



August 2024




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Hi Friends,

It's August and this is my first newsletter note to you. In just a short time as your pastor, I have come to realize that Vista de la Montaña has many faithful and dedicated members. And that you all enjoy each other's company! My staff meetings have been so fruitful and energizing for me. The Spirit of God is truly at work. Our Staff Parish Relations chair, Dan Boring introduced you to me in last month's newsletter, so you know a bit about me already, but I wanted to share a bit about what you will hear from me over the next couple of years. In scripture both the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and the Christian Scriptures (New Testament) we have many themes. For me the theme of love stands out as a ribbon of grace from the beginning of time til now. Whenever I read scripture, I like to look for God's grace in the story or the Proverb or Psalm. One of the ways we see this is in God's directive to the Hebrew people to Love their neighbor. Jesus said this too right? No other commandment greater than loving God with our body, mind, and spirit and to love your neighbor as yourself. I have a hunch that Jesus told his disciples and others many many times to love their neighbor. One time a religious expert in the biblical law asked Jesus to explain this neighbor thing = "Who is my neighbor," he asked. And Jesus told a story. Through this story, the story of the Good Samaritan, and the way Jesus lived his life we have come to understand that our neighbor is all people - the person who lives next door, every person we encounter and all those who we haven't met yet. Virtually everyone. Loving our neighbors in big ways and simple ways will be a theme in my messages because it seems like that was Jesus' message too. In Jesus' time when folks departed from one another they would say, "Shalom" wishing their friend or acquaintance peace and good health. I have a hunch Jesus added, "Go love your neighbor!"

Because of Jesus,
Pastor Mary



All shall be well, and all shall
be well, and all manner of
thing shall be well...for there
is a force of love moving
through the universe that
holds us fast and will never let
us go.

- Julian of Norwich

SpiritualWanderlust.org

Address for ALL Echoes articles!

The email address for all Echoes articles is Echoes@vistaumc.org

Please make sure that you send your articles to that address only! If you send it to another address it is possible the article will not be published.

Gail Parson, Echoes@vistaumc.org

Come and Sing or Play the Bells at Vista UMC

By Sharon Scanlan and Carolyn Dwyer



Come and sing at Vista de la Montaña United Methodist Church! We are a dynamic community dedicated to Christian worship and service to all people. The Chancel Choir is small and in need of voices. If you have been blessed with vocal talent, a discerning ear, and/or can tap your toes to the beat, we have a place for your gift to shine! We also have a bell choir to inspire you and others!

*"No storm can shake my inmost calm,
While to that rock I'm clinging.
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth
How can I keep from singing?"*

Choir practices are every Wednesday. The Bell Choir practices at 11:00 AM and the Chancel Choir at 1:00 PM. Choir rehearsals will begin again on Wednesday, September 4th, after their summer hiatus.

Email Carolyn Dwyer, Director of Music Ministries, for more information: music@vistaumc.org

Vista AV Donations of Expertise, Time, and Money are Needed.

Seriously, our live streaming services on Sunday often have 200 listeners who watch the service, listen to the service, and pray with us as we pray. Many of the folks are long time members of Vista who can no longer attend. To continue providing live streaming we need to purchase some upgraded equipment. Also, we will need additional help in the booth on Sundays. Your time, money, and prayer will be greatly appreciated. If you choose to donate by check (be sure to note AV fund in memo space).

Thanks in advance;
The Vista AV Crew.

Insuring Your Legacy and Vista de la Montaña's Future

Legacy giving is giving for the long-term. Gifts to Vista de la Montaña's Endowment Fund are pooled and invested to provide the church with the resources to grow and meet church needs into the long-term future. Vista's Endowment Fund is a permanent fund targeted to produce income to be used for current and future church purposes. When funds are available and distributed, they are used to support projects above and beyond normal budgeted items. The Endowment funds provide donors an opportunity to touch present and future ministries beyond their lifetime and leave a legacy of love that will always be remembered. It gives us the opportunity to ensure that Vista's future existence is guaranteed. Certain types of legacy gifts provide added benefits to the giver. Some gifts provide tax benefits, and can include such items as stocks, bonds, insurance policies, real estate or other assets. John Wesley said, "Gain all you can, Save all you can, Give all you can. Earning, saving, and giving are all means of giving oneself to God." Legacy giving to Vista's Endowment Fund is an option that each of us should consider. No gifts are too small.



Serve Vista from Your Home?!?

Have you perhaps been thinking "Gee, I'd like to help out at Vista but I'm not sure how or doing what"? We have just the thing, and you can do it right in the comfort of your own home, on your own schedule! It's the ministry we call "Vista's Shepherds".

A Vista Shepherd is a person who, several times a year, telephones a short list of Vista members (generally 6 to 8) who are unable to attend Vista in person or who may have special needs. Typical duration of such a call is a scant few minutes. A typical phone call usually goes something like "Hello; this is Jane/John Doe of Vista de la Montana's Shepherds Committee. I'm just calling to see if you might have any concerns or any prayer requests you might like to bring to our attention." You would be surprised to hear how often the call recipient will respond positively. And that's it! If the person isn't home, we just leave a brief message. Additionally, should a person on your list ask, they can request contacts more frequent than just a couple of times a year by calling their specific Shepherd or by calling Robin Conner (916-549-4939). Alternatively, the person can email Admin@VistaUmc.org or call the Church office (520-825-1985) to make such a request.

If this ministry sounds like it might be just the thing, please contact Robin at 916-549-4939.

Louise O'Donald, Shepherd and Stephen Minister

Refresh...Relax...Read

Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.
Matt11:28

It's the middle of summer in the desert! It's hot! And most of us are a bit weary. August is the perfect month to refresh, relax, and read!

Jesus himself set an example for us. He was weary so He went off to a quiet place where could pray and be refreshed. We need to do that too. Everyday. Not just occasionally. During the month of August make time, take time each day to be alone with God. No distractions. Just the two of you. Rest. Pray. Be still. Listen. God will respond. He will refresh you. And during these quiet moments, you will find rest for your soul. Matt 11:29.

Our new Vista library is the perfect quiet place. Come, relax in one of the comfortable chairs. Explore the wonderful Devotions section. Meditate on one or two of the passages.

And while you're there, borrow a book or two! Here are two worthy selections:

The Ezekiel Option by Joel Rosenberg

What if the end is closer than you think? Saddam Hussain is gone. Yasser Arafat is dead. An American president is trying to spread freedom throughout the Middle East. Another dictator is rising in Russia. This is an action-packed thriller based on one of the most important end-times prophecies. A real page turner!

Hadassah, One Night with the King by Tommy Tenney

Both a palace thriller and a Jewish woman's memoir. This historically accurate novel brings the story of Esther to life. A gripping action-packed adventure full of political intrigue and suspense, with a brand new perspective on a Biblical figure you think you already know.

The library is open Monday through Thursday. I'll save you a chair!

Linda Galka

Our New Vista UMC Library

We are happily accepting appropriate donations. Three areas where we could use more donations are:

1. Children's books and DVDs
2. Christian and Spiritual Fiction
3. Christian and Spiritual DVDs

You can put your donations in the gray bin near the TV. If you would like a donation receipt, please email Sharon Scanlan: sascanlan8548@me.com.

There is now a table and two chairs for small meetings.

South District Lay Servant Classes - Fall, 2024

All are available for registration on the Conference Web.

Link for registration: <https://dscumc.org/lay-servant-ministries-training-sessions/>

For those of you who live outside of Tucson - consider getting more than yourself to sign up for a class, carpool and share the expense of the gas.

- Living our United Methodist Beliefs: **UM Heritage**
 - August 10th and 17th @ St Paul's UMC/Tucson
Facilitator: Pastor Brooke Wilkerson
Registration Deadline: August 2nd
- Lay Servants Lead in **Conflict Resolution**
 - September 21st and 28th @ Christ Church/UM/Tucson
Facilitator: Pastor Beth Rambikur
Registration Deadline: September 13th
- From Your Heart to Theirs: **Delivering an Effective Sermon**
 - October 19th and 26th @ St Paul's UMC/Tucson
Facilitator: Pastor Ron Bartlow
Registration Deadline: October 11th
- Introduction to Lay Ministry (**The Basic Course**)
 - November 2nd and 9th @ St John's UMC/Tucson
Facilitator: Linda Sterling
Registration Deadline: October 25th

Questions may be addressed to one of the South District Co-Directors of Lay Servant Ministries

Gretchen Lofgren
glofgren22@gmail.com

Kelly Deyoe
kideyoe@cox.net

Last week prior to Sunday the 14th, I was privileged to receive a message from Bishop Juan Manuel Ruelas. He serves the Pacific district of the Methodist Church of Mexico. He asked if I would come down to Agua Prieta for the closing program of their annual Conference, to be held for the 1st time at our Sister Church Fuente de Vida. He wanted to show a token of their appreciation for our work across the last 20+ years in Agua Prieta. What an honor for me and our Vista Church.

There were many words of gratitude for all the clothes we collected for the conference. There were over 80 pastors, old and new, as well as 2 new Superintendents of 2 new districts that were anointed for their new tasks in the 3 states of Baja California, Sinaloa & Sonora. This bishop covers these 3 states in his work. Our sister pastor Gela Villicana was reassigned to her church in Agua Prieta. The women's Co-op prepared all the meals for the 5-day Conference and did a great job. The church floor has been improved by new tile work, a full platform from wall to wall and a lovely stone background wall behind the pulpit. A new roof, and five new donated Air Condition units were installed to keep the sanctuary cool and quite comfortable and once again usable. All this work was done in 1 month, working day & night to get it completed by June the 10th for the conference. Lots of singing and joy was overflowing in that building packed from wall to wall. Following the service that lasted over 3 hours we all went to the community room and had a delicious lunch. My, what a day we had! We then drove home in the oncoming storm that we could see ahead of us in the black sky. God was with us as we stayed just ahead of the storm and got home safely after a 2-hour slow crossing of the border.

I was honored to receive an inscribed plaque, but it is all of you who have been with us over the last 23 years, building the church and the community that share the honor! We have all made the education of young people possible so that they can have a prosperous future. As I stood to receive the plaque Pastor Gela asked all the students and graduates to stand and there they were all over the sanctuary, Teachers, Engineers, Business Owners, Lawyers etc. What a blessing!!

Thank you, Vista, for your generosity.
Yours in Mission Service, Dee Berman Tompkins.

Mission Moments August 2024

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make away in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Isaiah 43:19

Backpack Mania

Thank you Vista for supporting our Family First Mission in Oracle. What a joy to see 112 colorful backpacks displayed on the altar. Each backpack was filled with an assortment of pencils, crayons, paper, notebooks, and other much needed school supplies. These backpacks will be distributed to students in Catalina, Oracle, and other small communities in the "Copper Corridor". Without your financial donations, we would not be able to serve our nearby neighbors.

Agua Prieta School Project

The 2024-25 Agua Prieta School Project was a great success. All fifty one students have sponsors! Each \$30 donation provided all the school supplies needed for the entire school year for each student. Thank you for supporting our neighbors who worship at our sister church, Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta. These students and their families will remember your kindness and generosity all their lives!

Coronado School Teacher's Wish List

Pastor Mary shared a wonderful idea with us. She suggested that we reach out to the teachers at Coronado School and ask how we can support them during the coming school year. Nancy Yob contacted the principal and we are meeting with assistant principals, Andrea Fyock and Julie Ramsey in the next week. More information will follow. Together, let's support our Catalina teachers as they begin a new school year.

Other Updates:

- **Impact Food Bank:** Donations totaled 60 pounds for the month of June. Thank you church!
- **Pocket Change:** Pocket change donations in June were \$64.57. Our next Pocket Change Sunday will be September 28. Save that loose change!
- **Creative Hands:** This talented team continues to sew unique clothing for kids. They represent Vista in such a creative way month after month.
- **Agua Prieta:** Stop by the church library during the week to purchase handmade greeting cards. The cost is just 50 cents! These works of art are created by the Women's Economic Advancement Cooperative, Colonia La Emcapadora, Agua Prieta, Mexico.

The mission committee will not meet in August but will resume regular meetings in September. We'd love to have you join the team! Mark your calendars! Wednesday, September 11, 3 PM, St. Matthew Room.

Serving Him, Your Mission Team

August

Anniversaries

CROWN, John & Jan	08/09
YOUNG, Howard & Mary Lou	08/09
BAUM, Fred	08/15
SPENCER, Phyllis & Dan	08/16
EXTRACT, Clif & Laurie	08/17
ROBERSON, Walt & Mary Louise	08/19
LARMOUR, Paul & Margaret	08/22
MEHLHORN, Mary-Ann & Peter	08/23
BELLAH, Bill & Mary	08/26
WILSON, Syd & Carol	08/27

Birthdays

FLOYD, Linda	08/04
TONGA, Sela	08/05
HIGGINS, Peggy	08/06
PODLASEK, Ken	08/08
JACKSON, Ginny	08/09
MOYER, JennaRae	08/12
OELRICH, Paul	08/12
TEWART, Caitlin Gail	08/12
HARWICK, Kailyn	08/13
HOTCHKISS, Michelle	08/13
RICHARDSON, Lisa	08/13
SNIDER, Glenna	08/13
INGLE, Sharon	08/14
ALLIGOOD, Edna	08/15
HOLDEN, Jackie	08/15
RADTKE, Gene	08/17
BORING, Daniel	08/19
KRAVITZ, Pam	08/19
OLSON, Ron	08/20
ISAAC, Kathleen	08/21
KELLEY, Lynn	08/21
ROBERSON, Mary Louise	08/22
WHITE, Natassja	08/23
YOUNG, Howard	08/23
DUCKETT, Florence	08/25
ALBERTS, Gerry	08/27
VALDER, Linda	08/27
ERIKSSON, Lars	08/29
PROKOP, Frank	08/29
RUPE, Jean	08/31

September

Anniversaries

HOLDEN, Larry & Jackie	09/02
RADTKE, Gene & Paula	09/02
ALLIGOOD, David & Edna	09/03
HOEFT, Peggy	09/05
GURECK, Bill	09/10
MC FARLAND, David & Glenda	09/16
OELRICH, Paul & Shawn	09/17
RICHARDSON, Lowell & Lisa	09/22
YOB, David & Nancy	09/22
STAKER, Joe & Sue	09/25

Birthdays

CARPENTER, Karon	09/02
FLOYD, Thomas	09/02
PARRISH, Jeanne	09/02
TOMPKINS, Gifford	09/03
CROWN, Sandra	09/06
O'DONALD, Louise	09/06
COLEMAN, Rob	09/07
HOPKE-ALMER, Janice	09/07
MC FARLAND, David	09/08
BRINDLE, Delores	09/10
STAKER, Sue	09/11
LOGAN, Joan	09/14
INGLE, Tony	09/16
ST CLAIR, Paul	09/16
ESHELMAN, Gerald	09/20
DUENKEL, Lynn	09/21
RYTTER, Noel	09/22
BILLS, Morgan	09/23
BILLS, Wyatt	09/23
GURECK, Sandra	09/23
ODELL, Gordon	09/23
HOEFT, Peggy	09/25
STAKER, Joe	09/27
ZEBAL, Ken	09/27
GALKA, Linda	09/29