



VISTA de la Montaña

HAPPY 2016 ECHOES

Happy New Year!!! I spent a lot of time thinking about what I would like to put in the first Newsletter of the New Year and here goes... I thought I would write about my beliefs and practice of preaching. First, I believe preaching becomes preaching only through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. It doesn't matter how true or right the words I say and words that people hear if the Spirit is not present and at work in the moment. The Spirit allows us to hear the Word and apply it to our lives. That is why I end most sermons with two questions: "What is God saying to you? And "What are you going to do about it?" When the Spirit is present we know and when we open our lives to the Spirit we do!

I believe that the Bible speaks to all of life. I preach from the Bible and no other source for I do not know of any other source of such Godly wisdom. The Bible is indeed God's words to us and we need to understand it and again apply it to our lives. Often the application is as varied as we are. And some sermons are directed by the Spirit directly to us in the moment, which is why some say, "Pastor you were preaching right at me." And some sermons are for us to remember and apply in the right life moment. And if you ever think, that sermon left me cold or didn't apply you are probably right for the moment. It was someone else's turn that day. In each and every Bible passage there is generally more than one theme, or truth that can be lifted up. That is why I have, on some passages, multiple sermons on the same passage that speak to different issues. An example of this is the Baptism stories in the New Testament. I can speak about baptism being an entrance into the church and the Kingdom of God. I can speak of it as God claiming us, which is why we do infant baptism. I can speak of it as our marching orders to battle sin. I can speak to it as a participation in Jesus' baptism, death and then resurrection. It is also a source of strength and comfort in times of doubt and despair. In January I will pick one of these themes that I think matches the issues of today and the Vista Congregation. I try to set the passage in its historic and cultural context to let you know how the original hearers heard it and then I seek to apply the truth to our modern day life.

I seek to do all of this in 20 minutes, which is about the time the human brain can focus on one subject. In the last 5 years I began using power point slides for scriptures and ideas I want to emphasize as well as pictures that are sometimes indeed worth a 1000 words. (Most of my sermons are right around 2000 words. I speak about 100 words a minute.) To capture the TV trained mind I use video clips. We are well trained to watch TV screens be them on a phone or our 12' screen in the sanctuary. When a screen turns on we watch! I take about 2 hours to produce the slide shows for my sermons and it takes at least 2 hours to just type a sermon. I spend many hours researching sermons and anymore it's not what I put in the sermon that takes the most time deciding, it's deciding what to leave out.

I do all of this because I believe God speaks to us in and through the Bible and one of the most important tasks I have to do as your pastor is to bring you what God says in the word in the most truthful, clear and memorable manner possible. It is vitally important what we know and think for most of the time that guides our actions.

So, I pray, you come each Sunday to worship expecting the Holy Spirit to be present to help you understand the word and empower you to do the work and will of God.

In Christ's love, Pastor Fred

**Faith Health
Alliance North**

**“Healthy Living With
Ongoing Health Conditions”
By Ron Feller**

FHAN is sponsoring a workshop to be held at Vista de la Montana United Methodist Church in Catalina on Monday afternoon, February 29, 2016, from 12:30-3 p.m., to discuss the issues facing those living with ongoing health conditions and their caregivers, as well as to identify resources available locally for assistance. Our featured speakers will be Karen Ring, MS, Healthy Living Program Coordinator for Pima Council On Aging (PCOA) and Rev. Karen MacDonald, Health Ministry Manager for Interfaith Community Services (ICS).

A recent study of primary care physicians indicated that two thirds of Americans have chronic illness. These include those that most of us can call out right away—Cancer, Heart Disease, Diabetes, Kidney Failure, Stroke and Parkinson’s, Mental Health and Impaired Lung Function. Other ongoing conditions include Chronic Pain, Allergies, Balance Concerns, Hearing and Vision Deficits and Sleep Disorders.

Karen Ring will help attendees understand that they need to recognize their condition as a concern and work to address it on a daily basis. She will highlight important areas such as managing emotions, pain and fatigue; decreasing frustration; and increasing fitness and self-confidence.

Rev. Karen MacDonald will discuss how healthy living draws on all of our resources: spiritual, physical, mental and social connections. She will encourage attendees to consider how these aspects of our being enable us to live as fully as possible, with ongoing conditions and throughout all of one’s life.

FHAN has arranged for local agencies to staff Information Tables to discuss available resources and distribute literature. Already confirmed are Pima County on Aging, IMPACT of Southern Arizona, Interfaith Community Services, American Heart Association, Alzheimer’s Association, Southern Arizona Association for the Visually Impaired, American Parkinson Disease Association and National Alliance for Mental Illness. Attendees may visit with these representatives during registration, at the break between speakers and at the end of the workshop.

If you’d like to attend, please register by February 20th, directly to Vista de la Montana United Methodist Church at 520-825-1985. Respite Care may be provided on site for those caregivers who want to attend the workshop, courtesy of By Your Side Senior Care. Please request when registering.

Faith Health Alliance North is a voluntary group of local organizations, individuals and churches whose primary mission is to sponsor conferences on life issues of particular interest to local seniors within the nearby communities of SaddleBrooke, Catalina, Oro Valley and North Tucson, as well as Oracle, San Manuel and Mammoth. If you’re interested in learning more about FHAN or joining our group, please contact Jayne Raffety, Health Ministry Moderator, Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church at 520-825-7858.

Stewardship Report

Dear Vista Members

This year we used a stewardship program Pastor Fred recommended. It was called, "New Consecration Sunday". We were asked to give to God for our many blessings; living in the USA, good homes, and our many other blessings rather than giving to the expenses of the church. We spent four weeks notifying everyone to begin thinking what we should give to God. I am very happy to tell you that we had almost a 10% increase in giving. We are able to do all the things our committees have planned.

This is wonderful for our church since we have come through some tough times in prior years. We want to thank everyone for their participation and we look forward to working together in the future.

The Stewardship Committee

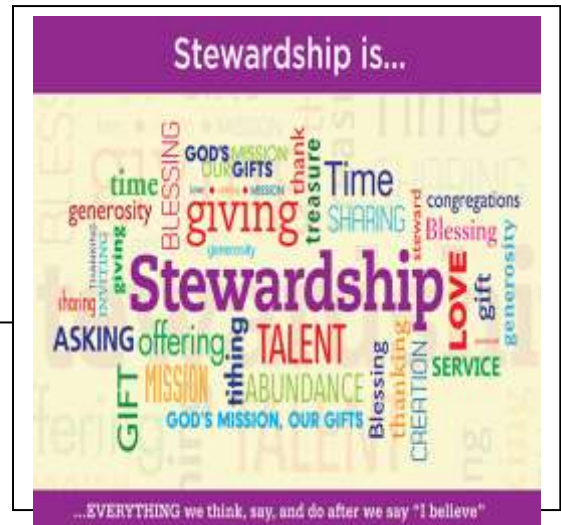
Jim Holman, Chairman

Roger and Fern Salava

Dillis Ward

Rev. Duane Combs

Dave and Rocio Munton



A NOTE FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE

At the Church Council meeting on December 15, the Council unanimously approved the 2016 Vista UMC Finance Budget. Because of our successful Stewardship Campaign, our income for 2016 is budgeted at \$470,000, which is \$10,000 higher than the 2015 estimate. Expenses for each committee were approved as submitted and will support new ministries in youth programs, membership events, evangelism, marketing and our bi-annual Walk to Bethlehem. We also increased the contribution monthly to the building and equipment contingency fund to provide funds for possible building and equipment repairs and replacement projects. If you have any questions, or would like to see the 2016 budget or current finance reports, please contact Sharon Scanlan, Finance Chair or the Church Office.

The Finance Committee

VISTA FINE ARTS

Presents

THE SKYLINE FLUTES

Sunday, January 17, at 3:00 in the afternoon
Vista de la Moñtana United Methodist Church



On Sunday afternoon, January 17 at 3:00, you are invited to enjoy **SKYLINE FLUTES**, an ensemble of four skilled musicians who perform on flute, piccolo, alto and bass flutes. The group, formed in 2009, is a relative rarity outside of meetings of the National Flute Association and rather new in the chamber music arena,

The Skyline Flutes - Jerry Ervin, Christine Harper, Fran Moskowitz and Sandra Schwoebel - are the only professional flute quartet in southern Arizona, presenting over 70 programs in the Tucson area since 2009. They have over 500 selections in their repertoire, including pieces written specifically for flute quartet, as well as transcriptions of familiar light classics from composers such as Pachelbel, Bach, Vivaldi, Mozart and Ravel. Tunes by Gershwin, Berlin, Sousa, Ellington, Joplin and others are additional audience favorites. "We find it fruitful to borrow and/or adapt music from a variety of sources," Ervin said.

The program for **Vista Fine Arts** will include a variety of light classical as well as popular selections. The concert is free. An offering will be taken. All are welcome. For more information, visit www.vistaumc.org.

SNAK PAK

How do school personnel identify children who are food insecure and in need of a Snak Pak?

- * Rushing food lines
- * Extreme hunger on Monday morning
- * Quickly eating all the food served and asking for more
- * Asking when the next meal/snack will be served
- * Regularly asking their teacher for food
- * Saving/hoarding/stealing food to take home for themselves or a sibling
- * Lingered around and asking for seconds
- * Comments about not having enough food at home
- * Asking classmates for food they don't want
- * Other information regarding the child's home situation that requires the need for food.

Other factors that may be present and may help identify a child who needs food assistance

Physical Appearance:

- * Extreme thinness
- * Puffy/swollen skin
- * Chronically dry/chapped lips
- * Chronically dry and itchy eyes

School Performance:

- * Excessive absences and/or tardiness
- * Repetition of a grade
- * Chronic sickness
- * Short attention span/inability to concentrate
- * Chronic behavior problems (hyperactive, irritable withdrawn, etc.)

Home Environment:

- * Often cooks own meal or has another sibling who does
- * Moves frequently

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Our "Getting to Know You" get-togethers to visit with Pastor Fred and Deede will resume in the middle of January.

You may sign up to host or just attend.

I will be on the patio the first three Sundays in January to take your reservations.

Sandy Schwartz

Mission Outreach Ministry

Happy New Year 2016

It is with joy and anticipation that we look forward to another year in Mission Service at Vista. 2015 was a very blessed year in so many ways, not only do we thank the Lord for the good work that was accomplished for those outside of our church, but for the joy we had, in serving those in need. There is no blessing greater, than the knowledge that God is using us for His good. Our prayer is that God will continue to show us His will for the Mission work at Vista in 2016.

We are so grateful for the Generous Thanksgiving offering of \$3080.00 for the Snak Pak program at Coronado School across the road from Vista. There are 60 children who have been designated “ at risk” ,who now have food on the weekends that would not, without your kind and hearts and we thank you so much, as we continue to support this Mission program.

We will be sharing what was accomplished in 2015, and what 2016 holds for us to do at our next Mission Outreach Ministry meeting in Ed’s building on Jan 6th at 1:00PM. We will look forward to our Team Leader’s reports and we want to invite everyone at Vista to join us and share in the discussion. This committee represents the whole church with the Outreach that we do, so come and join us.

Yours in Mission Service
Dee Berman.... Chairman
520-825-7115.... deerick1968@gmail.com

TUCSON HOSPITALITY INN

Lou Tompkins and I want to thank you for a successful pantry food and linen drive! On November 30 I took 71 cans of soup, 23 cans of Chef Boyardee pasta products, 46 cans of fruit, 16 individual cups of cereal, 2 boxes of cereal, 21 miscellaneous food items, 34 bath towels, 17 wash cloths, 28 hand towels, and 1 bathmat to the Inn. My heartfelt thanks to **Jan Hopke-Almer** who helped me sort, inventory, and box these items, and to **Jan and Ken Almer** for loading my vehicle with them. I could not have done this project without them!

We received a \$2500 grant from *Long Realty Cares Foundation*. This grant money goes into the Hercial P. Spence Memorial Scholarship Fund which provides scholarships to those guests who need financial assistance with their stay.

Lou thanks you for all you have done to support THI in 2015 and previous years, and wishes you a Happy New Year!

Kay Gragg, THI Team Leader

JANUARY POTLUCK

January is a busy month!! How wonderful!!

This year, instead of an all-church birthday party potluck, we are having a "State Potluck". You will sign up for the state in which you were born and sit at a table with others from that state.

You may bring a potluck dish that represents your state, or not. Being from Illinois, I may bring Chicago style pizza. And Ted LaFleur, from Massachusetts may just bring Boston baked beans.

Just to make sure that Loni and Pete show up we will have a table for those born outside of the U.S. Sign ups will begin Dec. 27.

Sandy Schwartz

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

Our children and youth continue to be busy following God's word by serving others. At the Vista luncheon they were all decked out in their aprons and had a wonderful time setting the tables and helping to serve the food. The Youth also have gladly pitched in several other Sundays in helping to carry out and serve the snacks after the church service, and they will be helping to serve communion in the future. They truly enjoy being an active part of the congregation, and find that they get to know more of our members in the process. It has also been a pleasure to see them with their families lighting the advent candles each week. Thank you, Pastor Fred, for including them!

They spent the advent season learning more about this exciting time while preparing for the Family Christmas Eve Service. They will be explaining about the Christmas Legends they have studied when they perform in this beautiful service, directed by Shirley Miller. They always look forward to sharing the Christmas joy, love and warmth, and as always we are blessed with such a caring, supportive congregation. Blessings to all!

**Barbara Johnson
CYFM Team**

So What About This Visitation Thing?



We know that Vista is a warm and welcoming church. One way to show that welcoming spirit is to visit people who attend our church for the first time. Statistics show that people are much more likely to return to our church if they have been welcomed by a personal call or visit. Now when we have an address, we send out a letter of greeting to new visitors and if we have a phone number, Pastor Fred gives them a call as well. But we need to be doing more. And just what does that look like?

We are organizing people into neighborhood groupings with a coordinator over that area. For example, Saddlebrook is a neighborhood area and Jon Crown is the coordinator. Given our visitor rate, we believe that each couple who visits should only have to do so about once a month.

Here is what you do. You give the new visitors a call and ask if it is convenient to stop by with a welcome kit for them. (The welcome kits are in the church library). If they say no, then you ask if they have any questions and report your findings to your area coordinator. If they would like a visit and welcome kit (and evidence indicates most do), then you set up a time to visit. The visit should be brief and should entail just a quick series of comments about what you like best in the church and asking the new visitors what they would like to know about the church. If they seem interested in one area of the church let the area coordinator know that so that we can follow up with a call from someone from that area. Ten minutes later you are done and leave with a sense that you have done something for the church and for the new visitors as well because our job helps people on their faith journey! Sound simple. It is!

If you would like to help in this ministry by being on the Visitation Team or by being an area coordinator, please call **Pastor Fred at the church 825-1985 or Donna Boring at 393-3341.**

Donna Boring, Evangelism Chair

UMW Membership Directory Update for 2016

A new directory for Vista United Methodist Women will be published early in 2016. Please email any changes in your information (address, phone, etc) to Elsie Hathaway before February 1st, 2016. elphathaway@gmail.com Thank you!

UNITED METHODIST MEN and TRUSTEES

UMM and Trustees all hope your Christmas was very Merry. This has been a very good year for Vista especially since our new Pastor, Fred Baum, has taken the spiritual helm. Together, all of us have strengthened and grown. Together, we are able to focus and really get things done. New people are joining and that is a very good sign of a healthy church.

I want to thank every one who helped UMM or Trustees during the past couple of years. Rummage is a fine fund raiser yet it takes many volunteers to put on a sale and more still to pick up and store the material. UMM is grateful for the overwhelming support given us. It is all good and UMM thanks everyone on all levels for their care, concern and assistance.

On a particular note, have you seen the Vista sign out on the highway? This dramatic clean up was done largely by **Roger and Fern Salava, Howard Young and Don August**. Fern shoveled and raked 2 inch gravel with the best of them. Don also helped out with painting and shoveling. Please say thank you to each of these when you see them. The campus buildings have been painted, for the most part. Soon the Sanctuary external beams will be painted as well. We will really sparkle. Sparkle is important. It says the people who attend here really love and care for their church. Sparkle says to a visitor, you're welcome here.

It is a joy to be a member of Vista, especially during the Christmas Season. I hope all of us share in this joy. Happy New Year as well. When next year, 2016, plays out Vista will be even more prosperous and successful.

UMM will meet in January 2016. We will meet on the second Saturday of the month, January 9th at Sunnyside Up, 7:00AM. (I have a commitment on the first Saturday).

Until then, enjoy your holiday



DINNER FOR SIX

Our Dinner for Six Spring Session will begin at the end of January. If you are currently a part of Dinner for Six, you will be automatically included in the new spring roster,- unless you cancel.

If you wish to join our groups, please call **Debbi Maloid (520 498 9965) or Sandy Schwartz (520 818 9792) by Jan. 15.**

Sandy Schwartz

CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

SMITH, Don & Pat Reykdal	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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

HOLDEN, Larry	01/02
STEVENSON, Ken	01/02
HERNANDEZ, 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
JOHNSON, Barbara	01/13
EVANS, Janice	01/15
EVANS, Joanne	01/15
ESSENPREIS, Belinda	01/16
HOLM, Joyce	01/17

HOLMAN, Joyce	01/17
CARY, Mary	01/18
DEDRICK, Char	01/18
KARCHER, Paul	01/18
KASTE, Howard	01/19
CAMPBELL, Lori	01/20
WALDO, Duane	01/22
KASTE, Sharon	01/23
YOB, Nancy	01/23
TRACY, Keith	01/25
DOSSETT, Jon	01/28
FUJITA, Michelle	01/28

A NOTE OF THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!

Congregation and Prayer Team at Vista de la Montana, Thank you for all your prayers and support. I am so thankful to have all of you pulling for me during challenging time in my life. Hope you all know how very much is is appreciated. Thank you!

Julie Sanders (Marshall and Teresa Sanders sister)



WARM CLOTHING AND BEDDING DRIVE UPDATE

The response of the Congregation to the warm Clothing and Bedding Drive has been amazing! Your donations are delivered weekly to the Clothing Bank so they can quickly get to local recipients and be put to good use.

Our drive will continue thru January 2016. We still have a significant need for women's coats and jackets and for both men and women's socks. Thank you to everyone who has and who will- respond to this particular need in our community.

Together we are spreading the warmth!

**VISTA de la MONTANA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
3001 E. MIRAVIST LANE
TUCSON, AZ**

**OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
8:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.**

Phone: 520/825/1985

E-mail: Vista UMC @aol.com

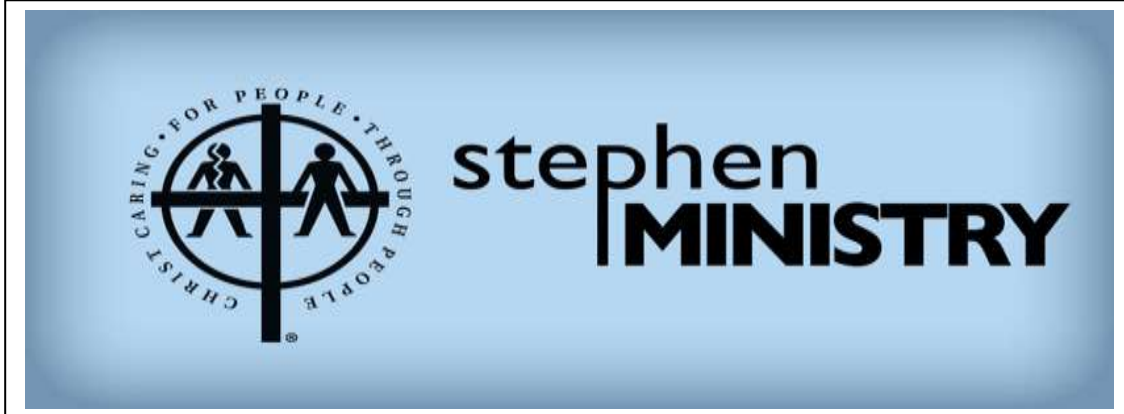
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**SAVE LEAP YEAR DAY –
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016**

The third collaborative workshop to help all of us make informed choices about how to best care for ourselves and our loved ones day-by-day and year-by-year will be at Vista from 1:00-4:00 on Monday, February 29, 2016. Please put this on your calendar now!!!

Karen MacDonald, M.D., Health Ministry Manager for Interfaith Community Services (ICS), one of the two speakers that day states: “Healthy living includes drawing on all of our resources: spiritual, physical, mental, and social connections. In this presentation, we’ll consider how these aspects enable us to live as fully as possible with ongoing health conditions, and through all the length of our life. We’ll also learn about resources that can support our wholistic healthy living.”