

# VISTA ECHOES

FEBRUARY 2015



## Ed-itorial

My spouse, Mary, has never been much of sports fan. (The exception was when our boys were playing sports, and Mary would never miss a game, and spent a lot of her life driving a station wagon filled with boys to their various sporting events.)

But all that has changed since we came to Tucson. She is now a rabid Wildcat men's basketball fan. She loves to see them in person at the McHale Center, but watches them on television or listens on the radio every chance she gets. It is really kind of fun to watch with her because she gets so involved and urges the Cats to victory.

It is wonderful to have someone or something to root for! It brings a sense of excitement to our lives and breaks up the dull routine. The best part, however, is that God is rooting for us. God wants what is best for us, and wills that we have life and have it abundantly.

So the next time you are at a sporting event remember that God is your biggest fan. God wants you to do your best, in victory or in defeat, and never leaves us. This is the Good News of the Gospel, that Jesus came for us, died for us, rose for us, and loves us always, win or lose.

**Blessings, Ed**

## **Sunday's Palms are Wednesday's Ashes**

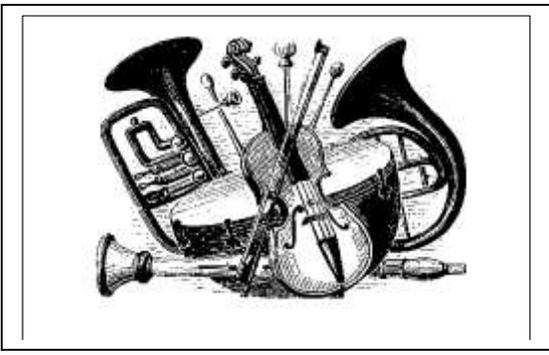
The longstanding tradition of the Church is that the Palms used for the Palm Sunday processional are saved, dried and then burned to create the ashes for Ash Wednesday. It is a reminder to us that adulation and fame are fleeting, and that we are in constant need of God's forgiveness and Jesus' love.

We will have a special *Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, February 18 at 6:00 PM* in the sanctuary. There will be music, prayer, and preaching by Reverend Bonneau. Ashes will be imposed on our foreheads and we will remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Please join us for this reverent way to begin the Lenten Season.

**THINK RUMMAGE THINK RUMMAGE THINK**

### **IMPACT**

Once again, Vista members responded generously to Mission Outreach's annual appeal for warm bedding and clothing for area residents in need. Thanks to you, many children and adults will be cozy, wearing an assortment of socks, hats, gloves, scarves, jackets and sweaters donated by Vista members! Several blankets and quilts were also gratefully received and passed along to IMPACT of Southern Arizona. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated!



## VISTA FINE ARTS

Presents

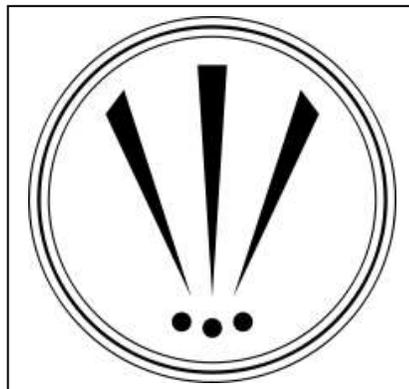
### AwenRising

Vista Fine Arts is excited to present Tucson's newest professional-level choral ensemble, AwenRising, in their first concert in northwest Tucson. This will be an exceptional musical treat for our audience and you will not want to miss the opportunity to hear this amazing, talented group of singers. The date is Sunday, March 1 at 3:00 in the afternoon right here at Vista!

AwenRising's program is entitled "A Musical Tapestry" and will include classical and sacred works, as well as an interweaving of Celtic, folk and popular genres of music. Comfortable in many styles, AwenRising performs primarily a cappella arrangements which range from complex to simple, familiar to rarely heard, and serious to comical. AwenRising, is currently a 16-member vocal ensemble and is under the artistic direction of Richard Hintze.

"Awen" is a multi-dimensional word incorporating meanings linked with "flowing spirit" and "essence". Words such as "truth," "love," and "spirit" have been attributed to the Celtic symbol of the rays of Awen and form their basis for inspiration, creativity and growth. The ensemble performs works that challenge and embody the essence of their musical spirit – to engage, to resonate, and to inspire!

Give yourself the gift of enjoying an extraordinary musical experience, presented by an amazing ensemble. The concert is free and open to everyone. An offering will be taken. Bring your friends and family and be one of the first to hear AwenRising in their debut performance in the northwest area.



## From UMM, Vista.

The Methodist men, united (UMM) here at Vista for Vista bid you hello. A good bunch we are and dedicated to making positive changes in and around the Vista Campus for the enjoyment of everyone. I'm not about horn blowing but last year UMM did spend \$7500, to dress up our church experience. It is a sizeable can of coin, frankly and we are pleased to do this. It is just what we said we would do a couple years ago, make Vista a better place. We intend to continue with these works using our considerable talents to do so.

Most projects take capitol. If you desire brand name stuff in a hurry it takes more capitol. Now this is not a John Adams lecture. Still it is a fund raising approach. In my experience nothing outside a raffle beats a Rummage Sale for raising funds. Remember, we donate items for sale and solicit more donations where ever we can. These goods are offered for sale at reasonable prices to the world at large. The world buys the items and takes them home paying in cash money. At the end of the day Vista has the world's money to spend on Vistas needs! How rare is that? It is too good of a deal not to take advantage of.

Well then, let's take advantage! The first weekend of May, UMM will sponsor another gala rummage sale. We are soliciting both assistance and goods. There are 2 distinct phases to any sale, set up then selling. Each takes 2 days, maybe a little more. Both are a lot of fun. A notable part about all of our sales is to stand back and watch Vista members work in harmony to accomplish a goal.

Jump in then. Donate stuff, donate your time and help out. There is a lot to do and most of it is fun. The (little) rest is kind of fun. All in all it is a really nice caring and sharing church experience. And we will generate some \$greenies\$ to use around the Vista campus. It doesn't get better than this!

There will be other notices in Echoes and in the Bulletin concerning Rummage 2015.

*Thank you for your attention*

*Jim Bleess UMMP*

***THINK RUMMAGE***

## Mission Outreach Ministry

February is the month that we think of Love and send our Valentines to those we love and who have enriched our lives with their love for us. It is also a reminder of God's love for us and how in return, for so "GREAT a LOVE", we show our love for Him thru our ministry of those in need. What better way to show our faith than to help those who depend on our support and generosity thru our various Mission Ministries. This past week I had a warm conversation with Lou Tompkins who expressed his love and gratitude to Vista for their support in numerous ways, but especially for our help to replace the HVAC system at the Tucson Hospitality Inn that suddenly broke down. He told me that if it were not for the support of the Vista Church, THI would not exist and would not be able to help so many people in their hour of medical need. Many thanks from Lou and also for selecting THI for your Arizona State tax Credit. My call to Lou was to tell him that thru the generosity of an anonymous giver from Vista I had just sent him a check for \$700.00. He told me that he had to go to Costco to purchase supplies and goods for the Inn this past week for some \$700.00 and did not know how they were going to pay the bill, and then I call with the news that \$700.00 was on its way. He was so moved and said that it is once again God working thru all of us that supplies the needs for His work.

I also have been in touch with Pastor Gela of our sister church Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta Mexico (please see her letter in this edition) who expressed her love for us and her gratitude for our partnership in Mission. She shared with me some of the exciting ministry that is going on there. Here is an update: The new community center is now finished and in full use. Thanks to your generous giving, we were able to send the resources to supply portable heating units for the center and Pastor Gela's new office. We were able to furnish her office from the Golden Goose a couple of months ago. They had a Christmas Celebration, with 360 children and adults in attendance, that was the joy of the season just a week before Christmas with gifts, games, food etc., etc. In December they held couples enrichment classes each Saturday morning, serving breakfast and with classes on improving marriage relationships, family guidance, etc. It was very well attended and had a sound impact on their community.

In Oct. Nov. & early Dec. they asked their membership to open their homes to family, neighbors and friends to enjoy refreshments and hear about Jesus and the transformation He can make in their lives. The ministry team was in many homes each week on Monday, and Thursday evenings and Saturday Mornings, presenting the Plan of Salvation to those present and as a result, 60 people have accepted the Lord into their hearts and are being added to their congregation.

They have grown so much, since they built the temporary Sanctuary that was intended to eventually to be the fellowship hall, that they have outgrown their space and need to remove the old trailer houses that are on the grounds above and begin building their permanent Sanctuary that Duane Waldo designed for them. Right now they do not have the resources, but are praying that God will lead them as they seek ways to raise the money to start the building process. They are thanking God for the amazing blessings and growth they are having.

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Their director of Christian Education, Martha Barreras, has started a tutoring school for children who have learning problems and special learning needs, in addition to her teaching job and her work at the church. She feels that the Lord has led her to supply this service to the community that has very few tutoring places in the city. One of our College graduates Karen Amayo will be helping her in this endeavor. We were able to send her \$500.00 to improve the "rough" space with paint, build blackboards, get chairs & desks, etc. She said that some of the other young people, that we are supplying scholarships to, will also be helping. Already we are seeing a return of our scholarship investment into these great young people!!!

We received a letter of thanks from Barbara McClure Executive Director of Impact, formally Catalina Community Services, for our donation of food items and \$1330.00 over the last 3 months with a note saying, "Thank you again for your support and all you do for our community". Remember we collect your donations on the 1st Sunday of each month for the community food bank. At the present time we are into our Warm Winter program for Impact, collecting bedding and winter clothing for the clothing bank. See the box in the narthex for your donation. If you have any free time you can show a little love and donate some of your time to the clothing bank, as they are short on help and could use yours.

We are very excited about our upcoming Baby Shower for Family First Pregnancy Center on Saturday the 7th of this month. We will be in the Breezeway after Sunday service to sign you up. Please come to this FREE ladies lunch and enjoy the fun, fellowship and seeing the cute baby things that we will all be donating for the Center as our admission fee.

Jan Bohe is inviting anyone who can help, to join her Friday mornings at Vista for the Creative Hands program that makes items for the Clothing bank and Family first. She is a real pro and can teach anyone how to cut out patterns, etc, etc. If you can lend a couple of hours on Friday AM, show a little love and join Jan and team and enjoy the work and fellowship.

Look for us in the Narthex on the 1st & 2nd Sundays of Feb with new Valentine Cards and all Occasion Cards made by the Women's Co- op in Agua Prieta. Just 50 cents each!!!

As you can see we are off and running for 2015 and ask, as always, for your support for our Mission program at Vista. It is a Joy to know that God is using us in this Mission Ministry to show His face of Love to those we help. Thank you for all the Love you show our Mission Team and remember that you are always WELCOME TO JOIN US ON THE 1ST Wed. of each month. We will meet on the Feb 4th at 1:00PM. See you there!!

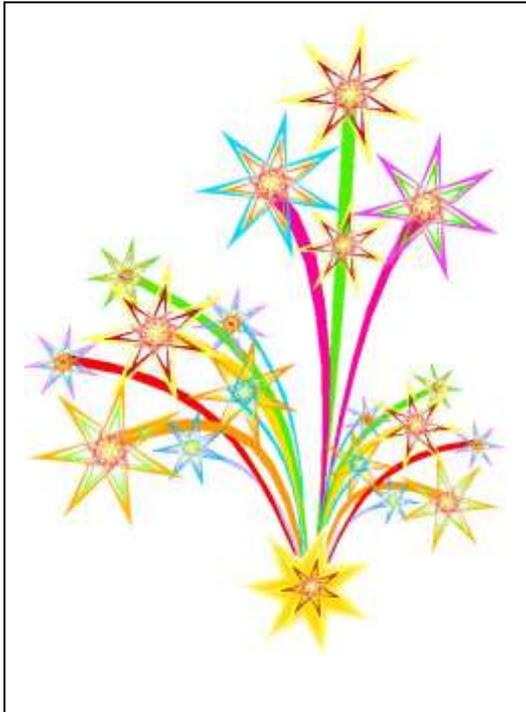
*Love and Grace to you all. Yours in Mission service:*

**Dee Berman... Chairman**  
**520-825-7115.....deerick1968@gmail.com**

# CELEBRATIONS

## *ANNIVERSARIES:*

ISCH, Don & Marcia	02/01
JACKSON, Jim & Ginny	02/01
RUTKOWSKI, Marv & Marilyn	02/22
BAHOS, David & Rita	02/28
SIMON, Jim & Jimmie	02/28



## *Happy Birthday to:*

BELLAH, Mary	02/01
CONKLIN, Jim	02/04
SCHAEFER, Jackie	02/06
BEHRENDT, Margaret	02/07
CAMPBELL, Alan	02/07
DAVIS, Arlo	02/11
SANDERS, Teresa	02/13
LANDRUM, Mattie	02/15
NULL, Jerry	02/15
BLEESS, Jim	02/16
RADTKE, Paula	02/17
SPRINGER, Evonne	02/24
NULL, Kay	02/25
WARD, Dillis	02/26
ROBERTS, Candace	02/27
HOLDER, Craig	02/28

***THINK RUMMAGE***

## **Charge Conference Minutes**

Vista de la Montana United Methodist Church

December 16, 2014 4:00 p.m.

Rev. Ragland opened the meeting, introducing herself as the Senior Pastor at St Marks United Methodist Church in Tucson. She previously served as District Superintendent and agreed to chair various Charge Conferences when asked by the Southwest Desert Conference. Rev. Ragland stated that the Conference is currently exploring how its member churches can work more closely together.

Rev. Ragland called the meeting to order and offered a prayer. She then clarified that in a Charge Conference, only elected leaders can vote whereas in an All Church Conference, all members present can vote, and invited a motion to conduct this meeting as an All Church Conference. Pete Schwartz so moved, Dee Berman seconded. All in favor. The meeting proceeded as an All Church Conference.

Minutes: The minutes of the Church Conference meeting held on November 7, 2013 and included in the 2014 Annual Report, were approved as submitted.

Trustees Report: Chair Jim Bleess stated that the brief written report does not begin to reflect the extent of work undertaken by the Trustees. Jim voiced appreciation for the support and cooperation among members of the Trustees Board and others that has resulted in successful outcomes of the various projects undertaken throughout the year. Jim moved that the report be accepted. Dee Berman seconded the motion. All approved.

A review of written reports by Committees and Church groups appearing in the Annual Report followed, with an invitation for comments from the floor by Rev. Ragland.

State of the Church Report: Pastor Bonneau stated that he has submitted two administrative reports to Council since assuming his role as interim pastor. These reports are included in the Annual Report. He credited John and Gwen Dossett with doing a fantastic job of straightening our church records to accurately reflect active membership. Pastor Bonneau reported that he has conducted three baptisms and will perform a fourth baptism next Sunday. All individuals on the church rolls who have been inactive for a minimum of 12 months have been contacted via letter, inquiring as to whether they wished to continue their membership at Vista and if so, encouraging them to become active. If the individual indicated that they wished to relinquish their membership, their name was removed from the roll. A list was compiled of those who did not respond to the church's attempt to reach them. Individuals on this list will remain as members for one more year, at which time their names will be presented to the Charge Conference for a vote to remove them from membership if there is no further contact.

Pastor Bonneau asked for a moment of prayer to remember members who died in 2014 (Ray Brown, Ruth Powell, Donald Cross, Nick marks, John Edris, Larry Farnum, Ann Renshaw and Tommy Tucker).

A question was asked regarding the church's apportionment and how this is determined. Pastor Ragland stated the Desert Southwest Conference uses a formula based on 80% of church expenses and 20% membership.

Staff Parish Relations Committee: Chair Dillis Ward stated that Council approved an increase of \$5 per session for a guest Choir Director and the Accompanist (\$50 to \$55) for practice and an increase of \$10 per session for the church service (\$100 to \$110). Other staff, with the exception of Pastor Bonneau, are to receive a two percent increase in 2015. Dillis stated that Pastor Bonneau came to Vista with a \$90,000 compensation package and moved that this package be approved for 2015. Motion was seconded. All approved.

Pastor Bonneau voiced appreciation to the SPRC for their hard work, congeniality and dedication.

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Review of Projected Budget for 2015: Chair Tom Roberts summarized the church's finances year to date. Giving is \$19,000 favorable, and expenses are \$27,000 favorable to budget. This positive trend is expected through December, though tempered somewhat by four Sundays rather than Five. Craig Holder and Tom Roberts are in the process of finalizing the 2015 Budget. Overall plan is for level spending with some exceptions, including projected increases in the music program and an allowance for increase in pastor compensation, should Pastor Bonneau leave mid-year (second half of year would then be budgeted at same amount as first half of 2014). Tom reported the pledge campaign resulted in a small increase in giving for 2015. Tom requested that approval of the 2015 Budget be deferred until the Finance Committee has had a chance to finalize numbers. Pete complimented Tom and Craig on the accuracy of 2014 projections, and reminded those present that the budget is a living document that is adjusted as the church moves through the year.

Tom pointed out that Vista was the beneficiary of a substantial gift of \$50,000 in 2014. These funds were applied to mortgage reduction.

Proposed Church Officers: Pastor Bonneau referred members to the 2014 Annual Report for a listing of individuals nominated for church office positions. Also included in this document are the names of additional individuals assuming various church-related responsibilities. Reverend Ragland stated that officers of the Trustees Board are the ones whose nomination requires a vote of approval. A vote was called to accept the individuals proposed for the Trustees. All approved. She then called for a vote to accept all other proposed Leaders and Officers. All approved. Reverend Ragland lead members in prayer for the work these individuals will assume on behalf of the church.

Lay Servant Certification: Jim Nibbelink and Jim Bleess have been proposed for Lay Servant Certification. Rev. Ragland called for a vote approving these two individuals as lay servants for Vista in 2015. All approved.

Comments: Dee Berman praised Vista members for supporting Mission projects with three offerings dedicated to specific mission projects, totaling \$10,850. An additional \$22,632 in cash donations was received for various mission related causes during 2014. Counting the church's annual apportionment, \$92,469 in donations was dedicated to Mission Outreach efforts.

Dottie Lou Colby asked why the Conference Superintendent was not conducting the annual meeting and expressed her opinion that this is an important role for the Superintendent to assume in maintaining a direct link with churches in the Conference. Rev. Ragland said she would pass along Dottie Lou's comments, while pointing out the Superintendent did attend an all church meeting at Vista in November.

A question was raised regarding how apportionments are determined. Rev. Ragland assured members that the church's mortgage payments and contributions toward mission are not a part of the formula in determining the church's apportionment.

Pastor Ed thanked Rev. Ragland for her service in conducting the All Church Conference, and closed the meeting in prayer.

Rev. Ragland officially adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Submitted by

Benith MacPherson, Corresponding Secretary

## VISTA'S HAPPENINGS

**February 1<sup>st</sup>** All church Birthday Pot luck after service.

**February 18<sup>TH</sup>** Ash Wednesday service 6 PM

### **March 8<sup>th</sup> Thank You Worship Team Brunch Potluck**

A Brunch Potluck to Honor our Worship Team  
Everyone who helps pull Our Sunday Worship together  
From the Ushers, the Communion Servers, To the Choir  
And all in between.

**If your last name begins with the letters:  
A – M Bring a Main Dish**

**If your last name begins with the Letters  
N – Z Bring a Side Dish**

*Dessert will be provided  
Along with Drinks*

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>** Holy Thursday Services 6 PM

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>** Good Friday Services 6 PM

**April 5<sup>th</sup>** Easter Sunday Sunrise Service 6 AM followed by breakfast potluck  
8 AM and 10 AM Services

**APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup> TO THE 30<sup>TH</sup> RUMMAGE SALE SET UP**

**MAY 1<sup>st</sup> AND 2<sup>nd</sup> RUMMAGE SALE**

## **A Letter From Pastora Gela**

**Hello Dear Friends and Coworkers,**

We have so very much to tell you about how the Lord has blessed all of us this past year. In January of 2014, on the 1st thru 12th, we held nightly services celebrating "First Fruits" remembering all the blessings of the previous year.

As some of you know, Doris Long, who had been one of the original and long term workers with Fuente de Vida, passed away in October of 2013. She had been such a constant blessing to us, and blessed us again with funds from her estate. Other funds were added by Doris' sons and several other contributors mostly from Desert Foothills UMC in Phoenix, This was designated to build the multi-purpose building we had been dreaming of putting on the vacant north side of the clinic property for at least 10 years. It is named the Long Praise Center and was started in April. The construction was shared by work groups from Desert Foothills, which included Doris' two sons, and were headed by Eric Peterson. A local Agua Prieta company did the roof; and the men of Fuente de Vida did major parts of the earth moving, concrete, tile and other work. It was close enough to completion in July to host the annual meeting of the Northwest Conference of Iglesia Metodista de Mexico. Completion and dedication were in November. I now have an office for counseling and prayer with furniture donated by Vista de la Montaña UMC in Tucson.

While all this was going on, a leak developed in the temporary roof of the finished part of the new church building. Our deepest thanks go to St. Marks UMC in Tucson, for providing the funds to have that corrected. No dripping occurred with the last rain.

In February we were able to attend a very inspirational Pastors Retreat in Mexicali Mexico. After the retreat I discovered we were only 2 hours away from my brother's home in Anaheim. We were able to go there and visit for 2 days with him and his family and we had a wonderful time of just being together.

We were also blessed again in February, May, and November by our precious Faithworks Medical Team with their love, care, and dedication to the Lord's work. We are always amazed how many of the people are able to be served not only with medical care but also with the touch of Jesus. They saw around 300 patients in each 2 day session at our Clinic. Thank you also to Dave and Gigi Sorenson who came in September with donations for the City Hospital and DIF. They also worked in the clinic with sorting out and reorganizing many accumulated items.

Our annual Children's Day celebration was the held the 26th of April by the mission team from Desert Foothills UMC. It is always a very special time with lots of games, food, and just plain fun. Right here in our neighborhood things have been very busy. The children's program every Saturday morning from 9:30 to 12:30 is still going strong. We have 40 to 50 elementary age kids every week enjoying education classes, lunch, and crafts and games. This year Martha Barreras, a member of Fuente de Vida and a teacher in a school here in Agua Prieta, is directing this program. After many months of work, the next home in our long term project of home building or improving for families in the Colonia is very close to being finished. Remodeling/construction on the home of Luis and Karina Acuña are nearly done, and furniture for them is on hand to be moved in. A refrigerator is also on the way.

Our dear friend Meggie Gulley Alvarez was with us for 3 weeks this summer also and had a much appreciated program for the kids. Vacation Bible school was held in the last week in July, by the ladies of the Church. We had about 150 kids attending and it was a good time.

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We want to express our sincere thanks to the members of Desert Foothills UMC in Phoenix and St. Marks UMC in Tucson for their help in keeping the computer classroom, built by Vista UMC, going with a donated refurbished and updated computers. After a fall attempted 'break in' into the computer classroom, we will resume conducting classes in the computer classroom. The lock on that door was too tough for the thieves, so they did not get to any of the computers. They also were interrupted and after a fight, driven away by a church member who knew who they were. The police responded promptly and the thieves were arrested in a very short time. If you recall, I mentioned in our last letter, that a government agency using the classroom, had installed internet there. This may have seemed "out of place" to some of you, but it isn't. According to Mexican law the government holds the titles to all church properties. It gets a very quick response when there is evidence of damage or attempted theft.

There has been a change in our helpers in 2014. Francisco Samaniego, one of our members, finished the seminary studies here over a year ago; and had been pastoring the Methodist Church in Guaymas. He was appointed to Fuente de Vida in August . (Welcome home Kiko and family)

In September, members of our youth group attended a conference in Hermosillo and heard a youth pastor teach about the way Jesus met with people frequently in their houses, and challenged them to do that. When they came back with this inspiration, the church took up the idea and families signed up to hold suppers for 7 to 20 neighbors, friends, and/or non-churched family, followed by a 10 minute teaching about Jesus and a time of prayer, during the rest of Sept and early Oct. In several of the meetings there were also decisions for Christ and some miracles. We will be having a Baptism service in January for these new people.

The first of November we had our Celebration of Learning day thanks to Vista de la Montaña UMC in Tucson. We are so blessed each year by the group from there who come for this party. An awards service is held first with certificates for every student from Fuente de Vida who attains a grade average of B and above and a gift for the parent with them. Scholarships for High School and College are also given to the students who are at that level by vista UMC. The rest of the day food is served, piñatas, and various games with prizes are held. It is one of the highlights of the kids' year. Our thanks also to Vista de la Montaña UMC for their generous provision of school supplies for all the students, as they start their school year and to 1st United Methodist church in Tucson for their provision of shoes sent for each child in November.

This December 13th we did the first of what we hope will be a series or program of ministry to the homeless. One of our member/assistants passed out tickets to homeless people around Agua Prieta in November. They were for a dinner on Dec.13 called "The King's Table" in the Long Praise Center at Fuente de Vida. The homeless people who attended received a complete dinner with dessert on formally set tables with royal blue table cloths, plus free haircuts, showers, clothing and Bibles. The lady who rented the chairs to us also gave the tables, tablecloths, table decorations, and dinnerware for only the cost of the chairs.

The members of Desert Foothills UMC and several other churches in the Phoenix area start, in the fall, putting together bags of gifts for the children of Fuente de Vida and 3 other Methodist churches in and around Agua Prieta. Each bag has the name of a specific child and these are delivered to the churches in early December, 370+ bags this year. Our Feliz Navidad Party was held on Dec 21st at a hall with an enclosed play area so the little ones don't wander off. We aren't sure of the exact number of bags we gave out, but the kitchen crew knows for sure they passed out 309 plates of food when it came time to eat. It was a glorious evening and we thank everyone who filled, collected or delivered even one bag. You are all the hands of Jesus.

It is Impossible, in one letter, to describe what the Lord and all of you have done for us in the past year. Thank you for the gifts sent, prayers lifted up, work done, and coffee bought thru your loving care for all of us here.

May you all be richly blessed.

*Pastora Gela Villicaña  
Fuente de Vida Iglesia Metodista  
Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico*