



VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC

# *Echoes*

**April 2021**

Pastor's Pen  
April 2021

Last year in April my Pastor's Pen was on waiting. At that time, we thought it was going to be a short wait of just a few months before we would be fully opened as a church. At that time, I quoted this verse from Isaiah 40:29-31.

“<sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.  
<sup>30</sup> Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;  
<sup>31</sup> but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.”

As we approach Holy Week, we have increasing hope that as we wait on the Lord this pandemic will soon end and we will all be back together again. But as I thought of it, what must it have been like on the Friday that Jesus was crucified, and the Saturday that he laid in the tomb. That must have been a waiting that seemed like it would never end. A waiting in hopelessness and fear. A waiting without hope. But when our patience ends, and our hope is obliterated--God remains faithful and true. God carries us through darkness of the tomb and the hopelessness of despair.

April this year is the month of Easter. And as Jesus was raised from the tomb and his disciples lifted into joy, we are beginning to feel more and more the encouragement that comes from more and more of us worshipping together face to face. We do not know how much longer this is going to last, but these promises we hold on to from our faithful God.

“But those who wait for the Lord, ***they shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.***”

I think we will begin with walking, but sooner rather than later Vista Church will be up and running and soaring once again.

In Christ's Love

Pastor Fred

# ***Vista's Youth and Children and Teachers MOVE FOR MISSIONS***

**(Below is the letter that went out to our children and youth last week)**

Did you know that Vista Church loves Missions!

What is a mission? It is something that our church believes in and it is how we help others.

So how can you help?

Vista Missions Committee has invited our youth and children to join us in MOVING! They have given each one of you a pedometer and are asking you to walk 10,000 steps before April 14 to support NAMI! You can walk inside, outside, dance, run...JUST MOVE! Then ask your parents to take a picture of you with the pedometer showing 10,000 steps you have taken! For each picture received, Vista and Missions will donate \$10. Together that means hundreds of dollars to help NAMI! That means you will be part of the Vista Missions Team and helping others. How awesome is that?

So, show this letter to your parents and ask them to support your MOVING FOR MISSIONS!

You can ask your friends and family to donate, too.

Here is the link for our team:

<https://www.namiwalks.org/participant/Valerie-Hammons>

Thank you for helping others!

God is GOOD!



NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness. NAMIWalks promotes awareness of mental health, raises funds for NAMI's free, top-rated programs, and builds community by letting people know they are not alone.

1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness each year

1 in 20 U.S. adults experience serious mental illness each year

1 in 6 U.S. youth aged 6-17 experience a mental health disorder each year

50% of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14, and 75% by age 24

Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among people aged 10-34

Vista UMW & Mission EMERGE! PROJECT

Completion Date: Wednesday, May 19

UMW Ladies Brunch

10:00 AM in the Elizabeth Room

Vista ladies and friends are invited to participate in the EMERGE! Toiletries Mission Project and ladies brunch on Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM in the Vista Church Elizabeth Room. Ladies attending this brunch will need to have completed both COVID vaccination shots to ensure safe participation in this group event. Your COVID vaccination card and a mask will be the required admission ticket for this fun social event. Ladies will be putting together 50 toiletry gift bags in completion of this EMERGE! Mission Project. Masks will not be worn at the tables while participants are eating brunch. Needed new toiletry supplies may be purchased at your favorite store or most economically for \$1.00 each at Dollar Tree, 10805 N Oracle Road next to Home Depot in Oro Valley. A donation collection box will be in the Vista Office lobby or items may be placed in the Mission baskets in the church narthex. Donations of any of the following new toiletry items will be gratefully accepted:

SHAMPOO, CONDITIONER, BODY WASH BAR SOAP, LOTION, DEODORANT, CHAP STICK, TOOTHPASTE, TOOTHBRUSH

If you are not a shopper, check donations may be mailed/made out to Vista UMC (NOTE Emerge Mission Project on the envelope and in the check memo line). Any additional funds will be used to purchase new toiletry items, wash clothes and towels for mothers and children served by EMERGE.

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HAND SANITIZER & FACE MASKS

(Will be purchased with Vista Mission Funds)

## EMERGE! WISH LIST ITEMS

The following additional new items are also greatly needed by EMERGE!  
TOWELS WASH CLOTHES TWIN SHEETS

## EMERGE! ONLY ACCEPTS NEW ITEMS

**Gently used** donated towels, wash clothes and sheets will be donated to IMPACT and our sister church in Agua Prieta, Mexico. Place these items in the church mission baskets.

## EMERGE! Provides Victims and Survivors:

- Crisis intervention, shelter, safety planning
- Domestic abuse education
- 911 emergency cell phones
- Goal planning assistance

Information, needed resources & referrals.

## ***FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE***

### ***“SHEPHERD CALLERS”***

Our little group of “Shepherd Callers” has gotten off to a fabulous start! Thank you to those who graciously agreed to call our Vista members every few months and it’s been a delight to hear “reports” back! One thing for sure, Vista folks love to talk and many have commented on how much they like this communicating in an effort to keep Vista together during this challenging time. If you haven’t been contacted yet and would like a call, please email Robin Conner: [robin.mikeconner@gmail.com](mailto:robin.mikeconner@gmail.com) or Pam Holder: [pholder45@gmail.com](mailto:pholder45@gmail.com)

February’s Zoom Fest was enjoyable and we hope more folks join us in the near future. As more of us continue to get vaccinated, and the CDC guidelines become relaxed, we look forward to in-person events. Watch for announcements!

Robin Conner (520) 818-1177

Pam Holder (520) 343-1225

## ***Rewards Programs***

Enrolling in either or both of these programs benefits the church when you make a purchase. We receive a quarterly rebate from both programs.

### **Fry's Community Rewards**

Vista de la Montana UMC is enrolled as a member of Fry's Community Rewards Program. Our Member Number is 22553. Our church will receive a cash rebate quarterly, calculated on how much our members have purchased at Fry's or any Kroger affiliate.

**PLEASE NOTE: Before you can link your Fry's V.I.P card to an organization, you must have an email address and an on-line account.**

### **Amazon Smile**

You can use your Amazon Smile account when shopping on-line. When you use Amazon smile after you have designated Vista UMC, the church will receive a rebate.

Here is how to do it:

Go to Amazon Smile

Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials.

Choose the Charitable Organization tab and find/select Vista de la Montana UMC.

Start shopping!

If you have questions about either of these programs, please contact Valerie Hammons.

## ***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/>).

## *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!

## *Echoes April 2021 Mission Outreach Ministry*

Happy Easter to everyone! What a joy it is to, once again celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, as we work in our Mission program at Vista to show the loving face of God to our community and beyond. There are no words sufficient enough, to thank you for your support for our Mission Ministry across this past year that has seen so much suffering and loss. As we see the community opening up to some semblance of “normal” we still have a lot of work to do to assist with the remnant of this Covid virus. We are dedicating this year’s Easter offering to the needs of our various mission projects that have experienced the heavy burden of this pandemic. Let me share just a few of them with you.

Our **sister church Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta, Mexico**, has still not seen, at this writing, any antivirus vaccinations in their city. Mexico is just now purchasing the vaccine from the available supply in Europe and with, the now anticipated overflow of vaccine product in the USA, they may be able to assist in providing a supply for the Mexican community. Two of the 3 hospitals of the city have been solely dedicated to treating the many Covid patients at no charge, but all meds received by the patients must be repaid. This is a heavy burden for the many newly unemployed and sick due to the pandemic. The masses that are accumulating at our border crossings, and many now ill, is an added burden to the border cities like Agua Prieta. The additional burden to our church community is the utility expenses that must be repaid, and the monthly cost just keeps on accumulating.

**Impact in Catalina** continues to see the numbers growing of people seeking food for their families in higher numbers each week. Impact continues to deliver food to the seniors, the sick and the shut-ins.

**Sister Jose Homeless Women’s Shelter** is seeing women seeking help in larger numbers than ever before. We have committed to assist with the plexiglass partitions between the sleeping cots to protect from contamination.

**The Snak Pak program** is carried on by one of the members of the Coronado School staff, by home delivering up to 45 food bags a week to the homes of children who have been listed due to food and nutritional shortages.

Please see the article by Jan Hopke Almer, of the needs of **Emerge Center** for families fleeing abuse and mistreatment. When they flee their homes, most leave with only the clothes on their backs. During this past year many homes have been sadly affected as a result of the pressures of this pandemic.

As you can see, this pandemic has had a big impact on those I have listed and so many more. We thank God that we can be of some assistance to those who need our help, and we are only able to do that, because of you and your continued support. We thank you for your trust in your Mission Team as we continue to help those who God has placed in our pathway to serve.

The Mission team meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of each month in the Elizabeth room, and we are following all the CDC rules.

Our next meeting will be on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00PM.

If you would like to join our Team,

feel free to call me.

Yours in Mission Service:

Dee Berman,

Chairman of Vista Mission Outreach Ministry

520-825-7115 [deerick1968@gmail.com](mailto:deerick1968@gmail.com)



## *March 2021 Echoes Finance Committee Article*

**February 2021** income was \$1,078 over budget and expenses were \$1,949 under budget. General Fund Net Income was \$3,027 over budget after our mortgage principal payment.

Attendance was 216 in person, 814 on Live Streaming and approximately 250 on Facebook for a total of over 1280!!

Our mortgage principal, with our Lenten Challenge, was reduced to \$469,277 at the end of March! We have paid off over \$80,000 in 10 months!! March ending mortgage principal will be under \$445





# *The Miracle Rummage Sale!*

Once again, the good members of Vista pulled off a stunning event: our rummage sale. The location proved to be highly effective in keeping the sale from interfering with church activities, especially Sunday. We were up the hill by the sheds. We advertised Friday at 9 AM. Next time it will be **7am!** No other option unless it is 6:30AM. Our first customer arrived at 6:40. By 7 we had a crowd and by 7:15 there was a throng, which continued to 1PM with brisk sales.

So, if anyone wants to know why we opened early. Never shut the door on a crowd of people waving 20\$ bills! A table saw was our biggest ticket item at 260\$. This was a wonderful tool, sold by Sears back when Sears sold pride of the shop tools. Another really good item was a double refrigerator. We were given an electric personal scooter and sold it on the first day! Every sale is different. This sale, furniture was a slow sell, especially sofas. We were blessed with tools this time. We had every kind of tool, a mountain of pliers, screw drivers and wire cutters. ALL sold by noon first day. All power tools, gone on Friday.

We sold pictures and picture frames like hot cakes. By Saturday 10AM we were into the sheds for more goods. We unloaded boxes and sold these assorted items as fast as we priced them. By noon Saturday we cut prices and Sunday morning we were half off. We were also out of resupply. All the sheds were empty, and we were taking down tables. This is proof that the sale is a success! I never thought we would see empty sheds but let me tell you all our sheds including the one at U haul are bare. This was filled with an estate we were blessed with.

Remember this, as we were setting up on Tuesday morning it was 39 degrees and spitting snow. The situation was bleak, approaching dire. The ominous dark sky was threatening. Hey, we had advertising out and commitments made!! Wednesday was better, Thursday was fair, and **Friday was a blessing from Heaven.** The weekend weather was splendid. **This was the Miracle Rummage Sale.**

The crowd was sick of sitting home and the wonderful days brought them out to spend money, & enjoy themselves. Vista has a 20-year reputation of the best rummage sales. This is my 6<sup>th</sup> Vista sale. We have top stuff at fair prices. Many people say, we wait for your sale or when will you have another? The UMM keeps the bar high! I thank all the good Vista members who helped, several ladies were on site for half of all open hours and many hours pre and post. UMM members were always present. I also thank the donors; many items were top stuff!

Next time, someone should do donuts and coffee for sale. Maybe soup and sandwiches. Make a buck. Probably make \$500 after expenses. Some things never sell like electronics, computers, area rugs, pressed wood furniture, hide a beds, books, and clothing. We had about 600lb of books and only got \$20 for the lot so no more of these in the future.

**This was a miracle sale.** We had splendid weather. Remember a line from Henry V; blessed be God and not our part for it. Amen. So many variables went our way no one can take credit. We received a large estate as a gift last September. We had no storage then. The estate paid the rent of a 10 X 15 storage room at U haul. That we were to pay rent beginning next month, is in part a reason for this date of sale.

A highly noticeable player in this event was Pete Rice, He very patiently drew attention by the highway with flags and banners through the entire sale. Thank you, Pete! I cannot name all the players, if I tried, I would miss someone. So, let me thank EVERYONE who participated in any form! **Our net was \$9,910!!!** The whole thing was so blessed. I am happy to be part of it. **Amen to God Almighty, the author of this event and the guarantor of its success!** Jim Bless, UMMP





# *April Celebrations*

## **Anniversaries**

RUPE, Marvin & Jean	04/03
HUNT, Ken & Sharon	04/09
BRINDLE, Delores & Kermit	04/13
PHILLIPPI, Lou & Nancy	04/20
YOUNG, Joe & June	04/21
LITTLE, Don & Betty	04/29
MARSH, Dan	04/29

## **Birthdays**

NEVINS, Ilene	04/02
BUKES, Janet	04/03
BELLAH, Bill	04/05
SMITH, Leo	04/06
BESCH, Jo Anne	04/07
OLSON, Linda	04/07
PHILLIPPI, Nancy	04/07
ROOKER, Joanie	04/07
EXTRACT, Clif	04/08
WARD, Linda	04/09
SIMON, Jim	04/11
ZELLO-MCCOTTER, Linda Eva	04/12
COOKE, Lois	04/14
RYTTER, Jane	04/17
WATTS, Beler	04/17
TERRY, Cliff	04/18
JACKSON, Jim	04/22
LANGWIG, Donna	04/22
MILLER, Linda	04/23
MOYER, Michael	04/24
OBEAR, JoAnn	04/26
SALAVA, Fern	04/27
ICEMAN, Dennis	04/29
REYNOLDS, Richard	04/29

*Happy Birthday!*



# May Celebrations

## **Anniversaries**

HIGGINS, Dennis & Peggy	05/08
BIXBY, Dave & Lynn	05/10
MOYER, Michael & Jenna Rae	05/10
PARSON, Gail & Darrell	05/10
BLEESS, Jim & Von Cell	05/11
DAVIES, John & Joan	05/23
BULL, Fred & Kim	05/25
AUGUST, Don & Alice	05/27
WILLIAMS, Norm & Andrea	05/27
ZEBAL, Ken & Liz	05/27
DANIELS, Bill & Beckl	05/28
AUTHUR, Bob & Janelle	05/31
PODLASEK, Ken & Diane	05/31

## **Birthdays**

BYWATER, Gene	05/03
MILLARD, Jan	05/03
HERD, Eileen	05/05
MEISE, Pat	05/05
O'DONALD, Jay	05/06
SMITH, Don	05/06
GRAY, Linda	05/07
PRESTON, Mary	05/07
HUBBARD, Jo Ann	05/08
JOHNSON, Pat	05/10
PHILLIPS, Allen	05/10
FARNUM, Jeanne	05/11
HERNANDEZ, Klana	05/13
BERG, Mary	05/14
MAWHINNEY, Susan	05/15
YOUNG, Mary Lou	05/16
BROWNING, Jerry	05/17
BILLS, Harper	05/21
MILLER, Robert	05/21
FUJITA-HERNANDEZ, Ami	05/23
RUTKOWSKI, Marilyn	05/23
CAMPBELL, Kathy	05/24
ATWOOD, Jan	05/26
BULL, Kim	05/26
ISAAC, Alfred	05/27
NELSON, Ruth	05/28
GUPTILL, June	05/28
AGUIRRE, Jasmine	05/31
COFFMAN, Anne	05/31

*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](mailto:VistaUMC@aol.com)

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK

AND AT OUR WEBSITE:

[www.Vistaumc.org](http://www.Vistaumc.org)



April 2021

NON PROFIT ORG

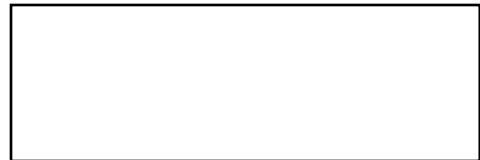
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Come celebrate with us at Vista Church!