



VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC

Echoes

January

Connect & Grow 2023

Pastor's Pen

January 2023

Dear members and friends of Vista Church,

I am writing this on Christmas Eve, Eve, December 23rd. This is not the Christmas season anyone in our family thought we would have. My mother-in-law fell and broke her nose and had a brain bleed from the impact. Right now, she is in ICU in San Antonio. My wife flew out 2 days ago to join her. My daughter Sarah is here, and she is sick and soon we will be off to urgent care. The grandkids have been sick. So, all the happy Christmas plans we had as a family have been canceled or put on hold. Not only for my immediate family but my wife's extended family in Texas. What a mess. What a Christmas. Reminds me of the first Christmas when Jesus was born.

Mary rode a burro and walked about 90 miles from her home to Bethlehem. Riding a burro is not that comfortable even when you are not 9 months pregnant. And then when they arrived, as you know, there was no place for them to stay except a filthy, cold and dark stable. I have been in 3rd world stables and well...I don't ever want to return. So, into this mess the Savior of the world was born. Fitting place for the Savior to begin his work on behalf of us all for the mess of sin we find ourselves in.

But that was just the beginning. Soon they were on the road to Egypt and then they wound up in Nazareth. Things began badly, but in the end, turned into the salvation of the world. We are beginning a new year at Vista Church. 2022 has been quite a challenge but as things got better for Jesus and his family after the first Christmas, I trust the same for my family and for the Vista Church family in 2023. God holds our future in his hands, and we trust in him. As faithful as God has been in bringing us through the messes of the past we trust he will bring us into the future... come what may.

As I write this, I do not know my Mother-in-laws prognosis, but she is a faithful woman of God, so no matter the mess of this Christmas her place in heaven is assured forevermore. May you have such assurance in your life come the challenges of the New Year.

In Christ's love

Happy New Year!!!

Pastor Fred

*The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.*

United in Prayer

Compassion Connection

George Bauder, Orland Burbey, Rev. Alan Campbell, Jan Crown,
Dr. Chuck Crown, Slim Crowson, Steven Extract, Alexis Extract,
Kay Gragg, Jack Groenier Sr., Bill Gureck, Fran Hampton,
Leslie Hawkins, Ami Hernandez, Peggy Hoeft, Jackie Holden,
Pam Holder, Jim Holman, Jan Hopke-Almer, Ken & Sharon Hunt,
Dottie McIntyre, Margaret Overman, Allen Phillips, Barbara Phillips,
Sharon Poole, Karen Rice, Walt & Mary Louise Roberson,
Fern Salava, Art Schweitzer, Leo Smith, Meagan Spencer,
Tiffany Spencer, Jan Springer, Marilyn Waldo

Home Bound

Rev. John Davies, Florence Duckett,
Bob & Eileen Herd, Barbara Horton,
Don & Betty Little



Hospice Care

Dorothy Conner, Barry Shuman

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:

January 2023

Catalina UMC, Tucson
San Pedro Valley UMC, Benson
Desert Skies UMC, Tucson
and our sister church, Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta, Mexico

Don and Betty Little extend prayers for gratitude for all the cards and calls received at Christmas. Thank you Vista Family for remembering

2023 FLOWER DONATIONS

The 2022 Flower Chart is in the Narthex. If there is an occasion for which you would like to celebrate (Birthday, Anniversary, In Honor of, In Memory of, or in Celebration of an event) please let us help you announce it by ordering a flower arrangement to be displayed at the Altar on Sunday. Sign up in the Narthex or contact Diane Coleman, or the church office at 520-825-1985. Thank you!



Connect & Grow 2023

A NOTE FROM JANE

What a beautiful musical Advent and Christmas we had at Vista! I am so thankful for all the musicians (vocal and bell ringers) as well as the cookie bakers, decorators, organizers, narrators and so many others who helped make our cantata a successful and meaningful program. It was wonderful to see so many guests in the congregation - your outreach to friends and family brought many to our church who do not routinely worship with us. My prayer is that they were "Touched by the Child" and will return for worship with us.

Our choir is always looking for new members. We are a "family" - you, too, can be a part of our choir family. **Choir rehearsals are Wednesdays at 1:00 in the Elizabeth Room.**

Don't sing? Perhaps the bell choir is for you. We welcome anyone who is interested. **The Bell Choir meets in the sanctuary, Mondays at 2:00.**

Blessings, Jane

Please contact our Director of Music Ministries, Jane Anderson at vistaumcmusic@gmail.com

UMM

Hi good Christian folks at Vista. Hello from UMM! Have you missed us? It's been a while since UMM has appeared on these pages at least penned by me. First let me report on the party at Ron and Nancy Olson's house last month. A wonderful time was had by all. The epicurean theme was sloppy Joes.

I'm pretty sure Julia Child never served these to her distinguish guess but . . . she (and they) missed out. The Joes were great, served with various trimmings and we had a real feast for everyone. Bashas cake and ice cream set all this off below the expanding belt line and no one complained about the food, quality, or quantity.

All this bounty with campfire and camaraderie. Life doesn't get better. The weather was great and many pressing world matters were resolved, at least for an hour. Anyone who has not visited Ron and Nancy's home and backyard has missed the boat.

Tauk Tours wishes they had such a stop in the southwest. Every needed convenience is nearby, and its homey, private and beautiful.

Well, here is the deal. At our last UMM meeting the body voted and past \$1500 payment towards the annual mortgage matching program. We are in the last days of 2022 and short about \$2000. Each dollar Vista contributes is matched by generous, anonymous party. Here we can pay down the mortgage two for one. Don't let this pass by. It's too good of a deal.

Our hope at UMM is Vista givers will donate a few more dollars each, toward our common goal. The goal is chewing through our mortgage debt in double time. Remember, no mortgage commitment equals greater freedom to build Vista and support Christian endeavors.

UMM works for all.

Jim Bless UMMP

Children, Youth & Young Adult



(Worship on Wednesday)

Wednesday nights have been filled with our families with children. Such an amazing blessing to be in ministry and worship with these incredible families!

February 15th we will begin new classes for parents and kids. Join us for fellowship, fun and learning.

For more information see Valerie Hammons

ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays 10:00 AM St John Room

JR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays 10:00 AM St Luke Room

SR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays 10:00 AM St Mark Room

SEEK THE LORD YOUR GOD —

Thank you for the opportunity to work with the amazing kids of Vista and their families. Our time together meant the world to me and I pray that you all continue on your spiritual paths and seek the Lord. Many Blessings to ALL, Peggy Jo.

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP TIME

Our next meeting will be Sunday February 5th.

We meet after church at Basha's Food Court at 11:40 — Contact Valerie Hammons or Peggy Jo Harwick for more information. We would love to see you and share where we have seen the hand of God in our lives.



Dates to Remember

WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAYS (WOW)

Families of Vista—join us on Wednesdays at 6PM in the Elizabeth Room.

Activities for all family members.

YOUTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Summer 2023

CONFIRMATION

2023

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

Contact Valerie
for more information

Opportunities

Online Calendar

Please check our website for an up to date calendar and for more details on meetings and events.

www.vistaumc.org/calendar/

Scan here
for online
calendar



Family Game Night

Wednesday Feb. 22nd 6:00 PM Elizabeth Room

We are looking forward to sharing this time with you and your family. Join us for this fun monthly event in the Elizabeth Room. Games will be provided, or you can bring your favorite one to share. At this time there will be no food sharing, so make sure to bring a snack and beverage for yourself. Please contact the Church office at 520-825-1985 with any questions.



Vista's Remembrance Garden

Please consider ordering a personalized brick honoring a spouse, child, parent, family, and/or pets. The engraved bricks are \$125.

Please complete one of the forms located either in the Narthex or the Church Office, and then deliver it to the church office with your check.

Help Needed Landscaping

Our amazing Landscape Crew is still hard at work and always looking for more helpers—Please Contact Leo Smith or Ron Olson for more information.



Join Us on Thursday mornings from 8-10 AM.

Thank you for keeping up the landscaping and the beauty of our desert campus. We look forward to working with you!

Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship

Thanks to our great volunteers who made and served coffee or cookies after church in December: Alice Ann Lenzini, Pam & Mike Kravitz, Sandy Schwartz, Barbara Phillips, and Louise O'Donald. You are much appreciated!

We are looking for someone to coordinate volunteers for Sunday refreshments. If you can help in this capacity, Please call the church office or Anne Hilton.



Eyeglasses+ Collection



HOW DO I
DONATE MY
SPECS?

Thank you for all your donations of old and unwanted hearing aides, eyeglasses, cases & cell phones.

There are a couple donation boxes on the church campus—in the Narthex and the Main Office.

... And More Connection Opportunities

Shepherd's of Vista

I love a new year, full of unknowns, new beginnings and chances to "get it right". Vista's brand slogan, "Connect and Grow" will continue for 2023.

Vista has a small group of folks who are making a difference and helping Vista connect to the congregation. It's a small, but rewarding commitment and involves calling a short list of the same folks several times per year. We're beginning our third year and while I'm hearing positive thoughts from the committee, we still need more Shepherds to call those currently without an assigned Shepherd.

This is a perfect way for those who want to get involved quietly and perhaps make a new friend or two...or three....I talked to one parishioner who is the recipient of such calls and she stated how much it means to her to be remembered and cared for. That's what Vista is all about.

We will have a meeting in January to kick off the new year and discuss new possibilities. I'd love to add you to our team!

Blessings, Robin Conner, Shepherd's Chair

(Contact me from the church directory or call the office: 520-825-1985)



Thank You Shoppers

Thank you to all the Vista Shoppers.

If you haven't yet, please go to the Fry's website and link your card to Vista de la Montaña.

AND you can also link your Amazon Smile Account to the church.

Thank you for your continued support!



Missions Ministry

The Grocery Cart will be back out on the patio to collect your food donations for **Impact's Catalina Food Bank** First Sunday in February

This is an important service to our community as our Food Bank distributes more than 460 bags monthly, totaling nearly 4,000 lbs. of food, along with an additional 1,300 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.



Did You Know?

YOU CAN GET THE ECHOES BY EMAIL?

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT

VISTAUMC.ORG@GMAIL.COM

Article Deadlines

Echoes—the 20th of each month for the following Month's publication

Bulletin—Tuesdays at Noon for the following Week's publication

Adult Education

To Sign UP Contact Donna Boring

THE WALK (BY REV. ADAM HAMILTON)

Wednesdays 10:00 AM Led by Donna Boring January 18—February 15, 2023
The Walk is a book by Reverend Adam Hamilton in which he discusses 5 essential practices of the Christian life. The course is ideal for the Christian ready for a deeper relationship with God. The practices include worship and prayer, study, service, giving, and sharing. In class we will discuss each practice and how it can enhance our faith. In addition to class discussion the course will include small group work, short video presentations, and lecture. The book is available at Amazon, Cokesbury and Abingdon Press.

LENTEN STUDY: "THE GRACE OF LES MISERABLES"

Wednesdays 10:00 AM Led by Rev. Lubach March 1—April 5, 2023
This six week Lenten study is based on Victor Hugo's "Les Miserables". Author Reverend Matt Rawle dives into six ideals found in the story -grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love and hope. Each is represented by a character in Hugo's story. The focus is drawing parallels between the story and musical and our Christian calling. The book is available at Amazon, Cokesbury and Abingdon Press.

BEFORE CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday 8:45 AM—9:45 AM Led by Mel McIntyre St Matthew Room

The Wired Word will be offered before church Sunday morning. The Wired Word applies Biblical principles to current events. Mid-week you will be emailed the lesson including - In the News, Confronting the News With Scripture and Hope with Discussion Questions. Check out the wiredword.com for more information and a sample lesson.

AFTER CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays 11:20 AM—12:45 PM Led by Linda Whittington St Matthew Room

This class has been meeting for some 20 yrs. There have been a variety of teachers. Currently, Linda Whittington is the teacher now for over 8 yrs. The class has a wonderful opportunity to pray, watch a meaningful video study with discussion following & fellowship.

This ongoing class provides a welcoming atmosphere for everyone and especially enjoys including new members.

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN

Thursdays 10:00 AM Via ZOOM

This class has been in weekly session for over 2 years. It uses the Upper Room Lectionary study entitled Disciplines, A Book of Daily Devotions. The class includes daily Bible and devotional readings which are discussed during the class.

Connect & Grow 2023

Missions Ministry

Mission Outreach Ministry January '23

You crown the year with your abundance. Your carts overflow with abundance.
Psalm 65:11

Impact Food Bank still needs our help! Supplies are critically low as more and more families are in need of assistance. Impact needs our help in meeting the food needs of our community for the remainder of the year, they were very grateful for our increased donations in November.

Please consider purchasing one or two of these items each week throughout the month of December. The grocery carts will be in the courtyard each Sunday—let's fill them up. Thank you for responding to the needs of neighbors in our community.

Food Needs

Rice Peanut Butter Tuna Pasta Boxed Dinners
Canned goods Dried Beans Shelf Stable Items

Mission Moments

Behold, I am doing a new thing! Isaiah 43:19

2023! A new year with new possibilities, new challenges, and endless new opportunities for service at Vista Church.

But first, let me introduce myself. I'm Linda, the new facilitator of your mission committee. A daunting responsibility for anyone, let alone someone rather new to Vista. Our beloved Dee Berman-Tompkins has stepped down after 20+ years of tirelessly serving our church, our community, and our sister church in Agua Prieta. But thankfully she will remain on the committee focusing on our mission outreach at Fuente de Vida.

So, as we begin a new chapter in missions, I'm asking for your input. How can we better serve our community? How would you like to be involved? How do you see our church moving forward in mission outreach?

My email is lindagalka65@gmail.com

Together, let's move boldly into 2023, imagining the new things God has planned for us.

In His name,

Linda

Mission Outreach Ministry

To Our Vista Church Family:

This will be my last report to you as Chairman of Mission. It has truly been a great blessing to my life to be part of this ministry over the last 20 years. I want to thank you all for your amazing support over these past years. Your new Chairman will be Linda Galka. She is well qualified to take on this responsibility and we are excited to see where God leads our Mission program in the new year 2023. I will continue as a Team Leader for our ministry in Agua Prieta and the Memorial Day "Hearts Apart" Program at Davis Monthan AFB.

Speaking of Agua Prieta, our latest economic advancement project is, the Coffee Roasting and Coffee Shop "La Colonia" in downtown AP. We have received enough donations, \$2000.00 so now they can finish up the project. They plan to open the business in January. It is our goal that the shop will help support the ministry there and offer employment to a number of people. Good news, due to Pastor Fred's letter to the Visa office, Pastor Gela's Visa was renewed and she hopes to visit us in the near future when the Visa arrives in the next few months. We are praising God for this blessing.

Card sales have been disappointing, as it seems that folks are just not sending cards as they once did, but we want to thank all of you who bought cards and supported this ministry of the Women's Coop at our sister church in AP.

After putting a request in our last Echoes for diapers for both babies & adults, we have had a very good response and were able to deliver to Family 1st a car load last week.

Jan Bohe & her Creative Hands team have done a great job of making children's clothing for Christmas, for Family 1st and the clothing bank of Impact. Giff Tompkins who volunteers at the clothing bank says this beautiful stitchery goes out the door in a hurry with very happy families who get these lovely items.

Our Warm Winter Clothing & Bedding collection for Impact, is in progress thru the end of January 2023, the red Christmas Wrapped collection box is in the narthex between the front doors of the sanctuary. We are looking for winter coats, sweaters, socks and warm bedding. Clean used items are welcome as well as new. This has been a cold winter for Tucson so your donations for our community will be well received.

Esperanza en Escalante Vet Housing project in Tucson, requested money for 2 replacement stoves for the renovation of some of the older housing. Vista's UMM were very kind and supported the project with \$1,200.00 to buy the stoves. Concern was expressed about how much Mission money and effort is actually spent in the Catalina area. At present we have 5 of our ministries who directly serve the Catalina area, Family 1st, Creative Hands, Coronado School Snak Pak program, Impact Clothing Bank and also Impact Food Bank. We also have 3 programs for the homeless in the Pima county area, Sister Jose Homeless Women's Center, Emerge for Families in crisis and abusive situations, and Esperanza en Escalante for homeless Vets and their families. We are always open to suggestions to serve our community better and we welcome your ideas.

I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and God's blessing in the new Year 2023.

Please keep Linda Galka in your prayers as she begins her Chairmanship of this important part of the life and ministry at Vista and may God bless us all as we continue to meet the needs of others in our community and beyond. It has always been our goal to show the face of Christ in all the work we do.

Yours in Mission Service

Dee Berman Tompkins

Finance

January 2023 Finance Committee Report

YTD: Through the November, we continue to be very close to our income and expense budgets. Year-to-date we are \$6,402 over our income budget and (\$16,429) less than last year. Expenses plus mortgage payments are (\$637) under budget, resulting in a YTD General Fund Net Income that is \$7,039 over budget, but (\$5,017) less than last year.

Month: November was a good month! November Income was \$3,913 over budget. Expenses were \$1,327 over budget. Income was \$14,280 more last year and expenses were (\$4,279) less than last year. General Fund Net Income after our mortgage payment was \$4,611 which was \$2,035 over budget. November 2021 was a tough month!

Mortgage: We now owe \$288,362 on our mortgage!!!! As of mid-December 2022, we have received \$44,704 or 99.6% of our \$45,000 Lenten Challenge. We are now only \$296 away from our \$45,000 goal. If you would like to donate to the Mortgage Reduction Fund, please click the Donate link on our website to charge a gift, or write a check to Vista and indicate Mortgage Reduction on the Memo line.

2023 Budget: The Finance Committee recommended the following budget:

Pledges are budgeted to be \$25,200 under 2022, with about 15 less pledges, due to moves and deaths. The total income budget is \$419,993. This is a decrease of (\$46,309) from our 2022 estimate.

Total expenses, including our mortgage principal payment, are \$461,894. This is an increase of \$16,967 from the 2022 estimate. The increase is in payroll, due to cost-of-living increases, which were discussed at the Church Conference on October 30. The deficit is \$41,901.

For 2023 **only**, we approved covering the deficit by paying our \$42,100 in Apportionments from the \$50,552 Apportionment Reserve funds, that were reserved in 2019 – 2021. The approved General Fund Net Income is \$199. It will be critical in 2023 to grow our membership, so that we can increase the number of pledges and achieve our past income levels.

	2023 Budget	2022 Estimate	Difference
Income	\$419,993	\$466,302	+\$46,309
Apportionment Reserve			
	42,100	0	+42,100
Total Revenue	462,093	466,302	-4,209
Expense + Mortgage	461,894	443,327	+16,967
Net Income	\$199	\$22,976	\$22,776

The Church Council unanimously approved the recommended budget.

Thanks to Dennis Kimmel for his many years of service as Financial Secretary. Thanks also to Jim Galka for chairing the Stewardship campaign, and to all of his committee members!!

Vista UMC Giving Options

Vista UMC Website or Using the QR Code:

On our Vista UMC website click the **Donate** link, or use the QR code on the bulletin. You can set-up regular payments or do one-time gifts with your credit card through Vanco, which is a very safe site used by more than 25,000 churches nationally and recommended by the UMC. We have used it for many years.

Cash Giving Through Your Bank and Investment Accounts

Bank Bill Pay

You can set up paying a gift directly to Vista through your bank. Visit your bank's website or contact your broker.

Automatic Clearing House - ACH

Another option is to set up an ACH transfer between your bank and the church's bank. *Please contact Mary Berg, Co-Financial Secretary, gil-martucson@aol.com*

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 Mary Berg, Co-Financial Secretary

Scan here
for online
donations



January Celebrations

Birthdays

Dr. Larry Holden	01/02	AJ Hernandez	01/03	Walter Reifsnyder	01/05
Janelle Arthur	01/07	Dennis Higgins	01/07	Kourtney Hotchkiss	01/07
Ursula Price	01/08	Shirley Devries	01/12	Thomas Wittkoski	01/13
Mia Tonga	01/14	Roman Aguirre	01/15	Diane Coleman	01/15
Robin Conner	01/17	Joyce Holman	01/17	Char Dedrick	01/18
Jane Reifsnyder	01/18	Lori Campbell	01/20	Valerie Fowler	01/21
Linda Davis	01/22	Nancy Yob	01/23	Norm Williams	01/24
Michelle Aguirre	01/28	Donna Goins	01/29	Sara Thompson	01/29
Rebecca Harwick	01/30				

Anniversaries

Don & Pat Smith

01/01

Pam & Craig Holder

01/06

February Celebrations

Birthdays

Sharon Scanlan	02/01	Deede Baum	02/01	Lynn Bixby	02/02
Paul Arnett	02/04	Mary Bellah	02/04	Diane Bywater	02/04
Alan Campbell	02/07	Margaret Overman	02/10	Robert Herd	02/11
Nancy Kimmel	02/11	Al Garcia	02/12	Kay Barber-Lubach	02/13
Teresa Sanders	02/13	Mattie Landrum	02/15	Jim Bleess	02/16
Paula Radtke	02/17	Margaret Larmour	02/19	Barbara Rempel	02/19
Slim Crowson	02/20	Rev. Dr. Jim Lubach	02/24	Anne Hilton	02/25
Lila Homan	02/26	Dillis Ward	02/26	Kathleen Bauder	02/28
Craig Holder	02/28				

Anniversaries

Jim & Ginny Jackson

02/01

VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC
3001 EAST MIRAVISTA LANE
TUCSON, AZ 85739

MONDAY - THURSDAY
9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM *Closed 12-1 for Lunch*
PHONE 520-825-1985

E-mail: VistaUMC.org@gmail.com

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK

AND AT OUR WEBSITE: www.Vistaumc.org



January 2023

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