



Echoes

April 2011

Vista de la Montana United Methodist Church
Reaching our community with Open hearts, Open minds, Open Doors



Easter is, for us Christians, the ultimate story. But for us, to understand the story, we must begin with the ending and work back. To understand why Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey we have to grasp that at the end of the story he emerges triumphant from the grave (otherwise it is a suicide mission).

To completely understand the background of the people in the story, we have to see what happens to them as a result of the fact that death did not become the victor here. Otherwise, those who thought they silenced the Gospel would conclude that the truth can be squelched by force and intimidation.

To see how pathetic were the power games played by the religious and civil authorities, you need to understand how the very thing they tried to defeat was strengthened by their suppression.

The climax of the story, in light of the end of the story, happens when the main characters were not ready for it. The truth of Easter has yet to reach its climax. In fact, the end of the story has yet to be told.

We know how the faith of Jesus' disciples was returned and strengthened by the appearances of the "Risen Christ", but as yet, we do not know how the faith of today's followers of Jesus is returned or strengthened by the continual appearance of the Risen Christ.

In other words, Easter isn't over while Christians continue to live in the knowledge of the end of the story. This is some of what it means to live as resurrection people:

1. We will never assume things that happen are inevitable.
2. We will always be able to face the darkest night because we know about the new day dawning
3. We will live and work in the church and we will seek to serve it realizing that the Risen Christ is at work among us. Our church is a precious reminder of the power of God and the power of good.
4. We will not fear death because death is not the end of life; it is the reunion of the living with the loved ones who have gone before us.





James Allen said, “The greatest achievements were, at first and for a time, dreams. The oak sleeps in the acorn; the bird waits in the egg; and in the highest vision of the soul a waking angel stirs. Dreams are the seedlings of realities.”

I hope you will continue on your journey to Easter by taking part in this remarkable story. Each Wednesday you are invited to fast and pray, read and meditate on Holy Scripture. In the evening (5:30 p.m.), you are invited to break your fast with a simple supper of soup and bread. You also have the opportunity to nourish your spirits by viewing the fine art of some Vista artists and by hearing the wonderful music of our Johannus organ. The best organists in Tucson are our guest musicians.

As we near the climax of the biblical story, you are invited to share in Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and to witness his passion through Holy Week. On Maundy Thursday, you are invited to a Seder, the ritual Passover meal observed in Jewish homes. The Seder commemorates the deliverance of the Hebrews from the slavery of Pharaoh in Egypt. It was at this meal that Jesus instituted what we now call Holy Communion. Immediately following the Seder we will celebrate the Last Supper. On Good Friday, the Chancel Choir will lead us in worship as they perform with orchestra Gabriel Faure’s *Requiem*. When Easter dawns, the faithful will gather outdoors to once more marvel at the empty tomb. The youth will serve breakfast and we will conclude the morning with two joyous services of worship.

Our preaching is not in vain; our faith is not in vain; we live in hope to the point that we become the hope we live. The story of Easter isn’t over. As long as we witness to it, it will never end.

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Co-Lay Leader	Jim Jose	825-7627	jimjoseassoc@aol.com
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UMM President	Jim Bleess	825-3475	jamesbleess@hotmail.com

A special thanks to all who help make this publication possible!





Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday To:

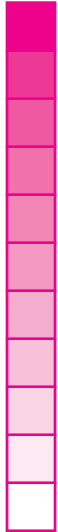
Ethel Amator	4/1
Cathy Colby	4/2
Ilene Nevins	4/2
Jan Bukes	4/3
Bill Bellah	4/5
Gordon Carscadden	4/5
Curt Durbin	4/6
JoAnne Besch	4/7
Clif Extract	4/8
Linda Ward	4/9
Ken Almer	4/10
Rev. Matt Colby	4/10
Jim Simon	4/11
Linda McCotter	4/12
Ann Renshaw	4/12
Lois Cooke	4/14
Joyce Ann Jose	4/15
Larry Patterson	4/15
Ruth Cross	4/16
Kathy Anderson	4/19
Marsha Ladich	4/19
David Bahos	4/20
Bernie Kenny	4/21
Jim Jackson	4/22
Jerry Krause	4/22
Donna Langwig	4/22
Judi Nibbelink	4/24
Mary Kay Reed	4/24
Dean Wilson	4/24
Diane Bynum	4/26
Jody Obear	4/26
Carole Brown	4/27
Bob Gilmour	4/28
Jerry Theberge	4/29
Carole Tracy	4/29



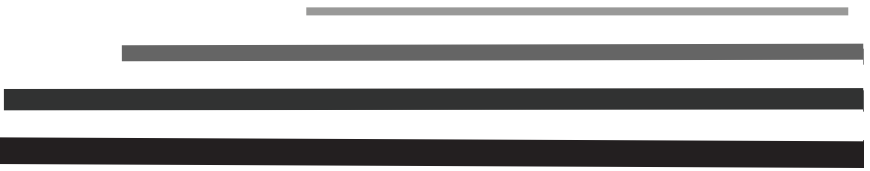
Happy Anniversary

Jim & Jody Obear	4/4
John & Susan Rubin	4/10
Kermit & Delores Brindle	4/13
Paul & Kathy Peate	4/14
Joe & June Young	4/21
Don & Betty Little	4/29
Dan & Anna Marie Marsh	4/29





Mission Outreach Ministry



Outreach Ministry Report for April 2011 Echoes

Ahaaaa..... springtime is here and its time to plant & trim our plants and gardens and put behind us the cold weather and move forward into new work and flowers. We were so pleased with the good attendance we had at our Ministry Fair this last month. Fair. It was wonderful to showcase the talents and time commitments of so many of our members. A special thank you to the terrific team members who gave of their time in preparing displays and offering assistance at the tables. The mission work continues on at Vista as we reach out, in God's love, to those in need in our community

Creative Hands

We want to thank Ruth Raita for the lovely quilt she made for the silent auction. The money raised is used to support the continuing efforts of the "Creative Hands" team, and all of the good work they do. The Outreach committee is happy to announce that Peter Rice was the highest bidder for the quilt at \$205.00. Thank you Pete!!!

Jan Bohe would like to thank the following ladies of her team, for all their fine work in making the children's garments (they made over 500 pieces in 2010) that you were able to see displayed at the Creative Hands table: Anyce Albers, Nona Rasmussen, Mary Raynor, Alice Tompkins, Sandy Kaper, Patricia Dill, Rita Bahos and Pat Smith. Additional hands are always needed to help with this good work. "Creative Hands" meet every Friday at 9:00 AM at Vista. If anyone is interested but unable to attend on Friday mornings, please give Jan a call. She will meet you and give you some work that can be done from home. Please call Jan Bohe at 825-9725 for further information.

Habitat for Humanity

This past week we met with one of our church attendees, (along with Pastor Monte, John Crown and Habitat Director Michael Macdonald), who generously has donated a 3.75 acre piece of land in Catalina, for the purpose of building homes thru the "Habitat for Humanity" Program. This is very exciting and will be a project of great blessing for all of us to work on, as well as the future recipients of these homes. There are a number of steps that must be taken to bring this dream to fruition, but it is our hope to begin work on this project in 2012. In the meantime, there are a number of projects that we can help with right now. We were so happy to have 12 people sign up at the Ministry Fair to work with Habitat. The list has been given to the Director who will soon be contacting interested individuals for an orientation session, and to acquaint each volunteer with the great work that Habitat does in the Pima County area. If you have any questions or are interested in participating in this work please call me (Dee Berman) at 825-7115.

Snak Pak Food Program

We want to thank all of you who, during this Lent season, are fasting one meal a week and giving the cost of that meal to the Snak Pak program for the children in need at Coronado School. Nedra Thomason and her helpers pack the food every Wednesday for the children who have been designated, by Coronado School authorities as being at risk. These Paks tide them over on the weekends till they return to their school days, where they receive a good meal at the school dining hall. I hope you were able to read some of the wonderful notes that were sent to us from the parents and the kids who are the recipients of these food packs. We can always use more help, and hope you will call Team Leader Nedra Thomason at 859-4425 for further information.





Catalina Mountain School

Our report on the ministry fair is that interest was shown in the project at CMS and five people signed up for possible participation. We will follow-up with each of those who signed up. We want to mention that Bill Rowe is retiring. We want to invite him to our church service and let him take a "bow." CMS has a new superintendent and we expect to get a new volunteer coordinator to replace Bill. Our March cottage visit was held outdoors as the school was doing a BBQ for the boys in our cottage. Burgers, hotdogs, and elk steak were served, and we provided the ice cream and cup cakes. The program was on "new beginnings" in the spring time of the year with the hope that these young men were all planning for new starts when they get out. We also held an "Epiphany Reunion for the last three boys and had a birthday celebration for them as they all had birthdays within about five weeks of one another. Next month may be our last Reunion as one of the three left March 18 and another will leave in April. This is a challenging Ministry but a very rewarding one and we certainly invite anyone interested to join us. Please call Leaders Carol & John Witt at 825-7017 for further information.

Catalina Community Services

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Tucson Hospitality Inn

Tucson Hospitality Inn has an ongoing need for help in the office. This involves filing, writing thank you notes and other correspondence, answering e-mails, etc. Currently, we have one volunteer who, despite a full working schedule, volunteers several hours every month in that capacity. . But Lou could use more help. If you could volunteer a few hours a month, please contact me. Also, with House Manager Laura Lane now pursuing part time work for pay (She has donated her time since May of last year.) there is a need for those willing to step in and clean, prepare the rooms, and do laundry. Not your thing? Consider a donation so that Lou could hire cleaning personnel several hours a week. Also, it would help if volunteers could assist with sweeping the patio and light gardening.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Kay Gragg at 544-2545.





MORE MISSION NEWS

Fuente de Vida Education Program

Vista church and Sun Lakes UMC provides school supplies and tuition scholarships for almost 100 children at our sister church, "Fuente de Vida". This project is part of our mission committee's economic development program in Aqua Prieta (AP), Mexico. Math and literacy skills are needed to obtain skilled jobs. A working parent in this poor neighborhood earns about \$4.00 per day. Public school tuition for a secondary student is \$300 a year. Parents must also provide school uniforms and school supplies. In the past, children were forced to spend their childhood days begging. Without our help, most of the children would drop out of school by the third grade. We are seeing the success of this program with the high school graduation of Juan and Manuel, two of the eight-orphaned children living on the church grounds. We are showing God's love for the children of Fuente de Vida everyday of the school year.

Thank you to church members that donated \$125 at our recent Mission Fair. These funds will allow us to purchase school supplies for eight students. Snowbirds and non-shoppers who would like to support this program may write a check to Vista UMC (memo: AP school fund). Year round church members that like to shop may take advantage of the summer school supplies sales. Mission committee members will be going to Aqua Prieta on April 9 to take pictures of the children. Attending school has given these children hope for the future and we want you to see the smiles on their beautiful faces.

Aqua Prieta Education Project Leader Jan Hopke-Almer

Cafe Colonia

Pastor Gela and I have been in discussion with the JUST COFFEE Organization and it is Pastor Gela's plan to become part of this group in a co-op relationship with their Café Colonia business. This will make it easier for her to obtain a coffee bean supply and have a great deal of assistance with the coffee enterprise. We will be giving you more information next month as this partnership progresses. Stay tuned as we report to you about our trip to Agua Prieta next month. Please call Glenna Snider for further info on the Café Colonia product at 825-8251.

We thank God for the privilege of serving Him through our Mission Outreach Ministry and want to thank you for your continued support of this important part of the Ministry at Vista Church. Remember that you too can be in Mission in a variety of ways, as God call us to "do unto others as we would do for ourselves and to Love our Neighbors as ourselves".

Our next Mission Outreach Meeting will be on the 1st Wed. of the month April 6th at 1:00 PM. Please come and join us as we work together in Mission at Vista.

Yours in Mission Service

Dee Berman Chairman

520-825-7115

deerick1968@comcast.net





Matt's Moments

Reverend Matt Colby

Scouts on the Move

Five years ago I was asked to be a den leader for Pack 297's youngest level, the Tigers. I was particularly interested since this was Andrew's den. It was a lot of work but I was hooked. I have been their leader not only through their Tiger year, but also through Wolves, Bears, Webelos 1 and now as Webelos 2 which is their transition year into Boy Scouts. In the weeks ahead we will observe Scout Sunday on April 3 during our worship services; we'll hold a pancake breakfast for our Golder Ranch Firemen to thank them for their service to our community and we'll also enjoy a campout and hike at Catalina State Park. On Friday, May 13, we'll hold their Crossover Ceremony which is their graduation day into the next level of scouting. I am pleased to announce that six of eight in our den will be receiving the Arrow of Light Award which is the highest award for Cub Scouts and the only one that can be transferred to their Boy Scout uniform. Among those receiving it, I am also pleased to share with you that Andrew will be one of them.

Scouting has been a wonderful part of these boy's lives. For our Pack to exist, it is dependent on those who are willing to invest in their lives. As my time at Vista is soon coming to an end, we are looking for and recruiting next school year's leaders, assistant leaders and committee members. You do not need to have grown up in scouts to volunteer. You just have to have a heart for making a difference in these boy's lives and a willingness to be trained. It is an investment with many rewards for them and for you. I hope you will want to see that continue at Vista with your support. Also, if you are interested in seeing the boys receive their Arrow of Light awards, please join us on Friday night, May 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary followed by a trip to the fire circle.

Children's Musical

Historically, the Sunday after Easter is a low attendance Sunday. I hope you will want to make Sunday, May 1, an exception to the rule as the children's choir, Kidz Praise, will be presenting an Easter musical as the morning message.

We Need You

As our youth prepare to attend their summer service project in New Mexico, there are several ways to help support them. First, we need your prayers for the June 12 – 20 project. We need prayers for their safety, their strength and that both our hearts and the people we help serve will be moved closer in our relationship to God through Christ. You can also attend our fund raisers.

Pancake Breakfast – On Easter morning, April 24, (following the Sunrise Service) the youth will once again offer a delicious Pancake Breakfast. Enjoy pancakes, tasty sausage, hot coffee, orange juice and fresh fruit to start your day all served by our eager Youth Group wait staff. This is a great way to end the Sunrise Service. If you plan to attend the 9:00 a.m. service, consider arriving between 7:15 and 8:30 a.m. to support our Vista Youth by joining in the Pancake Breakfast event.

Mystery Dinner – On Saturday, May 7 at 5:00 p.m. you are in for a treat as the youth group and The Vista Not-So-Ready For Primetime Players present, "AND THE OLD MAN DIED." 90 year old Cyrus Whittier is running off to Aruba with his nurse. He has invited his greedy family to dinner to let them know he is changing his will and they will now be getting none of his fortune. The family members vow to not let this happen. One engages two of the most inept hoods to take care of the 'Old Man.' Watch for tickets to go on sale soon!

Contact me if you would like more information.





Vacation Bible School Just Around the Corner

This year's Vacation Bible School theme is Shake It Up Café – Where Kids Carry Out God's Recipe. It will be held this year from June 6 – 10, so our chefs will be receiving their invitations soon. We hope everybody's children and grandchildren will be able to join us for this wonderful experience – registration will begin right after Easter.

We are still in need of those wonderful volunteers who help to make this such a success. We need guides to lead the groups of children, as well as people to help set up on the Sunday before VBS begins and people to help take the sets down after the chefs are through. And of course, lunch for the set-up and break-down crew is always appreciated! If you are able to help us in any way with any of these valuable jobs, please contact Gerry Alberts (825-4642) or Barbara Johnson (818-0277).

Bless you all for your continued love and support for our children!

Barbara Johnson

SERVICES DURING HOLY WEEK

April 17 Palm Sunday Worship, 9 and 10:45 AM

April 21 Maundy Thursday Seder, 5:30 PM

Worship and Communion, 7:00 PM

April 22 Good Friday Tenebre, 7:00 PM

“Requiem” by Gabriel Faure

April 24 Sunrise Service, 6:30 AM

Pancake Breakfast following

Easter Worship, 9 and 10:45





UMW April

Mary Martha Circle
April 7, 2011
9:30

Hostess - Peggy Higgins
37765 S. Boulder Wind Dr.
818-3409 Please call if
attending.
Program - Diane Bynum

Susanna Wesley Circle

April 19, 2011
9:00 AM

Circle meets in Bldg. A, at
Vista Church
Program - Clare Whitshoke
From Family First Pregnancy
Center

VISTA BOOK CLUB

Due to the opportunities for attending the events of Holy Week, we are meeting the fourth Thursday, the 28th of April. We meet in the Education Building at 5:30 p.m. and are usually finished by 7:00 April's book is **Shanghai Girls** by Lisa See. From the Pima County Library Website:

Vista Book Club Cont'd

"In 1937, Shanghai is the Paris of Asia, a city of great wealth and glamour, the home of millionaires and beggars, gangsters and gamblers, patriots and revolutionaries, artists and warlords. Thanks to the financial security and material comforts provided by their father's prosperous rickshaw business, 21 year old Pearl Chin and her younger sister, May, are having the time of their lives....Both are beautiful, modern, and carefree...until the day their father tells them that he has gambled away their wealth and that in order to repay his debts he must sell the girls as wives to suitors who have traveled from California to find Chinese brides.

As Japanese bombs fall on their beloved city, Pearl and May set out on the journey of a lifetime, one that will take them through the Chinese countryside, in and out of the clutch of brutal soldiers, and across the Pacific to the shores of America. In Los Angeles they begin a fresh chapter, trying to find love with the strangers they have married... striving to embrace American life...and find themselves hemmed in by Chinatown's old ways and rules.

At its heart, Shanghai Girls is a story of sisters: Pearl and May are inseparable best friends who share hopes, dreams, and a deep connection, but like sisters everywhere they also harbor petty jealousies and rivalries. They love each other, but each knows exactly where to drive the knife to hurt the other the most. Along the way they face terrible sacrifices, make impossible choices, and confront a devastating, life-changing secret, but through it all the two heroines of this astounding novel hold fast to who they are—Shanghai girls."

All adults are welcome to attend. To RSVP and for more information, contact Kay Gragg.





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**Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors
The people of the
United Methodist Church**

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We invite you to visit our website.**

Return Service Requested



Wesley Foundation Annual Spring Banquet!

The Tucson Wesley Foundation is anticipating their annual Spring Banquet on April 30 at 6:00pm in the First UMC social hall. The Spring Banquet is a heartwarming occasion full of fellowship. We will be sending off those graduating seniors, and awards and scholarships will be distributed. The theme of this year's Spring Banquet is Caribbean-Luau. Tickets are on sale now: students \$5 and adults \$20. All are welcome and encouraged to attend! Any questions can be directed to Rev. Dee Dee Azhikakath at deedee@arizona.email.edu or 520-623-7575.

Thank you for all your prayers and support as the Tucson Wesley Foundation celebrates another wonderful year!

United Methodist Campus Ministry
www.tucsonwesley.com
520-623-7575

