



VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC

Echoes

February 2021

Pastor's Pen

Dear Members and Friends,

Lamentations 3:22-24

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”

A new month is about to begin, February! It is hard to believe, that as I write this, January is almost over. We so hoped for and sought a new year and all the hope and promise it holds. Now the 2nd month of the year is about to begin and the hope and anticipation of a return to the “old normal” builds and builds. All across this land many are being vaccinated against the Covid-19. Many in our own congregation. This holds out such hope and promise. We are about to experience that not only are God's mercies new every morning, but every month and every year.

We have lost so much in the past year of the virus. When it started, I felt it was only going to be an inconvenience for some for a short period of time but here we are. We have lost so much. We have lost friends and loved ones to this disease. We have lost family events and celebrations. Christmas and Thanksgiving were swallowed up in isolation. But in the loss, we have also found the new. We have found God's mercies in the growth of our faith during “hard times”, “hard testing”, or as the Lord's prayer says, “temptation.” But we've held on and if we can hold on for just a few months more greater and new possibilities will open up.

We will as Paul say's in Philippians 3, *“¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”*

Yes, we have a new day, a new month, a new year so we press on to discover what Christ has in store for us. And when we've finished the battle here on earth, we will receive that prize for which God has called us.

Keep up the good race.

Pastor Fred Baum

Chorus of “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

*“And great is thy faithfulness. Great is thy faithfulness. Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness Lord unto me!”*

FATHER'S LOVE LETTER

An intimate message from God to you.

My Child,

You may not know me, but I know everything about you. Psalm 139:1 I know when you sit down and when you rise up. Psalm 139:2 I am familiar with all your ways. Psalm 139:3 Even the very hairs on your head are numbered. Matthew 10:29-31 For you were made in my image. Genesis 1:27 In me you live and move and have your being. Acts 17:28 For you are my offspring. Acts 17:28 I knew you even before you were conceived. Jeremiah 1:4-5 I chose you when I planned creation. Ephesians 1:11-12 You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book. Psalm 139:15-16 I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live. Acts 17:26 You are fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14 I knit you together in your mother's womb. Psalm 139:13 And brought you forth on the day you were born. Psalm 71:6 I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me. John 8:41-44 I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love. 1 John 4:16 And it is my desire to lavish my love on you. 1 John 3:1 Simply because you are my child and I am your Father. 1 John 3:1 I offer you more than your earthly father ever could. Matthew 7:11 For I am the perfect father. Matthew 5:48 Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand. James 1:17 For I am your provider and I meet all your needs. Matthew 6:31-33 My plan for your future has always been filled with hope. Jeremiah 29:11 Because I love you with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3 My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore. Psalm 139:17-18 And I rejoice over you with singing. Zephaniah 3:17 I will never stop doing good to you. Jeremiah 32:40 For you are my treasured possession. Exodus 19:5 I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul. Jeremiah 32:41 And I want to show you great and marvelous things. Jeremiah 33:3 If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me. Deuteronomy 4:29 Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4 For it is I who gave you those desires. Philippians 2:13 I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine. Ephesians 3:20 For I am your greatest encourager. 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 When you are brokenhearted, I am close to you. Psalm 34:18 As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart. Isaiah 40:11 One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes. Revelation 21:3-4 And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth. Revelation 21:3-4 I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus. John 17:23 For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed. John 17:26 He is the exact representation of my being. Hebrews 1:3 He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you. Romans 8:31 And to tell you that I am not counting your sins. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you. 1 John 4:10 I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love. Romans 8:31-32 If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me. 1 John 2:23 And nothing will ever separate you from my love again. Romans 8:38-39 Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen. Luke 15:7 I have always been Father, and will always be Father. Ephesians 3:14-15

My question is... Will you be my child? John 1:12-13

I am waiting for you. Luke 15:11-32

*Love, Your Dad
Almighty God*



Vista UMC welcomes our First New Member in 2021

Nancy Caber first visited us in December 2018 and has been joining us via livestream during the pandemic. She joined Vista UMC on January 28 via meeting with Pastor Fred via ZOOM. Nancy is married to Larry, who is a retired Military veteran and mother of two daughters. We are proud to be part of Larry's prayer team during his cancer journey and are happy to report he has had good reports recently. Praises to God!

Welcome

Dinner for Six

We had planned on starting our Dinners for Six this spring. But since we had only five responses, we feel most people are not yet comfortable in even small gatherings.

So... we will delay our dinners until the fall. We will keep you informed.

Meanwhile stay well - and happy.

Sandy Schwartz

Joyce Holman

From the Building Committee

Education & Administration Building:

The three active warranty issues are currently being addressed:

- Stucco
- Parking spaces
- Hydro-seed



Water Sheeting Repair:

Water sheeting repairs are scheduled for completion in late January unless there's a problem with one of the subcontractors supplying glass.

Storm Damage Repair:

Storm damage repairs are schedule for completion in late January unless the water sheeting repair work is delayed.

Nursery:

Nursery remodel work began in January but is short of funds.

Hill Restoration:

Hill improvement funds are expected to arrive in the April time frame but is short of funds.

Your Endowment Fund

The numbers are in for 2020 and the Endowment Committee is pleased to announce that our fund delivered an 18.34% return for the year. The return is net of contributions, distributions, and expenses. Based on the average of the returns for the past 3 years, the Endowment Committee will be able to provide \$15,500.00 in 2021 to support special projects, consistent with our charter. This represents the largest amount that Endowment has ever made available.

If you have a project idea that is not currently funded in the operating budget, please work with your respective Church Council chair to prepare a request. The necessary forms are available on the Vista website (<https://www.vistaumc.org/permanent-endowment-fund/>).

Help Wanted

Wanted: **Help as receptionist and office help.** If you are interested, please call Ravin at (520) 825-1985.

Wanted: Help wanted for occasional mail drivers to deliver our bulk mailings to the post office. Please contact the front office if you are interested!

Wanted: **Endowment Committee** needs new members experienced in investing or finance. Experience at a major investment house, or perhaps the investment arm of a big bank would be desirable. Or also someone who worked as a certified financial planner. Or someone with a business background. Equally important, the person should want to serve. We need people who want to work not just attend meetings. Call or email Pastor Fred

To the Vista family from the wife of John Goetz, who passed away from COVID on December 6:

I am being blessed and helped in healing by the prayers uplifted, phone calls and cards from Pastor Fred, Valerie, and members of Vista Church. It really makes a difference. Thank you! John will have a burial service at Arlington Cemetery some months in the future when travel is safe.

When John and first wife Carol came to Tucson in 1995, he poured himself and his considerable talents into the creation of Vista Church. He loved working with all those first "pioneers" who had a vision for the church.

As a member of other congregations over my lifetime, I have been graciously grafted into Vista fellowship. That is a real blessing. I was a church organist and pianist, and have seen up-close numerous churches in six different states. Vista is one of the MOST loving churches I have witnessed.

Keep HOPE burning brightly.

In His love,

Elaise Goetz

Donations in his memory may be made to Vista United Methodist Church (3001 E. Miravista Lane, Tucson, AZ 85739) or to Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona (PO Box 551, Tucson, AZ 85702)

Explore the Many Ways to Give to the Church

Pledges for 2021 are complete for the Stewardship Campaign. There are many ways to give to the Church that make it easier for you as well as helping the church finance team by reducing their workload. 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.

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 bottom of the Home page there is a 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 call 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. *If you would like to do this, 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 consider selecting one of these ways to give, then follow through. The spiritual progress of the church lives on member donations. Step up, be counted!



Mission Outreach Ministry

As we enter this month of Valentines day, our thoughts go to those we love and to those who have expressed their love for us. A few days ago I received a letter sent to us from Pastor Gela, who pastors our sister church Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta Mexico. I have translated it into English so you can read her words to us:

(Please reference pastor Gela's letter beginning on the next page)

With great joy, we held our 1st in person Mission Committee meeting (observing all the CDC rules) this past month. What a treat it was to see so many of our team leaders and Mission partners after a 10 month absence. We studied a list of each of our Mission projects and their current needs and made decisions on what assistance we want to provide right now. Here is a report of what we are supplying this month.

1) Fuente de Vida Church: \$1000.00 for food, utilities and needs of families who are laid off from work due to the pandemic. \$500.00 for needs connected to the Covid 19 virus ie: meds, sanitizing products, etc. \$500.00 for internet connection for schooling for our students. Cost is \$25.00 per month for a connection to the government schooling program on the internet.

2) Impact: \$555.00 for the Food Bank for food needs in our community. We have received a great response to the Warm Winter program this past Dec & Jan. Next month we will give you a full account of what you have donated.

3) Family 1st: \$1000.00 for assistance with utilities and operating cost in both offices in Oracle & Winkelman, as well as funds for baby diapers. We will be checking out cost for adult diapers as there is a great need for them too, as they are quite costly.

4) Sister Jose Homeless Women's Center: We welcome Gene & Diane Bywater as our new team leaders for this project. We allocated \$300.00 for purchases of a meal in a can with pop top lids ie: Spaghetios, Chile, etc. Many women live on the streets and these types of meals can be eaten without cooking facilities. We also allotted \$1000.00 for shopping carts that the women can use to hold their limited possessions. We are looking into a sturdier product that will have a longer street life.

5) Esperanza en Escalante housing for our military veterans and families: \$500.00 for cleaning and hygiene, items. Here are some facts that we need to know:

50,000 veterans are homeless on any given night. 10% of the homeless veterans are women, 23% of the total homeless population are veterans, 25% have used homeless services. 33% of the male homeless is made up of veterans, 47% are Veterans of the Vietnam War era. 76% experience substance abuse, mental & physical health problems. 85% completed high school/GED, compared to 59% of non-veteran homeless. This is an eye opener for us all!!

I want to extend a special thanks to Jan Hopke Almer for her fine work in applying 2 grants from Thrivent and receiving them for assistance for one of our new Mission projects the Emerge Center against Domestic Violence. With these resources she was able to supply 30 backpacks full of school supplies to Emerge for this last fall semester. Well done Jan!!

As you can see, we continue to reach out to our community and beyond to serve those who are in need. This would not be possible without your generous help. Your love and generosity supplied \$4505.00 thru the Christmas offering this year.

to be continued...

I find it hard to find the words that sufficiently express my gratitude and love for our Vista Family and our Mission team you make this Mission Ministry possible. May God bless you all and may His amazing love and grace be yours as we continue to carry on His work and show His love for those we serve.

Our next meeting will be on Wed. Feb 10th at 1:00 PM in the Elizabeth room. Please note that we will be observing all the CDC rules as we meet together.

I hope to see you then. Yours in Mission service:

Dee Berman Chairman 520-825-7115 deerick1968@gmail.com

Letter from Pastor Gela 1-14-21

Dear Beloved Sister Dee and Vista Church:

I want to comment to you on a number of projects going on at our church. The children are now in their “new normal”, virtual classes from their homes and as we have been discussing, they need support to receive their lessons by internet and by what we have heard on the news, this school year, will be one of only studies in their homes.

We give God the glory as He has sustained us during this contagion. We have 2 young people who were ultimately infected with the virus, as well as 3 adults but they moved forward with treatment and did not experience any grave symptoms.

I also want to tell you that we had “The month of the King” in December celebrated by a dinner for the homeless people, as we have done now for several years. We did it downtown at the coffee roasting shop. We served the meals out the window. We also gave out food plates, a blanket and a personal cleaning kits and also knitted cap and hats and gloves. It was a good blessing to them, but also for us, as we were able to carry this out in the middle of this active pandemic.

I also want to tell you, that we are moving forward with the construction of the cement patio that is being laid where the old portable church buildings once stood. We are putting up the fencing along the east and west sides of the property, and we have the baptismal already finished. This is really a fabulous project, and I think it will be a place where we can come together with no problems, as it is an open air cement patio floor. We hope that in the summer we will have it completed, as God permits. A number of the older students have been cooperating and helping with the project, and are using their time off from their studies to help with the construction.

Our Sunday services and bible studies at the church continue by virtual airing. Within a few weeks we will initiate a study of discipleship for new people, as now we are transmitting thru Facebook. We have added a number of new people and they need to be disciplined.

I want to thank you for your support that you continue to offer the students, even though we were not able to have the Celebration of Learning Festival, you sent us the Certificates of Achievement and gift certificates to the students as well as the mothers. A million thanks for the support you gave these young people. We miss you very much, not being able to see you all and spend time with you and we miss not being able to sit down and share a lunch, the games, and the crafts. The truth is, we miss you because you are in our hearts and we are “sister churches” with the widest extension of that word.

to be continued...

I give thanks to God for the Fuente de Vida church, that in spite of not being together for 11 months, they have been faithful in our daily prayer groups and have very active prayer times all 24 hours of the day, 7 days a week and I remain in constant communication with the church, thanks to God.

I send you a greeting and a strong embrace to your Pastor Fred and to every one of our brothers and sister of the Vista de la Montana Church. You are in our hearts and my desire is that in this New Year, our Lord will free us of this illness, and that we can see each other with an embrace. May all that you do be blessed and prosperous from our Eternal Father.

With love:

Pastor Gela.

February 2021 Echoes Finance Committee Article

December 2020 income was \$10,273 over budget and expenses were \$2,328 over budget. General Fund Net Income was \$5,844 over budget after our mortgage principal payment.

December 2020 YTD expenses are -\$9,982 under budget but +\$40,127 more than 2019. \$30,995 of the increase is in interest payments on the mortgage. The balance is in increased staff expense and apportionments. YTD income was \$26,003 over budget,

The mortgage principal has been reduced to \$530,837 from \$550,000.

The Payroll Protection Plan grant of \$44,739 was forgiven in December and we will owe NO payments or interest. We do not qualify for the new round of PPP grants since the church/no-profit has to have had a quarter with a -25% decrease in revenue from 2019 and we did not.

A Zoom Finance Orientation meeting for new committee members was held on Jan. 27.



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!

March Celebrations

Anniversaries

VENHUIZEN, Ronald & Juan	03/06
CARPENTER, Boyd & Karon	03/10
OLSON, Ron & Linda	03/15
KELLEY, Ed & Lynn	03/18
MCCOTTER, Stephen	03/27
ZELLO-MCCOTTER, Linda	03/27
ARNETT, Paul & Janet	03/28

Birthdays

ALLIGOOD, David	03/01
HOLMAN Sr., Jim	03/02
ZEBAL, Liz	03/05
HEDRICK, Jim	03/06
BIXBY, Dave	03/07
BRETZ, Linda	03/09
LOGAN, Bob	03/09
BRACKETT, Nancy	03/10
KELLY, Cayla	03/11
PHILLIPPI, Lou	03/11
VERMILYE, Joel	03/11
ALLEN, Bill	03/12
ARNETT, Janet	03/12
HAMPTON, Fran	03/13
MILLER, Barbara	03/13
DETHMAN, Esther	03/14
ROBERSON, Walt	03/17
RUFFINI, Susan	03/18
RICE, Pete	03/19
STUMP, Jane	03/20
LENZINI, Marty	03/23
SANDERS, Marshall	03/23
CROWN, John	03/24
EXTRACT, Alexis	03/24
BAUM, Fred	03/25
ALLEN, Marge	03/27
ALLEN, Olivia	03/27
COLBY, Dottie Lou	03/27
SCHWARTZ, Pete	03/28
SPENCER, Phyllis	03/29
AUGUST, Alice	03/31



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



February 2021

NON PROFIT ORG

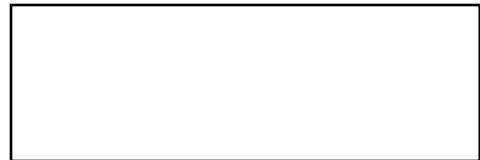
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

TUCSON, AZ

PERMIT #648

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



DRIVE THRU ASHES

February 17th, 2021

10am—1pm

Vista Church

ASH
WEDNESDAY