



VISTA de la MONTAÑA

ECHOES

DECEMBER 2016

PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Members and Friends,

This week I was at lunch with a member of our Church and watched something very beautiful. We were at a restaurant that we eat at often and this member in a very positive, upbeat manner invited our server to try our church some Sunday. He acknowledged that the server probably attended another church, but still would like to share with him the joy that he has found here at Vista. It was natural. No one was uncomfortable and even though the server couldn't attend this Sunday he left the door open for a future possibility. It was as if he was saying, "This Sunday won't work but invite me again."

We earn the right to be heard and to invite others by building relationships with people through time. This is what our member did with our server. It is part of our witness to love and care for others by treating them with dignity and respect. People respond to this particularly "People of Peace." These are people God brings into our lives to connect with them and eventually invite them into the life of the Church. Ultimately, somewhere in there an invitation to Jesus will be made, often by the pastor, but anyone can do it.

The Advent/Christmas season is an ideal time to invite your "People of Peace" to join you here. For those leery of "sacred space" like Sanctuaries and Worship Services, we have events like "Walk to Bethlehem", Vista's Fine Arts program "The Sonoran Bells". We also have for those who have been missing church the Christmas Eve services and Christmas Day. Many at Christmas feel a nostalgic tug at their hearts to return home to family and Church. This is why our Christmas Eve services are so traditional and our Sunday Christmas Day message is called "Welcome Home."

Indeed at Christmas time there are many whose thoughts and minds and hearts are turned towards home and God and Church. You can be the voice of God to these people inviting them in; welcoming them in, for indeed the Church is our home.

Keep your eyes and ears open and see what God will do through you in the coming days and weeks.

In Christ's love, Pastor Fred



IMPACT of Southern Arizona provides fresh and frozen meals to homebound seniors. The need for this program is expanding and IMPACT is in immediate need of more Senior Meal Delivery Volunteer Drivers. These deliveries are made three days a week on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays starting at 11:00 am. The time commitment is approximately one-and-a-half hours from start to finish. We need volunteers who can commit to one permanent route, one day a week, or be a backup driver when needed. If interested, please contact IMPACT by calling (520) 825-0009 and ask for Dawn, the Volunteer Coordinator.



WALK TO BETHLEHEM

How can it be? The Walk is only 3 weeks away! Suddenly, there seems to be a lot to be done and not a lot of time to do it! We are actually in pretty good shape and I know we'll be ready on Dec. 7. All of the performers are busily learning their scripts (right?), costumes have been provided, sets are being created, and cookies are being baked! If you haven't signed up to do something for the Walk, it isn't too late. We have plenty of room for more villagers – these are folks dressed in period costumes with NO speaking roles – very easy job! We can use many hands on Sunday, Dec. 4, when we begin the transformation of the sanctuary into the village of Bethlehem. We also need assistance in returning the sanctuary to its original state on Saturday, Dec. 10, so that worship can take place on Sunday. If you don't know what you think you might like to do, please ask us. We'll find the right spot for you. Now go tell all of your friends about the Walk to Bethlehem and encourage them to go online at vistaumc.org and make their reservations. Reservations help the event to run more smoothly and shorten the amount of wait time for our guests. They can also call our reservation line at 471-7123. We will begin accepting reservations at 8:00 am, Nov. 25 (day after Thanksgiving).

Thank you, all who have already done so much to help us make this happen. We look forward to an amazing event!



□ The WARM WINTER drive is just around the corner. Beginning the first Sunday in December, Vista will begin collecting warm clothing (i.e., jackets, sweaters, scarves and hats, gloves, socks, warm-up outfits, etc.) and bedding (quilts, throws and blankets) for our annual Warm Winter drive to benefit our Catalina area neighbors in need. A box located in the narthex will be available for your donations, and will be emptied periodically so that donated items can be put to good use in a timely manner.

The monthly Birthday Celebrations held over the noon hour at the Senior Activity Center will **NOT** be held on the regularly scheduled Fourth Thursday in November and December due to holiday conflicts. Alternate dates have not yet been confirmed.

Guess What!!

It's time to begin planning our Dinner for Six get-togethers

Our spring session will begin in January. I hope all DF6ers had a good time during our Fall dinners. Remember, if you were part of the Fall session, you will automatically be part of the Spring groups unless you call me to cancel.

If you would like to be part of the Spring DF6, (Jan., Feb., Mar.) please call me before Dec 15.

Our Dinner for six (or lunch, or brunch) may be hosted in the home or at a restaurant. The get-togethers are a wonderful way to get to know our church family.

Sandy Schwartz 818-9792





Sonoran Bells
in cooperation with Vista Fine Arts
presents

Ring In the Season

Sunday, December 11 at 3:00 in the afternoon

Sonoran Bells, Tucson's premier community hand bell ensemble, will open their 2016 holiday season on December 11 with a concert at Vista. Under the direction of Shannon Casey, the program will feature classic carols and contemporary arrangements of tunes such as “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year” and Mariah Carey’s “All I Want for Christmas is You”.

Sonoran Bells, established in 1999, is a community hand bell ensemble based in Tucson and comprised of experienced hand bell ringers chosen by audition. The group quickly established itself for the ensemble’s musical excellence. In addition, they are proud of their educational focus, which consists of hosting festivals and workshops throughout the year, thus providing a resource for other local handbell and chime ensembles. A variety of classes are offered to directors and ringers who are interested in building their ringing skills.

Please come and bring your friends and family on December 11 at 3:00 p.m. to enjoy this outstanding program. Hand bells are beautiful to see and their music is guaranteed to get you in the spirit of Christmas. The concert is free and all are welcome. Donations appreciated. For more details about the ensemble, visit www.sonoranbells.org.



We give thanks to our Heavenly Father for Vistas Family as they blessed and encouraged us through my recent knee surgery. Their friendship, love and care has meant so much to us.

Since our church member's spirits are knitted together by faith in Jesus Christ, we were so encouraged by all their prayers, cards, gifts, and phone calls. God's love and healing provided the strength we needed.

Sharon Kaste

Prayer Shawl Ministry update:

Prayer shawls, lap robes, etc. will only be distributed by the Pastor, Valerie or the Stephen Ministers. Please contact one of them or fill out a contact form in the red registration pad and place in the collection plate. Thank you for your co-operation.

Karen Tryon

Through the first 10 months of 2016, Vista de la Montana UMC is ahead of our 2016 income budget and expenses are on budget.

	Oct. 2016 YTD	Oct. YTD Budget	
Difference			
Total Income	\$395,817	\$381,000	\$14,817
Total Expense	388,673	388,399	+274
General Fund Income	\$7,144	\$-7,399	\$14,543

The mortgage has been reduced to \$70,157 and will be paid off by July 2017.

The Finance Team

MISSIONS

We want to wish you a very Merry Christmas with God's richest blessings in the New Year to come. We look forward to what God has for us in Mission at Vista in the year to come.

As promised last month, here is my report on our trip to Agua Prieta, Mexico. I do think Christmas came to our sister church, Fuente de Vida on Oct 29th when we held the Celebration of Learning Festival. What a grand time we had! Our comfortable touring bus departed at just about 7:00 AM, having made sure everyone had their current passports, and off we went on a gorgeous day with 46 passengers aboard. We invited folks from St Marks UMC to join us and their Pastor Sharon Ragland and her spouse Chester, Pat Kittrell their mission leader and her husband Robert and 6 others were part of our team too. We were able to accommodate everyone who was on our waiting list. As always we keep everyone busy on the bus and the 3 hour ride went by very quickly. By sending all our supplies ahead of time, it did not take us long to get across the Border and get set up at the church, so that by 11 AM we were ready to go. We met for the Celebration Ceremony in the new Long Community Center on the church campus, as the church building was under repair. You could feel the excitement in the air, as the children arrived dressed in their best, the little girls looked so cute with bows and flowers in their hair and everyone with big smiles on their faces. The first activity was to introduce the children to their sponsors and take their picture with them. Lots of clapping each time a sponsor was introduced. (After the program, so many kids came up to me and asked "why did my sponsor not come?") Then the program began and Pastor Gela had some words of greeting to say as did I and then our Pastor Fred spoke and I translated for him. He spoke on the importance of and education and praised the mothers for keeping their children in school. We were then treated to a Folkloric dance in costume by 2 of the young students who got lots of applause and shouts. Then it was time to give out 42 Certificates of Achievement to those students who had a B+ or better grade average this last school year. There was quite a line up. First the mother was called up, she was pinned with a special name tag (thanks to Bill Daniels and Jean Rupe) with her name and a smiley face for each of her children who was awarded a Certificate (several moms had 3 smiley faces on her name tag) then she was given a gift bag of goodies supplied by the good folks at Vista, congratulated by Pastor Gela and Pastor Fred and then her student child was called up and awarded a framed Certificate of Achievement, a \$15.00 gift card to a local Store in Agua Prieta along with lots of handshakes and hugs Latin style and then the family photo was taken and the next name was called all with lots of applause and congratulations. It is quite something to see, and yes it takes a little time to do it all, but when we first started this Program, 10 years ago, there were about 12 children who received certificated and now look how it has grown! God is good! Recognizing the Mothers is very important, because so many of the mothers in Mexico did not go to school themselves, and for economic reasons, the children are used to help supply the family income and are not encouraged to stay in school. So we applaud these mothers and support them in their effort to see that their children get an education. Following the ceremony we were all served a tasty lunch prepared by the women's Co-op. It was a delight to share lunch with our sponsored child and family and friends from our sister church.

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with our sponsored child and family and friends from our sister church. Everyone on the bus was given a job assignment for the trip either in, Craft, Games, Prize room or Picture taking, so following lunch we were off to our jobs. I want to thank all the Photo takers Brian Cowman & Bill Daniels & Tom Miller video specialist, Craft leader Benith MacPherson, Games leader Debbi Maloid and Prize Room leader Jan Hopke-Almer. The ladies of the Women's Co-op set up the prize room and what a sight it was to see all the wonderful things you good folks at Vista donated to this effort. Jan had put together cute little bags of gift items that were a great hit. I got to sit and be the guardian of the kid's individual bags they won in the games and craft projects, while they searched for just that one special item in the game room. Even the Moms entered into some of the games. I loved hearing the laughter and shouting as the kids were encouraged in the races and the tug a war challenges. The little ones showed off their craft projects and were rewarded with tickets to the prize room for their efforts. What a fun day for all and a reminder that learning is to be celebrated!! By 2:30PM we were loaded up and on the bus and headed back across the border into the US and on our way home. What a fun day we all had. We certainly felt God's presence in the smiling faces we saw and the hugs we received and the grace that was displayed by our sister church Fuente de Vida, Fountain of Life. As we arrived back to our Vista campus we were greeted by a lovely sunset and once again knew that we had seen the face of God in our brothers and sisters in Agua Prieta, Mexico. For those of you, who did not get to go, mark your calendars for October 28th, 2017. Get those passports and join us once again for a very special day you will never forget.

Remember that December and January is our Warm Winter Collection of Blankets, bedding and warm clothes for the winter for Impact. There will be a collection box in the narthex to receive your donations. Please make sure your used items are gently used and clean. Please call Benith MacPherson at 825-5891 for further information.

We thank you for your support of our Mission work thru the Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings that allows us to do our Mission program at Vista. You are a loving and caring people and it is a privilege to serve in our Mission Outreach Ministry. We will not be meeting in December due to the Walk to Bethlehem but will meet again on our regular date the 1st Wed of the month January 4th, 2017 at 1:00 PM in ED's Building. We look forward to seeing you all then. Merry Christmas and Happy New year 2017.

Yours in Mission Service:

Dee Berman Chairman

520-825-7115 deerick1968@gmail.com

Vista Youth Blessed to be Part of the Conference Youth Event

#SELFIE2016

The Annual Conference Youth Event

An amazing weekend for all.

We started our afternoon with a motivational guest speaker/artist (Dale Fredrickson) and a rock band (Army of Light) at First UMC in Mesa.

For our Missions/Service project we headed over to "Feed My Starving Children", where our group packed 198 boxes =42,768 meals. That will feed 117 kids for a year. It was a great project. We headed back to First UMC for a meal and another worship service. Lots of fun games and activities before our mini lock in at Amazing Jakes. The kids of all ages had fun. We played video games, bowled, drove go-carts, played laser tag, ate pizza and ice cream and made lots of new friends. Made it back to the hotel at 3:30am and slept till 10am. Had one final, fantastic worship service before saying goodbye to our new friends and heading back to Tucson.

The Vista Youth (and adults) thank you for this opportunity.



The 3 youth from Vista: Kiana Hernandez, Mia Tonga, Loren Green(Dossett) and yes, that is Pastor Matt Colby!



We Love Our Veterans!

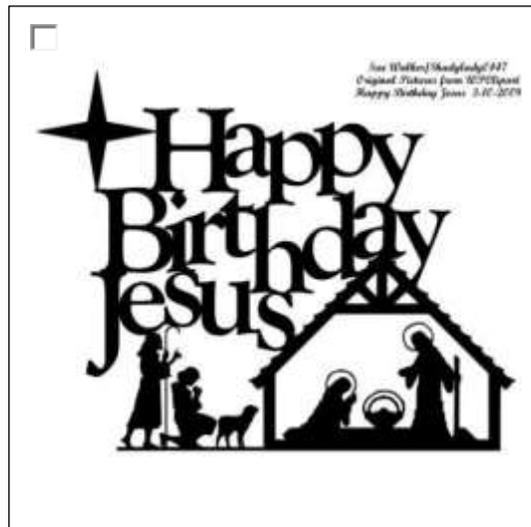
Vista Youth decorated over 100 cookies that were delivered to the VA Hospital in honor and support of those that served. Thank you to Barbara Johnson for sharing!



DECEMBER'S CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries

O'DONALD, Jay & Louise	12/01
KUHN, Jack & Barb	12/04
NEVINS, Dick & Ilene	12/08
HOTCHKISS, Curtis & Michelle	12/15
MILLER, Linda & Ray	12/16
ANDERSON, Dave & Maureen	12/29



BIRTHDAYS

DANIELS, Bill	12/01
HOTCHKISS, Curtis	12/01
MILLER, Shirley	12/01
KOELLING, Jerry	12/05
WALDO, Marilyn	12/08
WATKINS, Stuart	12/09
BOLAR, Marlin	12/10
NEWMAN, Shirley	12/10
RAYNOR, Mary	12/16
ROBERTS, Kim	12/16
MILLER, Paul	12/17
CURTIS, Carol	12/18

JOHNS, Micki	12/18
MADDEN, Barb	12/18
CALAVAN, Phyllis	12/19
KARCHER, Cynthia	12/19
RUTKOWSKI, Marv	12/19
TERRY, Carl	12/20
BULL, Fred	12/21
DE WINDT, Charlotte	12/22
GRIFFIN, Linda	12/23
POHNERT, William	12/23
BLEESS, Von Ceil	12/24
AUGUST, Don	12/25
RUPE, Marvin	12/25
KUHN, Barb	12/27
MC FARLAND, Glenda	12/28
LITTLE, Betty	12/30

UNITED METHODIST MEN

December it is! This month lasts a month then next month comes a month to soon! If we could pick just one thing to leave us alone, let it be time! Well we aren't going to get to pick that's for sure. So much good stuff happens, for those who can see, the burden caused by bad stuff is considerable lessened. At UMM we do our best to nurture good stuff and good times and help out when we can.

This is a pitch. Stump stomper Jim at your service. ANY man at Vista is welcome to stop by any UMM function. Come to a first Saturday Meeting at Sunnyside Up restaurant in Catalina. Arrive about 5 minutes till 7 AM and look for us in the back of the restaurant. Just pull up a chair and introduce yourself. That's all there is to it. No one ever joined we are not a club. Just a bunch of guys, Vista members who share a common purpose, making Vista campus an attractive, inspiring place to worship and associate. There are no members we are not a club, I repeat, any man in Vista wishing to attend should do so.

That huge rummage sale a few weeks ago was UMM authored and put on by a host of Vista members and was very successful. It's what we do. Next January we will have an overnight retreat to a monastery down in St. David. They cook and make the beds, we just show up. This will be the first Friday and Saturday in January. There are no members we are not a club, I repeat, any man wishing to attend should do so. Make arrangements now if you are at all able. The cost is \$60. Per person paid by each person. This fee goes entirely to the Monastery for meals, lodging and use of their property.

Dream Sunday also happen and through this medium Vista is sure to grow. Opportunities for everyone to serve or participate will abound. Spiritual life is intertwined with serving. Believe this; you are at the right place at the right time! How many times in life have you realized 3 months after an occasion, that was the occasion? Of course now it is too late to catch up, go back or begin again. Missing the boat, spiritually speaking, is fairly common because we are all way too busy with life in 3D. In the free will exercise (life) we all realized there would be distractions, we did realize just how effective the distractions would be. I mean hey, haven't you ever been late to a meeting?

Here we are and we have an opportunity to serve in a growing church with other people of like mind and similarly motivated. It is wonderful! The more we do, the more we grow toward the light of Jesus Christ. Out in our beautiful Sonoran Desert I both admire and sadden by the great old Barrel Cactus. These guys grow sometimes to 6 feet tall but almost every time they grow towards the light of the sun and eventually the lean can cause them to topple. Sun light and Christ light are different. The light of Jesus does not cause any one to fall over. You may follow and follow becoming even closer and not fall. This is one difference in the 3D world and the spiritual world.

Let's give ourselves an applause! We are just where we need to be to make this wonderful, spiritual step forward. Forward, spiritually, has no limits. We have the means, the Vista membership and the will to move out. We have a defined plan on paper. Giant strides can be accomplished in many small steps. This occasion we have not missed, we are right on the mark! And we realize it in the present time.

Jim Bless, UMM

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**OFFICE HOURS
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www.Vistaumc.org**

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Announcing Wesley Foundation Dinners for 2017

Vista cooks, Here are the dates for the Wesley Dinners we make and serve for next year. There's one change and that's dinners are to be served on Thursday nights instead of Wednesdays. The dates are February 9th, 16th and 23rd. I'll know more about how many students we will be feeding closer to the time of the dinners. Who wants to help out?

Sue Hedrick—818-0473 or sghedrick@wbhsi.net

December 2016

Dear Vista Congregation,

We trust you are as pleased as we are that the Vista Permanent Endowment Fund was able to provide the “seed money” from our investment earnings, which constitutes the Endowment Funds initial distribution, for our summer interns. This is a major milestone.

New ministries and new programs and a congregation that is vitally involved in building God’s kingdom are indicators of growth at Vista. New programs require funding separate from the operating budget of the church. The growth of our endowment fund can provide capital as we plan for the future and dream of finding new ways to make disciples for Christ.

Our Permanent Endowment Fund was started approximately 15 years ago to provide long-term support for the ministries of Vista. Contributions from members, friends and visitors have grown the fund to a point where we are now able to use a portion of our annual earnings for additional ministries and programs for Vista.

The endowment committee appreciates the contributions and support it has received and asks that you keep the Vista Permanent Endowment Fund in mind as you consider bequests or gifts to memorialize family or friends.

With sincere thanks,

Vista Permanent Endowment Committee