



VISTA de la MONTAÑA

ECHOES January 2017

PASTOR'S PEN

As the New Year starts an old scripture of comfort and hope has kept coming to mind. It is from Lamentations 3:22-24. It says,

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,

his mercies never come to an end;

23 they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness.

24 "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

God's mercies are new every morning and every New Year, yet it is the same steadfast love and mercy that never ends, that never ceases. We may go from one day to the next, one year to the next, but we do not go it alone. Each day and each year are wide open with new possibilities that we can embrace and run with, because the mercy, grace and love of the Lord is always with us.

We may fail at things and fall into the trap of the same sin, the same failing, but God is there every day to offer us forgiveness, mercy. God is there every day to work with us to put our past truly in the past so that we may move into the new day and New Year with courage and hope.

In the end it is not our power that overcomes, it is the power of God working in us. We may give up on ourselves and even God, but God never gives up on us, which allows us to say,

"The Lord is my portion, therefore I will hope in him."

I hope and pray that your 2017 has started well and together we can find the grace and mercies God has in store for us.

In Christ's Love, Pastor Fred

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee;

Thou changest not, thy compassions fail not; as thou hast been thou forever will be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed thy hand hath provided;

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Hospitality

My first thank you is a big thank you to all who have prayed for my successful surgery and recovery. I have been feeling your loving arms around me during the surgery and now during my recovery. Words cannot express the gratefulness for knowing you are there now and then. I do want to thank all those who sent me those get well wishes, they did hit the spot when I was feeling low.

My second thank you is to all of you who have either signed up to do coffee for a month and then those who surprises with a variety of goodies each Sunday after hearing a great sermon and all this to send us on our way to spread the word.

My third thank you to those people who are working behind the scene during the week to make it possible for Sunday hospitality production.

“Walk to Bethlehem” Hospitality part of serving at the event: **My fourth thank you** are to those folks who assisted the hospitality committee to make the food and serve the cast and all the helpers each night., those who baked the cookies and don’t forget those who were there to greet all those folks who came for the tour. Can you guess how much food and cookies are needed to feed the cast, helpers and our guests?

- *We needed over 40 sandwiches per night which also included chips, cookies and bottles of water.*
- *Cookies for the event: We served over 900 people either cast, helpers and guest over 1,000 cookies which breaks down to over 75 dozen of cookies and 30 people each bringing 3 dozen each. WOW! A big hand to all of you that did this for such a great event.*
- *This was just a big thumb print of what all it took to do the “Walk to Bethlehem”. Job well done to all who participated in this event.*

Last thank you is to those folks who say yes when I call them to help or provide goodies at memorial services. Did you know that we always send home a tray of goodies with the family? This group of folks who help during the reception takes the worry away from the families on how do we handle the reception. This is where you take that worry away from the family. The church family comes together to support and help the family to celebrate their love one’s life. The church family has an opportunity to share with the family stories about their loved ones that maybe have not been shared with them. Please continue to help with memorials however you can do either by helping with the memorial event and/or baking goodies for the reception. Every helping hand is important.

CONTINUED PAGE 3

Continued from page 2

Now moving on into 2017 and sharing with you a goal of the hospitality committee for this year. The goal is to have each quarter completed before the quarter starts. Can we accomplish this goal, yes, we can with your help? We have already completed two months of this first quarter, it is not too late to step up and complete the rest of the quarter.

Bring a friend or two to the hospitality sign up table which is found at the end of the goodie table. Please let us complete the first quarter by the end of January. We have a work sheet to help you through the process. This work sheet is just a guideline. Delores is always available either by telephone or e-mail to assist you with your questions.

Looking for more volunteers to sign up to do a Sunday or two per quarter to be a “hospitality partner” to assist those who are doing the goodies each Sunday. This “hospitality partner” volunteers assist those who are furnishing, setting up and cleaning up after Sunday goodies. There is also a work sheet for this process. Please see Delores for more information regarding this position.

Hospitality had a busy year and we could not have done it without you. Thanks!!!

The hospitality volunteers and I wish you a “Happy New Year” and a healthy one.

I (Delores) will return to church around the middle of February. I miss you all. I will be waiting to receive all my hugs from you.

Delores Brindle, Hospitality

EMERGENCY SOCK DRIVE



Ella Rawls serves on the conference immigration task force and has asked our United Methodist Women organizations Conference wide to gather NEW socks, all sizes for men, women, and children for the immigrants on the border. UMCOR is providing blankets and we are being asked to provide socks. These NEW socks will go to our El Mesias church in Nogales, AZ for distribution to the immigrants needing them. This is an EMERGENCY NEW SOCK DRIVE & WILL END ON JANUARY 15, 2017.

South District Leadership Event

Sat., January 21st, 2017 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

First United Methodist Church 915 E. 4th Street, Tucson, AZ

Cost: \$10.00/person—on or before Jan. 12 \$15.00 after January 12, 2017

(Refreshments, Lunch and materials included)

The South District Leadership Event will include eight workshops: 1) Staff Parish Relations specifics 2) Board of Trustees issues not covered in the Book of Discipline 3) Ways to enhance a creative worship service for all 4) Human Sexualitiy and the Bible 5) Ways to foster Spiritual Leadership in your church 6) Race & Immigration – Current realities 7) The specifics of the Metro Center Ministry sponsored by St. James UMC 8) Methodist Theology Wesleyan style

The Input speaker for the day will be Jason Moore who is a best-selling author, award-winning digital artist, adjunct professor for Northwest Nazarene University, and leading authority in the area of creativity and worship. He has co-authored many books and is also the lead designer for the CD-ROM of the best-selling book *The Wired Church: Making Media Ministry*.

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend. On line registration is available.

Have you heard the call from God to develop your teaching and leadership skills in your local church? Lay Servant Ministries courses may be a way for you to prepare yourself for the many missions and ministries that you may be called to, or improve your teaching and leadership skills, address your devotional life, help you discern your own spiritual gifts, or hone your Christian based skills to lead small groups. In addition, certain Lay Servant Ministries courses can be used to provide the necessary requirements to qualify as a Certified Lay Speaker.

Lay Servants Lead in Prayer advanced Class:

January 27 (Friday evening-6:00-9:00 PM) and January 28(9:00 AM-5:00 PM) at St Mark's UMC, 1431 W. Magee Rd., Tucson, AZ .

Facilitator: Rev Beth Rambikur.

There are a limited number of openings for this class.

If interested, please contact Gretchen Lofgren at either gretchie22@aol.com or 520-663-0775.

Deadline for registration is: January 14, 2017.

The Nights are Chilly!



Our Warm Clothing/Bedding Drive is well under way. Sweaters, warm-up outfits, jackets, coats, scarves, hats and/or gloves are gratefully accepted. IMPACT of Catalina Community Services will put these items to good use. A box is available in the narthex through the month of January for your gently used items. Blankets and quilts are also welcome! Thank you in advance for your thoughtful contributions!

Benith MacPherson, Mission Outreach Liaison for CCS

VISTA FINE ARTS

PRESENTS

THE TEMPE WINDS



Vista Fine Arts is thrilled to host the Tempe Winds for their fourth concert in Tucson. The date is Sunday, January 22, 2017 at 3:00 p.m., and the place is Vista de la Montaña United Methodist Church

The ensemble, now in its 28th season, “plays for the love of music....” and you will love their program! They are presenting “Music from Great Operas”, which will include overtures from two very popular operas, “William Tell” by Rossini and “The Merry Widow” by Lehar. Also on the program will be stirring marches and “The First Suite for Band” by Reed. Alto Saxophonist David Duarté will be featured in Reed’s “Ballad for Alto Saxophone and Band”.

The Tempe Winds, organized in 1989, is composed of 50 of the finest musicians from the Phoenix metropolitan area. These musicians are dedicated to the performance of outstanding band literature and have provided Arizona with a unique cultural experience of the highest quality. Under the direction of Dr. Michael Willson, the ensemble is critically acclaimed for its high caliber of performance and is recognized as one of the finest wind ensembles in the United States. Dr. Willson, a music educator for 30 years, serves as a guest conductor and clinician throughout the United States. In 2002, the ensemble was awarded the prestigious “Sudler Silver Scroll” by the John Philip Sousa Foundation, for outstanding musical achievement and service to the community.

The concert is free and open to everyone in the community. Suggested donation is \$10.. Please bring your family and friends and join us for an afternoon of joyful, exhilarating music.



Wow! We did it! Together we made the best yet (according to many attendees) Walk to Bethlehem. We had 625 guests attend the Walk. We collected over 500 pounds of canned food, and \$606 for Impact. It was a lot of hard work and many hours contributed by the majority of our Vista family. I would list the names of all who participated in any way, but it would look like our church directory! So many of the attendees raved about everything – how great the people were, how wonderful the props, and the animals! But most of all, they were all very much touched by the message that the Walk brings to them. I can't think of any better way to begin the Christmas celebration than with the joy of Christ's birth being shared with the world! Thank you, EVERYONE, for all of your efforts, and for braving the cold evenings, to make it all possible. Robin and I have enjoyed working with you and truly appreciate everyone. We look forward to carrying on the tradition that Vista has established again in 2018. We have just learned, however, that our source for the animals is no longer available, so if you know someone who has sheep, donkeys, or cows that would be tame enough to participate in our event, please let me or Robin know. We have two years to locate them. We wish you all a VERY blessed 2017.

Pam and Robin

FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

Through December, year-to-date Income is slightly ahead of budget. Expenses are on budget, resulting in a YTD General Fund positive of \$3,900 which is \$2,000 more than the budget. Thank you Vista donors for meeting your pledges and thanks to our committees and staff for their expertise in managing their expenses to budgets.

Our mortgage debt is now \$55,050. We will pay off our mortgage in July 2017!!!!

In December the Church Council approved a 2017 budget that was recommended by the Finance Committee. We are budgeting a small increase in income and expense, resulting in a balanced budget for 2017.

Your Finance Team

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

My name is Cody Martin, I am the head coach of the ORO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL Mountain Bike Club representing CDO, IR, PRCA and other schools in Oro Valley. I am writing to say thank you for your support in allowing us to park in your lot for the last portion of our 2016 race season. . . .

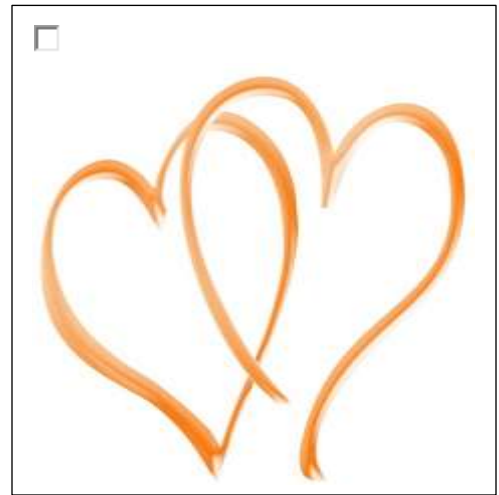
Your flexibility and willingness to share your parking lot with our club for our weekly practice rides allowed our students to finish the season on the best beginning trails in town without having to expose them to crossing Oracle Road on bike, something we as a team weren't willing to do especially after dark.

(The whole thank you note is on bulletin board in reception area of the office)

Cody Martin.

HAPPY ANIVERSARY TO:

SMITH, Don & Pat Reykdal Smith	01/01
HOLDER, Craig & Pam	01/06
POHNERT, Bill & Tricia	01/07
NIBBELINK, Jim & Judi	01/19
LINDAHL, Greg & Carol	01/20
DOSSETT, Jon & Gwen	01/28
HAM, Suzanne & Doug	01/29



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

HOLDEN, Larry	01/02
STEVENSON, Ken	01/02
HERNANDEZ, Antonio (AJ)	01/03
AUTHUR, Janelle	01/07
HIGGINS, Dennis	01/07
HOTCHKISS, Kourtney	01/07
PRICE, Ursula	01/08
STODDARD, Pat	01/11
DEVRIES, Shirley	01/12
WATTS, Cheryl	01/12
JOHNSON, Barbara	01/13
TONGA, Mia	01/14
AGUIRRE, Roman	01/15
EVANS, Joanne	01/15
HOLMAN, Joyce	01/17
CARY, Mary	01/18
DEDRICK, Char	01/18
KARCHER, Paul	01/18
KASTE, Howard	01/19
CAMPBELL, Lori	01/20
LAFLEUR JR, Theodore	01/22
WALDO, Duane	01/22
KASTE, Sharon	01/23
YOB, Nancy	01/23
DOSSETT, Jon	01/28



Thank you to those of our church family, who phoned, sent cards or stopped by after my recent back surgery. Your thoughts, prayers and visits were much appreciated. Also thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl.

Don August

All Kinds of fun and Excitement for 2017!

Confirmation starts in January. Please keep our youth in your heart and prayers! We are very



excited to be a part of this journey with them. We have plans to visit other congregations, take on a mission project (or 2!), learn more about Vista and all we can about being a Methodist in today's world! Watch for information our Frontier Sunday event coming in February.

Thank you to Ms. Shirley and Ms. Barbara for their hard work and dedication to our Sunday school children. The Christmas program was great! Thanks again! Also a special thank you to Ms. Jan and Ms. Jessica in our nursery. Thank you for taking such good care of our babies!

Our first annual Advent Workshop was a nice success. Our children and youth were able to make crafts and gifts for family and friends and a few items were delivered to some of our members in the hospital. We also enjoyed our Christmas party at the same time. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped make this Sunday FUN!

Six Vista youth were able to attend a fun event at Catalina UMC in December. They shared stories, played games, had a wonderful homemade meal and learned the Electric Slide! It was nice to be around other Christian youth. Our next Youth event will be a Super Bowl Party on February 5th!

In March, Vista hopes to sponsor a youth event here! We have a beautiful facility and would love to share it. Bob and Barbara Sherman have volunteered to help and we hope to have other church members assist us in this exciting, new project.

Thank you for your love and support for our Youth and Children programs.

YEAH! YOUTH GROUP

On behalf of the Tucson Southern AZ VA HCS we would like to extend our appreciation to you for donations of cookies. Your thoughtfulness reflects the concern that you feel for our Veterans . . .

Without your support we could not provide for the smaller niceties that make hospitalization more bearable

Thank you for your continued support

Deborah M. Brookshire VAVS

Mission Outreach Ministry

We want to wish everyone at Vista very Happy New Year 2017, full of God's Grace and Peace and Richest Blessings. We look forward to a year of Mission Outreach to our community and beyond. It is with great gratitude that we thank you for the Thanksgiving offering of \$1,200.00. We sent \$500.00 to the Amphi School District to be part of feeding 195 families at Thanksgiving time. In addition we were able to send a check for \$1,000.00 to The Family 1st Program. We were pleased to send \$900.00 to the Impact Food Bank in December with your contributions and the contributions that were made at the Walk to Bethlehem.

Additional thanks go to our generous congregation for the Christmas Eve offering of \$4,689.00. We will be sending \$1,500.00 to the Wesley Foundation at the University of Arizona that meet at 1st United Methodist Church in Tucson.

At our Jan 4th Mission meeting, our new Mission project for the homeless was adopted. Sister Jose Women's Center in Tucson will be added to our Mission projects. Susan Mawhinney has volunteered to be our team leader for this new Mission project. They are moving into a new facility in Feb and will be in need of a number of new furnishings. We will be providing some of those items with part of the Christmas offering after they move in and we see what are the most urgent needs are for the new facility. Additional Christmas offering funds will provide the resources we need to carry on the Vista Mission Outreach program for 2017.

Our next Mission Outreach Meeting will be on the 1st day of Feb at 1:00 PM. Please feel free to join us and participate in the Mission work at Vista. Our meetings are always open to everyone at Vista. Next month we will be giving you a report on the local mission work in our community.

Yours in Mission Service:

Dee Berman: Chairman

520-825-7115 deerick1968@gmail.com

**VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC
3001 EAST MIRAVISTA LANE**

TUCSON, AZ 85739

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

NON PROFIT ORG

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

TUCSON, AZ

PERMIT #648

*happy
new
year*



SNAK PAK

As the Snak Pak program begins the spring semester, I would like to thank all of you who have supported the program with your offerings and your labor.

The food for each Snak Pak this year costs \$4.40. At 60 children x 36 weeks the cost of food for the year is \$9500, \$4000 contributed by Vista and \$5500 by Santa Catalina Catholic Church. The Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona pays for most of the food through grants. However, the actual cost of each Snak Pak is \$7.80 when all the administrative costs to the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona are figured in.

Some of the community partners do not pay for the food. They simply pick up, pack and deliver the food. The Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona greatly appreciates the fact that our two churches actually contribute money as well as volunteer efforts.

Kathy Campbell Team Leader

