on Wednesday). The 60 students eligible for the program receive their pack at the end of the school day on Thursday or Friday.

We hope that our funds will stretch to occasionally add extra items to the Snak Pak for this school year, which normally includes 13 items:

One Chef Boyardee ravioli cup or one macaroni and cheese cup.

One packet of Starkist tuna salad and crackers or one Starkist chicken salad packet

Three Quaker fruit and cream instant oatmeal packets

Two Quaker chewy chocolate chip granola bars

One Dole cherry mixed fruit cup in juice **or** one cup of Dole diced peaches.

Two bags Goldfish crackers

Three Nutrigrain fruit and cereal bars.



Adopt-A-Family



Thank you!

We will share the children's Thank you notes in our next Echos!

Vista's generosity allowed us to purchase food gift certificates for each family and due to YOUR overwhelming generosity, the children got everything on their wish lists.

Bags with gifts for the moms and grandmothers were also delivered.

THANK YOU VISTA.

YOUR SHARING AND CARING MADE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE!



We are thankful for Vista's Youth, Children and Families.

Even though we have not been able to meet in person, we have stayed in touch using technology and good old fashioned – delivery to your door!

Our children are meeting via Zoom on Sunday afternoons at 1 pm. At the beginning of each month, each family is delivered a bag filled with the supplies and activities that they will need for each Sunday. (A snack is also included!) Our fantastic teachers have learned how to use ZOOM and have continued to teach and love our children. December was filled with special games A special thank you to them: Kai Kai Harwick, Barbara Johnson, Shirley Miller, Linda Gray and Nancy Yob. Thank you to Jean Rupe, for leading our CYFM (Children, Youth, and Family Ministries committee).

We were able to get together for a fun outdoor scavenger hunt in October. In December, our Youth Group was able to safely meet. It was fantastic to see everyone face to face. A special thank you to Linda Bretz for supplying gifts for our "party". We made ugly masks and enjoyed each other's companies.

Looking forward to learning new ways to love God in 2021!

January 2021 Echoes Finance Committee Article

November income was \$1,787 over budget and expenses were -\$1,741 under budget. We budgeted a -\$5,472 General Fund Net Income but it was -\$3,241 after our mortgage payment.

YTD expenses are -\$12,277 under budget but +\$49,500 more than 2019. \$22,410 of the increase is in interest payments on the mortgage. The balance is in staff expense, plant expense and increased apportionments. The principal has been reduced to \$533,438 from \$550,000. We hope to be under \$530,000 by year-end.

Live Streaming attendance in November was 983. In person attendance was 262. Facebook attendance cannot be tracked.

SBA Payroll Protection Program (PPP)

Great news and a wonderful early Christmas present! December 17 we were notified by Canyon Community Bank that our Payroll Protection Loan Forgiveness application was approved by the SBA!

2021 Financial Budget

The Finance Committee met on December 15 and approved a balanced budget to recommend to the Church Council, who approved it the same day.

Income:

2021 - \$453,350 2020 Budget - \$476,400 2020 Est. - \$486,831

2021 pledges are currently \$410,101. Pledges are budgeted as 91% of General Offering Income. 9% is Unpledged General Offering Income. 2020 pledge income is 85% of General Offering Income.

Expenses:

2021 - \$443,138 2020 Budget - \$455,075 2020 Est. - \$446,149

Net Income After Expenses and Before Principal Payments:

2021 - \$10,212 2020 Budget - \$21,325 2020 Est. - \$40,682

Net Income After Expenses and After Principal Payments:

2021 - \$212 2020 Budget - \$10,025 2020 Est. - \$23,323

We feel this is a conservative income budget and realistic expense budget. Our history is to come in under our expense budgets and achieve our income budgets.

We want thank 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. It was a successful campaign in a very difficult year for Vista UMC.

There are many ways to give to the Church that make it easier for you. Please consider one of the following:

Non-cash Gifts to the Church

Anytime you wish to make a non-cash gift to the Church (i.e. stocks or property), it is **critical that you contact Dennis Kimmel, Financial Secretary for the procedure**. He is in charge of all contributions for the Church. You can complete your general pledge or building pledge through a stock gift, which may provide a tax incentive if you donate appreciated stock.

To be continued...



Finance Committee Article Continued...

The Ease of Credit Card and Automatic Bank Giving

You can give to the Church using your credit card for a one-time gift, or set up an automated donation on a one-time, weekly or monthly schedule. To donate, go to our Vista UMC website <http://vistaumc.org/> and on the right side of the Home page there is a blue link to our Donation Page. It's safe, secure and easy to use. Not only can you give to the Church, but you can collect miles or points from your credit card! If you have any questions, *please contact Valerie Hammons, Pastoral Assistant.*

ACH – Automated Clearing House

Many of our members give through ACH – Automated Clearing House, which is a monthly direct deposit to the Church from your checking account. *Please contact Dennis Kimmel, Financial Secretary.*

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.*

From your Finance Team;

Sharon Scanlan, Darrell Parson, Dennis Kimmel, Mary Berg and Valerie Hammons

“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 MacPherson (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.



January Celebrations



Anniversaries

SMITH, Don & Pat	01/01
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	01/28
GOINS, Donna	01/29
THOMPSON, Sara	01/29
HARWICK, Rebecca	01/30

February Celebrations

Happy Anniversary

Anniversaries

JACKSON, Jim & Ginny	02/01
JOHNSON, Robert & Barbara	02/13
RUTKOWSKI, Marv & Marilyn	02/25

Birthdays

SCANLAN, Sharon	02/01
BAUM, Deede	02/02
BIXBY, Lynn	02/02
ARNETT, Paul	02/04
BELLAH, Mary	02/04
BYWATER, Diane	02/04
SCHAEFER, Jackie	02/06
CAMPBELL, Alan	02/07
OVERMAN, Margaret	02/10
PARKER, Elizabeth Rose	02/10
HERD, Robert	02/11
GARCIA, Alberto	02/12
SANDERS, Teresa	02/13
LANDRUM, Mattie	02/15
BLEESS, Jim	02/16
RADTKE, Paula	02/17
LARMOUR, Margaret	02/19
REMPEL, Barbara	02/19
CROWSON, Slim	02/20
HOMAN, Lila	02/26
WARD, Dillis	02/26
BAUDER, Kathleen	02/28
HOLDER, Craig	02/28
VERMILYE, Jillian	02/28

Happy Birthday!

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

E-mail: VistaUMC@aol.com

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK

AND AT OUR WEBSITE:

www.Vistaumc.org



January 2021

NON PROFIT ORG

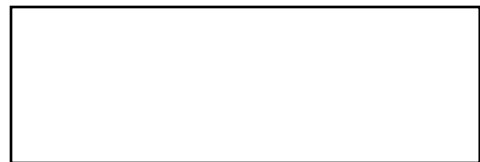
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Happy New Year