

VISTA ECHOES

FEBRUARY 2016



PASTOR'S PEN

Recently I was asked, "What is an Ebenezer?" It was close to Christmas, so for a moment I could only think of Ebenezer Scrooge, but then I realized they were referring to the phrase in the hymn which goes, "Here I raise my Ebenezer" This is a reference to the prophet Samuel raising "a stone of remembrance"(an Ebenezer). Samuel stood a stone up to remember the place where God had helped him.

At Vista Church stones have been important to history and making of this local Church. At the very beginning "claiming stones" were picked up and taken home as a way of remembering this former nuclear missile site had been claimed by God and this congregation as a place of peace and worship.

Throughout the Bible stones have played prominent places in the history of God's people from the stone tablets that contained the 10 commandments to the stone that covered Jesus tomb. And in the meantime Jesus is referred to as "The Rock". There are many ways stones were used, and now remind us of aspects of our spiritual heritage and faith.

During the season of Lent we are going on a "Journey of Stones" starting with Ash Wednesday and the 10 Commandments and ending on Good Friday with "The Final Stone" that was rolled away on Easter morning. We are in for quite a time of remembrance. As you enter worship each week you will receive a stone to either leave at the foot of the cross or take with you. Each one will have a special remembrance attached to it along with a challenge for our faith walk.

This series is based on the work of a Lutheran pastor and is reflective for our journey to the cross and the resurrection. I pray you join with me in worship for the 7 Sundays of Lent, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and best of all Easter. On Ash Wednesday February 10th we will have 3pm and 6pm services of Ashes and Holy Communion. Palm Sunday we will have a very special production by our Choir. It is a brand new creation called "Amazing Love" by Lloyd Larson & Joel Raney. Easter will have 3 services 6:30am, 8:30am and 10am with an Easter brunch after the Sunrise Service. These are all opportunities for personal spiritual growth as well as opportunities to invite a friend.

Looking forward to celebrating Lent with you as we prepare our hearts and minds for Jesus' Resurrection!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Fred

Year-to-date through December, Vista de la Montana UMC exceeded our 2015 Income Budget and 2014 income. We were slightly over our Expense Budget and 2014 Actual Expenses. Net Income YTD, after Mortgage and Contingency Fund transfers is \$52,293. Our Mortgage has been reduced to \$148,197. Almost all of our monthly payment is now applied to the Mortgage Principal and we will be able to pay off the Mortgage by August 2017, a month earlier than our last estimate. We ended the year with over 2 months of 2016 budgeted expenses in the bank, which is the desired financial position for a church, especially with the extreme income/attendance patterns in the summer and winter months in Arizona. The Church Council approved the recommended 2016 budget at their December meeting, so all of the committees' plans can be funded. Surplus income and contingency funds will be used for facility repairs and improvements. There were many in 2015. Financial reports are available in the Church Office. *If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Scanlan.*

	<i>December YTD 2015 Actual</i>	<i>December YTD 2015 Budget</i>	<i>December YTD 2014 Actual</i>
<i>Income</i>	466,797	435,000	460,219
<i>Expense</i>	414,504	412,223	407,544
<i>Net Income</i>	\$52,293	\$22,777	\$52,675

IMPACT

IMPACT – Thanks to all who donated items of clothing, and/or bedding during Vista’s annual Warm Clothing and Bedding Drive. A total of 375 items were collected and distributed to IMPACT’s Clothing Bank during the seven week collection period. The following is just a partial list of donations received.

Bedding – 42 items, including 19 blankets and blanket throws, and 3 comforters.

Women’s Clothing – 122 items, including 9 coats, 9 jackets, 36 sweaters and 16 sweatshirts.

Men’s Clothing – 211 items, including 16 coats, 25 jackets, 15 sweatshirts and 78 pair of socks.

On several occasions, we “overloaded” the bins at the clothing bank and temporarily overwhelmed the workers (what a nice problem to have!). Your donated items have especially been put to good use during the past month or so of near freezing night-time temperatures!

Benith MacPherson, IMPACT liaison for Mission Outrereach



VISTA FINE ARTS PRESENTS

AN ORGAN RECITAL BY PATRICIA KALTENBERGER

Sunday, February 14 – 3:00 in the afternoon

Vista de la Montaña United Methodist Church

You are in for a Valentine's Day treat on Sunday, February 14 when Vista Fine Arts presents a delightful, musical program by organist, Patricia Kaltenger. Pat came to Arizona in 2002 after an exciting career in Lincoln, Nebraska, and quickly became one of Tucson's most loved and respected musicians, serving as staff organist at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, interim organist at Catalina United Methodist Church and Christ United Methodist Church, as well as interim music director at Apostles Episcopal Church.

Pat is an extremely versatile musician and her recitals are eclectic, unique and extremely enjoyable. She incorporates a variety of styles, which demonstrate the versatility of the "king of instruments." In this concert, you will hear a whimsical setting of Mother Goose (narrated by our own Teresa Sanders), a dance on the pedals, traditional Bach, rapturous Franck and the majesty of the "Toccatà" from Widor's Symphony No. 5 – a repertoire favorite.

Pat is also an excellent pianist, having studied with Beth Miller Harrod, a student of Nadia Boulanger. She collaborates with the Sonoran Chamber Music Ensemble, with her sister in duo-piano performances, and with instrumentalists throughout Southern Arizona. Her organ teachers include Myron Roberts, Professor of Music at the University of Nebraska (Emeritus), and renowned composer.

Please join us for this amazing afternoon of music. Bring your family and friends. The program is free – an offering will be taken. Vista is located at 3001 Miravista Lane in Catalina (on the west side of Oracle Rd., 3.7 miles north of Tangerine). For more information, call 825-1985 or visit www.vistaumc.org.

New Year's Resolutions:



Hospitably: I hope you are still working on your New Year's Resolutions. I want to encourage you all to include doing Sunday goodies once this year. I really need us all to sign-up to do goodies. I like to have a total of 4 or 5 people sign-up every Sunday. I do not want to have a Sunday without people to serve during this time. This time is a very important time to socialize with our church family.

My goal is to have a hospitality partner to assist with questions and/or help as needed. I will be there every Sunday with my pencil to sign you up. I will assist you in any way I can. If you leave for the summer and/or you travel a lot, you should sign-up during the time you are here.

Pull tabs needed: Mary Martha Circle sisters are still collecting "pull tabs" off of cans. I personally deliver them to Ronald Mc Donald house. Please put your pull tabs in the plastic drawer in the Narthex.

Campbell Labels: Campbell labels are still needed. They are also placed in the drawer in the Narthex.

Postage Stamps: When cutting off your stamps leave $\frac{1}{4}$ inch around the stamp. Place the stamp in the drawer in the Narthex.

December Arts and Craft fair results: Mary Martha Circle sisters want to thank the 7 artists who rented a craft table on December 13, 2015. The \$10 table rental added up to \$70 and this money was put towards the sisters' mission project for 2015. We also want to thank you all for stopping and making purchases.

Community Service: I want to share with you something that I did from Thanksgiving up to December 24. I signed up to "ring the bell" for the Salvation Army. It was my first time doing it and what a great feeling to see people giving. I really liked it, when adults were giving money to their children so they could put the money in the "red kettle". I could not believe I alone helped to bring in approximate \$1600 by "ringing the bell". The good part was I picked my time, location and even could sit down on the job as needed. This was one of the best jobs I have had in my career. Think about doing this in our community if you are not already doing a volunteer service.

I want to wish everyone a "Happy New Year" and thanks to everyone who has come to help when I have called upon you.

Delores Brindle, Hospitality Committee Member

Mission Outreach Ministry

February, the month when we celebrate Valentine's Day. In Cuba, where I grew up, it is called "El Dia de los Enamorados" the day of those in love. I am reminded of how in love God was with us, that he sent his son Jesus for our Salvation. Because of this love we are called "to love our neighbor as ourselves" and to "do unto others as would have done unto us". Our neighbors in Agua Prieta have made some lovely Valentine Cards for us, as well as all occasion cards, and they will go on sale, for only 50 cents, on Sunday Jan 31st and Sunday Feb 7th, in the narthex. Send your LOVE to those who would be blessed to be remembered on this special day of LOVE.

I want to mention one of the many very special people at Vista that is serving others with her love, skill and dedication. That person is Jan Bohe. She has been the leader of the Creative Hands group at Vista for many years. She is gifted with wonderful artistic skills but especially with sewing. She has dedicated hundreds of hours to creating clothing for children at Impact's Clothing Bank and Family First. At Easter time a little girls can pick out a pretty new dress, or a little boy can have a new outfit for his first day back to school, selected from the clothing bank at Impact, thanks to Creative Hands at Vista. There are pj's, slacks, shirts, dresses, and shorts with tops to match. etc. etc, as the list goes on and on for the thousands of items that Jan has made both at Vista on Friday mornings, and at her home. Jan is one of the unsung heroes of Vista. Many weeks there are only I or 2 people who come to help her and sometimes, she is there alone working in the big room in Ed's Building. When you go into that room and see those "not so pretty" wine colored cabinets on the east wall, look beyond them to what comes out of those cabinets, amazing LOVE offerings to children who need to be clothed. You can be one of those people who make a child's day, by offering to help with this Mission project on Friday mornings at 9:00 AM. We need your help! You do not need any experience, just a loving and willing heart. Jan will teach you what you need to know. Thank you and God's blessings to Jan Bohe and all of her helpers across the years that made a difference in a child's life, and continue to do so.

Please see the list of Mission Volunteer Opportunities that Benith MacPherson has supplied for us. I hope you will find a place of Service in our Mission program. It is always our goal to have everyone at Vista in Mission service. We certainly do thank you for all the very good work that you do. Our next Mission Outreach Ministry meeting will be on Feb. 3rd. Please feel free to join us as our meetings are always open to everyone. We look forward to your company.

Yours in Mission Service:

Dee Berman Chairman

520-825-7115 *deerick1968@gmail.com*



Mission Outreach Volunteer Opportunities:

Numerous volunteer activities exist in Vista's Mission field. Among the needs highlighted by Committee Leads at the January Mission Outreach meeting were the following:

Tucson Hospitality Inn: Someone with knowledge of local grant resources is needed to help identify potential funding sources. A grants writer is also needed to pursue new grants. THI can always use additional assistance in the ongoing maintenance of the facility, both interior and exterior.

Snak Pak: Additional volunteers to rotate pick-up and delivery of food from the downtown Food Bank would provide relief to current drivers.

Creative Hands: Jan Bohe requests support in the creation of children's clothing. Help is needed in cutting out patterns as well as the actual sewing. The group meets each Friday mornings in Ed's Building.

Agua Prieta: New participants are always welcome to get involved in outreach activities with Fuente de Vida, Vista's sister church in Agua Prieta.

Celebration of Learning: Volunteers are especially needed for packaging of prizes and Mom's gift bags prior to the church's annual Celebration of Learning event in Agua Prieta each fall. Volunteers are also needed to assist with games, crafts and distribution of prizes the day of the event.

School Supplies: Clerical assistance is needed in matching children with sponsors and with written communication between the two.

Card Sales: Additional help in manning the Card Sales Table is always appreciated.

Coffee Sales: Additional help is needed in transporting coffee packages to the church in preparation for Coffee Sales and in manning the table during summer months.

Family First: Stay tuned for upcoming events and ways to support this outreach ministry in Oracle and area mining communities.

IMPACT: Vista is launching a new ministry with Senior Citizens served by IMPACT. The third Thursday of each month, volunteers will host a "birthday party" immediately following lunch at the Senior Activity Center. This will entail a birthday recognition for seniors having birthdays in that month, followed by an activity that promotes interaction among participants.

SNAK PAK

On behalf of all of us who help in the Snak Pak program and, most of all, the 60 children at Coronado K-8 School who benefit from the program, I would like to thank the congregation for its tremendously generous Thanksgiving offering to the Snak Pak program. You are wonderful!

Kathy Campbell



TUCSON HOSPITALITY INN

Since I reported the totals from the Food and Linen Drive, there were more donations that came in during December and early January. The new totals are: 87 cans of soup, 40 cans of Chef Boyardee pasta products, 56 cans of fruit, 32 servings of cereal, 10 cans of vegetables, 28 miscellaneous food items, 39 bath towels, 32 hand towels, and 17 washcloths. Again, I thank you so much for the generous outpouring of donations.

During 2015 we received two grants: \$2500 from Long Realty Cares Foundation, and \$5000 from the Southern Arizona Foundation. This money is used for the Hercial P. Spence Memorial Fund which aids the guests at the Inn who need financial assistance with their stay. An additional \$1000 was donated to this fund by a Vista member in memory of loved ones. From the Christmas Eve offering and two other donations, the Mission team recently sent a check for \$1550 to the Inn.

In 2015 there was much financial support from members and friends of Vista which is greatly appreciated by Lou Tompkins, Manager. In October 2015 the Inn celebrated its tenth anniversary; more than 7000+ people have stayed at the Inn! Currently, all bills are paid and no money had to be borrowed in 2015 to keep the Inn afloat.

I would like someone with the knowledge of grants to work with me this year on researching appropriate grants for the Inn. If you have the interest, please call me. My phone number is 520-544-2545.

Kay Gragg, THI Team Leader

United Methodist Women Arts and Craft Fair



The arts and craft fair in March is sponsored by the Vista de la Montana United Methodist Women. We are seeking your help to FIND artists and crafters to rent tables at this fair on March 12, 2016. If you do not plan to rent a table at the fair, we would appreciate your help to spread the word to your friends and business acquaintances in the area to sign-up to rent a table or two. The profit from the table rental from this event will go towards UMW mission project this year.

A spring fair attracts customers looking for Easter, Mother's Day, Graduations, Father's Day and etc. gifts. We will be doing marketing in the North and South area of Catalina. We know that SaddleBrooke is having their arts and craft the same day and this is going to be advantage to us. Why is this advantage to our event because people will be driving past our church going north and south and will see our signs along Oracle Road inviting them into stop at our fair?

The following is additional information regarding the fair.

We are looking for artists and crafters who make HANDMADE items. Commercial vendors will not be invited to participate in our fair.

The date is March 12, 2016 from 9 AM to 1:30 PM. The table rental will be \$25 for 8-foot table length and additional tables at \$15. The deadline to rent a table will be on Monday, February 29, 2016 by 4:00 PM. We reserve the right to limit the number of vendors in a particular category (i.e. jewelry, knitted wear, etc.).

Reserve your table early because selection is based on first to reserve.

If someone wants to rent a table and/or wants more information, please contact either Delores Brindle or Myrna Holmes. Contact information is: Myrna Holmes e-mail: moholmes41@yahoo.com and/or Delores Brindle e-mail: deloresjb@yahoo.com

Thank you from UMW, Delores Brindle and Myrna Holmes (Co-chairpersons)

CELEBRATIONS

ANNIVERSARIES:

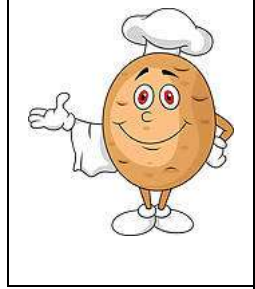
JACKSON, Jim & Ginny	02/01
JOHNSON, Robert & Barbara	02/13
RUTKOWSKI, Marv & Marilyn	02/25
SIMON, Jim & Jimmie	02/28



Happy Birthday To:

SCANLAN, Sharon	02/01
BAUM, Deede	02/02
BELLAH, Mary	02/01
CONKLIN, Jim	02/04
SCHAEFER, Jackie	02/06
CAMPBELL, Alan	02/07
OVERMAN, Margaret	02/10
DAVIS, Arlo	02/11
SANDERS, Teresa	02/13
LANDRUM, Mattie	02/15
BLEESS, Jim	02/16
RADTKE, Paula	02/17
WARD, Dillis	02/26
BAUDER, Kathleen	02/28
HOLDER, Craig	02/28

BAKE POTATO POTLUCK SUNDAY February 21 AFTER SERVICE



See Barbara Sherman after services starting Feb 7th
To let her know how many potatoes and what you want to bring
Either a potato topping
Salad or
Dessert
Questions or for more info call
Barbara Sherman 825-5426

Dear Vista Family ! Please know how grateful I am
for many of you that expressed concerns and
prayers for speedy healing of my broken arm etc.
I'm on the way to recover and look forward to see
you all soon.

Thank you again,
your sister in Christ,
Loni



"THE GOODNESS OF GOD OFTEN ARRIVES ON THE KINDNESS OF FRIENDS"

We at Wesley want to wish you a 'Happy New Year'! We also
want to thank Vista for its generous donation of \$1,500. We
look forward to updating the community on Wesley happenings
in the near future. Thank you so much.

Blessings & Peace
Felecia George
Wesley Director

Vista de la Montaña
United Methodist Church
3001 E. Miravista Lane
Tucson, Arizona

Office Hours
Monday through Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

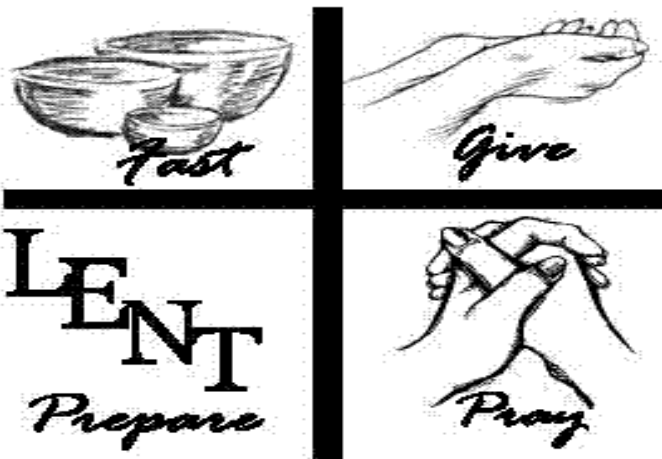
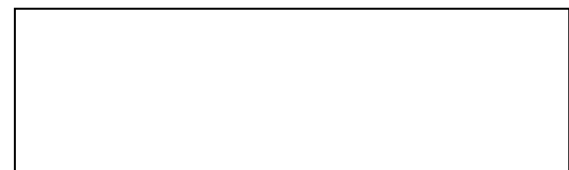
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<http://www.Vistaumc.org>



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