



VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC

# Echoes

August 2021

Pastor's Pen,

As this pandemic inches to its close two images come to mind. The first is from the movie "The Patriot". The particular scene is after a battle in which the American raiding party got trounced and scattered. Men struggled back to their camp in an abandoned church in the middle of a swamp. They came in by ones, twos and threes beaten down and battled scared. They gathered to regroup and continue the fight. The other scene that comes to my mind is the end of the Exile as recorded in the Psalms, Ezra and Nehemiah. The Jews had been in Exile 70 years and only a few of them were left after the Exile who had seen the old temple and Jerusalem. When these few returned and saw the greatly diminished temple rebuilt it says, *"But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy."*

In September I believe the first Sunday that the choir is back it is going to be the same way. Some will cry from joy for the return of once was and others will cry for sadness knowing who and what was lost in this pandemic. As I write this it is after a Sunday in which we have had the largest attendance since March 16<sup>th</sup> of 2020. As I looked out over the congregation and saw everyone gathered, I did not know whether to cry or shout for joy, so instead I called us all to worship the God who has brought us back together again after so long apart.

We, now, like the ancient Hebrews are coming back together again to lay a new foundation for the future. We mourn who and what we have lost and with great hope and faith look forward to the future. Like the writer of Psalm 126 said on return from the Exile,

- <sup>1</sup> When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dreamed.  
<sup>2</sup> Our mouths were filled with laughter,  
our tongues with songs of joy.  
Then it was said among the nations,  
"The Lord has done great things for them."  
<sup>3</sup> The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are filled with joy.

In Christ's Love

Pastor Fred

PS. "Rally Sunday" will be September 5<sup>th</sup>!!





## Vista's Shepherds

Our Shepherds continue to make calls to their respective folks and this is proving to be an excellent reference for keeping everyone current and up to date. Our recently released new directory added a few names to the Shepherd's lists, so you may get a call one of these days if you haven't already. It's exciting to see Vista come alive again, beginning with Sunday services and expanding meetings in our beautiful new building! Please be sure to let your Shepherd know of any changes, thoughts about anything you'd like to see in the future at Vista, and if you haven't return to us yet, what can we do to entice you back?

Please contact me if you haven't received a call and I'll connect you to your person!

**Robin Conner**

robin.mikeconner@gmail.com

**Phone:** 520-818-1177

**Mobile:** 916-549-4939

## Eyeglasses+ Collection

Blessed to be a blessing – While Spring cleaning would you save your old hearing aides, unused eyeglasses, cases, contacts & cell phones to donate them for a good cause? You may drop them off in the main office during business hours. And *soon* there will be a collection box on Sundays.

Thank you for helping others see more clearly – What a great way to serve our community.



## Vista's



## Remembrance Garden

Please consider ordering a personalized brick honoring a spouse, child, parent, family, and/or pets. The bricks are priced at \$125, with most all of the money applied to the New Vista Building Fund. Complete one of the forms located either in the Narthex or the office, and then deliver it to the church office with your check.

## YOUR HEART WILL LEAD YOU TO THE DESERT WHERE I WILL SPEAK.

Hosea 2:14

These words are written on the front wall inside the chapel at the Redemptorist Renewal Center in Tucson, Arizona. When I read them and let my thoughts center there I feel the peace and calm of that holy ground. Where every smile, hug, kind word feels as though it comes directly from Jesus. Surrounded by the Sonoran desert in Saguaro National Park West you will hear the voice God in many ways. In the silence of an early morning lit by a just risen sun is the perfect setting to meet God and listen as He speaks. A night sky filled with millions of God's stars. A mighty Saguaro cactus reaching its arms up in prayer. All of these things can be yours for 5 whole days.

If you have never attended a 5-day Academy for Spiritual Formation this may be the perfect time. The pandemic is fading and many of us need to feel the arms of Jesus around us and to hear that all will be well. Together we will let the rhythm of the Academy reach our souls as we take in the music, laughter, prayer, and silence. And if you are an Academy old-timer I hope this has awakened your desire.

Please join us October 24 – 29. Our theme this time is A Journey to the Heart of Christ. Scholarships are available.

For more information follow this link: <http://www.az5dayacademy.org/>

With questions contact Gail Parson; [gailma@comcast.net](mailto:gailma@comcast.net) or 520-275-7117

# Children, Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Children & Youth

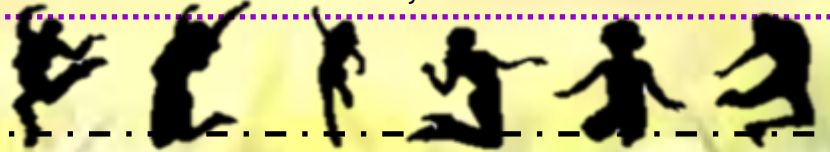


Summer Sunday

## Young Adults

Join this 18-25yo group and continue your Christian walk with Vista UMC.

Please contact Valerie Hammons to sign up for Sunday classes.



## Youth Lock In Coming . . .

**South District Youth BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT**

**ALL Middle and High School youth are invited.**

**Friday August 20th 11:30PM at DEFY!!!!**

**Pick up 7AM — More details coming soon!!!**

2021  
**game**  
*night*  
it's

## GAME NIGHT COMING September 21ST!

After more than a year of being unable to meet and play games, we are happy to announce that Game Night is happening once again on Tuesday, September 21 at 6:00 pm! So mark your calendar now and plan to join your Vista friends in fun and fellowship. If you are new to Vista, come and find out how much fun we have with a variety of games. Mexican Train Dominoes, and Rummikub are always available, as well as a variety of card and board games. You are invited to bring your favorite game as well. In the past we have always had a 'potluck' of snacks and beverages to share. However, for the time being it would be better for each of us to bring our own beverage and snack, not to share.

Hopefully that will change in the months to come. So please join us. We have a lot of fun! If you have any questions about Game Night, feel free to call

**Pam Holder at 520-343-1225**





COME WORSHIP WITH US—  
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TOO



## Grief Support Group

Thursdays at 1:30 PM  
St. Luke Room (Education Building)

### WHY JOIN A GRIEF GROUP?

When grieving the loss of a loved one, we need all the support we can get. In this group you will find you are not alone on your painful journey—others have some of the same feelings and challenges you do. Some will be ahead of you in the healing process, some will be where you once were. It is healing and comforting being with people who truly care and support each other. And where you will learn some coping skills.

Questions or to register call  
Pastor Fred 520-825-1985 or  
Gerry Alberts 520-975-3039

## Missions Ministry

As we continue with our re-opening and offering programs that were scaled back during the pandemic, we're excited to announce that the Grocery Cart will be back out on the patio to collect your food donations for Impact's Catalina Food Bank on First Sunday of August (August 1<sup>st</sup>), to return to our full mission of First Sunday Food Bank gifts.

We are very appreciative of the monetary donations that made possible our continuing to support of the Food Bank during the pandemics, but now also want to return to our donations of food stuffs, that are collected for the first Sunday of the month. While all food stuffs are welcome, I was told that right now pasta, tomatoes (either diced or sauce) and soup (to which additional food can be added for a dinner) were especially helpful.

This is an important service to our community as our Food Bank distributes more than 460 bags monthly, totaling nearly 4000 lbs. of food, along with an additional 1300 lbs. of pantry goods, and thousands of pounds of produce, meat and dairy each month. **So let's give thanks for our blessings and share them with others, to prevent hunger. If you prefer to donate funds, please put "Food Bank" in the memo line of your check.**



# **Mission Outreach Ministry August 2021**

## **Dee Berman**

Dear Vista Family:

The RAIN has come and we are blessed with a break in the oppressive HEAT wave we have been experiencing. Each of these weather conditions are hard on the homeless in our community. Your Mission giving makes it possible for us to give a helping hand to help those who live on the street. We are partnering with our Vista Youth in the preparation of food bags to give out to those in need thru the Sister Jose Homeless Women's Center. They distribute 60 to 70 lunch bags a day to those who come to the center for food. Thank you for making it possible for us to do this. We want to continue to teach our young people that we must "help our neighbors as we help ourselves". I want to thank Valerie Hammons for all her good work in making this effort possible and showing our youth how they can help others in Mission Service..

This past Monday, Jan Hopke Almer and her team of helpers in 3 cars, were able to deliver all the backpacks and school supplies to the storage bin in Douglas for transport to our sister church Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta, Mexico. A big THANK YOU goes to these good folks who made this possible and to you who sponsored a student. All these supplies will be shuttled over to the church, one small load after another, over the next month. I want to also thank Jan and her partners Peggy Smith & Robin Connor for the tremendous effort to keep all the list up to date of students and their sponsors, that is in constant change. This past Sunday, the pictures of the students were gave out to the sponsors on apples and stars. If you did not get yours and you are a paid sponsor (\$25.00) please contact Jan. We ask you to put your student's picture in a place where you can see it each day and as you glance at the picture, please lift a prayer to our Heavenly Father for your student. Life on the Border is quite challenging and these young people are making a difference in their community as they grow up, get an education and certainly raise the quality of life for themselves, their families and their church. The Covid pandemic has been a huge challenge for Pastor Gela as she continues to lead and minister to her congregation, so please keep her in your prayers!

A number of you have asked me about the cards made by the Women's Coop in Agua Prieta, make from your used cards. I have received a box of new cards and we will be selling them in the near future as we move forward with less restrictions. If you have old cards of any occasion, that you would like to donate, you may place them in the Mission baskets in the narthex for recycling into lovely new cards that support the families at our sister church.

I want to remind you that we want to continue to support, on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month, those in need of food in our community, thru the Impact Food Bank in Catalina. Please see Leslie Hawkins report for further information.

It is our prayer and goal at Vista, for every one of us will be in Mission, as we do our best to serve the Lord thru our Mission Outreach Ministry. Our next Mission meeting will be on Aug. the 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM ( please note the change of time) in the Elizabeth room. Feel free to join us as our team leader give their reports on the mission projects they lead. We are here to show God's love to our community and beyond!

Yours in Mission Service: Dee Berman Chairman  
520-825-7115 or [deerick1968@gmail.com](mailto:deerick1968@gmail.com)



**STEPHEN  
MINISTRY**

## How Can I Become a Stephen Minister?

Begin by talking to one of our Stephen Leaders or Stephen Ministers, and they can tell you more. We plan to begin our next training class in 2022 after COVID restrictions are lifted.

*Join us as we pray for our Friends, Family,  
Church, Community, Leaders and Country.*

### ***Compassion Connection***

#### ***In Need of Continued Prayers for Healing***

Barry & Gale Shuman, Paul & Fran Hampton, Steven Extract  
Bill Goins, Margaret Overman, Bob Sherman, Bill Gureck  
Megan Spencer, Al Isaac, Suzanne Ewing, Allen Phillips, Ben Sanders  
Jeanne Parrish, Frank Buck, Greg Snider, Slim Crowson, Joan Robinson

#### ***Home Bound***

John & Joan Davies, Bob & Eileen Herd, Marv Rutkowski  
Betty Jean Emberton, and Sharon Poole



### ***Prayers for Our Churches***

Each month churches in the South District pray with and for each other. Please pray for the pastors, congregation, and community of the following:



#### **August 2021**

New Hope UMC, Tucson

St. James UMC, Tucson

St. Francis in the Foothills UMC, Tucson

And

Our sister church, Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta, Mexico.





## ***Explore the Many Ways to Give to the Church***

Stewardship Campaign for 2021 was completed in the Fall, but new people can still pledge. There are many ways to give to the Church that makes 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.

### **TACH – 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.*

### **TIRA 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!

### **Church Contact Info**

Office Hours Monday-Friday 9-5, Closed 12-1 for lunch. Phone: 520-825-1985



# 21 Down Syndrome

Stuart Watkins

You're not going to see this many kinds of apples in the grocery store, but there are 7,500 varieties of apples in existence throughout the world—2,500 of which are grown in the United States. (Found on Google Search.)

All apples have various skin colors and thicknesses, and taste ever so differently. Think of Christianity as the religion that accepts any bushel of apples regardless of skin color, thickness, or taste.

Children are children and each one is special, even a child born with Down Syndrome. In church I learned that some 90 % of pregnant women whose child will be born with Down Syndrome choose to have that child aborted. If this information is accurate, then is it because the woman or husband does not understand that the Down Syndrome child will grow up with the same emotions of love, happiness, fear, wonderment and joy as any other child?

Would Jesus have made a Down Syndrome child sit at His feet when having other children sit on His lap?

What part of "All are welcome in Christianity" tells Christians that applies to everyone except those born with Down Syndrome?

The same question can be applied to the entire human race when you think of humans being 7,500 varieties of apples. Humans have various skin colors and thicknesses, and have different tastes.

Jesus Christ welcomes us all, every one of us. He died, not just for some, but for you, me, and the rest of us in our great big bushel of apples.



## **Finance Committee**

June was a good month. Usually, income in the summer is low and doesn't cover expenses (average of \$39,000 monthly). More members are using ACH and credit card giving which really helps the church have a steadier income during the summer.

>Income was much better than April or May, since several members make a semi-annual pledge or fulfill an annual pledge: \$3,249 over budget.

>Expenses plus mortgage payment: (\$1,146) under budget

>General Fund Net Income almost broke even but was -\$427: \$4,395 over budget.

YTD our income is slightly less than 2020 and our expenses are less. General Fund Net Income is (\$6,265) less than 2020 due to mortgage payments.

We now owe \$413,041 on our mortgage. Attendance was 496 in person and a total of 1212 with



## Vista Committees and Teams are looking for YOU!



**USHERS** - To be an Sunday Usher or a Fill In—Please contact Cliff Terry 575-635-7641 or [terryalcl@aol.com](mailto:terryalcl@aol.com) He will work with your schedule.

**COMMUNION SERVERS** - Sue Staker would like you to join the Communion Team. Please call her at 520-825-5787 or [suestaker@hotmail.com](mailto:suestaker@hotmail.com)

**LITURGISTS** - Would you like to be part of the Liturgy readers on Sunday mornings? Please call Jan Crown with your open dates 520-825-3335 [jwmcrown@gmail.com](mailto:jwmcrown@gmail.com)

Please call the church office 520-825-1985 if you would like information on any of our committees, task forces or teams. We would love to have you join us!



**STEPHEN  
MINISTRY**

**“THEREFORE ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER AND BUILD EACH OTHER UP, JUST AS IN FACT YOU ARE DOING.”  
1 THESSALONIANS 5:11**

**“One another” has a reciprocal meaning: I will bear your burdens, and you will bear mine. In this sense, an openness to Christian caring is not just being willing to care for and help others. It is also being willing to be cared for and be helped by others.**

# ***August Celebrations***

## Birthdays

Linda Floyd	08/04	Sela Tonga	08/05	Jean Browning	08/06
Peggy Higgins	08/06	Ken Podlasek	08/08	Ginny Jackson	08/09
Karen Rice	08/09	JennaRae Moyer	08/12	Paul Oelrich	08/12
Kailyn Harwick	08/13	Michelle Hotchkiss	08/13	Glenna Snider	08/13
Edna Alligood	08/15	Jackie Holden	08/15	Kathy Plum	08/16
Gene Radtke	08/17	Daniel Boring	08/19	Marge Leedom	08/19
Ron Olson	08/20	Kathleen Isaac	08/21	Lynn Kelley	08/21
Bob Sherman	08/22	Mary Louise Roberson	08/22	Natassja White	08/23
Howard Young	08/23	John Davies	08/25	Florence Duckett	08/25
Linda Hartman	08/25	Linda Whittington	08/25	Gerry Alberts	08/27
Linda Valder	08/27	Lars Eriksson	08/29	Dan Marsh	08/31
Jean Rupe	08/31				

## Anniversaries

Phil & Mary Preston	08/08	John & Jan Crown	08/09
Howard & Mary Lou Young	08/09	Deede & Fred Baum	08/15
Phyllis & Dan Spencer	08/16	Clif & Laurie Extract	08/17
Leo & Doris Smith	08/18	Walt & Mary Louise Roberson	08/19
Paul & Margaret Larmour	08/22	Mary-Ann & Peter Mehlhorn	08/23
Bill & Mary Bellah	08/26	Milt & Jan Bukes	08/26
Al & Jacquie Garcia	08/28		

## **VISTA 90 YEARS PLUS CLUB CELEBRATION**

Are you turning 90 this year? I would like to invite you to join the Vista 90 Years Plus Club. Please contact Delores Brindle at 520-907-5706. We will be honoring you on 9/19/2021 at the 10 AM church service. If you have any questions, please call or email [deloresjb@gmail.com](mailto:deloresjb@gmail.com)

# Sept Celebrations

## Birthdays

Karon Carpenter	09/02	Thomas Floyd	09/02	Jeanne Parrish	09/02
Sinai Penuelas	09/03	Gifford Tompkins	09/03	Louise O'Donald	09/06
Rob Coleman	09/07	Jan Hopke-Almer	09/07	David McFarland	09/08
Delores Brindle	09/10	Don Little	09/11	Sue Staker	09/11
Andrea Williams	09/11	Mary Heywood	09/13	Joan Logan	09/14
Jean Stevenson	09/14	Raymond James Parker	09/15	Juan Venhuizen	09/15
Boyd Carpenter	09/19	Lynn Duenkel	09/21	Noel Rytter	09/22
George Bauder	09/23	Morgan Bills	09/23	Watt Bills	09/23
Sandra Gureck	09/23	Gordon Odell	09/23	Laurrie Iceman	09/24
Peggy Hoeft	09/25	Phil Preston	09/25	Katherine Parker	09/27
Joe Staker	09/27	Ken Zebal	09/27		

## Anniversaries

Larry & Jackie Holden	09/02	Gene & Paula Radtke	09/02
Dave & Edna Alligood	09/03	Peggy & Russell Hoeft	09/05
Bernie & Diane Mann	09/06	Bill & Sandy Gureck	09/10
Belar & Cheryl Watts	09/12	Kevin & Kat Parker	09/13
Jime & Joyce Holman	09/16	Denny & Laurrie Iceman	09/16
David & Glenda McFarland	09/16	Paul & Shawn Oelrich	09/17
Robert & Barbara Miller	09/20	Marshall & Teresa Sanders	09/20
David & Nancy Yob	09/22	Bob & Barbara Sherman	09/24
Joe & Sue Staker	09/25	Jerry & Jean Browning	09/28

## Leaving Your Legacy Through A Bequest

A popular way to leave a lasting legacy to your faith is to establish a bequest. A bequest is a gift from your estate—a transfer of cash, securities, or other property. You can make a gift to the Vista Permanent Endowment Fund by including language in your will or living trust dedicating a specific amount or percentage to the Fund. By including the PEF in your will, your investment will help Vista church keep the gospel message alive and growing.

### Types of Bequest

**Specific bequest:** One of the many ways to support the PEF through your will or trust, and the easiest, is a bequest of a fixed dollar amount or specific property. If you would like your charitable gifts to remain in proportion to other bequests, you can designate a specific percentage of your estate, rather than a fixed amount, be given to the PEF.

**Residuary bequest:** If you do not wish to specify the exact size or nature of your charitable provision (often the size of a future estate is difficult to estimate), you might consider naming the PEF as a residual beneficiary of your estate. You may provide that all or a portion of the remainder of your estate shall pass to the PEF after other commitments have been fulfilled.

Should you decide to include Vista Permanent Endowment Fund in your estate plan, please supply your estate plan information on the form available at the web link below. If clicking on the link does not work, copy and paste the link into your browser.

[https://www.vistaumc.org/hp\\_wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Estate-Plan-Form.pdf](https://www.vistaumc.org/hp_wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Estate-Plan-Form.pdf)



**VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC**

3001 EAST MIRAVISTA LANE

TUCSON, AZ 85739

**MONDAY - FRIDAY**

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

**PHONE 520-825-1985**



**E-mail: VistaUMC.org@gmail.com**

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK

AND AT OUR WEBSITE:

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



August 2021

NON PROFIT ORG

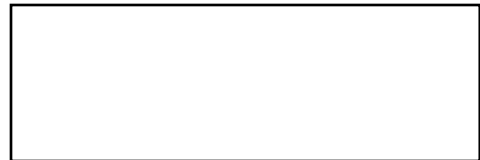
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**Sunday September 5<sup>th</sup>**

If you have been thinking of coming back to church

**Save this date!**

**OUR CHOIR WILL RETURN!**

**IT IS COMMUNION SUNDAY!**

**OUR YOUTH AND CHILDREN WILL BE PROMOTED!**

**WE ARE A THANKFUL CONGREGATION AND WILL HAVE A JOYOUS  
CONGREGATIONAL CELEBRATION!**

**COME JOIN US!!!**