



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

I begin my fourth year with you in ministry on July 1st. Time flies when you are in the service of God. As I return from Annual Conference this year, I'm mindful of the turmoil in the world, and our nation. I'm also mindful of the turmoil in our larger denomination, The United Methodist Church.

It is hard to say where we will be this time next year. There will be a General Conference with representatives from all over the world to discuss the Council of Bishops' recommendation to remain one church, but allow different regions to make contextual decisions based on their experience and understanding of Jesus' teachings. That is to say that our region might come to one understanding about human sexuality and the Southern region of our church might come to another, but we all share a commitment to the work of Jesus Christ in the world.

Our Mission as a people is to 'make disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world.' We are followers of the teachings of the person Jesus, who lived so long ago in the Middle East. He taught us to stay in Love with God and to Love our Neighbor. Jesus longed for us to be a people who acted with generous care of one another, accepting and passing along the grace and forgiveness of God, the Father. This mission or work that we are called to has not changed over two thousand years. We remain called to love.

Our Ministry Action Plan lives out Jesus' teaching by setting goals to do justice, grow our faith and provide welcome and hospitality to one another and those who come through our doors. The three core themes of our goals are JUSTICE, FAITH and HOSPITALITY. Honestly, I am most passionate about FAITH, which is worship and the arts, discipleship and education and growing our space for doing all of these. Other members of the GAP team really focus in on HOSPITALITY, believing welcoming is an important key to following Jesus. Still other people are passionate that we must do the work of JUSTICE, feeding the hungry and providing for homeless. The truth is that these three foci rely on one another and build our common work together.

This Ministry Action Plan sets the course for my next year with you. How far can we get? How many people can we reach? How much love and grace can we extend together in the name of Jesus? Let the Spirit carry us as we soar together into God's Kingdom. Amen.

Pastor Leigh Ann

IMPACT AUGUST:

Sunday, Aug. 5: Impact MUSIC

Music Camp's Summer Concert at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Sunday, Aug. 12: Impact STUDENTS

Student Ministry Promotion Sunday & Bible Presentations for third grade students

Sunday, Aug. 19: Impact COMMUNITY

Join our community partners for various service projects.

Sunday, Aug. 26 – Impact HOSPITALITY

UMC Vista end of summer potluck

One Worship Service during the month of August at 10 a.m.
as we "make an IMPACT together."

Finance/Stewardship Update

As we head into the second half of the church year, we want to again celebrate and thank you for your generous support to the many important ministries and outreach programs of our church. Support of our general fund budget is essential in keeping our church and ministry programs up and running. Together, we are participating in ministry to serve Jesus Christ in our community and around the world. To date we are meeting our essential ministry budget items, the bills are paid; but our current level of giving leaves us behind the total dollars needed to meet our ministry goals for 2018 budget needs. You are a giving and caring congregation. We are planning two events during the summer and fall to help us close the budget gap.

Regular giving is easy and helps us do more intentional ministry. You may wish to consider on-line giving as a convenient way for you to make regular contributions to our church budget. Go to our website at www.umcvista.org. Open the website and click on "Giving" to register or log in and make your gift. Again, thank you for your generous financial support of the ministries of our church.

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair

Communion Sunday, July 8

Communion Offering for July 8 will be for Save the Children. After seven years of war, Syria is now the number one most dangerous country to be a child. Not only that, but grave child rights violations continue. That means killing, maiming, sexual violence, abduction, recruitment into combat, attacks on schools and hospitals, and denial of humanitarian access; in fact, some 5.3 million Syrian children need our help right now. Please donate to Save the Children.

-World Missions Committee

X-tra Mile Ministry Giving for July

Our X-tra Mile Ministry Giving for July will be Hawkes Home in Vista for men transitioning out of prison. Assistants help the parolees with independent living skills, getting a bus pass and a phone so they can look for work, setting up a bank account, making medical appointments, enrolling in college or vocational classes, learning to cook for themselves and dealing with court paperwork. The men can stay free for a couple of months until they find work. After that, they are expected to pay a monthly fee based on their income. There is a "Hawks Home wish list" in the Narthex. Most needed are gift cards for grocery stores, Walmart, and others. Dozens of parolees have been able to make a fresh and sober start in life. Please see Bill Rockwell if you have any questions or want to know more.

New Member Classes and Luncheon

Are YOU interested in officially joining in our fellowship and becoming a part of this church family? You are invited to attend our New Member Class, July 22 at 10 a.m. in the Chapel; and join us July 29 at 12:15 p.m. for a New Member Luncheon in the fellowship hall downstairs. It will be a more personal time of getting to know one another, meeting leadership in the church, having a light lunch and sharing in the traditional membership vows of joining the church. Please RSVP by July 13 to Barbara Mitchell, 760.724.0923; write it on the back of your registration card; or call the church office, 760.726.0442. We look forward to getting to know you!

Annual Conference 2018

Thirst No More was this year's theme. Once again, Lynda Mounts and I were honored to be UMC Vista's vote and voice to our Cal-Pac Conference. The Samaritan woman at the well was the scripture that wove throughout the week and resonated with Bishop Hagiya's call to discipleship noting that Jesus fearlessly stepped out of the norm and was not bound by the normal strictures of race, gender, class, locale or religious differences. Jesus calls us to challenge the status quo and to step out in faith. The Bishop stressed listening with a heart of peace (reconciliation, compassion) rather than a heart of war (anger, preconceived ideas).

This Annual Conference plan found time for Teaching Moments, Legislative Action and Workshops, as well as the meetings of the various committees and groups. Included were many special moments beginning with Opening Worship, greeting of old friends, meeting new, Teaching Moments with Bishops Carter and Palmer, Workshops, Conversation and telling our stories around the Way Forward Plan (which will be taken up next year in a specially-called General Conference), Memorial Service, Ordination and Retirement Services (former UMCV pastor, Rex Wignall, was one of the retirees) and preaching by Rev. Faith Conklin. An especially poignant service was the Outdoor Bonfire led by the Youth and Young Adults around Gun Violence.

At the Missionary Lunch, it was a joy to learn that UMC Vista won the Cal-Pac Annual Conference Highest Missions and Project Giving Award. It was noted that the Cal-Pac Annual Conference itself had been awarded four of the ten National giving awards—our Conference, as well as our Church, have caring hearts and open purses.

And to answer everyone's question—we will be at Redlands again next year, June 12-15. Moving to San Diego meant dates for Conference would have been May 30-June 1. School would not be out for many, making attendance difficult for Youth, Young Adults and any teachers who might be delegates.

Usually a sad, difficult time is the vote for closing churches, but this year there was hope and excitement in that, even while losing their charters, those churches will continue their ministries as 501.c3 non-profits, and ways are being found to preserve their heritage. Our prayers go out to all the closings and for their new ministry opportunities. Imperial Beach and Calexico are closures for South District. In East District seven churches will be closed to begin anew as "New Beginnings" with several campuses.

Annual Conference is an exhausting, busy, learning time for all who attend. We look forward to sharing more with you in the days ahead as we search out our own vision in ministry.

-Barbara Mitchell

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Next deadline is Wednesday, July 18, 2018
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

The Flame (monthly newsletter)
United Methodist Church of Vista
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Elementary/middle school kid's music camp

The Annual Summer Music Camp for elementary and middle school kids will run from Monday, July 30 through Friday, August 3, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., with a rehearsal on Saturday, August 4 at 9:00 am. The campers will join forces with the Chancel Choir for a performance on Sunday, August 5 at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary. This year's musical is entitled "The Secret of Fermata Island", a musical treasure hunt. Registration information will be available in the narthex or church office. Please contact Rev. Frank Hallock for further information.

Choir to sponsor a "Music and Cultural Immersion" Tour in 2019

"The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page." (Saint Augustine)

Several members of our Chancel Choir have travelled together over the years, and in the past year the idea arose to plan to take a tour together. Therefore, we would like to announce the formation of a tour of Scotland/Ireland in the summer of 2019, and you are invited! This tour will explore the rich cultural heritage of both countries, including historical sites, educational experiences, musical moments, both as audience and as performers and a chance to get to know folks from other cultures. The projected dates for this tour are Tuesday, July 23 to Friday, August 2, 2019, (11 days with 9 nights in country). The choir will perform three concerts in wonderful venues, one a joint concert with the DARA Choir, a choir of seniors and retirees in the suburbs of Dublin. Our travel arrangements are being made with ACFEA Tours, who have specialized in Performing Arts touring since 1955. The tour is inclusive, including our flight from San Diego overseas, all ground transportation, tour hosts, two meals a day (lunches on your own), hotel accommodations, fees and entry costs and the return flight to San Diego. Final costs will be determined by the number of participants and final air flight arrangements. More information on that is available on request. Tour variations can be accommodated as well, individual extensions for instance. An option for joining us for an Ireland only portion of the tour is also possible, at a reduced cost.

While the choir performances will be one highlight of the tour, a great deal of the focus is on experiencing all the benefits that travel has to offer. We will see ancient sites, exquisite architecture, historical locations, wonderful churches, the glorious landscapes and a chance to meet and interact with the warm hospitality of other peoples. Please feel invited to join with us, we would love to share the experience with anyone who is interested. Itineraries, and more information is available from these members of the Tour Committee; Pastor Frank, Beth Hallock and Carol Pence.

Family Game Night

The next game night is Friday, July 13, 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. For questions or for more information, please see Suzanne McMurchie.

Discipleship Ministry (Beckie Henselmeier)

- Movies on the Lawn 2018 - Friday nights on July 20 and August 10! Next movie is *Beauty and the Beast*. More information can be found at <http://www.umcvista.org/family-ministries/>.

Faith in Action – Summer 2018

- Join Ms. Beckie and our Summer Intern Mr. Ben for a mid-week Discipleship Program geared for students in Elementary – Middle School. Each 1 hour meeting includes prayer, exploring, engaging, and living out a discipleship point. Our sessions will be held at 3:30 p.m. on July 11, 18, 25, and Aug. 8. More information available at UMCVISTA.org/Family. See Beckie Henselmeier or Ben Seckington for more information.
- **Welcome to Pathways Discipleship** is not a process that ends in our childhood. Pathways is an Adult Discipleship Ministry of UMC Vista launching in Fall 2018. This ministry will include ongoing classes, one-stop classes, retreats, seasonal studies, and short-term studies. Our goal is to provide multiple opportunities throughout the year to engage in Christian study opportunities that equip people with a faith that works in real life! See our brochure in the Pew Pockets or Church office and learn more online at UMCVista.org/Pathways. See Beckie Henselmeier for more information.
- **Disciple Signups Begin July 15!** Disciple Fast Track is an adaptation of the original, bestselling Disciple Bible Study. Ideal for busy people who want to fit an in-depth Bible study into their schedule while retaining the familiar Disciple format. This study helps readers deepen their understanding of Scripture and make connections between what they already know and what they are reading.

While identifying some needs in the world for which ministry is needed, participants are invited to understand the scripture message and to respond. Classes meet for a total of 24 weeks, studying Genesis-Exodus and Luke-Acts for 12 sessions each. Classes will begin Monday, Sept. 17 at 6:00 p.m. and run through Thanksgiving, and resume in March 2019. Signups available online, in the Narthex, or in the church office. See Beckie Henselmeier for more information.

Welcome Back

On Sunday, July 15, we will officially "Welcome 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. So please take a moment to convey your appreciation to Pastor Leigh Ann and Pastor Frank as our ministry partners.

-Dakota Koenig, Chair, SPRC

Happy “July” Birthdays

Mary Ann Maniti (1), Cailin Schneider (1)
Chad Green (3), Terry Lenker (3)
James McGlocklin (4), Richard Trawick (4)
Nancy Koski (5), Noah Wheeler (5)
Marlize Clarke (6), Justin Felien (6)
Angelina Maniti (7)
Tom Humphrey (8), Ruth Lloyd (8), Amy Pierce (8)
Debbie Forbis (12), Richard Miklau (12)
Lanny Arrowsmith (13)
Ron Bradshaw (15), Kim Johnson (15)
Nancy Bennett (17), John Mitchell (17), Nancy Winters (17)
Jacob Clarke (18)
Rev. Chung Kim (19)
Jim Wright (21)
Jim Rogers (23), Merlee Sheridan (23)
Alexa Burt (24)
Ray O’Toole (25)
Ruth Hamilton (28)
Catherine Schneider (31), Larry Veysada (31)

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

Update on Missionary Katherine Parker

Katherine is one of the missionaries we help support through our covenant relationship with her. The following description of her work area was recently received from her via email. You will appreciate the description of some of her day-to-day life challenges.

“Thank you again for the ongoing prayer and financial support from your congregation, UMC of Vista. Your faithfulness in financial and prayer support is what enables me to be present in Nepal and ties our church together in connections around the world.

My work with the United Mission to Nepal is primarily based in Rukum district in western Nepal. We have twice weekly, 1-hour flights available to Kathmandu (weather permitting), in what I affectionately term “chicken planes” since folks have been known to bring their chickens on these rickety 18-seat, twin-propeller planes. Otherwise it takes 24 hours by bus to get back to the capital city (or 7 hours to the Nepaljung Airport with daily flights).

The Rukum district headquarters, Musikot, is located on a ridge at about 5500’ elevation; we enjoy the warm sun on brisk winter days, but sit in the clouds through much of the summer monsoon. I have a corner room at a local boarding house, with a view of the Rapti river in the valley below and snow dusting the surrounding hills in the winter. A local hydro-plant supplies most of our electricity, and solar panels provide needed back up (except during the monsoon when lack of sun makes power-outs more frequent).

The villages where we work are 4-8 hours away by jeep. We often have an additional 2-10 hours of walking past the end of the road, in one case over an 11,220’ pass. Significant investment in road infrastructure is making life easier every month.”

You can continue to learn about Katherine’s work with her Nepal mission projects by following her on her blog and facebook. Blog bokashi.blogspot.com and Facebook, fb.com/bokashi.

-Jacque Howard

Community Offerings

Days for Girls ‘thank you’

Thank you to everyone who joined us on June 9. We were able to pack 94 kits in about an hour. That’s 94 lives changed! Second Saturdays is Days for Girls Workshop in Escondido. It is a charitable foundation that makes it possible for young girls around the world to attend school every day. If you can sew, cut, stack, quality control, you can help! Upcoming monthly dates to volunteer: August 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13 and Nov. 10. Please contact Barbara Mitchell, 760.390.4196 for more information.

Summer Update from Operation HOPE-Vista

As of this writing, the shelter is full and there are 22 very active children in house. One family is expected to move out to housing and with a new family slated to move in that number could rise to 27. Shelter staff work very hard to provide the children with a sense of stability and an environment in which they can thrive. Helping them be successful in school is a major focus in this effort so summer leaves a large gap to be filled. In addition, having children in tow is difficult for parents who are seeking employment or performing other assigned tasks. This year the shelter has a contract with Boys and Girls Club of Vista for a daytime summer camp program. This experience will not only provide age appropriate activities (both fun and learning), but will help them build needed confidence and self-assurance. If you would like to contribute to the summer camp program at the shelter you can mail a check to OHV (859 East Vista Way – 92084) or donate online at www.operationhopeshelter.org.

The search for a new Executive Director is moving forward. In the interim, the work of the shelter continues unabated with many successes in helping families regain their footing and find housing. We continue to actively recruit the volunteers that are so important to our work and summer needs are more difficult with the necessity of covering volunteer vacations. Shortages also exist in openings for meal providers. If you think you would like to gather a few friends to provide a meal one night or know of an organization who might, please call the shelter at 760.536.3880 and ask for Nicole. It is a great way to get to know the shelter better and a chance to sit and have dinner with our staff and clients. Questions? Call Sharon Hall, 760.529.9965.

Concert and ice cream social coming

You are in for a treat Sunday, September 9, when the San Diego Gay Men’s Chorus Chamber Chorale will present a concert at 4 p.m. in our sanctuary. It will be followed by an ice cream social.

The chorus is well known for its philanthropic work throughout San Diego County, including singing the National Anthem for Padres games. Please put the date on your calendar, and invite your friends.

The concert is sponsored by our music ministries and Reconciling Ministries. Tickets will be on sale soon.

-Lyn Berry

United Methodist Women's Corner

- The **UMW Circles** meet in September.

UMW 2018 Quiet Disciple

Each year our UMW district asks the local organizations to select a person to be honored as their Quiet Disciple for that year. The working definition for the designation is a person whose personal ministry is usually accomplished in a quiet unassuming manner. The influence of his/her presence is a gift and an example that enriches a congregation's fellowship. Vista UMW is happy to honor Margo Rogers as our 2018 Quiet Disciple.

Her ministry of selfless service contributes to the caring for the homeless and those needing a smile & a friend. She's in charge of our church's weekly meal for any in need. Her duties include shopping, some cooking and scheduling of volunteers.

On some Sundays, Margo is at the front door to greet all entering with a smile. Monthly, she helps to arrange Game Night for the congregation. For many years Margo has served as a hospital volunteer. She also has made time for knitting items to be donated for comfort and warmth.

Thank you, Margo, for your ministry of selfless service.

Pray together for...

Loretta Pierce, Tom Johnston, Lynda Mounts, Sherry Johnston, Ko Kim, Carol Yunt, Barbara Baldrige, Marvin Philippi, Marilyn Mathias, June Miklau, Lenore Averell, JaDene Dugas, Mary Nixon, Louise Foster, Bill Peaker, Nick and Kara May, Margene Haase, Sue Downey/Bob Baker, Jane Fischer, Harold MacDermot, Bob Hickman, Joan Lindegren, Ron Bradshaw, Joan Brainerd, Nancy Koski, Alice Leclair, Jan Frate

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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