



VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC *Echoes*

Connect & Grow 202

Pastor's Report,

November 2023

Dear Members and Friends of Vista Church,

This past Sunday, October 22nd, will be known as “The Sunday of the Bees”! We had a hive of bees make its way into the Sanctuary even though they had been poisoned the Thursday before. Leo Smith vacuumed up piles of bees twice on Saturday and once on Sunday. As I write this, honey is dripping from the ceiling of the soffit closest to the AV Booth. What a brave group who stayed and did their work despite a few angry bees still hanging around. But for the rest of the congregation, we taped off the east side of the Sanctuary so that everyone sat in the two west sections. Half the church looked packed, and the other half was completely empty.

At one point I realized that the pulpit was tilted towards the AV Booth and camera 4 which is the angle most people see us when they watch online. But...there was no one in those seats so I turned the pulpit towards the people sitting in front of me. In that moment several thoughts passed through my mind. The first thought was that all those “150 empty seats” were actually filled with the roughly 150 people who join us in worship every week online. They were present in spirit. Most are our members in other parts of the country, but randomly we get people from Africa, Europe and other parts of the world.

My second thought followed the first and that is “that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witness,” not only those online, but also those who have gone before us and now worship with us in heaven. In just a few days we will be celebrating “All Saints Sunday” here at Vista Church and remembering all the saints of our church who have passed on since the last “All Saints Sunday”, they indeed are part of the “great cloud of witnesses” who once sat in those empty seats last Sunday.

In my mind two great Holidays always occur in November, the first of which is All Saints Sunday and the second is Thanksgiving. We begin the month celebrating all those friends and family who once sat among us and giving thanks for their lives, love, and faith. And we end the month thanking God for all that he has given us, all that we are, and all that we ever will be on earth as one day in Heaven. Yes, November is a great month of Holidays and usually in the middle we have a great big celebration luncheon thanking God for all that He has given us that we can give back to him.

Indeed, Hebrews 12:1-2 reminds us that we can look back to those who inspired us to help us run the race of faith as well as look forward with Thanksgiving to the prize that lies before us. *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

May our November together be a month of thanksgiving, looking back at those we loved, appreciating what we have, and looking forward to what is to come.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Fred

***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 praise to God as we 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 and Joyce Holman, Margaret Overman, Allen and Barbara Phillips, Diane Podlasek, Tricia Pohnert, Sharon Poole, Art Schweitzer, Milt and Jan Bukes, Dillis and Linda Ward, Charlotte De Windt, John Witt, Howard and MaryLou Young and Eileen Cavender

Home Bound

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

Hospice Care

Rev. John Davies, Marilyn Waldo, and Mattie Landrum

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:

November 2023

UMC of the Good Shepherd - Kearny; UMC of Green Valley; Willcox UMC; and our sister church, Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta, Mexico.

DONATIONS

The Catalina-Oro Valley Lions Club collects used 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.

NEW: VISTA FAMILY CAREGIVER GROUP

Congregational Care Committee has been caring for our members for over 12 years. At one time we had over twenty volunteers providing many services. Now we have only seven dedicated people who give their time and energy in several ways: We provide short-term meals, rides to the doctor or other appointments, visitation, respite for families.

Our active Congregational Care members are: Peggy Higgins, Loni Degen, Barbara Phillips, Giff Tompkins, Dan and Donna Boring, and Sandy Schwartz.

We are not medically trained, but we are lovingly available. If you need our services, or would like to Volunteer. Please call Sandy Schwartz, or the Church office.

Children, Youth & Young Adults

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, that began on October 11, 2023. If you would like to inquire about more information, please contact the Vista office at 520.825.1985 and leave a message.



2024 FLOWER DONATIONS

The 2024 Flower Chart will be in the Narthex beginning November 5, 2023. If there is an occasion for which you would like to celebrate (Anniversary, Birthday, 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 Sundays. Sign up in the Narthex or contact Diane Coleman via the church office at 520.825.1985. Please enjoy your arrangement! Once the container is no longer in use, please return it to Vista UMC for future use.



CONFIRMATION

Seeks to give the youth a systematic overview of our 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.

COMING
SOON



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!



SAVE THE DATE!!!
DECEMBER 17, 2023

ON TO NEW ADVENTURES!
HAPPY RETIREMENT POTLUCK
FOR PASTOR FRED

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023
11:00 AM (AFTER SERVICE)
VISTA DE LA MONTANA UMC
3001 E MIRAVISTA LANE
TUCSON, AZ 85739

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

United Women in Faith will be distributing Christmas stockings before and after church on November 19th and 26th and December 3rd, 2023 before and after Church on the patio.

Shepherds are Calling



Reach out and touch someone with our Shepherds Team!! Serve Vista from your own home and make a difference in the life of another. When your Shepherd calls you, please update them with any changes you may have experienced since the last call. Please see Robin Conner for details, as well as joining our Group. Please call the office and leave a message @ 520.825.1985.

United Women in Faith

All Women are invited to the United Women in Faith's meeting on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 in the Elizabeth Room at Church. The Tucson Metropolitan Ministries Family Service, Inc. will present the the program. It is a charity that provides affordable housing to at-risk children, working families, seniors and veterans. The meeting begins at 10:00 am with refreshments.

Mission Moments November 2023

Always giving thanks to God for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

Ephesians 5:20

The Mission Committee is back in full force after a long summer. We are looking forward to representing Vista as we serve our neighborhood, greater Tucson, and the world. Happy Thanksgiving!

Pocket Change Sunday

Our Pocket Change donations will be used to support the **Snak Pak Program** at Coronado School. Our neighborhood school kids often go hungry on the weekends and we can help! Thank you for generously supporting the 60 kids who rely on us and our partnership with the Catholic Church to meet this ongoing need. Our September collection totaled \$117.00. **Save your loose change and look for the buckets the last Sunday of every month.**

Celebration of Learning

Our annual trip to Agua Prieta is scheduled for **Saturday, November 18th**. 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. Sponsors of the students receiving backpacks and school supplies at the beginning of the school year will have an opportunity to meet their students and enjoy a day of games, food, and entertainment! A truly rewarding experience!

Emerge: The “*Souper Supper*” fund raiser was held Thursday, October 12th in the Elizabeth room. It was an informative and fun-filled evening. As well, the soups were delicious! Thank you Jan Hopke-Almer, Amy Butkovich, and your team. Vista Church presented Emerge with a \$600 check to assist in their outreach to women and children who are escaping the cycle of domestic abuse.

Impact Food Bank: *Food donations remain at a critically low level.* September donations totaled 74 pounds. Thank you Church! A great effort! Unfortunately, the need still remains critically high. As we approach Thanksgiving, we encourage you to bring a few extra items in support of our neighbors who are struggling to make ends meet. Of course, monetary donations are always welcomed.

Roche Fund: Dee Berman-Tompkins did an amazing job at the Mission Fair introducing us to three Agua Prieta students who have graduated from high school and hope to attend college. The total cost for all three students for their entire four-year college education is \$15,500. The church responded to their need and we are **close** to reaching this goal! Please continue to hold these young women in prayer! Together we can make their dreams a reality. See Dee Berman-Thompkins for additional details.

Our next meeting is November 8 at 3 PM in the St. Matthew room. We would love for you to be part of the mission team. Consider joining us as we serve our neighbors in Oro Valley, Tucson, and the world.

In His name,

Linda Galka

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.

Endowment — 2023 Q3 Report

The Endowment fund showed positive returns in both the first and second quarters, but, unfortunately that trend did not continue in Q3. Rather it reversed with the fund declining 3.04% bringing our yearly performance to +4.76%. This was not a surprise as the major averages S&P, Dow, and Nasdaq were all down in the quarter, -3.6%, -2.6%, and -4.1% respectively. Inflation is still a problem and while there has been progress, it remains above the Federal Reserve target of 2%. The current month number was 3.7% year over year, unchanged from September. Many economists are suggesting that an additional interest rate hike may be necessary this year. Coupled with the World's geopolitical situation, it is difficult to see much positive happening in the market.

However, the market typically rallies going into year-end, but as I write this the fund is down slightly from the end of September balance. I wish the news were better so we could begin funding projects. But for now, we feel it prudent to maintain our moratorium on funding through Q4.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact any committee member: Pastor Fred Baum, Craig MacPherson, David Yob, Gene Bywater, or Jay O'Donald.

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



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 and 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

Adult Education

To Sign UP Contact Donna Boring

AFTER CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays 11:20 AM—12:45 PM
St. Matthew Room

This class has been meeting for some 20 years. There have been a variety of teachers. Please contact Donna Boring and leave a message at 520.825.1985. 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 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 it mainly with members that have joined Vista recently. 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 have resumed. **We will be meeting in the large 'Elizabeth Room' starting November 14, 2023 at 9:30 AM, having a 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.

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, 2023 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, 2023 and attend services and the catered lunch. Thank you in advance.

ANNIVERSARIES

LUCKMAN, Kim & Joyce	11/17
SCHWARTZ, Pete & Sandy	11/26
MILLARD, Ben & Jan	11/27
RYTTER, Noel & Jane	11/29



BIRTHDAYS

MEHLHORN, Mary-Ann	11/01
WHITE, Logan	11/02
VAKERICS, Molly	11/03
BOERDING, Sue	11/04
STEGINK, David	11/06
WILSON, Carol	11/06
WILSON, Syd	11/06
HARWICK, PeggyJo	11/07
CROWN, Jan	11/09
LAFLEUR, Joyce	11/12
RADKE, Carla	11/12
SALAVA, Roger	11/12
FLOYD, Cialyn	11/13
HAUCK, Phil	11/15
HILLMANN, Bill	11/15
GALKA, Jim	11/16
HILLMANN, Mary Jane	11/17
TRIBOULET, Linda	11/18
PODLASEK, Diane	11/19
AYERS, Dixie	11/21

PARSON, Gail	11/21
HOLDER, Pamela	11/22
ANDERSON, Maureen	11/25
BUKES, Milt	11/25
SHERMAN, Barbara	11/25
WINKLER, Sallie	11/25



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

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