



*A Monthly Newsletter of the United Methodist Church of Vista*

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We are called to be an authentic, accessible and inclusive community  
in Christ, celebrating and extending God's love into the world.

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### **Pastor's Ponderings**

It's just amazing...the work of our Annual Conference was interesting, engaging and powerful this year! We have a new bishop, Rev. Grant Hagiya, who confessed his weakness is impatience and a desire to 'move things along.' We approved a budget, heard a 'ministry moment' from each district and celebrated newly commissioned and ordained deacons and elders. Our Bishop began a new award to be given each year at Annual Conference. It is called the 'Bishop's Lifetime Achievement' award and was given to six gifted and inspiring individuals including Rev. James Lawson!

Rev. James Lawson walked with Martin Luther King Jr., has advocated for civil rights, social justice and lived the gospel of Jesus Christ his whole life. Lawson was the pastor of Centenary Methodist Church in Memphis, Tennessee in 1962. Rev. Lawson was the chairperson of the Sanitation Workers Strike in 1968, and brought Rev. Dr. King to town to preach. Rev. Lawson moved to Los Angeles in 1974 for an appointment at the Holman United Methodist Church. He preached and taught about non-violent resistance, civil discourse and social change.

The work of Annual Conference is for the purpose of supporting local churches and local ministry. The Annual Conference is a connectional body of churches, leaders, both lay and clergy who are called by God to bring healing to a hurting world. Rev. Lawson is a part of our local connection and bears witness to the huge impact local churches and leadership can have on our society! The United Methodist Church of Vista is a part of this connection and we benefit from our relationships across the nation and world.

It is easy to sit in the pews and forget that the Local Church is a powerful place where you can make a difference. The people gathered here begin with the love of God! We don't all agree on every issue. I've heard from a number of you that you don't understand why we have one group or another group in our church. Is there one sin or another sin which is so grievous that a person should be excluded from our congregation. I believe the truth is that all are welcome in the household of God, so long as we treat one another with respect and the intent to do no harm.

The work of the local church is to stand up, stand out, and offer God's grace. The work of the local church is to offer a vision of a different world in keeping with Godly ethics and values. The work of a local church is not about judging others or condemning folks who aren't faithful, it is to make visible God's love! That means that mercy and compassion come first. We are the family that declares that peace is not merely the absence of war or violence but a deep and abiding generosity of forgiveness that precedes all else. Being a church, where God is proclaimed is challenging and makes us a target. When you stand up and declare that you are trying to live a faithful life, it means other folks are going to watch you. Some folks will even cheer when you fall down. Don't be deterred by others struggle but give in to the grace of God.

I celebrate the connection of the people called United Methodist. I am honored to be a part of this family, even when it struggles! I pray we can overcome our social issues and claim the common goal of making God visible within local communities! There are many who are hurting, humbled by the entrenched hate of the world and angry. Our Annual Conference, our Bishop Grant Hagiya, our District Superintendent and our companions in other churches are doing the work of God! What else are we called to in our local church?

Grace and peace to you!  
Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

The Flame

## Where does our money go?

Last month I wrote about Stewardship and getting more involved and you responded just right with the request to help the Fuller Group from the Seattle area. You came to the church on June 30, picked up a couple of sweaty cyclists, took them home for showers and brought them back to the church for a wonderful potluck dinner. Congratulations, but please don't stop there. There really are many other easy and enjoyable ways to get involved. Let me give you an example.

In 1956, my wife and I were living in the Washington, DC area. It was hot and humid in the summer. So I requested a transfer to the Denver office. As I left to drive to Denver to find a place to live, my wife's parting words were, "Find a church you want to go to!". I did. She liked what I had found and so we joined. We joined the choir. We were in a 3,000 member church and the choir had slightly over 50 voices and paid section leaders. I sat next to the baritone leader and he made it possible for me to survive and enjoy singing. Four years later, we were involved in starting a new church in Littleton, 13 miles south of our home church, but only two miles from where we were living. In the first month we helped start a 9- to 10-member choir, a far cry from 50 members. (That new church is now one of the biggest and best in the Rocky Mountain Conference and has a choir program that is "out of this world").

In 1962, we transferred to the San Diego office and moved to Vista and joined UMC Vista and the choir. We found over the years that giving up a couple of hours every Thursday and a little extra time on Sunday was just what we needed for rest and relaxation from reining in five "live-wire" children. It also gave us the opportunity to meet and become friends with many new people. About the only time we missed practice was when one of us was sick or on vacation. I know there are some in our congregation that like to sing but hesitate because of the commitment. May I suggest you give thought to joining the Summer Choir which starts right after the fourth of July. No Thursday night practice, but you do come a little early before second service to practice an anthem. It isn't hard and it will give you time to get acquainted with Frank, our director, and the regular members of the choir. Try it - I think you will like it.

-Tommy Thomson

Total Budget for 2017	\$501,275
Total Received (25 weeks)	\$284,129
Total Spent	\$251,412

## 2017 Quiet Disciple recipient

The San Diego District United Methodist Women celebrated the annual Quiet Day on June 3. The highlight of the morning was the announcement of the Quiet Disciples selected from the individual organizations. A Quiet Disciple is a woman who supports the mission of the United Methodist Women and thereby enriches the lives of others with the love of Christ. Her work may be visible to all or quiet and behind the scenes.

Our local organization named Helen Robertson as the Vista UMW Quiet Disciple for 2017. She volunteers within the general church, United Methodist Women and the community. She is an inspirational example of Christian Discipleship.

## Communion Sunday, July 2

The July 2 communion offering will help provide materials to improve the cabins at the Methodist Camp Encinal in Mexico just outside of Tijuana. Several work teams from the U.S. have made plans to help build or rebuild the cabins. We can help by providing materials. Let's provide for a cabin or two.

-Sue Humphrey, World Missions Committee

## X-tra Giving for July

Our July X-tra Giving will benefit the Hawkes Home, located in Vista. The North County Times had a nice article about them on June 7, 2017, for those who may have missed it. They are a sober living house that provides men who are transitioning from prison, a safe environment where they can learn independent living skills. They help them get bus passes, phones and find jobs; as well as assist with medical appointments, enrollment in educational classes, and learn how to cook and deal with court paperwork. Residents are subject to regular drug testing, strict house rules and a curfew. Men can stay free for a couple of months until they find work. After that, they are expected to pay a fluctuating monthly fee. Joyce and Harley Noel opened this home in memory of Monsignor Ben Hawkes, and Harley is also co-founder of McIntyre House, in L.A., which opened 20 years ago and is a long-term drug treatment center for male ex-convicts. There will be a list of needed items in the narthex, beginning in July AND on July 16, Hawkes Home will host an open house at 1020 Marbo Terrace, here in Vista, from noon to 3:00 pm, with tacos, live classical guitar music and tours of the home. Let's come out and support them with contributions of needed items and our presence.

## Missionary to speak

Join us on Tuesday, August 1 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in Fellowship Hall to meet our with missionary to Japan, Rev. Claudia Yamamoto. Folks from Encinitas UMC will join us. Rev. Yamamoto shared her story at Annual Conference Mission Luncheon and you will not want to miss this opportunity to hear her speak. She returns to Japan on August 4, to continue her service with mission and ecumenical affairs. Please see Jacque Howard for further information.

Flame Editors  
Lenore Averell and Barbara Mitchell  
Flame Production  
Paula Amaro  
WEB Master  
Jim McGlocklin

Next deadline is Wednesday, July 19, 2017  
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

**The Flame (monthly newsletter)**  
**United Methodist Church of Vista**  
490 S. Melrose Drive  
Vista, CA 92081

## Reconciling Ministries

The Reconciling Ministries Community of UMC Vista would like to thank all who have joined our small band of friends, family and allies. We hope more will join with us in the quest to further the discussion of equality and acceptance for all.

We have heard your questions about Reconciling Ministries—“I’ve signed on as an ally and get all this mailing related to LGBTQIA issues—I didn’t sign on for that! I signed on for inclusion of all in the church—and I’m welcoming to all. So, why am I getting this information based only on the one issue?”

As we all know, issues of justice can take a very long time to accomplish. The issue of race is still going on and has been for more than 200 years... “but, I’m not a racist!” That may be true, but as a culture, the difficulties that people have related to race are real.

Women have been working on issues related to women in this country since the 1800s, and whether you are for/against women’s rights or not, it is still an issue being fought in the 21st century with, specifically, white men making decisions for women’s health or earnings gaps in job pay or job promotions. It’s better, but it is definitely not over.

The list is long for discrimination in this country even though you or I may not be specifically against one population or another—Native Americans, Muslims, Asian, homeless, LGBTQIA, immigrants to name a few, but justice for these populations comes VERY slowly and painfully. Researchers have found that attempted suicide rates alongside drug use, depression and bullying are higher than the general population among LGBTQIA youth and adults depending upon the area they live in.

So why are we part of Reconciling Ministries? As Tracey Blatt, character in the play *Hairspray*, says, “It’s the right thing to do!” She’s referring to Black Americans in the 60’s, of course, but the response still fits. It is a justice issue—that ALL persons, including LGBTQIA should be recognized and accepted as persons of worth, because our God says, “It is the right thing to do.” We obviously aren’t going to solve this issue, or any issue of equality in a day or even a year, or perhaps in our lifetimes, but we need to continue having the discussions...to be comfortable with, to learn how/what we can do to be part of the solution, not for just ourselves, but for our church and all people.

So why are you getting the materials and why are we a part of this? Because it is the right thing to do. We, of the Reconciling Ministries Community of UMCV, hope you will continue to have the discussions with us, but, of course, if you wish to be dropped from the list, we hope you will let us know, and we will try to respond ASAP. Together, we are disciples on this road known as life. Blessings.

-Barbara Mitchell

## Elementary/middle school kid’s music camp

The Annual Summer Music Camp for elementary and middle school kids will run from Monday, July 31 through Friday, August 4, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am, with a rehearsal on Saturday, August 5 at 9:00 am. The campers will join forces with the Chancel Choir for a performance on Sunday, August 6 at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary. This year’s musical is entitled “Music of the Spheres”, an out-of-this-world musical journey. Registration information will be available in the narthex or church office. Please contact Rev. Frank Hallock for further information.

## Student Ministry News (Beckie Henselmeier)

- **Movies on the Lawn 2017** has two more screenings! Join us in this community event with a picnic dinner or buy something from our food trucks, time for fellowship and games, and then relax with a movie on our upper lawn at sunset! Each film will be shown on a Friday night (July 21 and Aug. 11) and the movies are “Trolls,” and “Zootopia.” Our mission project for this event is a “back-to-school” supplies drive including backpacks. At “Back to School Sunday” on August 13th we will have a blessing of our donations and they will go to families in need and Breeze Hill Elementary School. See Beckie or Colleen Guffey for more information.
- **VBS 2017 July 24-28 “Maker’s Fun Factory VBS”** is a world where curious kids become hands-on inventors who discover they’re lovingly crafted by God. This VBS will spark their creativity with interactive crafts, music, games, snacks, Bible stories, and kid-stories that share the heart of the Gospel: God loves them so much! This year our VBS will be held in the evening, from 6 - 8 pm. Registration is \$35/per student for the week if registered and paid by July 21st. You can sign up today by going online at [umcvista.org/vbs](http://umcvista.org/vbs).

## United Methodist on contemporary issues

“The United Methodist Church has a long history of concern for social justice. Its members have often taken forthright positions on controversial issues involving Christian principles. Early Methodists expressed their opposition to the slave trade, to smuggling, and to the cruel treatment of prisoners.” “The Social Principles, while not to be considered church law, are a prayerful and thoughtful effort on the part of General Conference to speak to the human issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation as historically demonstrated in UM traditions.” (Book of Discipline, 2016, page 105)

Our Social Principles are broken into six sections and address many issues of our modern world. The six sections are: The Natural World, The Nurturing Community, The Social Community, The Economic Community, The Political Community, and the World Community.

Our statement (in part) on Civil Obedience and Civil Disobedience from the Political Community: Governments and laws should be servants of God and of human beings. Citizens have a duty to abide by laws duly adopted by orderly and just process of government. But governments, no less than individuals, are subject to the judgment of God. Therefore, we recognize the rights of individuals to dissent when acting under the constraint of conscience and, after having exhausted all legal recourse, to resist or disobey laws that they deem to be unjust or that are discriminately enforced. Even then, respect for law should be shown by refraining from violence and by being willing to accept the costs of disobedience. We do not encourage or condone any form of violent protest as a legitimate exercise of free speech or civil disobedience. We offer our prayers for those in rightful authority who serve the public, and we support their efforts to afford justice and equal opportunity for all people... We urge governments to ensure civil rights, as defined by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to persons in legal jeopardy because of those nonviolent acts.

## Happy “July” Birthdays

*Mary Ann Maniti, Cailin Schneider (1)*

*Chad Green, Terry Lenker (3)*

*James McGlocklin, Richard Trawick (4)*

*Nancy Koski, Noah Wheeler (5)*

*Marlize Clarke, Justin Felien (6)*

*Angelina Maniti (7)*

*Tom Humphrey, Ruth Lloyd, Amy Pierce (8)*

*Debbie Forbis, Richard Miklau (12)*

*Lanny Arrowsmith (13)*

*Ron Bradshaw, Kim Johnson (15)*

*Nancy Bennett, John Mitchell, Nancy Winters (17)*

*Rev. Chung Kim (19)*

*Jim Wright (21)*

*Jim Rogers, Merlee Sheridan (23)*

*Ray O’Toole (25)*

*Ruth Hamilton (28)*

*Catherine Schneider, Larry Veysada (31)*

*Note: If your birthday is not listed, please call Paula at the church office.*

## “Welcome Back” Pastor Leigh Ann, Pastor Frank

On Sunday July 2nd, we will be officially “Welcoming Back” Pastor Leigh Ann and Pastor Frank to UMC of Vista. These positions are appointed annually, so we are so pleased and honored that they will be returning to us for another year. We will celebrate our Welcome Back with cupcakes in the narthex at the end of each service. In fact, let’s make all of July a “Welcome Back Month” for them. This will allow time for us to personally make a call or send a card/e-mail expressing our gratitude, as I am certain each of us has been touched by their special and unique ministries. So please take a moment to convey your appreciation for Pastor Leigh Ann and Pastor Frank as our ministers.

-Dakota Koenig, Chair, Staff-Parish

## Lecture and conversation, July 19

Religion in Literature: Issues of Gender, Sex and Submission - Three books have inspired movies and mini-series: *The Handmaid’s Tale*, *The Red Tent* and *The Scarlet Letter*. Join Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw for a lecture and conversation. Bring your own copy of the book. Sign up and get the reader with additional reflection and guiding questions. Cost for the copied material is \$3.00. Wear red. Bring a red snack or drink. Please sign up in the Narthex for the final lecture, “The Scarlet Letter”, July 19 at 10 am.

## New Members Class

Working on a New Members Class for a time in August. Are YOU interested in officially joining in our fellowship and becoming a part of this church family? If so, please let the church office (760.726.0442), Barbara Mitchell (760.724.0923) know or write it on the back of your Sunday registration card. More info to come!

## Cable Foundation update

The Cable Foundation was approved by the Church/Charge Conference on June 24, 2012 and is into its fifth year. During this time, the United Methodist Church of Vista has provided grants to 100 charities (18 in 2013, 23 in 2014, 24 in 2015, 21 in 2016 and 14 in 2017) for a total of \$1,269,615.00. This is what your Church has done to improve the lives of people less fortunate than us. Congratulations! Like Pastor Leigh Ann said Sunday, April 30th, your church is well known throughout the region.

The fiduciary responsibilities of the Cable Foundation Board of Directors have proven to be exemplary during this period. The total amount of dollars the United Methodist Church of Vista received from the George Cable Trust was approximately \$12,000,000. In 2013, the newly formed Cable Foundation immediately disbursed almost \$4,000,000 for repayment of funds borrowed to build the church, pay off the church mortgage, pay legal fees, establish a reserve account for the Board of Trustees and provide some benevolent gifts to Operation Hope and African University Scholarships to name a few. This left the Cable Foundation with a little over \$8,000,000, including the final distribution which was received from the George Cable Trust on September 10, 2014. As of December 31, 2016, the Cable Foundation portfolio still has over \$8,000,000 and, like I said above, that is after providing \$1,269,615 to charities.

The purpose of this article is not only to inform you of the outstanding mission outreach accomplished by your church but to reflect back on the discernment process, where we sought the guidance of the Holy Spirit in how we might be good stewards of these funds to promote the ministry of Jesus Christ through the United Methodist Church of Vista. Through dialogue, discussion, prayer, and balloting we arrived at a set of goals for the existing use as well as the investment for future use of these funds. Through balloting, the goals were accepted by the congregation and became the pedestal for the Cable Foundation Bylaws. As you know, our mission is to “Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World” and as a congregation we decided that the Cable Funds would go to create a process by which we could extend our outreach through the existing ministries of this congregation now and forever. One statement which was repeated often in our discernment process and one which was built into our decision about the funds from the Cable Trust was “We want to pay our own way!” We agreed as a congregation that we would continue to support the work of the body of Christ through our tithes and regular giving to the church operating budget.

Hopefully, this article has made you aware of the great things you have accomplished to date and reminded you of our commitment for the use of these funds.

Thank you for your continued support of the mission of the Cable Foundation along with the laborious hours the Church Council and Committee Chairpersons put forth in this endeavor. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Warren Elsasser, President  
Cable Foundation

## United Methodist Women's Corner

- The UMW Circles are dark in July and August.
- The UMW leadership meeting is August 19 at 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.

## Family Game Night in July 14

Family Game night will be on July 14 at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship. For questions or for more information, please see Suzanne McMurchie.

## Pray together for...

Larry Averell, Jim Wright, Rollin Grider, Janice Frate, Tom Johnston, Loretta Pierce, Maggie/Giorgio Graziano, Ed Christensen, Bob Hickman, Joan Lindegren, Ron Bradshaw, Joan Brainerd, Nancy Koski, Carol Yunt, Randie Annin, Russ Townsend, Alice Leclair

## Stay connected

E-mail: [umcvista@umcvista.org](mailto:umcvista@umcvista.org)

Website: [www.umcvista.org](http://www.umcvista.org)

Facebook: United Methodist Church of Vista

Be sure to check us out on Yelp!

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