

VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC
3001 EAST MIRAVISTA LANE
TUCSON, AZ 85739

DECEMBER 2017

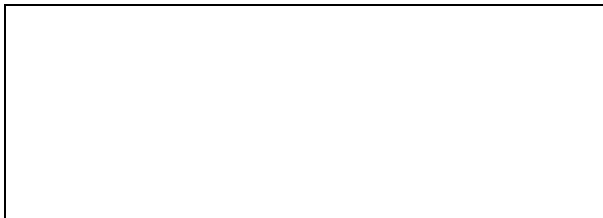
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OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
8:30 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.
PHONE 520-825-1985
E-mail: Vista UMC@aol.com

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK
AND AT OUR WEBSITE:
www.Vistaumc.org



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

A festive poster for Christmas Eve Services. The background is dark blue with white snowflakes and a bright starburst. In the center is a white silhouette of a nativity scene. Below the scene, the service times are listed: 10am (Traditional), 6pm (Family), and 8pm (Candlelight & Communion). At the bottom, there is a banner that says "MERRY CHRISTMAS" and contact information for VistaUMC.org, 3001 E Miravista Ln., and 520-825-1985.

Christmas Eve Services
Dec. 24th

10am (Traditional)
6pm (Family)
8pm (Candlelight & Communion)

MERRY CHRISTMAS

VistaUMC.org 3001 E Miravista Ln. 520-825-1985



VISTA de la MONTAÑA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 2017

ECHOES

PASTOR'S PEN

"His indescribable gift!" I am writing this a few days after pledge Sunday with its theme of the indescribable gift of our salvation through Jesus Christ. It is in response to this gift we give to God and serve others. This theme matches so well with the upcoming Christmas season when we celebrate the gift of **God's own Son who came to earth as a baby.** We give gifts to each other in response to this great gift, and do so much more, that sometimes it seems that Jesus gets lost in the decorations; but we always seem to find him in time for Christmas. I love this whole season for the family, food and fun that is coming. My sister will be flying in from Kansas to be with our parents and will spend Christmas at our house. We will gather **with other family after Christmas, and some years we have flown to Texas to be with Deede's extended family.** Not sure about this year yet.

Family is very much a part of Christmas! The person who seems to get the most lost in the Christmas story is **Joseph.** So.....this Advent I am pulling him out of the background and we will see what his life says to ours. Elsewhere in this Echoes you will find a schedule of events for worship and other fun, fellowship things that you can invite friends and family new and old to. This year we are not walking to Bethlehem; but we have other things to invite people to in order to meet this indescribable gift.

Soon the New Year will be here and I am looking forward to our building campaign. Our financial advisor has been meeting with many. We have selected an architect and a construction company and soon next year you will see some plans. These plans have been a long time coming. First, we had our Dream Sunday one year ago this week. Next we had a long range planning committee that gave birth to a building committee and within a couple of years we will give birth to new buildings to house activities of the Kingdom of God here. Special thanks to Ken Zebal for ushering us along in this process.

Our Live Streaming is touching more and more lives with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Ken Hopke-Almer watched our Consecration Sunday service from his hospital bed and very much appreciated participating with all those gathered in the Sanctuary. Our sound and AV booth is going to be rebuilt in January and plans for new Methodist Fellowships up the Copper Trail are coming along. It is a lot more complicated than I thought; but also a very powerful way of proclaiming the Gospel.

Plan on a return of our once a month Contemporary Services on the third Sunday of every month starting in January. We are going to work at it hard for 5 months and see what God will do. Crystal Stark and the Vista Band are returning for this time. Thank you Vista Endowment committee!

God is truly blessing us to be a blessing!!!

In Christ's love

Pastor Fred

Consecration Sunday - **“God’s Indescribable Gift!”**

On Sunday, November 12, church attendees (whether in the pew or through “live streaming”) acquired a deeper understanding of what it means to support the church and God’s work through our GIFTS, one of the vows we Methodists take when we join the church. We were inspired by Pastor Fred’s words and the spirit-filled music of our church choir. The Celebration Luncheon following the church service provided a time for fellowship over a tasty meal provided by Chuy’s, a Catalina vendor.

The Stewardship Committee extends a heartfelt THANK YOU to all who helped to make Consecration Sunday a success through your attendance. We especially thank Vista’s youth. They saw that drinks were filled and desserts were served. Vista’s landscaping crew transformed the sanctuary into a banquet hall. Vista’s kitchen helpers anticipated every need. Vista’s office personnel prepared printed materials, and Vista’s financial team tabulated pledges in record time!

The generosity of Vista’s members and constituents is evident in so many ways! We look forward to updating you on the final outcome of the Stewardship Campaign.



Hospitality

Need goodies and folks to serve them

Need you to sign-up for: December and January

Easy to do:

Talk with Delores Brindle after church at the sign-up table

Table is located at the end of the goodie table

Sign-up with another 3 or 4 people

Delores is there to help you find the other people to work with you

Can be fruit, cheese, baked goodies and/or bought goodies or combination

See you at the sign-up table

Thank you all who have served goodies.

I am looking for folks to help to do “general hospitality”. Please ask me for details.

Delores Brindle

VISTA FINE ARTS
is hosting
TRUE CONCORD

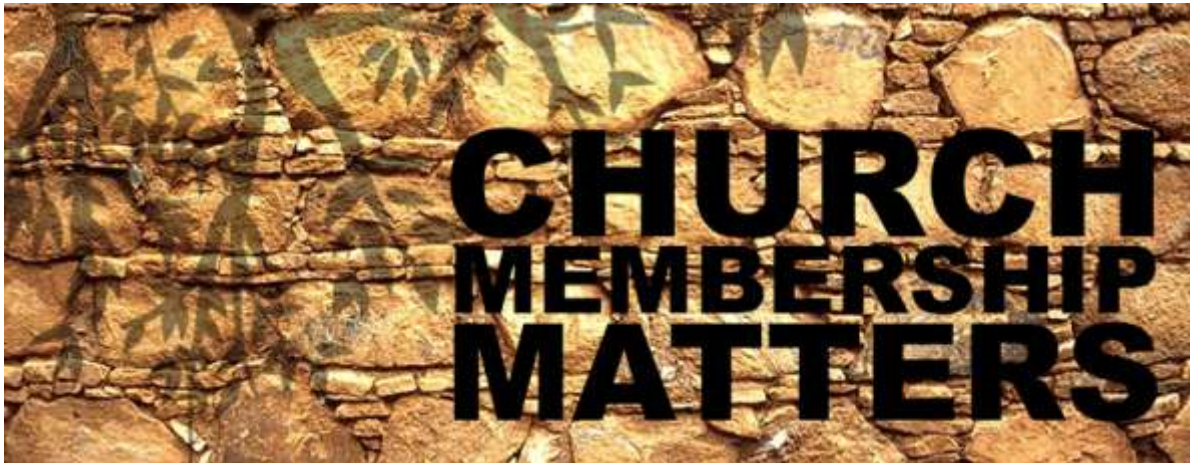
for

Christmas Lessons and Carols by Candlelight



VISTA FINE ARTS is honored to host Grammy-nominated **True Concord** for a beautiful seasonal program of **Lessons and Carols on Thursday, December 7, at 7:30 p.m. at Vista.** This concert has become a local favorite, with familiar treasures and holiday traditions of the Southwest, featuring a collection of Spanish “Carols and Lullabies.” You will be invited to add your own voice in singing beloved carols. **True Concord** audiences have come to expect the highest musical standards in riveting performances by superb choral and instrumental artists from across the country. **Conducted by Eric Holtan, the choir will be joined by harpist Christine Vivona, organist Guy Whatley and narrator, James Reel.**

Tickets for the December 7th performance are offered at a special price of \$20 (advance purchase) to the Vista congregation, and are available by calling 520-401-2651. We invite you to enrich and celebrate the spirit of the season by experiencing this unique and inspiring program.



Are you currently a member of another Methodist Church?

Did you know you can become an AFFILIATE member here at Vista and retain your full membership at your home church? If you are a member at a non-Methodist church you can join us as an ASSOCIATE member! We would love to have you join us. We have a membership lunch on December 10th or please call Pastor Fred or Valerie in the church office (825-1985) for more information.

Mission Outreach Ministry

I am so happy to report to you the great experience we had on our trip to Agua Prieta, Mexico for the Celebration of Learning Festival with our Sister church Fuente de Vida, on Nov 4th. Our nice touring bus picked us up at Vista all 41 of us and headed out at 7:05 AM for our wonderful day. So happy to have 14 members of our team going with us for the 1st time, including 2 of our youth Kiana Hernandez and Karime Penuelos. It is always a fun ride to Douglas with our activities and treats on the bus, the trip goes really fast. We stopped in Douglas and picked up Pastor Gela to guide us to the Colonia across the border. When she got on the bus and after greeting us all, she whispered in my ear that it had been raining for quite a while and the dusty streets in the Colonia were not fit to play games on. Knowing that our indoor program was first on the days agenda, my hope was that the rain would let up and we could carry on as always with the games outside. This was the 1st time we have had rain on our Festival day. We proceeded ahead with the program at Long Hall, their Community Center, after greeting all the folks that were there to welcome us. After opening prayer and giving our greeting from Vista church, we called out the names of the sponsors and their sponsored student so that they could meet and have a picture taken together. We had 29 sponsors on this trip and between those 29 they had sponsored 43 of the children on our list of over 150 students. What fun it was to see them meet and get acquainted or reacquainted. My precious little girl Anneth was able to join me for lunch along with her mother and her 2 bothers and what fun it was to meet again and get to visit and find out what is happening in their lives. One of the joys of this sponsorship program with our sister church, is that we get to meet and **enjoy seeing these students that we sponsor. Following the get acquainted time I interpreting Pastor Fred's** words of encouragement to the students and to their Mothers. He emphasized the importance and blessing that an education can have on their lives. The program proceeded with the awarding of Certificates of Achievement to all the students who got a B+ or better average last school year. We started with the Tech. & College students and awarded 9 certificates. This just thrills my soul to see these young people, whom we have grown to know and love over the last 15 years, getting on with their education and lives. There are 3 graduates this month, 1 with a Law Degree, 1 with her Teaching Credentials and 1 with an Engineering Degree. How hard they have worked and how we thank our God for their achievements. We continued to give out the awards and each mother got a lovely bag full of goodies that you good folks at Vista donated for this event. Half way thru the program we were treated to the children singing and dancing to a lively tune and then asking all the audience to join in with the hand signals. What Fun!! Once again we continued giving out Certificate and Awards with lots of hugs and handshakes from everyone. The room was just full of love and excitement. So many times we were thanked and told how much we were loved and appreciated and what a difference in their lives our support is making. I received a lovely wood framed picture from one of the graduates, that she sent to Vista and the Roche Scholarship Fund with the following note:

*“On this very special Day, I want to thank God for your beautiful lives that have allowed me to live this beautiful experience and to Graduate with my degree and license in Education. This would not have been possible without your enormous support. I give you a million thanks Because for year after year, you have provided the scholarship for my studies. Today, as I have culminated this goal, I will Always be eternally grateful to you and to God, for His eternal Grace to me. I love you and you will always be in my heart and in my **prayers”.....Marilu Sepulveda Enriquez.***

After giving out all 47 certificates and 33 gift bags to the Mothers and pictures being taken of each one, the program closed with prayer and lunch was served. Chicken & rice with refried beans, and homemade tortillas Yum Yum. Following lunch, crafts were set up and the kids got to make some fun items to take home. Games were organized inside the Long Hall as the rain did not let up outside. There were lots of kids and adults having a grand time. We could hear shouts of Victory and lots of laughter as the games were being played. The winners received a prize ticket and then running outside to the 2 buildings that had prize rooms set up, choose a prize item and then running back to play, win, and run again to the prize room. These children look forward to this very special day every year and there was a sea of smiling faces as the event went on till 2:00 PM when we began to gather all our stuff and head for our group picture and on to the bus for our ride home. By then all the prizes that our Vista folks had donated were gone and WOW what a day!

We had to be FLEXABLE but in spite of the weather we had a great time. On our ride home we were able to share the bus mike with everyone and hear what the trip had meant to our team members, ages 14 to 88 born in 19 different States, but together in body and spirit on this very special day. I want to give a very special Thank You to Jan Hopke-Almer for her assistance in helping organize this event and in leading the Prize rooms, to Benith MacPherson for organizing the Crafts and too Debbi Maloid and Valerie Hammons for organizing the games and to our team members who joined us in their various job assignments to make this a most memorable trip. We Praise our Lord who led the way for us and provided a safe trip for us to enjoy. For those of you who did not get to go, there is always next year on November 3rd ,2018. We will see you there!!!

I want to thank you for your Thanksgiving offering that provides the funds for Thanksgiving food boxes, thru Impact, to 300 needy families in our area, and supports our Snak Pak program for 60 children at Coronado School.

The month of Dec. and into Jan. will be designated for our Warm Winter Program with the collection of warm clothing ie: **Jackets, Sweaters, Socks etc... Please make sure the donated items are clean mended and in good condition to be distributed**, thru Impact, for those who are in need of these items in our community. There will be a special Box in the Northex to receive your donations. For further info you may call Team Leader Benith MacPherson at 520-825-5891.

We brought back on the bus a new supply of coffee for sale with the help of our Youth in the breezeway in the coming Sundays. For further information you may call Team Leader Glenna Snider at 520-825-825.

We also brought 2 big boxes of Thanksgiving and Christmas Cards that I will be selling in Nov. & Dec. These all occasion cards that sell for only 50 cents a cards, are made possible by your gift of your old used cards to the Mission baskets in the Narthex. So after you have enjoyed the message and the love sent your way, please give them to us and you will bless **someone else's life with these old cards transformed into a lovely new card by the ladies**

Coop at our sister church in Agua Prieta.

A reminder that the Creative Hands group meets at 9:00 AM every Friday morning in the Patio room to create new children's clothing for our Mission programs. It is fun work and Jan is looking for new helpers. Please call Team Leader Jan Bohe for further information at 520-825-9725

As the Celebration of Christmas approaches we are reminded of the great gift God sent us in His son Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. What a gift it is for us to be able, in His name, to serve our community and beyond thru our Mission program at Vista. I am so grateful for the amazing support that Vista has given to these efforts and I thank the Lord for you and bless you in His Name. We are called in His name to love and serve our neighbors and by His grace we have continue to do so. Our next Mission Outreach Meeting will be held on Dec. 6th in the Patio Room at 1:00 PM. Everyone is invited to join us as we seek to serve the Lord thru this Ministry. Wishing you a very Happy and Merry Christmas.

Yours in Mission Service:

Dee BermanChairman(520-825-8115 or deerick1968@gmail.com)

I have had a number of Vista folks ask how they could communicate with their sponsored child. If they wish to send any correspondence to their student they can write to them C/O Pastor Gela. The Address is

:To **“Students name”**

C/O Maria de los Angeles Villicana

P.O. Box #749

Douglas, AZ. 85608



Wisdom of a Rabbi

“Irrefutably, indestructibly, never wearied by time, the Bible wanders through the ages, giving itself with ease to all men, as if it belonged to every soul on earth. It speaks in every language and in every age Though its words seem plain and its idiom translucent, unnoticed meanings, undreamed-of intimations break forth constantly. More than two thousand years of reading and research have not succeeded in exploring its full meaning. Today it is as if it had never been touched, never been seen, as if we had not even begun to read it. Its spirit is too much for one generation to bear. Its words reveal more than we can absorb. “

Abraham Heschel

At every age, we can show God our love by grappling with difficult text and joining together beyond our Sunday worship, to explore His Word. Lois Tverberg says in her book, Walking in the Dust of Rabbi Jesus, **“Jews more correctly understand (the Bible) as guidance . . . as if they are uncovering the very thoughts of God”**

Please plan to join together Jan 18, 2018 for our 6-week exploration; The Bait of Satan, John Bevere. More details coming in the January Echoes. We are also going to open up another opportunity for Driven by Eternity beginning February 2, 2018 for 8 weeks. Both classes will be 1pm to 3pm. At this time, we are scheduled to meet in the Patio Room. Sign up and book orders will be taken the first week in January.

From the Finance Committee

October Results

Year-to-date, Vista de la Montana UMC is \$11,616 ahead of budget with Net Income of \$3,883. Our Net income is \$3,765 less than last year. Year-to-date we have \$13,116 less income.

October Attendance

October attendance was an increase of 10.7% which included 73 at the October 15 Contemporary Service.

2018 Stewardship Campaign

Thanks to Co-chairs Benith and Craig MacPherson for running a great campaign!

The Ease of Credit Card and Automatic Bank Giving

Did you know that you can give to the church using your credit card for a one-time gift, or set up an automated donation on a one-time, weekly or monthly schedule. To donate, go to our Vista UMC website <http://vistaumc.org/> and on the bottom of the Home page is a **link to our Donation Page. It's safe, secure and easy** to use. Not only can you give to the church, but you can collect miles or points from your credit card! If you have any questions, please call Valerie Hammons, Pastoral Assistant.

ACH – Automated Clearing House

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 contact Dennis Kimmel, Financial Secretary. See his contact information above.

Fry's Community Rewards

Vista de la Montana UMC is now enrolled as a member of Fry's Community Rewards Program. Our Member Number is 22553. Our church will receive a cash rebate quarterly, calculated on how much our members have **purchased at Fry's or any Kroger affiliate.**

PLEASE NOTE: Before you can link your Fry's V.I.P card to an organization, you must have an email address and an on-line account. Email Sharon Scanlan for instructions or go on-line to Fry's. Sharon's email is sascanlan8548@me.com.

CELEBRATE!



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| 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 |

Happy Birthday to:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| DANIELS, Bill | 12/01 | RUTKOWSKI, Marv | 12/19 |
| HOTCHKISS, Curtis | 12/01 | TERRY, Carl | 12/20 |
| MILLER, Shirley | 12/01 | BULL, Fred | 12/21 |
| WALDO, Marilyn | 12/08 | DE WINDT, Charlotte | 12/22 |
| WATKINS, Stuart | 12/09 | GRIFFIN, Linda | 12/23 |
| BOLAR, Marlin | 12/10 | POHNERT, William | 12/23 |
| NEWMAN, Shirley | 12/10 | BLEESS, Von Ceil | 12/24 |
| RAYNOR, Mary | 12/16 | AUGUST, Don | 12/25 |
| MILLER, Paul | 12/17 | RUPE, Marvin | 12/25 |
| CURTIS, Carol | 12/18 | KUHN, Barb | 12/27 |
| JOHNS, Micki | 12/18 | MC FARLAND, Glenda | 12/28 |
| MADDEN, Barb | 12/18 | LITTLE, Betty | 12/30 |
| KARCHER, Cynthia | 12/19 | | |

