



VISTA de la MONTAÑA

MAY 2018 ECHOES

PASTOR PEN

Dear Members and Friends of Vista Church,

These are very exciting times in the life of our Church. God has chosen us to take on two Kingdom of God projects at the same time. As I said in the first sermon of our "Buildings in the Bible" series "God has chosen us to build". God has chosen us to build the physical plant here to enhance the mission and ministries of our local church. God has also chosen us to plant other churches through our Satellite Worship ministry. **God has chosen us to build the kingdom of God here on earth. If you have been praying the Lord's Prayer, "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." God is about to use you to fulfill your prayer.**

As I write this it is my understanding that we are over the 50% mark in terms of fund raising for the New Vistas Building Campaign. Announcements will come soon as we move up toward culmination of this first part of the fundraising of Phase 1 of our Master Plan. On Sunday May 20th we will have a pledge Sunday for all those who we have not been able to visit in their homes. We had more homes (269) than visitors, but as of now all those in the Leadership of our church have made their commitments to the New Vistas Building campaign: our Church Council, Building Committee, Trustees and finance committee are leading the way. **This is a three year fundraising project. Quite a few people have said they can't make a commitment until later in this year or early in 2019; so even though we have a pledge Sunday on May 20th the fundraising is not finished.** In fact some of the fundraising stretches far into the future, because at least a half a dozen families decided to leave a portion of their estates to Vista Church through the efforts of our visitors.

Keep praying for this project and keep bringing in your puzzle pieces and see how on May 20th Jesus fills in most all of the blanks.

Our Satellite Worship ministry received a \$50,000 two year grant to further our efforts of bringing Satellite Fellowships into existence through Live Streaming our services and sending missionaries (i.e. very friendly people) into the field. If you ever read the book of Acts and wished you could be a part of such a missionary effort your chance is coming. Remember: "God often doesn't choose the gifted. God gifts the chosen!" You and I have been chosen for this mission and if you think you aren't adequate for the task you are right. It is only through the power and leading of the Holy Spirit that we will be able to take on and complete these great projects for God. As Philippians 4:3 says, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

I pray you get excited to see what God is going to do through us!!!

In Christ's Love

Pastor Fred

ANOTHER MILESTONE IN THE NEW VISTAS BUILDING CAMPAIGN

We are almost at the halfway point in our goal to raise 1.5 million dollars to build the facilities we need to replace our temporary Administration and Education buildings and relocate our Infant and Toddler rooms. **We need everyone's support in order to achieve our goal. Please pray for a successful outcome and** for guidance in making your own personal financial commitment to this three year campaign.

Some of you have already made pledges and outright gifts that are much appreciated. It is our deep desire and prayer that everyone becomes a part of this effort to improve and expand our church campus. John Witt, chairman of the New Vistas Capital Campaign, is in the process of scheduling home visits. We will not be able to do personal visits with everyone, because of schedules and time constraints. But John will be happy to arrange a visit at your convenience. He can be reached at 825-7017, or via email at cajo55@icloud.com. After these personal visits Pastor Fred will contact the entire congregation by mail to explain how pledges can be made on May 20, 2018.

Note in the Sanctuary our Pray Puzzle has filled out. It's about 50% now as is our project. Keep praying and keep bringing those puzzle pieces in!

From the Building Committee

The Building Committee continues to enjoy the positive momentum gained during our first year of hard work. We have been meeting monthly to refine the plans developed by our Swaim Architects team members.

Most recently the Building Committee has had multiple meetings with Jean Rupe and her Team about the **new Nursery and Toddlers room. We now feel comfortable with the direction that it is going although we're not done yet.**

The Building Committee is scheduled to meet with Dee Berman and the Missions Team to initiate discussions **which should determine their needs, wants and priorities in the new Education Building. We'll also initiate meetings with Sharon Scanlon (Finance), Valerie Hammons (Pastoral Assistant) and Pam Holder (Office Manager) to ensure their needs, wants and priorities are met in the new Administration Building. We've still got much to do.**

These meetings are an ongoing and iterative process where we learn something new from our stakeholders each and every time we meet. The Building Committee will be meeting with every group sooner or later to **pin down their dreams and expectations because we've got just over a year to finalize everything.**

One of the most important things the building committee needs is for each mission area and Church function to immediately begin identifying and eliminating excess files, boxes, goods, clothing and equipment so that an accurate assessment for actual storage needs can be made.

The Building Committee is very thankful to the congregation for enthusiastically supporting the **New Vistas Capitol Campaign Committee and John Witt's efforts to fund Phase 1 of the New Vistas Building Program.**

Without the support of everyone in the Church the success of this critically important project would not be possible.

Snack Pak News

As the Snak-Pak program is nearing the end of another school year, I would like to thank all the volunteers from Vista who make it so successful.

Edna Alligood, Alice August, Don August, Nancy Brackett, Shirley Byrd, Alan Campbell, Betty Frieberg, Lew Hartz, Marsha Hartz, Dennis Higgins, Peggy Higgins, Craig Holder, Ginny Howes, Keith Howes, Linda Miller, Allen Phillips, Art Piper, Marvin Rupe, Bob Sherman, Dillis Ward.

They are joined by 14 volunteers from Santa Catalina Catholic Parish, which affords a great opportunity for the volunteers from the two churches to get to know each other.

As always, a big thank you the members and friends of both churches, whose generosity enables us to buy the food and supplies.



Finance Committee

Capital Campaign Investment Approval

The Finance Committee and Church Council approved immediately opening accounts in 4 financial institutions for the funds raised for the capital campaign. The priorities are to 1) invest in federally insured funds (FDIC); 2) realize reasonable rates of return; and 3) provide accessibility to funds as needed over the next two years.

2017 Audit

Thanks to Finance Committee members Brian Cowman and Leslie Hawkins who conducted the 2017 audit, which was approved by the Finance Committee. The church is financially sound and recommendations have been implemented.

March Financial Results

Our income year-to-date is behind last year and the budget, but we had \$15,000 in prepaid pledges due to the new tax laws that took effect on January 1.

Expenses year-to-date are equal to last year and budget.

Our current operating reserve represents 2+ months of expenses, which is our goal.

Assistant Treasurer

The Finance Committee is looking for an Assistant Treasurer to help Treasurer Dick Lozier. If you are interested, please contact Sharon Scanlan – sascanlan8548@me.com. Financial experience would be helpful, but not required.

Just a note to let you know more about Prayer Shawl Ministry. Vista has a wonderful group of ladies who lovingly make the shawls and lap robes.

The shawls and lap robes are blessed by the pastor at the alter and distributed by the Stephen Ministers. If you know of someone (any age) who is suffering or in need of comfort, please contact a Stephen Minister who will sign out a shawl or lap robe for you to give or the Stephen Minister will deliver it for you. A card is given with each shawl and lap robe explaining the prayer shawl ministry. Devotional material is, also, given.

There is a basket in the sanctuary with mini pocket prayer shawls. Each one has message of comfort attached to it. These are made for you to carry with you to give to anyone to remind them of God's love. You might want to mail one to friends or family out of the area.

If you knit or crochet, please join us on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the Patio room at 1:00 p.m.

Sharon Hunt-Chairman



Mission Outreach Ministry

We have just returned this past weekend from one our most exciting trips to our sister Church, Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta, Mexico. The purpose of the trip was to celebrate the graduation of 4 students who have been in our scholarship program for most of the years we have been supplying school supplies and Scholarships thru the Roach Foundation Program at Vista. Six of us were able to partake of this great event, Pastor Fred Baum, Glenna Snider, Debbi Maloid, Virginia Updegrove & her cousin Jackie visiting from Florida, and me too. We had a good trip down to Douglas where Pastor Gela and associate Pastor Armando met us at the Storage Park in Douglas and we were able to unload all the great things you have given us for this ministry, including all your used cards and the great card trimmings that Sharon Scanlon provides, and many items that will be part of the Celebration of Learning on Oct. 27th. Once everything **was unloaded and stored away we crossed the border into Agua Prieta in Pastor Gela's van and on to the Colonia La Empacadora**, where the Fuente de Vida Methodist church is located. The young people and members of their families were there to greet us.

The Fellowship hall had been prepared for our meeting with all the tables and chairs in a U shape and the tables covered in blue tablecloths. The program began with prayer and welcoming and introductions of our team. The 4 graduates were there with their families and were smiling from ear to ear. Rafael now has a Degree in Industrial engineering; Diana has a degree in Industrial Physiology, Marilu a degree in Education & Manuel a degree in Law. We presented them with watches as a symbol of the time of their lives that had been given to this achievement that will always be theirs. Three of these graduates are now married and each has 2 children and of course a spouse. Only Rafael is single. All of them had to, not only care for their families, but hold down jobs at the same time that they were studying for their degrees. This was no small achievement. And some had a rough start but they persevered. Lots of clapping and cheering as each graduate shared with us the challenges they faced to reach this great day. Pastor Fred gave an inspiring talk honoring their achievement and encouraging others to follow. It is an even greater achievement if you understand that for many, if not most, these graduates are the very first to graduate in their family history. As the program began a list of 10 questions was handed out to the students in the room. Present were students who are now in secondary education and those who want to start, as well as high school students who are looking forward to a better future attending the University or a Tech school in AP. The questions were for the purpose of them to look at their want and wishes for their future and some soul searching of what it is that they seek for their lives.

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Rafael awarding us the plaque

Graduates receiving Graduation Gift watches from Vista



Pastor Gela Pastor Fred and Dee Berman at Graduation Celebration.

Following the graduation program we were serve a tasty lunch by the women's CO-OP. Lots of laughter and joy in the room. The 2nd part of the program, after lunch, was to share the answer from the questionnaire and the answers were very thought provoking. What thrilled my heart was the desire of these young people to achieve a better future for themselves than their parents had. There are such high hopes for the future, if the next crop is as outstanding as this one. At the end of the program we were awarded several **plaques by the graduates and gifts of local candies to share. (Last Sunday's New Member class meeting got to enjoy the candy)** We were also given many cards and letters from the students expressing their gratitude for the financial assistance and all the school supplies.

We will be posting these items in the Narthex for you to see. Following the program we took a short walk in the Colonia to visit the park Vista built and the refurbishing that has **taken place and then on to visit Manuel's new home that we had a part in furnishing.** What an exciting sight to see a lovely little house with 3 bedrooms on the sight of a former shack that had a blanket for a door, bare mattresses on the dirt floor to sleep on, cardboard from boxes tacked to the walls to keep the elements out and mud up to your ankles on the dirt floor during the rainy season. My how God is good, and what amazing changes are taking place since we began our Economic Advancement Program there 15 years ago. May God be praised and the devoted love and dedication of the late Pastor Diego and now Pastor Gela for this growing congregation. I only wish, by some magical way, I could take you all with me to show you what is truly a miracle in the making over these past 15 years of our affiliation with our sister church Fuente de Vida. You will have an opportunity to join us as we travel to Agua Prieta next Oct. 27th for the Celebration of Learning Festival. You will need a current US Passport to get back into the USA. If you do not have a passport you have almost 6 months to get one or update the one you have if it is expired.

Our next project is to begin the school supply program for Agua Prieta headed by Jan Hopke-Almer who always, along with her team, does a great job with the School supply Program.

Our next Mission Outreach meeting will take place in the Patio Room on Wed, May 9th at **1:00 PM. Our meetings are always open to all the Congregation as this is Vista's Mission Program.** By attending Vista you are one of us. Our hope and prayer is for us all to be the face of Christ to our community and beyond thru our love and service. Please note that we will not be meeting in June or July but will meet again on Aug. 8th.

Yours in Mission Service:

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



Happy Birthday to:

HERD, Eileen	5/05
MEISE, Pat	5/05
TONGA, Sela	5/05
O'DONALD, Jay	5/06
SMITH, Don	5/06
HUBBARD, Jo Ann	5/08
JOHNSON, Pat	5/10
PHILLIPS, Allen	5/10
FARNUM, Jeanne	5/11
HERNANDEZ, Kiana	5/13
MAWHINNEY, Susan	5/15
TRYON, Denny	5/16
YOUNG, Mary Lou	5/16
BROWNING, Jerry	5/17
HURLEY, Harold	5/18
MILLER, Robert	5/21
FUJITA-HERNANDEZ, Ami	5/23
RUTKOWSKI, Marilyn	5/23
CAMPBELL, Kathy	5/24
ATWOOD, Jan	5/26
BULL, Kim	5/26
GOETZ, John	5/26
HOLLOWAY, Dick	5/26
LOZIER, Cork	5/26
CURTIS, Gene 0	5/27
ISAAC, Alfred	5/27
GUPTILL, June	5/29
AGUIRRE, Jasmine	5/31
COFFMAN, Anne	5/31



HIGGINS, Dennis & Peggy	5/08
PARSON, Gail & Darrell	5/10
BLEESS, Jim & Von Ceil	5/11
TRYON, Denny & Karen0	5/12
DAVIES, Joan & John0	5/23
BULL, Fred & Kim5	5/25
AUGUST, Don & Alice	5/27
CURTIS, Gene & Carol	5/27
ZEBAL, Ken & Liz	5/27
DANIELS, Bill & Becki	5/28
AUTHUR, Bob & Janelle	5/31
PODLASEK, Ken & Diane	5/31



South District
Desert Southwest Conference
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 20, 2018

Vista de La Montana UMC
3001 E. Miravista Lane
Tucson, AZ 85739-9335

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generosity last year in fulfilling the Apportionment Covenant.

Your faithfulness to sacrifice and give out of gratitude to God has helped and supported ministries through the world. The generosity you have shown has truly made a difference in the lives of many.

Sincerely,

Rev. Mark Conrad
South District Superintendent
Desert Southwest Annual Conference

CALENDAR

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



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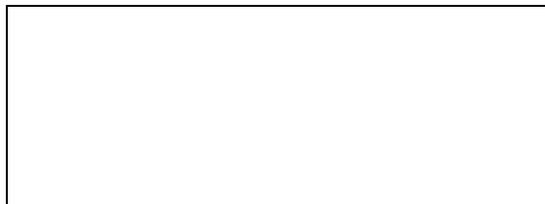
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TUCSON, AZ

PERMIT #648

OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
8:30 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.
PHONE 520-825-1985

E-mail: VistaUMC@aol.com
VISIT US ON FACEBOOK
AND AT OUR WEBSITE:
www.Vistaumc.org



WANTED:

People that like to have a good time, good fellowship, good food and also learn the history and etiquette of the afternoon tea and all about May Day and May baskets.

The United Methodist Women at Vista will be having an afternoon tea on Friday, May 4th starting at 3:00pm till 5:00 pm. We will have mouth-watering sweets and also tea party sandwiches. It will be a great opportunity for you to do some shopping for any occasion. We will be having several kinds of baskets for our silent auction. **It's going to be an event that you won't want to miss. We will be selling tickets after the church service on Sundays.** If you miss getting yours, you can contact Loni Degen, Barbara Phillips, or Amy Butkovich. **Remember you won't want to miss a good party, so be sure and get your ticket now- only \$8.00/person.**

