



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

'Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.' Ephesians 4:29

We are beginning work with a Church Consultant for the purpose of developing a long range plan. It has been 13 years since this building was completed. At that time there were plans to build another section of this building with classrooms and a kitchen. The plan was to develop a weekday preschool downstairs. Those plans have never been realized but have continued to be a part of the church's conversation about our future.

Our Church Council approved hiring the Church Consultant upon recommendation of a small group called the 'Building Inspiration Team' who met three times in August and September. The goal of hiring the Church Consultant is to develop a long range plan and answer the question of whether we need, want and have the capacity to finish the building. Rev. Mary Scrifers is an experienced church consultant and coach. She will be coming to meetings, running retreats and leading conversations to reflect the core values and passion of this congregation.

Entering into a time of long range planning for the discernment of our future ministry can bring out grief, anger, fear, anxiety, resentment and suspicion as well as hope, excitement, joy and renewed enthusiasm for our future. I've already heard every one of these from you. From the choir room to the narthex and out in the parking lot there is talk that goes on.

Paul writes to the people of Ephesus about how to be a church, and to live in community. Paul says in Ephesians 4:1-3, 'as a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.' As we enter into this focused time of discernment, I encourage you to take Paul's words to heart. Be patient with one another as you speak about our future, and the future of this church for people who aren't even born yet.

A long range plan should project out three to five to ten years. That means we will be planning for 2020 to 2022 and into 2027. I wonder who will be here and what will be the age of our congregation then? Will we have an active group of 30-somethings who are singing with the band and connected with our community partners? Who are we called to reach out to in 2027 that we don't even know today? The work we do now, is for our children and grandchildren and other people's children and grandchildren.

How do we stay current with everything, even as we seek to follow Jesus? The truth is if we are looking into the future, some things will change. Even when the way we do ministry changes and the people we see week to week change, the Savior we follow stays the same. God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. So let us take heart and be patient and kind to one another as we look into the future and for new ways to offer Christ love to our neighbors.

Grace and peace to you,
Rev. Dr. Shaw

A Staff Glance

On October 24 your staff met at a retreat center to work on leadership development and visioning work. Each staff member took a 'Strengths Finder' test to learn their top five strength themes. Building a team based on the strengths of the team members means that we accept that God didn't make us 'well rounded' as individuals, but made us to work and live in community. It is in looking to those around us that we find support for the areas of our leadership, administration and work that aren't the strongest, and offer the best we can to the Body of Christ. My strengths, defined by 'Living Your Strengths' are: connectedness, input, intellection, ideation and strategic. To learn the staff's strengths, just ask each one and hear about their best skills and talents. To learn more for yourself check out strengths.gallup.com and check out their materials.

-Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann

Building inspiration with a consultant alongside Welcoming Rev. Mary Scifres Into Our Process

Ministry and vision are flowing freely, your leadership team is enthusiastic about our dreams and plans for 2018 and beyond. God is on the move in Vista, CA! You are serving Christ's church generously and are making a huge impact with your loving service in our community and world. Thank you!

For the last year, your Church Council and Building Inspiration teams have been envisioning the church's future, brainstorming ministry dreams and goals in order to discern where God is leading us. They have been asking how the ministry you do and are called to do impact our building usage and potential needs for expanding our facility space. We know that leading and living into God's vision for the church takes a specific unified focus from leaders and members. As UMC of Vista looks to our future, we want to lead and live into that vision effectively and passionately with each and every one of you.

Late this summer, after a great deal of wonderful clarity about who we are and where we are going over the next year or two, your leadership team realized we would be encouraged by an outside perspective and additional guidance to guide us to a longer-term vision and plan. Under Pastor Leigh Ann's guidance and referrals from our District Superintendent John Farley, we investigated resources and church consultants who might be helpful. The Church Council has chosen Church Consultant Rev. Mary Scifres to work with our pastors, our staff, and our leaders to help us get to that longer-term clarity. Included in her work with us, Mary will lead us in a congregational discernment and decision-making process about whether and what to build in the spring, guided by the God-given vision we discern for our church and the ministry plans and goals to live out that vision.

Rev. Scifres notes that, "Most churches want to be vital and focused, but don't prioritize or actualize that dream. I am very inspired to work with your team, as your focus and passion for ministry is already so obvious." Rev. Scifres helps churches to spend adequate time in collaborative discernment to reach consensus, develop buy-in of the vision, affirmation to live into this vision and harness the passion of the people. During this focused process we hope to become more vital within and throughout our community. The goal is not merely growing membership, but growing our focused ministry, and trusting that God will sustain and grow our congregation.

You can learn more about Mary by visiting her website at www.maryscifres.com and her consulting firm at www.togetherweclimb.com. If you have questions or insights about our process, please contact Church Council Chair, Beth Brainerd Hallock. Each of you have an important voice in this process and we encourage your input!

Annual Charge Conference, Nov. 19

Annual Charge Conference is Sunday, Nov. 19 at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Remember, reports due by Nov. 5. Questions? Please call Paula at 760.726.0442.

Centering Prayer

Would you like a closer relationship with God? Would you like to have a more compassionate and loving relationship with others? Please join us every Monday at 9:30 am in the Chapel to learn and pray together for love of God. For more information, please call Martha Treutle at 760.598.1701.

Communion Sunday, November 5

Communion offering for Sunday, November 5 will go to support our annual Christmas Caring and Sharing Program which provides us the opportunity to share in the joy of Christmas giving with families who are struggling. Through Caring and Sharing we are able to give gifts to children including one article of clothing, a pair of shoes or a jacket, and a special wish gift (usually a toy). Our Church and Society Committee works closely with North County Lifeline in North County to select Vista families in need.

-World Missions Committee

X-tra giving for November

X-tra Giving for November will go to our Caring and Sharing Christmas program. Through this program families in need are able to celebrate Christmas with family gift cards and presents for the children. Please pick up a list of items in the Narthex.

Family Game Night, November 10

Family Game night will be on November 10 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship. For questions or for more information, please see Suzanne McMurchie.

Alternative Christmas, November 12

Alternative Christmas gives you an opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts for people on your list who "have everything" or for you to make a donation in another person's name, to a charity of your choice. This year we have 10 worthy projects for you to select from. They are: International Child Care, Caring and Sharing, Operation Hope-Vista, and Two Fishes, Guatemala Project, Heifer Project, Threads of Hope (Haiti and Uganda), Neighborhood House of Calexico, UMCOR and Canine Companions for Independence.

The process is simple: pick up an order form and look around at the booths. Each booth will have a representative to answer your questions. After you have decided which cause to support, fill out an order form, get a greeting card and info on the project to give your recipient, then pay the cashier. Please make checks out to UMC Vista and our church will send the money to the appropriate places.

Remember, Alternative Christmas will take place on Sunday, November 12 in the Narthex and on the upper lawn from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm.

-Brenda Walker

Flame Editors
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Next deadline is Wednesday, November 15, 2017
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

What is Scrip?

I was asked this question again this week, so here goes.

Currently, SCRIP is the term used in the nonprofit world that refers to GIFT CARDS and GIFT CERTIFICATES issued by major merchants such as ARCO, Stater Brothers, Albertsons, Home Depot, Walmart, Lowes, Sprouts, Chevron, Target and Souplantation. (These happen to be some of our top sellers.)

The very same gift cards and gift certificates issued and accepted at merchant establishments are the same gift cards and gift certificates used in the Scrip Program here at our church at the SCRIP TABLE every Sunday. Scrip is issued by the merchants themselves, and can be, depending on the merchants, paper gift certificates or plastic gift cards. Also, depending on merchants, the Scrip gift cards and gift certificates may be able to be redeemed on the merchants' own website.

We buy the Scrip at a discount (1 1/2% to 15%) and sell at face value. The profit we make goes to help support the capital expenditures needed for the children and youth programs. In 2016, we earned over \$5,000.

The Scrip we sell can be used for your own personal use, or for gifts for weddings, birthdays, graduations, and/or Christmas, just to name a few.

We have regular weekly buyers, some occasional buyers, and many who never buy at all. Why not stop by the Scrip table in the narthex and pick up an inventory sheet. I'll bet there are items there you use weekly that you could purchase and help the YOUTH at the same time.

I hope to see you at the table soon. We need a few volunteer workers too.

-Tom Humphrey

Welcome new members

A few months ago the following persons joined our church:

- Beverly "Bev" Hopkins was a member of Beth Eden UMC in Rockford, IL, where she sang in the choir and was involved with Sunday School activities. She has been a respiratory therapist. Currently, she is working in home care.
- Andrea Shaw has six children and eight grandchildren. and enjoys baseball, word games and cruises.
- Patty Thompson has attended San Dieguito and Imperial Beach United Methodist Churches. Her activities included President of UMW and the church marketing team. She has done community outreach and promotion for the KOTU.
- Richard Trawich has attended our church for several years. He enjoys walking, attending social gathers, computer games, writing and music.

We welcome these new members to our church family. In the next Flame we will introduce additional new members.

-Lenore Averell

Family Ministries (Beckie Henselmeier)

- Special dates for the Youth Group are:
 - Nov. 5 Service Project for "and 2 Fishes"
 - Nov. 21 - Youth Movie Day- time TBD
 - Nov. 26 - No meeting due to the holiday
- Heartfelt Thanks for your continued support of Trunk or Treat and the many volunteers who made this event possible. We're also grateful for another successful Trick-or-Treat for Apportionments.
- Advent Study 2017 - The message of "All Earth is Waiting" explores the familiar Advent themes of hope, preparation, joy, and peace with the heavens and earth in mind and considers how all creation longs for the coming of Christ, taking seriously the notion that the good news of Christ is good news for all the world. More information available at UMCVISTA.org/connect
- Save the date: Our student Christmas play, "A Star is Born" will rehearse on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. More info to come.

It's Cold/Hot in the Sanctuary!

Our church has an HVAC system (Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning) that was designed for a much larger facility than we currently have. The plan, more than 15 years ago, was to build the rest of the facility within a few years, which would be cooled by our current HVAC configuration. The limits of our current system create uneven heating and cooling in the sanctuary, a large quantity of air coming out in a few places around the sanctuary room and spikes in power use that affect our energy cost. In addition, the aging process of the HVAC and the uneven stress on the system has caused a variety of repair needs that the Trustees have been managing. The Trustees are very aware of all concerns, complaints and hopes for a more even and regular temperature during your worship time. As this is a regular facility management issue of our congregation, it has been a part of our regular operating expenses budget. The issue of our HVAC system and how we manage it into the future would best be helped by our congregation deciding whether it's time to move forward with building a new building and additional ministries or deciding to retain our current configuration and get a new HVAC for the current building. For the meantime, we invite you to pray about our visioning into the future, and come to worship with a jacket to put on for those low temperatures that sometimes occur.

-Billy Stempson, Chair, Trustees

Happy “November” Birthdays

Alice Leclair (1)
Hector Hernandez (3)
Pam Montoya (3)
Lois Townsend (5)
Grace Wheeler (5)
Stacy Hansen (6)
Jesse Handy (7)
Louise Clarke (8)
Robert Hickman (8)
Janet Ahrens (9)
Grace Casey (9)
Leonidas Clarke (9)
Nancy Montgomery (10)
Josh Clarke (12)
Miriam Tivar (12)
Jane Arrowsmith (13)
Barbara Baldridge (13)
Norman Corwin (13)
Beverly Duncan (13)
Tim Frazier (13)
Susan Lenker (13)
Charlotte Chappel (14)
Teresa Flanagan (16)
Thelma Koda (16)
Emma Hernandez-Jackson (17)
Martha Phillips (17)
Carol Elsasser (19)
Louise Foss (19)
Kathy Johnson (19)
Bryant Wheatley (22)
Al Amaro (23)
Suzanne McMurchie (25)
Abbie Bowlin (26)

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

Peace Pole dedication, Nov. 18

The Reconciling Ministries Community and allies will be joining the congregation of Masjid Alittehad at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, for a ceremony of peace and thanksgiving. Thanks to your generous donations, we were able to gift the congregation with a Peace Pole, which they will plant at the mosque, 925 Anza Avenue. We are invited to join them for lunch after the dedication. Please let me know by Sunday, Nov. 12, if you will be able to attend. Thank you for your generosity.

-Lyn Berry (vistalynb@gmail.com;760.201.6113)

Heartfelt Thanks

How can I ever thank all of you enough for your prayers, love, hugs, phone calls, cards and support you have given me since last November. You really gave me the strength I needed. You all were there when I needed extra help. All I had to do was ask. Thank you! Ed appreciated your visits even later when he had times he wasn't with it, he still knew someone was there and told me later. He loved the plants and little goodies brought to him, even though he couldn't tell you thank you. Its been hard losing my love who always was the “Wind Beneath My Wings”, but your support has been a lot of help. Once again, thank you all!

Geneva Christensen

A big thank you to our Reconciling Ministries group who represented UMC Vista at the Oceanside Pride Parade on October 14. Linda Mounts and Deb Forbis' displays were great. The entire team did a wonderful job extending loving hands to our Community.

Your Allie,

Suzanne McMurchie

Dear Congregation,

Thank you so much for supporting our Sierra Service Project (SSP) Bake Sale Fundraiser in October. We thank you for the contributions of \$257.50 that goes towards our total expenses of \$6,936.65. Seven of UMC Vista's youth and three adults plan to leave for Chiloquin, Oregon on Friday, July 27, 2018 and will be working with the Klamath, Modoc, and Yahooskin tribes until August 5. We really appreciate all of your support as we go on this journey!

Stella Hansen, Youth Chair

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and calls after my surgery. Each card and call were uplifting. I'm doing very well. All my leg pain is gone. Only a little left in the lower back & that should go away soon. Thanks again.

In Christ,

Marlene Coast

Relief for Disaster Victims

We can help! The Red Cross is asking for clothing donations for disaster victims. All sizes and all types of clothing, including shoes, are needed for those who have lost everything. The clothing can be used, but not shabby or dirty. Underwear type items should be new, please. There will be a box in the Narthex for your donations. Thank you for all you do. Marlene and Marvin Philippi.

United Methodist Women's Corner

- The UMW Circles meet November 7: Kenworthy Circle will meet in room 203 at 4 pm. Ruth Circle will meet at the home of Dakota Koenig and Heidi Kendall at 3766 Hillview Way in Oceanside at 9:30 am. Esther Circle will meet at the home of Marlene Philippi at 1511 Saran Court in Oceanside at 10:30 am.
- The UMW leadership meeting is November 21 at 1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Congratulations Geneva

The Vista United Methodist Women Candle of Commitment honoree for this year is Geneva Christensen. The amount to burn the 2017 Candle of Commitment per minute is \$24.32 and that represents the cost of the UMW mission work around the world for one minute. Vista UMW gave \$100 for the candle to burn for three minutes. Geneva has served in nearly all of the local offices and now serves as the Spiritual Growth coordinator, plus she was on the District Leadership Team for ten years.

Pray together for...

Family of Max Foss, Tom Humphrey & Family, Chico Treutle, Bill Rockwell, Harold MacDermot, Marlene Coast, Beverly Hopkins, Jim Wright, Larry Averell, Tom Johnston, Loretta Pierce, Maggie/Giorgio Graziano, Bob Hickman, Joan Lindegren, Ron Bradshaw, Joan Brainerd, Nancy Koski, Carol Yunt, Randie Annin, 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!

Update your emergency information!

Have you remembered to update your emergency contact info? The sheet is on the Badge table outside the Sanctuary doors. This information is held confidentially, and is used only in case of an emergency. Thanks to those who have already done so.

United Methodist Church of Vista
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Phone: (760) 726-0442
Web: www.umcvista.org
Sunday Worship: 8:45 and 10:30 am
Sunday School 9:00 am
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