



VISTA de la MONTAÑA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL 2018

ECHOES

## **PASTOR'S PEN**

By the time you are reading this, Easter will have passed and many of our snow birds will have flown home for the summer. Many snow birds stay in this area until after Easter and then are scattered to the four winds. As I thought of this I realized it was very similar to the early Christians experience. After Easter for a while they hid out in the Upper Room and other "safe" places until they got the Great Commission from Jesus to "Go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Another way he said it just before the sending of the Holy Spirit, "and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." This diaspora of the Early Christians led to the rapid growth of Faith all across the Roman world.

So as you go to your summer homes, or farms, or businesses know that you are sent from this place to be the Church! Know that as you meet new and old friends and acquaintances you have been given a commission to invite them to come with you to church or a Bible study or a quiet place to meet God in Jesus Christ through you. It is amazing what God will do through you if you are open to inviting others in. In the beginning of our faith Jesus bids us to come and then the day comes when he says, "Go and do my work." As you go out into this world know that God will call you to special people who need to hear the invitation to "come."

Recently I took Rev. Bigimba Mujambiri and his father-in-law Rev. Elias to a district pastors meeting. Rev. Elias is a United Methodist pastor who was a District Superintendent in Uganda who is now immigrating to the United States. I met his son-in-law Bigimba on Palm Sunday 2007 along with his 3 brothers who fled the genocide in Rwanda. They could not speak a word of English but knew what the United Methodist church was and wanted to be a part. Eventually on Easter March 25, 2008 they started a church called Goshen Ministries that ministers to refugees in the Chapel of Christ Church UM. They now have 2 churches here in the United States and 3 in Africa along with an orphanage.

I did none of the work for the above I simply invited them in. I said, "Come and join us in worship," and they and God did the rest!!

Keep inviting others in. God has a special heart for the least, the lost and the lonely. And as you do that you might meet an angel!!

**In Christ's love**

Pastor Fred

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Hebrews13:2

## Taxes and Charity

As a result of the standard deduction being raised to \$24,000 in the new tax law, the government estimates that only 5% of taxpayers will itemize. The 95% using the standard deduction will no longer be able to deduct charitable contributions. How then might this affect charity contributions, specifically to Vista Endowment?

In 2016, individuals reported in a study by U S Trust that their gifts to charity in 2015 were for personal and altruistic reasons. They cited “believing in the organization’s mission,” that their gift “would make a difference,” and “experiencing personal satisfaction” as the top three reasons they gave.

Tax benefits are not high on the list of reasons for giving. In fact, “tax advantages” as a reason for giving fell from 34% in 2013 to 18% in 2015 according to the study.

Consequently, we are confident that Vista’s congregation will continue to support the Endowment program at Vista as a way to create a legacy in perpetuity for God’s work in the community and beyond.

***For additional information on Endowment, please contact Endowment Chair Jay O’Donald via email at [jodonald@earthlink.net](mailto:jodonald@earthlink.net)***



From the Finance Committee

We are running behind last year and 2018 budget in income, but we had \$15,000 in prepaid pledges in December, which are not reflected in the 2018 income. Expenses are about the same as last year and the 2018 budget. Our monthly income is only running slightly more than expenses, so we are not building our cash reserve, but the Total General Fund reserve of \$91,522 represents 3 months of expenses, which is our goal.

Attendance was better than last year because of the Ash Wednesday and Contemporary services.



## HOSPITALITY

I want to thank the folks that signed up for making coffee, serving goodies and cleaning afterward this past quarter.

Thank you to those who committed to making coffee for the first quarter and for one month. They are: Dillies & Linda Ward, Cliff Terry and Barbara Sorensen and Robin Conner.

Hospitality committee wants to thank the mission team for giving all of us the opportunity to experience the Café Colonia Coffee which has a great 100% Arabica decaf flavor coffee. The mission team wanted everyone to experience and enjoy the coffee for the last quarter. This coffee is from our sister church, Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieto. The mission team has been selling their coffee for over seven years at Vista to help Gela and her staff finance the work of their church. If you would like to continue to have this coffee served every Sunday on the patio then see Glenda Snider

How could we have coffee without a goodie or other treat in our hand while talking to church friend. A big thank you to those who served and cleaned up after hospitality. The following are: Nancy & Dave Brackett, Barbara & Bob Sherman, Margaret Overman & Harold Hurley, Gail & Darrell Parson, Kathy & Al Isaac, Dixie & Bill Ayers, Sandy & Pete Schwartz, Fern & Roger Saliva, Mary Moneypenny, Barb & Allen Phillips, Loni Degen, Nancy & Lou Phillippi, Delores Brindle, Pat & Don Reykdal, Smith, Margaret & Paul Larmour, Sally and Alisdair Innes, Yvonne Le Cornu and Valerie Hammons and the youth group. I apologize if I missed your name this quarter, please stop at the sign-up table and I tell me, and I will add it to next quarter names.

Hospitality committee is so fortunate to have all the above good folks to share their time and of course their goodies and treats.

We hope that you will sign-up next quarter. I enjoy adding your name to the listed for the next quarter. If you are thinking of doing it but would like to ask someone questions who has already done either making coffee or doing goodies after church, you have names above to talk with after church. It truly is fun to sign-up.

There was a special Sunday celebration treat when Linda Hartman and Barbara Madden introduced us again to a King cake. They also provided the history of the King cake and the Mardi Gras celebration in New Orleans. What is also special about the King cake there is a baby hidden in the cake. The tradition is whoever finds the baby is supposed to bring next year King cake for refreshments. There were three people who was surprised by receiving a piece of cake with a baby hidden in the piece. Does anyone know who were surprised with a baby in their piece?

**January birthday we enjoyed cake and coffee while wishing a big "16th Happy Birthday" to Mia Tonga. The next birthday was in March when we surprised Pastor with a birthday cake and cards. Did he turn 39?**

Do you remember those who celebrated their anniversary with also cake?

**Oh yes! We cannot forget those "pot luck" luncheons. There was in January the "Heritage Pot Luck" and then in February the Youth Rodeo luncheon.**

**We don't want to forget the "streaming church service" luncheon. We were invited to hear about the project of offering "outreach streaming church services" to our neighbors North of us. There were opportunities to listen to what the project is all about, ask questions, share ideas with the outreach streaming committee. We were given also an opportunity to watch a short clip of an example of a streaming church service. It was very informative.**

Coffee Sign-up, see LaVerne Tucker and for goodie sign-up see Delores Brindle

Thanks to all.

*Delores Brindle, Co-chairperson of Hospitality Committee*

## VISTA FINE ARTS

invites you to come and hear  
Catalinas Community Chorus present

### ***“Musical Tucson”***

Sunday, April 8, 3:00 p.m.



This unique and exciting program takes a fresh look at one of the cultural impacts our city has had on the world....**MUSIC**. Tucson has long been a place for musicians, songwriters and artists to live, work and congregate. From Lalo Guerrero, the father of Chicano music, to Linda Ronstadt, John Denver, Bob Nolan, Gary Paxton, Paul McCartney, Gene Autry, Rex Allen, and Travis Edmondson, the nexus between Tucson and music is profound, varied and prolific. Don't miss this final Fine Arts event of the season at Vista, as it is a wonderful tribute to Tucson and our southwest musical heritage. Bill Bellah is artistic director, with Mary Bellah at the piano. Come and join CCC as they present this fun, informational afternoon of music. Tickets are \$10.00. Children and students up to 18 years of age are free. For tickets and information call (520) 303-6474 or visit us at [catalinascommunitychorus.org](http://catalinascommunitychorus.org) Tickets also available at Vista UMC on Sundays.

Vista Fine Arts appreciates your support and attendance this season. We wish you a summer filled with rest, relaxation, fun.....and **MUSIC!**



*Catalinas Community Chorus*

## MISSIONS MINISTRY REPORT

By the time you read this, Easter week will have come and gone but what a joy it is each year, to remember the love God has for us, that he sent His very own son to be our Savior. So we Christians celebrate Easter every new day, as a new beginning in Christ, for the rest of our lives. Speaking of new beginnings, we have a Celebration of our Graduates coming up in our Sister Church, Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta, Mexico. It will take place on Saturday April the 21st. A group of us are going to drive down for the day to be present for the Celebration, have lunch, visit with the students and interview the High School Graduates who are looking to begin their secondary education, either at the University or the Tech College in Agua Prieta. If you want to go with us, give me a call. Each year, as we see these wonderful young people move forward in their education, it is a thing of beauty. For most of these students, their parents never graduated from any class level and the joy **they experience, thru their children's educational success, is something to see. What a blessing it is for us to be part of this success story beginning with your sponsorship of the backpacks full of their school supplies.** You are making a BIG difference in their lives and in their future and they are most grateful to us for our help. Without your help many of these children would not be able to get an education so, Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!

We will begin our Backpack Scholarship program for the next school year, 2018-2019, in the next 60 days. You will be hearing from your Mission Committee about the details. We also want to thank the Sun Lakes UMC for their continued support for the High School Scholarships. This past year they supported 15 students. Our annual bus trip to Agua Prieta for the Celebration of Learning Festival will take place on Saturday the 27th of October. Mark your calendars and plan to join us. Order that outdated US passport now. More details will follow later in the year. Any questions about the scholarship program you can call, *Team Leader Jan Hopke-Almer at 520-818-3504.*

At our last Mission committee meeting in March, we got to see some of the great work that the Creative Hands group has made. They meet each Friday in the Patio Room at 9:00 AM and they are seeking additional folks to join the group.

*Jan Bohe tells me that they are down to just 4 people working on the children's clothing and need some additional helpers. It is a fun thing to do and we hope that some of you ladies will call Jan the Team Leader for Creative Hands and join the group. Her phone # is 520-825-9725.*

**Team Leader Susan Mawhinney tells me that the Sister Jose Women's Shelter is in need of undergarments** for the homeless women who seek help at the Shelter. If you feel led to help with this mission project, give Susan a call at 520-825-5341.

***See Susan's article for further info.***

We want to thank you for your continued support of the Food Bank at Impact every 1st Sunday of the month. The need for food continues to be a concern and your participation is a blessing to our community. We continue to celebrate birthdays each month at the Senior Center in Catalina. We meet at 12:00 PM on the 4th Thursday of the month. The meeting for April will be on the 29th. Come and join us and visit with the seniors and join in the celebration of the birthdays for that month. You may call Benith MacPherson at 520-825-5891 for further info.

I want to thank our snowbirds, who are leaving us till next winter, for their support of our Mission program and wish them God's blessing and grace till they return to us. We "will keep the Mission Light on".

Our next Mission Meeting will take place in the Patio Room on the 2nd Wed. of the month on April the 12th at 1:00PM. As always, all are welcome to attend as this is your Mission Committee. We thank all our Mission team leaders for their good work and dedication to Vista's Mission program.

This last month we said goodbye to a good friend of Mission work, our friend and member of Vista Church, *Rex Wyland*. This good man along with his wife Sherri, have served the Lord in many different programs, volunteering their services to so many Mission trips as well as their work with UMCOR across the years. When I first came to Vista over 15 years ago, they were the face of Mission at Vista. Their love of volunteer service and of the Lord is an inspiration and a testimony to us all. Our love and prayers go out to Sherri and family as they live out their lives without this good man but they have his example of a life well lived. Rest in peace "you good and faithful servant".

Please remember to keep your *Mission Team and the Mission work at Vista in your prayers*, as we carry out our various ministries, not only in our community, but beyond showing God's face of love to those in need.

*Yours in Mission Service:*

**Dee Berman .....Chairman**

*Deerick1968@gmail.com or 520-825-7115*

## ***Sister Jose Women's Center***

Sister Jose Women's Center has been serving homeless women in Tucson since 2010. Every day from Monday through Saturday, homeless women go to the center for food, hot showers, laundry facilities, clothing, toiletries, rest, education and companionship. The small staff and many volunteers, work to help the women out of homelessness.

The Help Out of Homelessness Program addresses: Meeting Basic Needs, Community Building & Trust, Health & Wellness Education, Veteran's Services, Pre-Employment Readiness, and Linkage to Housing.

Our church has been helping support Sister Jose Women's Center through generous donations by the congregation, Vista's Men's Group, Missions Committee, United Methodist Women's groups and the Prayer Shawl Group. Thank you for your help and support of this worthy mission!

Please plan to attend Sister Jose Women's Center Open House on Thursday, April 26, from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Appetizers and drinks will be provided.

Sister Jose Women's Center is currently in need of: personal size sunscreen, sunglasses, new cotton undies, new white sport socks, deodorant and wet wipes. Donations can be placed in the Narthex missions baskets at Vista.

Thank you for your generosity!

### ***Sister Jose Women's Center***

*1050 S. Park Ave.*

*Tucson, AZ 85719*

*520-909-3905*

*Susan Mawhinney*

*whinneyma@gmail.com*

*520-825-5341 home*

*520-576-7190 cell*



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

RUPE, Marvin & Jean 04/03  
OBEAR, Jim & Jody 04/04  
HUNT, Ken & Sharon 04/09  
BRINDLE, Delores & Kermit 04/13  
TERRY, Cliff & Barbara Sorensen 04/14  
PHILLIPPI, Lou & Nancy 04/20  
YOUNG, Joe & June 04/21  
LITTLE, Don & Betty 04/29

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

NEVINS, Ilene	04/02	SIMON, Jim	04/11
BUKES, Janet	04/03	COOKE, Lois	04/14
JANTZEN, Ruth Ann	04/04	HOWES, Keith	04/14
BELLAH, Bill	04/05	RYTTER, Jane	04/17
DURBIN, Curt	04/06	WATTS, Beler	04/17
BESCH, Jo Anne	04/07	TERRY, Cliff	04/18
OLSON, Linda	04/07	KENNY, Bernie	04/21
PHILLIPPI, Nancy	04/07	JACKSON, Jim	04/22
ROOKER, Joanie	04/07	LANGWIG, Donna	04/22
EXTRACT, Clif	04/08	MILLER, Linda	04/23
EGGEBRATEN, Dean	04/09	NIBBELINK, Judi	04/24
WARD, Linda	04/09	OBEAR, Jody	04/26
		SALAVA, Fern	04/27

VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC  
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VISIT US ON FACEBOOK  
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[www.Vistaumc.org](http://www.Vistaumc.org)



April 2018

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In the beginning  
God created  
the heavens  
and the earth.  
Genesis 1:1



### ***FESTIVAL of GOD'S CREATION***

Come join us for an Earth Day Potluck!

April 22nd after the 10 AM Service

Bring you own plates and silverware (so we  
can give the earth a break) and prepare to  
have some earthly fun!

*If your name begins with:*

*A-G Bring a Salad*

*H-M Bring a Main Dish*

*N-S Desserts*

*T-Z Side Dish*

*More info to follow!*

