



A Monthly Newsletter of the United Methodist Church of Vista

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

Pastor's Ponderings

"Silently now I wait for Thee, Ready, my God, Thy will to see; Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit Divine!" By Clara H. Scott, 1895

A few weeks ago, I attended an all-day Saturday training on reaching and connecting with Millennials through social media. Christians are called to have eyes of grace and kindness. We are called to BE like Jesus in our life and LISTEN to him. That's a tall order as one of my Texas family might say. Being more like Jesus means welcoming and getting to know folks who aren't like us. To some, the Millennial generation seem like people from a different planet, but really they are our friends, children, and grandchildren. How do we connect with them?

In the modern Christian church a generation usually referred to as The Millennial generation is largely missing. This generation were born between 1980 and 2000, which means they are 38 – 18 years old. According to 2015 census data, there are 75.4 million people in this cohort, which makes them a larger generation than the Baby Boomer generation. (As of 2015 there were 74.9 million Baby Boomers, 66 million Gen-X and 28 million of the Silent Generation.)

The Millennials are the first generation born into a digital world. They don't know a world without cell phones, lap top computers, and social media. Ask a Millennial and they will tell you their parents have a landline, but they don't. They are carrying 1 trillion dollars in student loan debt and over 63% of Gen-Y (the other name for Millennials) have a bachelor's degree. 48% work in a job that doesn't require a degree.

63% say they'd rather make \$40,000 a year in a job they love rather than \$100,000 in a job they think is boring. 74% want a flex work schedule and 50% say they don't believe there will be any social security when they retire. 70% have 'friended' their manager or co-worker on Facebook. 56% won't work at a company that bans social media at work. And Millennials are a profoundly racially diverse generation, and also known for their tolerance toward different races, and sexual orientations.

But here is the challenge we have....Millennials are generally not coming to church. It is not that they don't like Jesus, it is that they aren't impressed with 'so-called' Christians. Millennials say church people don't listen to them, they are sick of mission statements and they think we spend more time talking ABOUT the poor rather than doing anything to Help the poor. They believe Christians are hypocritical, judgmental and are anti-gay. They think churches spend too much time blaming culture and too little time doing anything about the troubles of the world. They want to be Mentored, NOT Preached at or Lectured.

Millennials have gotten a bad rap as they've grown up and many stereotype them as lazy, entitled, spoiled and always expecting a trophy. Yes, this generation, born into a world of privilege that is very different than any other generation, I believe are a force for change and inspiration! The Millennials are passionate about climate change and eco-stewardship, terrorism, and financial responsibility. 80% of them are active in their community doing volunteer work! That's right...from conservation to politics to children's activities, this group is on the move!

The interests and world concerns of Millennials line up with the values and concerns in the United Methodist church and yet, we have failed to see, welcome and engage with this generation. Is it too late to begin a fresh relationship of collaboration and mutual learning? I HOPE not! I think we are called to be with this generation and offer them leadership skills, and encouragement. I believe we can learn new ways of doing ministry and engaging the community. This is more than a call to change a song or style of music, this is a call to develop new eyes to see younger people as gifted and blessed by God, with strengths all their own.

There are tons of resources on generations and the differences between them. One book recommended to me is called Sticking Points, by Haydn Shaw (no relation), copyright 2013. Or google 'Millennials' and just start reading. Or better yet, find a Millennial and ask them to tell you what they think about anything. Chances are they will have an opinion and information to back it up.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Finance/Stewardship Update

As we come to the end of the first quarter of the Church calendar year, you will be soon be receiving your first quarter financial giving report. It will include the amount that you pledged for 2018, and the amount given at the end of the first quarter of the Church year. If you have not yet decided your stewardship financial giving for 2018 you may still do so by picking up a pledge card at the scrip table, filling it out and placing it in the offering plate.

We are happy to announce that as of the first quarter of the year that we are meeting all our Church financial/stewardship obligations in the 2018 budget, although we are about \$22,000 short in our pledged giving to meet all the financial obligations in the 2018 budget. The Committee on Finance/Stewardship is working hard and has plans for additional stewardship opportunities to close this budget gap during the year.

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair,
Co-Lay Leader

Communion Sunday, March 4

Communion offering for Sunday, March 4 will be UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Sunday, formerly known as One Great Hour of Sharing. Every year one special offering is taken for UMCOR through One Hour of sharing to defray the costs to run the operation so when any disaster occurs 100% collected for that disaster goes to the project. UMCOR is usually one of the first to respond to a disaster and one of the last to leave after all is cleaned up. Through this offering UMCOR can continue the work it has been doing for over 75 years. This offering makes it all possible. Please give generously.

-Nancy Winters, World Missions Committee

X-tra giving for March

Our X-tra Giving will be the Veterans Association of North County. Known as VANC, located at the old police station in Oceanside, was created by a group of dedicated veterans to help other veterans, members of all branches of the military (including reserves), and their families by providing support and resources. VANC is an umbrella association that represents more than 30 veteran organizations to serve as a one-stop resource center to assist folks however needed. See the list of items needed in the Narthex.

Nursery/Child Care Attendant position

If you are interested in a position as a Nursery/Child Care Attendant, applications, requirements and the job description are available in the church office. We are also interested in applicants that would serve as substitutes as well. Applicants must be 18 years or older. You may contact Dakota Koenig, Staff Parish, or Beckie Henselmeier, Director of Family Ministries for details.

A Word from Your Gap Team & Consultant Mary Scifres

We were so energized and inspired by the congregation's insightful and enthusiastic participation in our January visioning retreat. We know that some of you want us moving forward at a sprint, and others prefer a snail's pace, so we're trying to navigate a marathon ministry plan that moves forward at a quick clip - meaning we plan to have a Ministry Plan to present to you for your review and approval later this spring, sometime in the Easter season (which runs all of April and May this year). We imagine a day not too far in our church's future when our campus is so busy and our impact so huge in Vista that we are in service to others seven days a week, rooms are constantly buzzing with loving energy as we put our faith in action, and the community knows and trusts that we are a hub of inclusion, loving ministry, and collaborative connection in serving the needs of Vista and North County. Wherever God calls us and however we answer that call, we want to maintain our identity as the United Methodist Church of Vista, always keeping God's call, and purpose and vision for our church at the center. Yes, this means we are discussing our current building and campus, and how it can best serve as a supportive infrastructure for ministry. Yes, we are talking about current ministries and dreaming about future ministries. And, we are celebrating the church's impact in 2017 and 2018, even as we envision a greater impact for 2019, 2020 and beyond. As we continue developing a ministry plan and discerning how best to support and live into that plan, we look forward to even more input and insight from you. Please join us this month at one of the many small group gatherings that your GAP Team will be hosting in homes and at church to listen for your ideas, answer your questions, and continue our prayerful discernment about where Christ calls us to serve and how best to answer that call!

More information and details available in the church office, on the website, or during Sunday morning announcements. As always, feel free to contact Consultant Mary Scifres (mary@maryscifres.com) or any member of the GAP Team with your ideas, questions, and insights about the mission and ministry plan of UMC Vista!

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

Next deadline is Wednesday, March 21, 2018
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

How well do we know Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann?

She speaks to us every week, but there are things we may not know about our Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw. She grew up in San Diego, but was actually born in New York, where her father served in the Navy. When she was in elementary school, the family moved to San Diego with a change of Naval assignment to 32nd Street.

In high school she first heard God calling her to ministry, but it wasn't until college that she accepted God's call. Pastor Leigh Ann went to San Diego State University, studying English Literature and wanting to be a teacher. She was giving God plenty of opportunity for a change of mind.

God never did change but continued to call her to ministry. God's call took her on to the Claremont School of Theology. On graduation with a Master's in Divinity, she was appointed Associate Pastor at the United Methodist Church in Camarillo to direct children and family ministries. Pastor Shaw remembers the wonderful pre-school in Camarillo that reached out to the community and the team of leaders who taught her much about growing vital relationships.

After Camarillo, Pastor Leigh Ann served as a hospital chaplain at Sharp Grossmont Hospital for 4 years focusing on end of life care, palliative care, the behavioral health unit and offering spiritual support to the hospital staff. "It was an amazing time of feeling connected to the community and working as a team," Rev. Dr. Shaw said. During this time Pastor Leigh Ann completed 5 units of Clinical Pastoral Education, and studied bioethics.

Pastor Shaw returned to the local church setting at Foothills United Methodist Church in La Mesa. Among her many responsibilities was leading a collaborative ministry called "Common Ground." This outreach ministry brought together three local congregations to adopt five local elementary schools to provide volunteers, and many material resources for education and care. At the same time, Pastor Leigh Ann completed a Doctorate in Ministry at Wesley seminary in Washington D.C. which required traveling back and forth for classes three times a year for 3½ years. Her doctoral dissertation was on postmodern ministry outreach to support and grow communities. An impressive achievement! The graduation ceremony was held at the National Cathedral in D.C.

After Foothills UMC, Pastor Shaw served the La Mesa First UMC and was then appointed to Vista in 2015. Along the journey she has served as District Leadership Chairperson, Registrar for the District Committee on Ordained Ministry and now serves on the Conference Committee on Ordained Ministry. She is passionate about good stewardship of the environment and the care of animals, as well as justice issues related to women and education. I asked Pastor Leigh Ann what she wants to be and her answer was 'useful, productive and faithful.' Her past experience clearly shows this.

And finally I asked Pastor Leigh Ann what should the Church be? "The Church should be a community that feeds our souls and equips people to go out and help people." This is the path she guides us.

-Norm Corwin, Member of SPRC

SSP Pancake Easter Breakfast Fundraiser

The Sierra Service Project (SSP) youth invite you to their Pancake Easter Breakfast Fundraiser on April 1. Pancakes, sausage, fruits and beverages will be served! You can purchase tickets (\$7) in the Narthex between services through April 1. This fundraiser will help the SSP youth earn money towards their upcoming mission trip!

Student Ministry News (Beckie Henselmeier)

- **Easter Walk 2018** - Journey through the Easter Story through an interactive, worshipful, and family-friendly opportunity to walk with Jesus! Share the scripture, create art, pray, and connect with the Easter story in a way that is accessible for the entire family. The self-guided tours will take approximately 50 minutes each. This event is free of charge! See Beckie Henselmeier for more information.

2018 Scholarships from the United Methodist Church of Vista Foundation

District Camp Scholarships available

The UMC Vista Foundation is pleased to offer financial assistance to the children of active UMCV members who want to attend in 2018. The Foundation will pay half of the early-bird registration fee, regardless of when the child is registered for camp. To receive this scholarship, first register the child on-line at the Cal-Pac Camp website. Pay the \$25 registration fee to secure their enrollment. Print a copy of the enrollment confirmation and put it in the Foundation mailbox in the Church Office, Please get them to the Foundation by March 31. The Foundation will make payment directly to the Cal-Pac Camp office in your child's name. Questions? Ask any Foundation board member or call Gary Lamb, Foundation President, 760.598.1915.

Academic Scholarships Available

If you are an active member of UMC Vista or the family member of an active UMC Vista member, you may be eligible for one of our academic scholarships for the 2018/2019 school year. If you are planning to attend an accredited college, trade school or other training program, we encourage and welcome you to apply. Applications must be completed by the student and are available on the church website and in the church office. The UMC Vista Foundation will receive completed application packets through May 31. They will be reviewed at our June 2018, regular meeting. Applicants may be invited to an interview. Questions? Ask any Foundation board member or call Gary Lamb, Foundation President, 760.598.1915.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 18

3:30 p.m. – Pre-Concert Lecture/Refreshments w/Rev. Hallock

4:00 p.m. – "Reflect, Renew, Prepare" – Lent Concert

Friday, March 24

1:00 p.m. Easter Walk (until 3:00 p.m.)

Palm Sunday, March 25

9:00 and 11:00 a.m. – Worship Service

Good Friday, March 30

7:00 p.m. – Worship Service

Easter Sunday, April 1

6:30 a.m. – Sunrise Worship Service

7:00 a.m. – Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser (till 11 a.m.)

9:00 and 11:00 a.m. – Worship Service

Egg Hunt between services, sponsored by SSP

Happy “March” Birthdays

Leah Henselmeier (2)
David Hendron (3)
Marilyn Mathias (6)
Elizabeth O’Toole (6)
Ruth Rockwell (6)
Ken Sheridan (6)
Geneva Christensen (9)
Hope McGinn (9)
Leighann Page (9)
Thomas Bakalar (10)
Trent Hamlin (10)
Steve Lambert (10)
Lenore Averell (12)
Diane Biggs (12)
Erin Fraser (12)
Greg Kim (13)
Rollin Grider (16)
Lucy Henselmeier (20)
Olive May Harris (22)
Lance Bodnar (23)
Ruben Choque-Jimenez (23)
Madelyn Knight (24)
Margene Haase (25)
Seana Wheatley (25)
Don Wirth (25)
Roger Martinsen (27)
Sandy Harvey (29)
Dottie Nelson (29)
Sue Downey (31)

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

Family Game Night

The next game night is Friday, March 9, 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. For questions or for more information, please see Suzanne McMurchie.

Guest Speaker for Grief Support Group

Please join us at our next Grief Support Group meeting on Wednesday, March 21 at 3:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will have a guest speaker, Lydia Good, a licensed family counselor who specializes in grief counseling. Everyone is welcome! For more information, please call Kathy Johnson at 760.726.0442.

Easter Egg Hunt

Volunteers needed to stuff eggs and supervisors for hunt. Donations of candy/small prizes that will fit into eggs (nut-free and individually wrapped candies) can be dropped at a container in the narthex. Please contact Tracy Lyons or Martha Phillips, 760.726.0442 for more information.

“Reflect, Renew, Prepare” - a concert for Lent

The musicians of the United Methodist Church of Vista will offer a concert of music for the Lent and Easter season on Sunday March 18 at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The theme for this concert is “Reflect, Renew, Prepare” and will offer music that captures the reflections of the season of Lent and will also prepare our hearts for the glory of the Risen Christ that we celebrate on Easter. The concert features the Chancel Choir, the Anderson Handbell Choir, and the Sunshine Magic Children’s Choir, as well as guest musicians, Jimmy Patton and Enrique Platas and our Chamber Orchestra. We will present a variety of music both traditional and modern, from arrangements of classic hymns to beloved praise choruses. You are also invited to a short presentation by Rev. Frank Hallock prior to the concert that will enhance your listening experience. That lecture will begin at 3:15 p.m. with light refreshments. Please plan to join us, and bring a friend, for this unique and beautiful concert experience. There is no charge for attending, there will be a free-will offering taken to support the music ministry

Reconciling Ministries

I am proud to be part of the Reconciling Ministries Community. We have heard, in the past few weeks, in our “Stories of Love” series, stories of sadness, rejection, joy, love and empowerment. There are so many people in this world who are different from us—and that is a good thing. Some are black, white, yellow, brown; some have physical or mental disabilities; some are homeless; some are women, men, gay, straight and some just don’t know what or who they really are. But bottomline, we are all children of God. There is no place we can go, no place we can hide where God can’t find us if, and when, we want to be found. There is a line from the movie, The Greatest Showman, which by the way is a great movie in terms of thoughtful ideas, where the character Bennnett, a newspaper critic, says to Barnum: “... putting folks, the wrong kinds on the stage, all colors, shapes, sizes...presenting them as equals... another critic might have called it a ‘celebration of humanity.’” So let’s be a church that openly celebrates humanity—ALL humanity with Open Minds, Open Hearts and Open Doors. Have questions or want to know more about our Reconciling Ministries Community? Come join us in our studies and/or meetings or give Lyn Berry or Gary Lamb a call. Blessings! -Barbara Mitchell

On behalf of the Reconciling Ministries Community, I would like to thank everyone who agreed to speak at our “Stories of Love” during February: Kathy Johnson, Suzanne and Vicki McMurchie, Juna Spitz, Jim Wills, Peggy and Dick Muir, and John Haase. It was extremely meaningful to listen to their personal stories of love and growth. Thanks to everyone who came to listen, as well. We hope the conversations will continue as you visit with one another.

Reconciling Ministries will be offering other future get-togethers, including a trip to the movie “Love, Simon,” a tour of San Diego’s gay neighborhood, guest speakers, and a musical event. Look for announcements in the Spark and the Flame.

-Lyn Berry, Reconciling Ministries Community Chair

United Methodist Women's Corner

- The **UMW Circles** meet March 6: Kenworthy Circle will also meet at 2 p.m. in the Chapel. Ruth Circle will meet at Coco's Restuarnt in Vista at 9:30 a.m.
- UMW will be having a **Bake Sale** at the Farmer's Market on Saturday, March 17 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- The **UMW leadership** meeting is March 20 at 10 a.m. in the Chapel.
- Please bring cookie/healthy snacks for Sunday hospitality.

Community Ourtreach

The staff and volunteers of Operation HOPE-Vista hope you will circle the date on your calendar for the 15th Annual Dinner and Auction fundraiser. The event this year will be held on Saturday, March 24 from 5 – 8 p.m. at the McClellan Senior Center on Vale Terrace. The theme this year is "Spring into HOPE – The Enchanted Garden."

All proceeds support the shelter's programs and clients. Tickets are \$50 for general admission, \$120 VIP Couple (reserved seating), and \$500 for a table of eight. They will be available between services on March 4 and 11, and online at www.operationhopeshelter.org.

It is shaping up to be a terrific evening, so we hope you will join us for fellowship, fun, and a great meal while supporting the work of Operation HOPE-Vista.
-Sharon Hall

Pray together for...

Family of Beverly Wright, Joe Baird, Bill Peaker, Vic Johnston, Nick and Kara May, Margene Haase, Mary Nixon, Lynda Mounts, Sue Downey/Bob Baker, Jane Fischer, JaDene Dugas, Chico Treutle, Harold MacDermot, Tom Johnston, Bob Hickman, Joan Lindegren, Ron Bradshaw, Joan Brainerd, Nancy Koski, Carol Yunt, Alice Leclair

Stay connected

E-mail: umcvista@umcvista.org

Website: www.umcvista.org

Facebook: United Methodist Church of Vista

Be sure to check us out on Yelp!

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