



JANUARY 2026

Our Mission at Vista de la Montaña United Methodist Church

To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, and to reach out to others, help them, welcome them into our family of faith as we gather for worship, fellowship, education, and service.



"Share the Warmth" Clothing Drive

A long-standing tradition at Vista is its' annual "Share the Warmth" Clothing Drive. We are asking that members donate gently used (or new!) clothing for the winter months to this cause. Socks, sweaters, jackets and sweatshirts (both men and women), pants, long-sleeved shirts, etc. will be gratefully received and taken to IMPACT of Southern AZ weekly for low income members of our community. This drive will run from December 14, 2025 through January 25, 2026. A box in the narthex will be available for your convenience.

Thank you in advance for helping to "Share the Warmth" among our area neighbors.

"Tuesdays with Pastor Mary"

Remember to tune into Vista's Facebook page every Tuesday for a message from Pastor Mary. To access Facebook, go to our website: www.vistaumc.org and click on the Facebook icon.

Address for ALL Echoes articles!

The email address for all Echoes articles is Echoes@vistaumc.org

Please make sure that you send your articles to that address only! If you send it to another address, it is possible the article will not be published.

Nancy Yob, Echoes@vistaumc.org

FELLOWSHIP FOCUS – Rex & Sherri Wyland



Vista member Sherri Wyland loves to tell her stories. The bubbly, cheerful lady with a twinkle in her eye will always take the time to stop and share her life with interested folks.

Sherri and Rex, both natives of small towns in Iowa, met when Sherri was in high school and Rex returned from serving in the Korean War (1950-1953). They married on June 10, 1956, after which both attended Morningside College in Sioux City. Their careers led them to live in 17 different locations, primarily settling in Missouri, where Rex worked, including eventual retirement, for Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. Sherri retired from the North Kansas City School District after earning an advanced degree from the University of Missouri in Kansas City.

Their widespread volunteer efforts began with Habitat for Humanity, an organization founded in 1976. They worked in the Appalachian Mountains, and observed self-build programs in Greeley, Colorado.

Rex and Sherri became VIM individuals, which stands for Volunteer in Mission. Most of the work was done through Methodist churches. A lot of their work was with UMCOR which is United Methodist Committee On Relief. The organization began during WWII and contributes services all over the world in many different areas. Sherri and Rex were basically trained in Disaster Relief Work and Team Leadership. All work was volunteer.

Their big start was with Hurricane Andrew. They traveled to Dulac, Louisiana and repaired work from the storm, built houses on stilts and supervised teams. After Rex retired he went to Baldwin, Louisiana where he supervised the construction of a large UMCOR Depot where material was stored to send to disaster areas. Trucks brought in supplies that were sent out all over the world. Teams were scheduled and came in to work on houses destroyed by storms and in the Depot. He stayed there for two years. Sherrie retired and joined him the last year. (Sherri states Louisiana is like a different world, food and language are very different. The last time they went there to work was for Hurricane Katrina.

Rex went to areas different from Sherri because she was working in the winter. He went mainly with medical teams as a helper. He went to Costa Rica and Jamaica (where doctors couldn't work as their licenses were not accepted).

They made two trips to Alaska, leading teams while they were there. The first one was to find a church to build and work in a local church. The second trip consisted of leading teams to build a parsonage which had burned down when they got there.

One trip was to the Navajo area in New Mexico where they worked with a program for abused women. The natives invited them into their homes, cooked special foods and gave them handmade jewelry.

One of their last trips was to Guatemala with a medical mission team. They worked as pharmacists and Rex helped build a pharmacy.

After retirement Rex and Sherri moved to SaddleBrooke, AZ, where they joined Vista UMC 27 years ago. While living in this area they spent two years of directing Kid's Closet when it was just getting started. They were part of the first Golden Goose, an upscale thrift shop in Catalina. They worked for seven years directing the transportation and material development of this very popular and successful enterprise.

They have taken several trips to Agua Prieta, Mexico, helping to build the first church in the colonia where people were living in cardboard houses with dirt floors. This is where our used cards go and ladies can make money on their own.

The last trip they took together was to Salt Lake City where they took a team from the Tucson area. They worked in a depot (warehouse) that was an off shoot of Sager Brown. (UMCOR Sager Brown Depot is the hub of UMCOR's relief-supply operations. Each year, more than 2,000 volunteers prepare about \$5 million in kit supplies for shipment.) Rex and Sherri also spent one half day working in a Mormon warehouse where people came to get their food. (Rex passed away in March 2018).

Their family consists of a daughter, Dawn, who is a family law attorney in Tucson and is a mother to Matt who lives in Syracuse, New York. Their son, Doug, is a professional photographer who travels all over to different colleges. He is the father of Harrison who lives Phoenix. When Harrison was 15, his mother passed away and Doug later married Kendra who works in advanced education while living in Phoenix.

A lifetime of wonderful experiences...Sherri says she wouldn't trade them for anything ...

--Robin Conner

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

United Women of Faith collected over 120 Christmas stockings thanks to the generosity of Vista UMC members. Ladies housed at Tucson Metropolitan Ministries (TMM) received 49 stockings and women served by Eagles Wings of Grace (photo below) received 45 stockings. The remaining stockings were given to the Gospel Rescue Mission, in addition to 20 backpacks.



MISSION OUTREACH

Always giving thanks to God for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:20

Impact of Southern Arizona

Thanksgiving and Christmas Emergency 911

Vista de la Montaña responded generously to the food scarcity emergency in our community. A total of 438 pounds of food was donated. As a congregation we were encouraged to donate 9 canned items, 1 pasta, rice or beans, 1 flour, sugar, or boxed baking mix. We collected 301 canned items, 91 pasta, rice, beans, and 42 flour, sugar, baking mix, plus 28 miscellaneous items. **Thank you church!**

Shut in Seniors: Thank you for supporting the forty shut in seniors receiving daily meals from Impact. In addition to the mini pies included with their Thanksgiving dinners, we assembled Christmas treat bags for each person. The bags were filled with chocolates, candy canes, a Christmas napkin, and a Christmas card from Vista Church.



Loose Change: Our Loose Change collection in November benefited Impact. **We collected 277.50!!!** Thank you for emptying your pockets! Save your change!

Impact Donations: For the month of January we will be collecting 14.5 oz canned diced tomatoes .

Communion Servers: If you are interested in being part of this ministry, please contact Linda Galka lindagalka65@gmail.com or speak with me at church and I will add you to the list. We need two servers the first Sunday of each month to serve bread and juice alongside Pastor Mary and the Liturgist. All elements are gluten free! No advance training is required!

January Communion servers: Jim and Linda Galka.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Adult Christian Education Series on Jesus' Disciples
Wednesdays, January 14th

Elizabeth Room located in Vista's Education Building
When Jesus chose his disciples he selected twelve ordinary men.
In this study we will explore what happened to each of disciple and
why they were so determined to share the gospel after Christ's death.

Please sign up by calling the church office 520 825-1985.

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT, SERVE & SUPPORT

LANDSCAPING

The Landscaping crew are now meeting on Thursdays at 7:00 instead of 8:00, due to the increase in temperatures. The guys are always seeking others to join them, and sometimes there are even donuts provided for those who show up, such a deal!

Aqua Prieta greeting cards are available for 50¢ each in the Library during office hours.

Complimentary Prayer Beads are available in the Narthex and in the Library.

Upper Room booklets are available in the Narthex and the church office for \$2.00 each or online at upperroom.org. It is free to sign up for a daily devotional email.

A wheelchair is available during services in the Narthex.

Upcoming Events

Friday 01.02.26	10:00am	Prayer Bead Group
Saturday 01.03.26	8:00am	Vista Men's Meeting
Wednesday 01.07.26	11:00am	Handbell Practice
Wednesday 01.07.26	1:00pm	Choir Practice
Tuesday 01.13.26	2:30pm	Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday 01.14.26	11:00am	Handbell Practice
Wednesday 01.14.26	1:00pm	Choir Practice
Tuesday 01.20.26	3:00pm	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday 01.21.26	11:00am	Handbell Practice
Wednesday 01.21.26	1:00pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday 01.28.26	11:00am	Handbell Practice
Wednesday 01.28.26	1:00pm	Choir Practice

We encourage all members to sign up for the prayer chain emails. It's easier to get notifications for
👉 prayer/healing updates.
Email Lou Phillippi at Lphillippi@yahoo.com

Prayers for Healing

Eileen Carender, Dottie Lou Colby,
Margaret Overman, Mary Louise Roberson,
Marilyn Rutkowski, and Carol Wilson

Prayers for our South District Churches Chaplains & Counselors in the South District, TMM Family Services, Tucson

Homebound

Marlin Bolar, Jerry Browning, Orland Burbey, Rev.
Alan and Kathy Campbell, Lynn Duenkel, Jerry
Eshelman, Bill Gureck, Marsha Hartz, Jo Ann
Hubbard, Ken and Diane Podlasek, Sharon Poole,
Barb Rempel

Sundays in January at Vista UMC

January 04 - Epiphany Sunday, Star
Words, and Holy Communion

New Sermon Series:
Common Saying Not Found in the Bible

January 11 - "God Helps Those Who Help
Themselves"

January 18 - "Everything Happens for a
Reason"

January 25 - "God Won't Give You More
Than You Can Handle"

**Join us Sundays at 10:00 am on-line
or in person**

Christmas Eve 2025



The Bills-Yob Clan



Kryste and Pastor Mary



Cecilia and Family

