



VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC

Echoes

Connect & Grow 2023

Pastor's Report,

October 2023

As my tenure at Vista Church comes to a close, as well as my tenure as a fulltime Ordained United Methodist Minister, it causes me to reflect. In the eight years I have been at Vista Church I have brought in over 220 members. Our current membership is approximately 300. When I arrived at Vista Church it was approximately 296. It seems a whole lot of effort to stay essentially in the same place.

In 2015, the year I arrived our average Sunday morning in-person attendance was 224. We did not have any Live Streaming capabilities at that time. Today our attendance in-person is about 120 and our online attendance about 150. Together those two numbers would say we were doing better in terms of our outreach worship Ministry. In terms of our income it is less than it's been in 10 years. We have had many deaths of generous givers to our Church and many more have "moved to be back with the children". Therefore we continue to carry on!! Also, while being here we paid off the mortgage for the Sanctuary and installed a new parking lot on the South side of our sanctuary after a "Miracle Sunday" where we raised all the money needed for that on one Sunday.

Shortly after arriving at Vista Church I began the "Huddle" Discipleship groups that met with modest success in terms of numbers but contributed greatly to the Discipleship of leaders in our Church. Their growth and support was interrupted in terms of my time by the building campaign for our Education and Administration building that was dedicated two months before the Covid shutdown. For almost a year after its dedication it sat empty and unused. The design, financing and building of that building was a significant highlight of my Ministry at Vista Church. I am so happy that through the generosity of one of our members the new building's mortgage is due to be paid off in January of 2024. It's just in time, because of the challenges to our income, 2024 is looking to be a bit thin.

Another highlight of my Ministry at Vista Church was encouraging the development of our Livestreaming program. If not for Livestreaming, we would have had much greater challenges due to the Covid shutdown, but the Livestreaming kept us connected and alive. I cannot say thanks enough to those who work, and have worked, in the AV booth for the good they have and are doing for our Church. On any given Sunday about 150 people join us Livestream. In my tenure here we have upgraded the screens, the Sanctuary lighting, the microphones, and the sound board. We still have issues but I have high hopes.

Through Livestreaming we tried to establish satellite Worship sites up the Copper Corridor. We got as far as San Manuel and that outreach mission helped us make all the mistakes we had to learn from to make our Covid Livestreaming work. We thought God was developing Livestreaming for one reason, but God had a larger plan. Helping the church get through Covid was another highlight of my ministry at Vista Church. The Church is about people not buildings and property.

The Adult Christian Education program took off and the Children and Youth programs were growing furiously until Covid destroyed what Valerie built up. She was in the process of rebuilding that program when God called her to another Ministry. Much of the history and experience of the faith and the Church is starting over under the direction of the One who said "Behold I make all things new."

I believe "The Highlight" of my Ministry here was our sponsorship of the Ukrainian family who lived with us in our home for five weeks and then on their own for several more months before moving to the Chicago area to be in a Ukrainian Community and with family and friends. The Mission program here at Vista Church has been impressive and impactful.

Some good things are coming to an end, but I know other good things will begin. One of my mom's favorite sayings that she spoke to me as I left for seminary 44 years ago was "All good things must come to an end so that other good things can begin." I pray these next several months together we can use them to celebrate the good things we have done together as we look forward to what God has in store for all of us!

In Christ's Love

Pastor Fred

Jeremiah 29:11 "I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

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

Prayers for Our Members & Guests

Please see an usher for a Prayer Card or contact our office with your prayer request at 520.825.1985 so we may give praises to God and / or to lift up your concerns.

Compassion Connection

In Need of Continued Prayers for Healing

Orland Burbey, Paul Arnett, Jan Crown, Steven Extract, Alexis Extract, Kay Gragg, Bill Gureck, Fran Hampton, Peggy Hoeft, Pam Holder, Jim & Joyce Holman, Ken & Sharon Hunt, Matthew Mutz, Margaret Overman, Allen & Barbara Phillips, Diane Podlasek, Tricia Pohnert, Sharon Poole, Art Schweitzer, Milt & Jan Bukes, Dillis & Linda Ward, Rob Prescott, Charlotte DeWindt, John Witt and Eileen Carendar

Home Bound

Florence Duckett, Bob & Eileen Herd, Barbara Horton, Don & Betty Little, Marilyn Waldo, Walt Roberson, Pete Rice and Dr. Chuck Crown

Hospice Care

Rev. John Davies

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:

October 2023

St. Paul's UMC—Tucson, Arizona; Trinity UMC—Bisbee, Arizona; Vista de la Montana—Tucson, Arizona; and Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta, Mexico

DONATIONS

The Catalina-Oro Valley Lions Club collects unneeded prescription glasses, loose lenses, contact lenses, hearing aids, and cell phones. The glasses and lenses are cleaned, sorted and delivered to a collection site. From there, teams of vision specialists go to remote villages in Mexico and fit them to those without the money or means to get prescription glasses. Collection boxes can be found in the church office and in the sanctuary.

STUDY OF THE TORAH

The first five books of the Old Testament

Beginning on Wednesday, October 4, 2023, for six Wednesdays; the study will be read by Rev. Dr. James Lubach using the study guide: "Reading the Old Testament through Jewish Eyes," written by Rabbi Evan Moffic. Discover how the Torah can be a source of wisdom, truth and transformation of your life. Please sign up with Donna Boring.

NEW: VISTA FAMILY CAREGIVER GROUP

Caregiving takes a toll on both your physical and mental well-being; even something simple like texting or emailing updates to family and friends can be too many tasks. Vista's newly formed Family Caregiver group's co-leaders are encouraging members of our congregation to sign up for the group email list in order to receive information to help ease stress; saving time; energy; hassle and peace of mind knowing they are not alone. We are working with Pima Council of Aging (PCOA) and Pinal-Gila County for Senior Citizens (PGCSC) to provide references and plan a future on-site support group at Vista including informational classes. Note: if you are looking for immediate help, we recommend you contact the appropriate organization for assistance:

Pima County: PCOA Hotline: 520-790-7262 Website: www.pcoa.org ; Pinal / Gila County: PGCSC Hotline: 800-293-9393 or 520-836-2758 / Website: www.pgcsc.org; Saddlebrooke Residents: Senior Village at Saddlebrooke (Fee Based, so check them out before you need them.)

<https://seniorvillage.org/> 520-314-1042. It is important for you to call your respective county organizations as each County receives Federal money for their council to serve their county residents. Each county can apply for grants for their residents and must be used for that County's resident(s).

We welcome anyone wanting to join our new group and will be emailing updates in the near future. For more information, please contact the office at 520-825-1985 and leave a message for either Robin Conner or Delores Brindle, co-chairs. Our contact information is also listed in the church directory.



October Echoes report for Our Sister church in Agua Prieta

Pastor Gela reports that the Fuente de Vida Church had a very successful Family Retreat. 55 people were baptized and professed their faith in Jesus. This past week a fundraiser was held at Fuente de Vida Church grounds. The whole town was invited to participate and raise the funds needed for the women of the Church to go on a retreat. The festival had food for sale: Tortillas, Tamales, Carne Asada, including handmade crafts. The school of dance had a group of students presenting Forloriko dances. Pastor Gela shared the Story of Jesus to all present. A grand time was had by all and the ladies raised enough money to get to the retreat held in San Carlos on the coast of the Sea of Cortez. A few years ago Vista Church sponsored the first women's retreat and they have carried on the tradition since.

We have three High School graduates who want to go to college in Agua Prieta. Two of them want to be school teachers and one wants a degree in Business Management. Our Roach College Scholarship fund is running low and we will not be able to guarantee their tuition for their entire education. We can send all three of them through College for just \$15,500 and see them graduate together. We need your help to make this possible. These are great young ladies and they deserve our help. If you feel led, please make a check out to Vista UMC and on the Memo write Roach Scholarship Fund. Please sign up for our trip to Agua Prieta for the Celebration of Learning Festival on **11-18-23 (revised date)** and have an unforgettable time. USA Passports are required to cross the border. We look forward seeing you at my sign up table Sunday mornings.

Yours in Mission: Service: Dee Berman Tompkins, Team Leader for our Agua Prieta Ministry

Children, Youth & Young Adult

Vista's Family Ministry Department is back from summer hiatus with new plans! Family Ministry means children, youth, adults, parents, guardians, or whoever is active in their faith and growing together. It also means you could be one person or a family of eight or more! You are always welcome to come and see what this multi-generational Family Ministry is all about! **WOW!!!** Come and join us for dinner, then fun and games. Fall plans are in the works for this event, now back to weekly times beginning again on October 11, 2023. If you want to inquire about more information, please contact the Vista office at 520.825.1985 and leave a message.



Did you know? Our Stephen Ministers are available to take communion to anyone who wants to be served. The request for communion can be made directly to any of our Stephen Ministers:

Giff Tompkins
Dr. Larry Holden
Lisa Richardson
Louise O'Donald

Dennis Kimmel
Marv Rupe
Joyce Luckman
Dottie McIntyre

2024 FLOWER DONATIONS

New Sign-ups coming in November, 2023. Please see Pam Kravitz or Diane Coleman for additional information.



CONFIRMATION

Seeks to give the youth a systematic overview of the faith, our identity, our history and heritage, our practices, and our beliefs. This will include both our heritage and practices as a Christian community and as a United Methodist Family, as well as our basic beliefs and commitments. In addition, youth will learn what it means to live the Christian life and be involved in the mission of the Church in the World. The other thing that needs to happen in a confirmation program is spiritual formation.

Our faith is not just about information. It is about formation: Being molded, shaped, or transformed into the image of Christ. This takes time and experiences, not just data. A comprehensive confirmation program is more than just a class. It seeks to provide experiences and opportunities in which the child can be shaped as a Christian (i.e., worship, relationships with peers and mentors, small group experiences, mission and ministry opportunities, etc.). These experiences make young people aware of how God is working in their lives and how they respond to God's call to them.

Family ministry connects parents and children with the church so that they can develop lasting relationships with Jesus.



Borderlands
Produce Rescue

FEEDING FAMILIES
& OUR ENVIRONMENT ONE
VEGETABLE
AT A TIME

28

Years Helping the Community

750

Million Pounds of Produce Rescued

273

Million Pounds of Meals Supplemented

53

Million Pounds of Methane Gas Diverted

Vista's Family Ministries and our
United Methodist Men's Group are excited to help with
this new ministry that will serve our local community of
Catalina and the Copper Corridor!

We need volunteers to help!

More information coming soon.

Please see Lisa Sinohui or Dan Boring to sign up!

MISSION MOMENTS

Echoes October2023

Mission Moments

Serve the Lord with gladness... Psalm 100:2

Pocket Change for Snak Pak Sunday

Our Pocket Change for **Snak Pak** Sunday will continue through October and November, 2023. Our neighborhood school kids often go hungry on the weekends and we can help! Please give generously in support of the 60 kids who rely on us and our partnership with the Catholic Church to meet this ongoing need. Our August, 2023 collection totaled \$61.30. **Look for the buckets the last Sunday of every month.**

Celebration of Learning

Our annual trip to Agua Prieta has been **re-scheduled** for **Saturday, November 18th, 2023**. This one day Mission trip is a wonderful opportunity to see, first-hand, the results of your financial support. Kids with a B+ or higher GPA will receive special recognition awards. Parents of these students will also be recognized for their support. A day of games, food, and entertainment will be enjoyed by all of the kids who received backpacks at the beginning of the school year.

Emerge: A “*Souper Supper*” fundraiser will be held Thursday, October 12, 2023 from 4-6 PM.

We are partnering with our women’s ministry for this event. Join us for an informative and funfilled event featuring José Romero from Emerge. Jan Hopke-Almer has all the details.

Creative Hands: Jan Bohe and her team continue to amaze! They have created and donated 516 clothing items to *Impact of Southern Arizona and Family First Pregnancy Care Center*.

Impact Food Bank: ***Food donations remain at a critically low level.*** August donations totaled 35.7 pounds. Unfortunately, we have recorded a steady decline in donations since May.

Monetary donations are also welcomed.

Roche Fund: Exciting news! Three Agua Prieta High School students have graduated and hope to attend college. But they need our financial help. The total cost for all three students for their entire college education is \$15,500. Money well spent! See Dee Berman-Thompkins for additional details.

Our next meeting is October 11 at 2 PM. We would love for you to Connect and Grow with us in 2023 as we serve our neighbors in Oro Valley, Tucson, and the world.

In His name, Linda Galka

Opportunities

Online Calendar

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

and events.



Vista's Remembrance Garden

Please consider ordering a personalized brick honoring a spouse, child, parent, family, and / or pets. The engraved bricks are \$125.00.

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 7:00 to 9:00 A.M.

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

Family Game Night

Every fourth Wednesday of each Month in the Elizabeth Room!

We are looking forward to sharing this time with you and your family. Join us for this fun monthly event that occurs every fourth Wednesday of each Month in the Elizabeth Room beginning October 25, 2023. 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. Or, feel free to talk with Loni on Sundays.

Sunday Morning Fellowship

Thanks to our great volunteers who make and serve coffee or cookies after church. Thank you to all who have assisted and provided these items. You are much appreciated!

Our new coordinators for this event are Linda Olson and Jane Reifsnyder. If you can help us, please call the Church and ask for Linda or Jane!

HELP WANTED! At their June meeting, the Church Council approved a revised security plan for our Church facilities that includes periodic monitoring of the Church parking lot and the Administration building during Sunday Worship Services. Nothing more than observing and reporting is required. If you are willing to help with this task, please see Darrell Parson or Dan Boring.

Article Deadlines

Echoes—the 20th of each month for the following Month's publication / Bulletin—Tuesdays at Noon for the following Week's publication

October 2023 Echoes Article - Vista UMC Finance Committee

August 2023:

Revenue was \$30,025. We exceeded our revenue budget by \$1,625, but revenue was \$11,431 less than last year. Expenses plus mortgage payments were \$33,359, which was \$1,387 under budget and slightly less than last year. Our General Fund Net Income was a loss of (\$3,514), and \$11,500 than last year.

August 2023 Year-to-Date:

Year-to-date Income is \$1,000 under the budget and \$34,017 less than last year. Expenses are \$5,218 under budget but \$13,522 higher than 2022. We have a Year-to-date General Fund Net Income Loss of (\$18,369). General Fund Net Income is (\$1,128) under budget, and (\$49,728) less than last year. Our Operating Reserve is still \$110,919 because we are able to pay our Apportionments out of the Apportionment Reserve Account.

2023 Estimate:

We have had a difficult summer for income. The estimate for the annual revenue is \$400,000 which will be \$20,000 under the budget. Expenses, plus our mortgage principal payment, will be about \$14,000 under budget. Our net General Fund Net Income will be an estimated -\$5,700.

Mortgage:

Ending June, we now owe \$166,854 on our mortgage!!!! The August gifts to the new "2023 \$45,000 Challenge" were \$1,573. Our goal is to be under \$150,000 by year-end.

Reimbursements, Checks and Contribution Inquiries:

Darrell, Anne and Sharon process reimbursement checks only on Monday mornings. Any check requests should be in the Finance mailbox before 9:00 AM on Monday morning. Reimbursement requests must include a completed yellow sheet and the invoice/receipt attached. Mary and Linda process deposits only on Tuesday mornings. Any inquiries should be sent to the Finance email address **Finance-vistaumc@gmail.com** prior to Tuesday morning and they will be responded to at that time.

Attendance:

Total Attendance was 1055 vs 1413 last year. In-person attendance was 454 vs. 478 last year. Facebook attendance increased from 239 to 277 and Live Stream decreased from 696 to 324.

2024 General Operating Budget:

Work has begun on next year's budget. All committees with accounts included in the General Operating Budget were given budget request packages at the Church Council Meeting on September 19, 2023. Budget requests are due October 31, 2023 but a final budget proposal is not prepared by the Finance Committee to submit to the Church Council until late November 2023 after the conclusion of the Stewardship Campaign, when we know what the projected income will be.

Save the Date!!! Consecration Sunday is November 12, 2023.

Adult Education

AFTER CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays 11:20 AM—12:45 PM
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 eight years. 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.

To join, please contact Donna Boring.

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN

Thursdays 10:00 AM Via ZOOM

This class has been in weekly session for over two 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.

DINNER FOR SIX

Are you ready for some good food, fun and fellowship? Our DF6 is ready for you!!!! Our Fall 2023 dinners will begin on October 16, 2023. If you were part of Spring Season, you are automatically signed up (unless you cancel with Sandy). We are looking forward to another great fun-filled season. Sandy Schwartz!

History of Dinner for Six: Pete and Sandy Schwartz arrived in Tucson about twenty years ago from Indiana. Pete enjoys golf when he is not active with Vista Church events. Pete and Sandy started attending Dinner for Six about twenty years ago, and Sandy took over leadership of the program about sixteen years ago. Sandy enjoys cooking and baking in her "spare" time. They joined Vista because of the nearness to SaddleBrooke, and because of the warmth and friendliness of Vista members. They can often be found greeting members as they enter church for Sunday services.

Women in Faith

In case you are not aware, all women in Vista membership are invited to join the newly formed "Vista Women's Fellowship" group which was combined at the beginning of this year of two former Circle groups with one common goal.: **We are women with a purpose!** The organized United 'Women in Faith' is a community of women whose purpose is to know God and experience the freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative supportive fellowship and expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. The Legacy of the United Methodist Women was started in 1869 by vowing to help all women world-wide and then a Doctor and a Teacher traveled to India and Africa where they each spent many years applying their knowledge to develop a better life for women and their children. Here at Vista we had many years of fundraising events (before Covid struck), which we would like to continue with "themed" dinner events and bake-sales, as well as auctions and gift baskets.

To get started with some of the same and new ideas, we need additional help and hope to find them mainly with members that have joined Vista recently so please consider checking us out and join in the fun that we have in preparations while getting to know you a little better. Our monthly meetings will resume on September 19, 2023 as we do not meet in the hot summer month. We'll be meeting in the large 'Elizabeth Room' at 9:30 AM, having 30 Minute social time before getting down to "Business."

In His Grace, Peace, Joy and Love, your friend and sister in Christ - Please contact Loni Degen at 520.825.1985 or by email @ vistaumc.org@gmail.com.

To Sign UP Contact Donna Boring

CONSECRATION SUNDAY IS COMING!

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a Biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church as a way to pay its bills. Rather, these congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship to God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our Finance Committee has selected the *Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the Biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving. Our stewardship campaign this year is based on the need of the giver to give, rather than on the need of the church to receive.

During morning worship on Sunday, November 12, we are asking all members and attendees to make their financial commitments to our church's benevolent and educational ministries in our community and wherever we serve. We urge people to attend both the service and the catered lunch provided immediately following the service.

We look forward to your participation in the events of Consecration Sunday. Please mark your calendar for Sunday November 12, and attend services and the catered lunch. Thank you in advance.

Church Council Chairperson, Marty Lenzini

SAVE THE DATE!

Blessing of the Animals



VISTA Church

Saturday, October 21, 2023

@ 10:00 am

Pets must be on a leash.

All are invited.

Please invite a friend!



Arizona Halloween Stuart Watkins

"I'm not afraid of Halloween,"
said the big black crow to the coyote queen.
The coyote quietly slinked away.
She knew what would happen later that day.
Red tailed hawk flew across the sky searching for a roost way up high.
Wise old owl saw a buzzard fly by,
heading to where only buzzards know why.
A mountain lion strolled across the ridge.
He found a place to hide under a bridge.
Most Arizona animals stayed home that night
because they knew Halloween was full of fright!



October 2023 Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

PROKOP, Karen	10/01
AYERS, Billy	10/05
TEWART, Adaline Michelle	10/05
PENUELAS, Karime	10/07
BELYEA, Dana	10/08
KELLEY, Ed	10/09
SINOHUI, Lisa	10/13
SINOHUI, Paul	10/14
GROENIER Sr, John	10/15
TONGA, Michelle	10/21
POHNERT, Patricia	10/22
ROCHE, Eryn	10/23
HEDRICK, Susanne	10/24
SINOHUI, Penny	10/24
LEONARD, Jon	10/25
PHILLIPS, Barbara	10/26
TONGA, Nanisi	10/27
HERNANDEZ, Lauren	10/31
VENHUIZEN, Ronald	10/31

ANNIVERSARIES

PERAKIS, Alex & Jenny (13)	10/02
LUBACH, Rev. Dr. Jim & Kay Barber Lubach	10/19
SCANLAN, Sharon & Steve (49)	10/26
TRACY, Keith & Carole (66)	10/26



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



October 2023

NON PROFIT ORG

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

TUCSON, AZ

PERMIT #648

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

