

VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC

Connect & Grow 2023

PaPastor's Pen,

December 2023

"Th-Th-Th-That's All Folks!" I remember that quote well from the Bugs Bunny cartoons of my childhood.



In one sense I knew that the Saturday morning cartoons were over when that phrase came on, but I knew that as soon as I heard it I could look forward to next Saturday's cartoons. And as a child there was much anticipation in that. Today, we look forward with anticipation to the Advent Season and Christmas, but we know all too soon it will be over.... but come July the Christmas decorations will return to Costco.

In life there is a rhythm of beginnings and endings that lead to the anticipation of something new. Advent is the anticipation of Christmas. The events of the first Christmas with the birth of Jesus were the culmination of 1,000 years of anticipation and hope. Jesus the baby would grow into a man, teach of God's love, and die for us on the Cross. The world tried to shout "Th-Th-Th-That's all folks!" But that ending held the promise of a new beginning in the resurrection of Jesus and then the age of the Spirit that began with Pentecost. The world always tries to get Christians to believe that "That's all Folks." But Jesus promises to be with us always in whatever age we are in until the end of time. And even when time ends that's not all...there will be a "New Heaven and a New Earth" that we will live in with Jesus forevermore.

What will that new age look like and what we will look like, we don't know, but we know it will be good for 1 John 3:2 says, "Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."

So, my friends as endings happen, know that "that is not all." God has good and great plans for us here on earth and thereafter. As my Momma said, and I have quoted her wisdom many times, "All good things must come to end so that other good things can begin." Yes, I am retiring but God already has in store a pastor to take you into the Good Future God has in store for Vista Church. Welcome Rev. Deborah Christine with open arms and hearts and look forward to the other good things that will begin.

In Christ's Love,

Rev. Fred C. Boum

EXPLORE THE MANY WAYS TO GIVE TO THE CHURCH

Monthly Bill Payment through your bank – NO COST TO YOU OR TO VISTA

Simply go to your bank's website and schedule a monthly check to Vista. This is the most convenient way to donate and there are no fees involved. Your bank will mail the check to Vista. If you have any questions, please email <u>Financevistaumc@gmail.com</u>

<u>ACH – Automated Clearing House – NO COST TO YOU OR VISTA</u>

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 email <u>Financevistaumc@gmail.com</u>. A form is required to begin the process.

<u>Weekly, Monthly Giving Using Pledge Envelopes – NO COST TO YOU OR VISTA</u> If desired, 2024 envelopes are available for all members for giving in-person or to be mailed to the Church.

<u>Non-cash Gifts to the Church – Stocks or Property – NO COST TO YOU OR VISTA</u> Anytime you wish to make a non-cash gift to the Church (i.e. - stocks or property), it is critical that you email <u>Financevistaumc@gmail.com</u> for the proper procedures. You can complete your annual pledge through a stock gift, which may provide a tax incentive if you donate appreciated stock.

<u>IRA Gift from your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) – NO COST TO YOU OR VISTA</u> Retirees ages 73 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.

<u>Credit Card and Automatic Bank Giving Using the Vista UMC Website or the QR Code</u> <u>THERE IS NO COST TO VISTA IF THE MEMBER COVERS THE 3% FEE. OTHERWISE, A 3% FEE IS</u> <u>CHARGED TO VISTA</u>: 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. If you have any questions, please email <u>Financevistaumc@gmail.com</u>.

Rev. October 1, 2023

Vista UMC Finance Committee

	Income	Expense	Net Income
Oct. 2023 Actual	\$34,477	\$40,972	(\$6,495)
Oct. 2023 Budget	\$33,508	\$36,478	(\$2,670)
Oct. YTD Actual	\$378,732	\$388,616	(\$9.884)
Oct YTD Budget	\$379,377	\$381,589	(\$2,122)
Last Year YTD Actual	\$387,489	\$365,877	\$21,611

<u>Note:</u> Income includes the Apportionment Reserve Fund transfer, and Expenses include the Mortgage Principal payments. Both were in the 2023 budget.

October 2023:

Our revenue (plus apportionment reserve) was less than last year, but slightly more than budget. Expenses, plus mortgage payments were \$4,494 over budget. Our General Fund Net Income was a loss of (\$6,495). **October 2023 Year-to-Date:**

Year-to-date Income is (\$645) under the budget, and only (\$8,757) less than last year due to the inclusion of the apportionment reserve. Expenses are \$7,027 over budget, and \$22,739 higher than 2022 due to salary increases. We have a Year-to-date General Fund Net Income Loss of (\$9,885). General Fund Net Income is (\$31,496) less than last year. We estimate achieving our income budget and exceeding our expense budget for the year, which will result in a break-even General Fund Net Income.

Mortgage:

Ending June, we now owe \$152,741 on our mortgage!!!! The October gifts to the new "2023 \$45,000 Challenge" were \$2,301. We will be under \$150,000 by the end of November!!

Attendance:

Total Attendance was 1411 vs 1645 last year. In-person attendance was 600 vs. 644 last year. Facebook attendance increased from 372 to 403 and Live Stream decreased from 629 to 408.

2024 Stewardship Campaign

Thanks to Jim Galka and his committee for doing a great job again this year with our campaign!! See Jim's report in this issue.

2024 Offering Envelopes

If you want offering envelopes, they are available at the front desk. If you haven't already done so, you can pick yours up at any time.

2022 Audit

Anne Hilton completed the audit. It has been sent to the Desert Southwest Conference. The 2023 audit will be done by Tony Ingle.

2024 Budget

The expense budget is done but a final budget will not be approved to all pledges have been received. The budget that the Finance Committee recommends will be presented to the Church Council on December 12.

Your finance team,

Sharon Scanlan, Darrell Parson, Anne Hilton, Mary Berg and Linda Davis

Mission Moments—December 2023

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6 KJV



Merry Christmas Church Family!

First and foremost, thank you for your continued support of the mission work of Vista Church throughout this past year. Your generous financial offerings at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter provided the means for us to serve our neighbors near and far through a variety of missions. Without your support, these projects would not have been possible. *Thank You Church!*

Pocket Change Sunday

Our Pocket Change donations in December, January, and February will be used to support the **Creative Hands Ministry.** This amazing group of seamstresses led by Jan Bohe, create delightful pj sets, shorts, dresses and pillowcases that are distributed to children through Emerge Center, Family First and Impact Clothing Bank. Your monies will be used to purchase fabric and other sewing notions. **Save your loose change and look for the buckets the last Sunday of every month.**

Highlights

- **Agua Prieta:** Our annual Celebration of Learning Day has been re-scheduled for December 18, 2023 due to shortages of border staff in Mexico.
- *Impact Food Bank: Food donations continue to remain at a critically low level*. September donations totaled 74 pounds. Thank you Church! A great effort! 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.
- *Impact Clothing Bank*: Our annual "Share the Warmth" clothing and bedding drive begins this month and continues through January. Warm weather clothing for all ages is needed. Blankets and bedding are also welcome.
- *Sister José*: We made a \$1,000.00 donation to Sister Jose to be split between the purchase of a van and their ongoing building fund. In January we will re-evaluate our partnership with them.

As we approach the New Year, we are excited to see where God leads us in the Mission field as we serve our neighbors in Oro Valley, Tucson and the world.

In His name,

Linda Galka

Linda Galka

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

December, 2023 Stewardship Campaign

The Stewardship Campaign for this year was concluded on Sunday, November 12, 2023. It was a successful event, even though overall pledges were down. We had a campaign review meeting on Monday, November 13, 2023 where we discussed how we may improve the campaign for next year. Those suggestions will be implemented for the 2025 campaign.

For the 2024 campaign year we have 60 pledges so far for a total of \$209,480. The average is \$3,491. This compares to last year when we had 73 pledges for a total of \$237,500. The average was \$3,253.

A final letter was sent out on November 13, 2023. We expect some pledges from this letter, but do not plan on a significant number.

Thank you to all the Committee members for your hard work. Through your efforts we concluded a successful campaign.

Jim Galka

Jim Galka Stewardship Chairman

> Produce on Wheels Without Waste—The Program By: Stuart Watkins



When I heard about Produce on Wheels Without Waste, or P.O.W.W.O.W., I asked Dan Boring, a Vista United Methodist Church member, to give me more information. He explained that on the second Saturday of each month seasonal produce that crosses the border at Nogales, Arizona is donated to Borderlands and Borderlands then delivers the produce to several locations in Tucson. The produce did not meet government standards to be sold in retail stores and would have been dumped in landfills, if not for Borderlands picking up the produce and delivering it to various organizations.

One such organization is Vista de la Montana United Methodist Church in Catalina. Volunteers arrive between 6:00 and 6:30 am. Volunteers come from members of Vista Methodist Church, the Catholic Church, and volunteers from Catalina, Eagle Crest, SaddleBrooke, SaddleBrooke Ranch and other areas. In Catalina, the Impact Food Center also directs people to Vista's P.O.W.W.O.W. program. Volunteers organize the produce into boxes and bags and cars start arriving between 8:00 and 11:00 am. Each car is given about 75 lbs. of produce and last month almost 2,000 lbs. of produce were distributed. A donation of \$15 is requested, but if someone does not have the money, they do not go away empty-handed. Dan explained the donated money is sent to Borderlands to pay for the gas and other expenses needed to fund the program. Borderlands.com website has additional information about the program. Anyone interested in volunteering, or for more information, contact Dan Boring at 520-825-1985.

AGUA PRIETA SPONSORSHIP:

This Sunday we will be taking sign-ups in the Narthex, for our trip to Agua Prieta Mexico on Monday December 18th, 2023 for the Celebration of Learning Festival. A current USA Passport is required. This is an opportunity to visit our sister church Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta and meet your sponsored student. A comfortable 50 passenger touring bus awaits you!!!! *Please be sure to sign up by December 10, 2023*.

POINSETTIA TIME AGAIN!!



As in the past, Vista would like to beautifully decorate our sanctuary with Poinsettias which will be placed at the Altar in time for the 10:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 2023. Following the 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service, please feel free to take your poinsettia home with you. If you would like to donate a Poinsettia in honor of or in memoriam of someone special in your life, please complete the attached order form and return it to the Church office by Monday, December 11, 2023. The cost of each Poinsettia is \$10 and should be remitted to the church with your completed order form. Thank you for helping to make this blessed season even more special.

FLOWERS

The new flower calendar for 2024 is located in the Narthex and you may now sign up for any Sunday which you would like to honor a special occasion or a special person(s). Please only one sign-up per date. Arrangements will continue to be \$50 as in the past year payable to VUMC; also, please be reminded to return all flower arrangement vessels to the Church after flowers have faded so they can be reused.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

United Women in Faith will be distributing Christmas stockings before and after church on December 3rd, 2023 before and after Church on the patio. Please return them to the Narthex by December 10. 2023.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



A huge Christmas card sale awaits you: 4 cards for only \$1.00!!!!

We have a large collection of hand-made cards by the ladies' coop in Agua Prieta Mexico. Please stop by our table in the Narthex and pick out a special card for a loved one. We are sure they will enjoy the lovely handywork on each unique card. The cards are part of our Economic Advancement program for our sister church Fuente de Vida.

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 on designated Wednesdays, then fun and games. If you would like to inquire about more information, please contact the Vista office at 520.825.1985 and leave a message.

DINNER FOR SIX

We certainly hope our Dinner for Sixers Fall season enjoyed good fun and fellowship. Our Spring season will begin in January, 2024. Linda Davis and I will arrange the next groups of six towards the end of December, 2023. If you were part of the Fall season you will automatically be part of the Spring season, unless you contact either Sandy or Linda to opt out.

We welcome all new members to participate by calling contact Sandy or Linda to sign up, or by leaving message at the Church office at 520.8225.1985. If interested, please do so by December 28, 2023. Dinner for Six is a great way to get to know our Vista Church Family and we look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely, Sandy Schwartz

Opportunities

Online Calendar

Please check our website for an up to date calendar and for more details on meetings and events. W<u>WW.vistaumc.org/</u> calendar



<u>Vista's</u> <u>Remembrance Garden</u>

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 event that occurs every fourth Wednesday of each Month 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. Or, feel free to talk with Loni Degen 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!

Article Deadlines

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

Connect & Grow 2023

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 pray to God as we lift up your concerns.

COMPASSION CONNECTION In Need of Continued Prayers for Healing

Orland Burbey, Jan Crown, Steven Extract, Alexis Extract, Kay Gragg, Bill Gureck, Fran Hampton, Peggy Hoeft, Pam Holder, 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, Howard and MaryLou Young, Eileen Carender, Ed Jensen, Paul Oelrich, Joyce Holeman and Jack Marquardt

Home Bound

Florence Duckett, Bob & Eileen Herd, 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, congregations, and communities of the following:

December 2023

Chaplains & Counselors in the South District; The Inn Project, Tucson; TMM Family Services (people served and staff) Tucson; 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.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Congregational Care Committee has been caring for our members for over 12 years. At one time we had over 20 volunteers providing many services. Now we have only six 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, 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 with us, please call Sandy Schwartz, or the Church office at 520.825.1985.

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.

FOR OUR VETERANS



Did you know there is a Northwest Veteran Clinic now that is closer than going to the Veteran Affairs office on South 6th in the Southwestern part of Tucson?

Northwest Tucson VA Clinic—The Northwest Tucson VA Clinic outpatient clinic provides primary care and specialty health services, including: mental health care; laboratory and pathology services; social work; telehealth; women's health services; and many more.

Within their website: www.va.gov/southern-arizona-health-care you will find their address and hours, parking and transportation information and other health services they offer at their Northwest Tucson VA Clinic.

Again, their website to obtain more, extensive information, please visit: www.va.gov/southern-



NEW TESTAMENT LETTER BIBLE STUDY

Beginning Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 9:45 a.m. there will be a six-week Bible study on he New Testament Letter to the Hebrews. This study will take place in The Elizabeth Room under the leadership of Dr. Rev. James Lubach, who will be using the study guide by David A. Desilva entitled "Hebrews Grace and Gratitude."

To sign up for this class, or to get additional information, please either see or contact Donna Boring at 520.825.1985.

A Festival of Seven Lessons and Carols

The second Sunday of Advent December 10, 2023 @ 10:00 AM Vista de la Montaña United Methodist Church



(Please email <u>vistaumc.org@gmail.com</u> or text 520.349.9216 with your Celebrations and Concerns. These will be read and prayed for during the Pastoral Prayer). Please join us on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 6:00 PM for the <u>Glory Way music event</u> <u>here at Vista United</u> <u>Methodist Church.</u>

It will be great entertainment and much fun for all!!!!



ANNIVERSARIES

O'DONALD, Jay & Louise SINOHUI, Lisa NEVINS, Dick & Ilene HOTCHKISS, Curtis & Michelle MILLER, Linda MARKS, Peggy BYWATER, Gene & Diane FLOYD, T. J. & Linda ANDERSON, Maureen	12/01 12/01 12/08 12/15 12/16 12/17 12/18 12/28 12/29	
ANDERSON, Maureen	12/29	

BIRTHDAYS

12/01 12/01 12/05 12/05 12/06 12/08 12/09 12/10 12/10 12/16 12/17 12/19 12/22 12/23 12/24 12/25 12/28 12/30 12/30

HOTCHKISS, Curtis
,
MILLER, Shirley
KOELLING, Jerry
LENZINI, Alice Ann
POWERS, William
WALDO, Marilyn
WATKINS, Stuart
BOLAR, Marlin
SMITH, Kathleen
AGNEW, Jean
MILLER, Paul
KARCHER, Cynthia
DE WINDT, Charlotte
GRIFFIN, Linda
BLEESS, Von Ceil
RUPE, Marvin
MC FARLAND, Glenda
LITTLE, Betty
SMITH, George



HELP WANTED

<u>Receptionist</u>: We are currently looking for two part-time receptionists to Volunteer and join our team on Monday afternoons from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Thursday afternoons from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Duties would include general office work (opening mail; folding and stuffing of letters into envelopes; adhering labels as needed; answering of phones; and greeting incoming guests and visitors. If you are a "people" person with solid communication and organizational skills, we would love to have you join our team here at Vista!!! Please contact Kellen Adams, Office Manager, at 520.825.1985.

<u>Set-Up Volunteers</u>: Are you looking for a Volunteer position for occasionally working on the first Sunday of each Month before and after church services? In particular, we are looking for Volunteers to train to help with Communion set-ups. If you

are interested, please contact the church office at 520.825.1985 and leave a message for the Communion Steward, Delores Brindle.

We look forward to hearing from you and working with you!!!!



HAPPY RETIREMENT TO OUR DEAR PASTOR FRED BAUM- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

Volunteers are needed to assist with the set-up before the event and the tear-down following the conclusion of the Potluck. There will be a volunteer sign-up sheet over the next several Sunday mornings in the patio area. For those who contribute, please plan on taking home your personal items after the luncheon. For those who can assist with putting away tables and chairs and the final clean-up, if available, please plan on joining us Monday morning @ 9:00 a.m. You may sign up for the food needed for the Potluck in the patio area over the next several Sundays—by the first letter of your last name.

Letters A through K: Main Dishes Letters L through Q: Sides, Salads or Appetizers Letters R through Z: Desserts

Once again, thank you so much for helping to make this a momentous occasion for Pastor Fred and Deede Baum.



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 MONTAÑA UMC 3001 E MIRAVISTA LANE TUCSON, AZ 85739

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES...

If you would like to send Pastor Fred a note, card or letter expressing your appreciation of his dedication to Vista and to wish him well as he starts this new adventure, please address them to:

Vista de la Montaña UMC ATTN: Robin Conner 3001 E Miravista Lane Tucson, AZ 85739

You may also email notes to: <u>vista.membership@outlook.com</u>. They will be opened and put into a memory book for Pastor Fred to be presented on December 24, 2023. We will also have a basket available in the Narthex to collect cards and letters.

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



December 2023

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED





3001 E Miravista Lane 520-825-1985

DECEMBER 10TH: "LESSONS & CAROLS" CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: 10:00 AM & 6:00 PM WWW.VISTAUMC.ORG