

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



Reverend Monte J. Baker
Senior Pastor

John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, once received a note that said, “The Lord has told me to tell you that He doesn’t need your book-learning, your Greek and your Hebrew.” Wesley answered, “Thank you, sir. Your letter is superfluous, however, as I already knew the Lord has no need of my ‘book-learning,’ as you put it. However, although the Lord has not directed me to say so, on my own responsibility, I would like to say to you that the Lord has no need of your ignorance either.”

Maybe John’s answer was a bit acerbic, but I’m glad to know that our founder could “dish it out” when he needed to. This pastor’s letter is not about “dishing it out” or about ignorance. It is about learning. We don’t have any classes on Greek or Hebrew right now, but we do offer a variety of learning opportunities. Some of them use books; some are experiential; some involve an hour; some involve several hours; some are on-going; some are short-term; some are local; some are international; some are small groups; some are large groups; some are supporting; some are challenging; some are personal; some are social; some are Bible-oriented; some are issue oriented; some are . . . well, you get the point. They are all invitational and missional and relational.

Philosopher Alfred North Whitehead once suggested that people usually approach life with routine, but sometimes need to draw upon understanding. It saves time to tie my shoes without reflection. But if I hurt my hand, I may have to reflect – how do I do this? Get a friend to tie my shoes? Wear slip-ons?

We’re fast approaching the ninth anniversary of 9/11. If we thought we could live routinely before that date, we find that we can’t afterward. There is much we need to understand. Part of being a community of faith is seeking to address the questions of our lives, in our time, with resources of faith.

Our Adult Education Ministry Team is working hard to develop some wonderful opportunities for our learning together. I hope you will plan to be part of them.



Rev. Monte Baker and Marion
at the 4th of July Pot Luck



Dillis and Linda Ward enjoying
our 4th of July Pot Luck





**UMW
September**

A reminder about the UMW Reading Program.

- Read 4 (four) Books - 1 from each category.

There is a list posted beside the UMW book shelf of books from which to choose.

Please give completed book list to Marilyn Waldo by September 1.

SEPTEMBER 2
Mary Martha Circle

Time - 9:30 a.m.
Hostess - Marilyn Waldo
37600 S. Desert Sun Dr.
Please call 825-9542
Program - Joyce Jose

“2010 UMW Assembly and Mission”

SEPTEMBER 21
Susanna Wesley Circle

Time - 9:00 AM
Place: Building A, Rm. 1, Vista Church
Program - Mary & Bill Bellah

“Musical Presentation”

FINAL
Photo Sessions
Schedule

Call Evonne for August Photo Opportunities
Wednesday, Sept 15, 2010
Thursday, Sept 16, 2010
Friday, Sept 17, 2010

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Schedule your appointment

Call Evonne Springer

825-1985

Cooperating Together so that we may become:

People of God

- Who proclaim the Kingdom of God as the starting place of ministry
- Who commit our lives to Jesus Christ as author of our salvation
- Who are called to help others to know what Christ has taught us
- Who intentionally look to the future expecting to do great things by the power of the Holy Spirit at work within us
- Who expect the best and highest of ourselves and our ministries as a response to God’s grace

People of the Bible

- Who, through the words of Scripture, experience the God of the Bible who leads us to wholeness, justice and freedom
- For whom Holy Scripture is normative and central, our fundamental and decisive authority for faith and practice
- Who intentionally study Holy Scripture, listening with the ear of faith to the word of God

People called a Family

- Who believe that family takes many forms and includes all people of every age and station and race
- Who welcome the least, the lost, and the lonely
- Who nurture one another by teaching and example to the fullness of humanity that we see in Jesus Christ

People called United Methodist

- Who strive for unity in essentials, liberty in nonessentials, charity in all things
- Who practice open hearts, open

Council Corner July 2010

Contributors:

There's no such thing as a summer slowdown at Vista! In spite of many of our members being away for the summer, every day there is at least one class, meeting or other activity at our church.



One highlight of summer has been the repair of the stucco and painting of our worship center and choir room. Thanks to your generosity, this project has been completed and paid for. While the stucco was in a state of disrepair for what seemed like very long time, that period of time was necessary in order to complete a thorough investigation of the problem and to consider alternative remedies. Having done that, the Trustees recommended to and received approval from the Council. Stewardship then implemented a successful drive to raise the necessary funds.

Also in July, the entry road and parking lot were resurfaced and striped. We appreciate the foresight of the Trustees and the Finance Team so that the money for this regular maintenance responsibility is set aside each month and available when needed.

However, you need to step inside our buildings to see the ongoing life and activity of Vista. In addition to several classes that are being offered this summer, plans are being made for the fall and winter schedule. Please see the list of fall classes in this issue. Other groups are meeting to plan special events and celebrations such as the Sunday School Kickoff on September 12 and Homecoming Sunday in October.

On July 30-31, the Council held a retreat where we focused on Vista's mission and how we can best work towards fulfilling it. The comments and suggestions that you made during the Listening Groups have helped the Council set it's priorities. The September *Echoes* will have a summary of what was gained from the retreat.

Vista offers many ways in which we can all enrich our lives and our faith. If you are not involved beyond Sunday morning, I urge you to come during the week as well. *Echoes*, the Vista Daily Planner and other communications have information on the myriad opportunities for you to join others for Christian growth and fellowship.

Elsie Hathaway, Council Chair

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Matt's Moments

Reverend Matt Colby

Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Mark your calendars now for Sunday, September 12, 2010 as our Kickoff Sunday. Many great ministries, events and fellowship times are being planned for an exciting Fall to grow closer to God and each other. Do you have ideas or questions?

Contact Rev. Colby. 825-1985

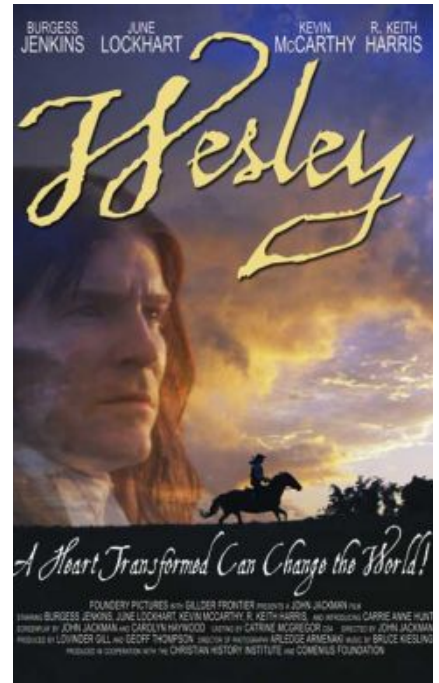
Sunday June 6 – Sept 5

9:00 a.m. Worship

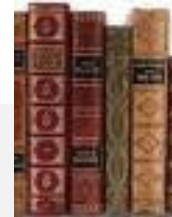
- Childcare: Infant through 2 yrs, Bldg B
- Son Quest: Preschool - 3rd grade, Bldg B (this is correct)
- Children 4th grade and up, in worship with family

10:45 a.m. Worship

- Childcare: Infant through 2 yrs, Bldg B
- Son Quest: Preschool – 3rd grade, Bldg A (this is correct)
- Children 4th grade and up, in



Coming this Fall



VISTA BOOK CLUB

Vista Book Club will not meet during the summer. We will resume in September. For questions, call Kay Gragg, Facilitator, 544-2545.



Book your Photo Directory Session, Sept 15 -17



UMW Reading Program

Our Vista Library is well-stocked with all sorts of reading material. One of the most important sections of our Library is devoted to the "United Methodist Women's Reading Program."

A bookcase on the eastern wall of our Library has a shelf – *second from the top* – with several books available for your reading pleasure. Four new books were purchased this year to add to our collection. Signing out reading material is easy and does not require Librarian Joy

Oram's presence. The UMW has a form to be filled out. Marilyn Waldo, UMW president, requests that forms be returned to her by September 1st. As she says,

"Read a book and enjoy your time."

For all of you who are reading this posting.....our Library is located in the Office Building next to the receptionist's office. Drop by and check us out.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

August Birthdays

Jinny LaFave	8/1
Karen Erickson	8/3
Shirley Morris	8/3
Jean Browning	8/6
Leana Glende	8/6
Peggy Higgins	8/6
Anna Marie Marsh	8/6
Shirley Peterson	8/8
Ken Podlasek	8/8
Ginny Jackson	8/9
Patricia Dill	8/10
Eyleen Paugh	8/12
Patricia Scott	8/12
Kim Lauger	8/13
Glenna Snider	8/B113
Edna Alligood	8/15
Tex Whitney	8/15
Jan Cregan	8/16
Carolee Jones	8/17
Gene Radtke	8/17
Marge Leedom	8/19
Art Peterson	8/21
Mary Louise Roberson	8/22
Bob Sherman	8/22
Howard Young	8/23
Florence Duckett	8/25
Linda Hartman	8/25
Gerry Alberts	8/27
Lars Eriksson	8/29
Dan Mrash	8/31

September Birthdays

Tom Hayden	9/1
Karon Carpenter	9/2
Giff Tompkins	9/3
Amy Burrow	9/6
Louise O'Donald	9/6
Janice Hopke-Almer	9/7
Jim Nibbelink	9/8
Hub Dedrick	9/9
Nicholas Marks	9/9
Delores Brindle	9/10
Robert Baker	9/11
Don Little	9/11
Sue Staker	9/11
Jim Higendorf	9/12
Michael Dow	9/13
Dorothy Hathaway	9/14
Arlene Lehto	9/14
Jean Stevenson	9/14
Thelma Bradfield	9/15
Cub Holm	6/15
Jean Workman	9/17
Boyd Carpenter	9/19
Bob Collinge	9/19
Anne Gruensfelder	9/19
Marcia Isch	9/19
Andy Nevis	9/19
Grant Robinson	9/19
Thomas Yohe	9/21
Trish Grizzard	9/22
Morgan Bills	9/23

Wyatt Bills	9/23
Jim Obear	9/23
Ruth Raita	9/23
Joe Staker	9/27
Ken Zebal	9/27
Kara Synhorst	9/28
Margaret Yohe	9/28

September Anniversaries

Don & Janet D'Agostino	9/1
Rev. Monte & Marion Baker	9/2
Gene & Paula Radtke	9/2
David & Edna Alligood	9/3
John & Eleanor Beadle	9/4
Bob & Ellen Collinge	9/16
Jim & Joyce Holman	9/16
Marshall & Teresa Sanders	9/20
Dennis Kimmel & Judy Thomson	9/20
Robert & Barbara Miller	9/20
David & Nancy Yob	9/22
Don & Karen Erickson	9/23
Thomas & Margaret Yohe	9/24
Bob & Barbara Sherman	9/24
Joe & Sue Staker	9/25
Bob & Joanne Gilmour	9/28
George & Nedra Thomason	9/28
Jerry & Jean Browning	9/28

August Anniversaries

Wes & Mattie Landrum	8/1	Gordon & Evie Carscadden	8/12
Ray & Shirley Morris	8/6	Clif & Laurie Extract	8/17
Ray & Carole Brown	8/6	Walt & Mary Louise Roberson	8/19
John & Jan Crown	8/17	Lars & Gunvor Eriksson	8/20
Grant & Joan Robinson	8/7	Bill & Shirley Richards	8/21
Howard & Mary Lou Young	8/9	Bill & Mary Bellah	8/26
Bob & Leana Glende	8/10	Milt & Jan Bukes	8/26
Jim & Linda Hartman	8/10	Jack & Diane Bynum	8/27
Don & Ruth Cross	8/11	Bob & Glenna Snider	8/30





Mission Outreach Ministry

Greetings to all the great folks at Vista:

What does being in Mission mean to you? As always, there is a place for everyone at Vista to be in MISSION. Perhaps it is donating a can of fruit in the food cart for CCS, working at the Senior Center in Catalina or buying a pound of Café Colonia coffee. Maybe it is helping us get ready for our November 6th trip to Agua Prieta for the “Celebration of Learning Festival” or joining a work team. Most of all, it is praying that the Mission work we do at Vista will be a blessing to those who give and those who receive, so that all might see the heart of Jesus through what we do together.

Catalina Community Services


Barbara McClure is the new CCS director. The new center building is almost completed and next month they expect to move to 3535 E. Hawser St. in Catalina. We at Vista have had a long-standing relationship with the Catalina Community Services. Our CCS Leader at Vista is Kari Nicoletto. Reach her at 318-9416 or call CCS at 825-0009. Here is the list of how you can be in Mission to CCS:

- 1) On the first Sunday of each month we collect food goods and your checks for the food bank. Currently, a special need is for any canned fruit, fruit cocktail and peanut butter. Anyone wishing to donate frozen fruit or a frozen food item may personally deliver it to the current CCS location on Golder Ranch Rd, behind the service station. In July we were able to give them \$400.00 from your donations. Thank you so very much for your continued support. Remember, your dollar yields 9 times more with their buying power.
- 2) The Senior Center needs drivers, 3 days a week for 1 1/2 hours to deliver meals to shut-ins and others who do not have transportation. Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, drivers deliver both hot and frozen meals to those in need. Anyone interested in donating may reach Senior Center leader, Jan, at 825-4120. Drivers can volunteer one day a week or more.
- 3) With school starting in August, the Clothing Bank especially needs children’s clothing. Please ask your friends who have children if they are willing to donate to the Clothing Bank or you might consider purchasing sale clothing to donate. Volunteers are needed to sort the donated clothes.

Fuente de Vida Church in Agua Prieta, Mexico

This has been a very exciting time in the life of our sister church, Fuente de Vida.. During July they hosted their Annual Church Conference in their new fellowship hall. The wonderful news is that Pastor Gela was appointed as the permanent pastor of the church at the Annual Church Conference. The construction project continues with what will be their new Sanctuary building on the upper level above the fellowship hall. Everyone in the church is doing their part to make this miracle happen. It was Pastor Diego’s dream to build a new church. They are trusting God to help them raise the funds they need to make this dream come true. The growth of this church is a testament to the ministry of Pastor Gela. We are working on the plans for our next Festival of Learning which will take place on Saturday, November 6. Attendees will be riding on a nice touring bus from Vista to the church in the Colonia in Agua Prieta, and returning that evening. Please put the date on your calendars and plan to join us. A VALID U.S. PASSPORT IS NEEDED

One of our major goals is to help our sister church with the education of its young people. Donations of either school supplies or money is greatly appreciated. Check the weekly bulletin for information or call me, Dee Berman, at 825-7115, if you have any questions.



Here is a list of how you can be in Mission to our sister church:

- 1) Bring school supplies to the church and place them in the Mission Baskets under the table in the Narthex. We will be collecting supplies through Sunday, August 1. We will be making several trips through Peggy Thornhill. We will make a second run later in the fall to deliver additional donations. Those unable to shop may still contribute. Others will shop for you. Make contributions to Vista UMC with "School Supplies for AP" written in the Memo line.
- 2) We need gift items for the Celebration of Learning Festival. Please save travel-size bottles of shampoo, conditioner, etc. which can be used in the gift bags for the mothers who keep their children in school. Items for the game prize room for the children to pick from is one of the highlights of the Festival and their year.
- 3) We need additional volunteers to help with the games and the crafts. Kara Synhorst will be our Crafts team leader again this year.
- 4) Buy Café Colonia coffee for personal use or as a gift. This is a free-traded coffee from Oaxaca, Mexico and comes directly from the farmer to the roaster and grinder in Agua Prieta. Your purchase of coffee feeds the farmer, supports the family of pastor Gela, supports the church in the Colonia. and gives you a delicious cup of coffee.

Catalina Mountain School

We are looking forward to a renewed program this fall at CMS. Currently we are meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The boys are just across the road from our church but are so far away from the Lord. You can make a difference in their lives by volunteering to be a tutor, a mentor visitor or a member of our team. We are praying that God will send us more workers to join this great group of Vista folks who have been ministering to these detained youth for almost three years. Please give prayer and thought to joining our team. Call John Witt at 825-7017 for further information. THANK YOU to all the faithful members of the CMS team for your care and dedication to this Mission.

Tucson Hospitality Inn

Many thanks to members of the Mary Martha Circle for the July 21 meal for the Inn. It was greatly appreciated by the guests and meant a lot to them.

I hope you saw the July 3rd article in the Daily Star about manager Lou Tompkins receiving the Ben's Bell award. Ben's Bells promote kindness and community. It was started in 2003 by the family of Ben Mare Packard as a way to honor their 2 year old who died of croup. Each week a person who betters Tucson is "belled." Lou was nominated by two members of the Foothills Welcome Wagon Alumnae group that also supports the Inn. It was a great honor for all the work Lou has done to keep the Inn going. The article was a great PR piece for the Inn. Lou mentions in the article that many people have made this a reality. Dear members, you are a part of that many who help the Inn succeed. You have generously given your time, your talent, goods, and monetary donations. Thank you.

For more information, contact facilitator Kay Gragg, at 544-2545.

Our Fall Dream is to organize a work team to help with the construction of a home for a family in Agua Prieta or organize a team to work for a week at the UMCOR center in Salt Lake City this fall. If you are interested in either of these projects, please contact me.

In closing, I want to thank you for making all these Mission Ministries possible. It is your MISSION heart that touches lives in so many ways. God bless you for it! Our next Mission meeting is very important as we will be sorting and getting the school supplies ready for Agua Prieta. Join us on August 4 at 1:00 p.m. We need your help.

***Yours in Mission Service,
Dee Berman Chairman, 520-825-7115
DeeRick1968@comcast.net***

Evangelism Notes

Prayer:

Our focus for the remainder of the year is on prayer. We have asked the Vista congregation to join us prior to Sunday services. See the article below for details. We will be starting at least one more Sanctuary prayer time during the week once we get into the fall months.

Joys & Blessings:

Watch for announcements regarding special sharing sessions between Sunday services. The session won't be long – but it will be rewarding. Members of the Vista congregation will be sharing their stories of how the Lord helped them through the difficult times of their life.

Catch Someone Being An Angel:

Join us as we acknowledge others in our fellowship who have done special things for us or for others. Give them a special thank you! Especially look for the unsung heroes. It takes a huge number of people to keep our church functioning. There are a few persons who are quite visible. There are many more who work behind the scenes. Take time to find out who they are and let them know they are appreciated.

An Invitation To Prayer

Psalm 11:4 The Lord is in His holy temple, The Lord is on His heavenly throne.

The reason we gather together on Sunday morning is to spend time worshiping Our Heavenly Father and Our Lord Jesus. It is also a time of fellowship with each other.

Both worship and fellowship are a vital part of a Christian's life. An invitation has been extended to the Vista congregation to spend time prior to each Sunday service in prayer for the service, for the members of our congregation, for our neighborhood, and for our leadership. You are urged to join this effort. If you can't come early, please make use of the Prelude time.

Center your mind and heart on the Lord, on His holiness, His mighty power and love. When we answer Jesus' call to follow Him we are told to drop our worldly cares. Let Him lead you into the blessings He has for you as we worship.

Wherever two or three are gathered together in His name, He is there in our midst. Expect His presence! Wait for it! Listen for that still, small voice. Let your heart and mind be filled with love for our God and for our fellowship.

Together we can make this a time of true worship.

Special Prayer Times*

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. In the Sanctuary, go to a front pew and sit quietly as you offer your prayer.

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. In the Chapel, enter the Chapel and sit or kneel in prayer.

10:30 a.m. – 10:25 a.m. In the Chapel, enter the Chapel and sit or kneel in prayer.

* There is no set start or finish time.

Dinner for Eight



It's that time again. If you are new to our congregation please call me to find out how Dinner for Eight works. It's a great way to make new friends.

If you were on the last list, you do not need to do anything. Please email or call Nedra Thomason or Sandy Schwartz if the following applies to you:

- You want to be taken off the list and/or be listed as a substitute
- If you were listed as a substitute on the last list and want to be put back on the main list
- If you were listed as a substitute on the last list and want to be removed from the substitute list

Contact Information:

Nedra: 869-4425
Nedrathomason@comcast.net

Sandy: 818-9792
sandschwartz@wbhsi.net



UMW Summer Luncheon

Date: Friday, August 20,
11:00 a.m.
Place: 37761 S. Skyline Dr.
Saddlebrooke
Action: Fun & Festive &
Frisolous!
Bring a salad to share

Karon Carpenter's Home
818-1994



United Methodist Men

July UMM Meeting

United Methodist Men met and we had a fun breakfast and business meeting. It was nip and tuck, what with the heat and all but we braved summer weather and gathered around a common table to share views. We decided to hold our men's breakfast in October. The biggest news here is that the long-established breakfast guy, John Witt, will be back as Master Chef, Overseer, Menu Planner, Go-Get-Stuff-Guy and Bottle Washer. Several other Vista UMM'ers are going to cheerfully assist Master Chef John. It will be extraordinary, a lot of fun and an occasion for all of us to look forward to.

**MARK OCTOBER 2, UMM
BREAKFAST ON YOUR
CALENDAR!**

***Jim Bless
UMM President***

Catalina Mountain

School Ministry

Jesus taught his disciples to visit those in prison. (Matthew 25:36,39). A small group from Vista has, for the last three years, done that at Catalina Mountain School. Some of the original group's members are no longer able to continue.

We need more team members willing to join this ministry.

If you think this ministry might be of interest, call John or Carol Witt at 825-7017.

Café la Colonia coffee Coffee time!



Just what one needs on a 107 degree day, a cup of hot coffee! Well at least it is needed at 630 am for that morning eye-opener. All Vista de la Montana members have seen the coffee table set up in our narthex breezeway surrounded with full bore commerce. All coffee sales help our sister church in Aqua Prieta, Mexico. And, the coffee is really delicious.

The beans are grown way down south in Mexico and roasted right next door in Aqua Prieta by the members of Fuente de Vida United Methodist Church. They have a new coffee import, preparation and packaging business, the proceeds of which help their church. This gourmet coffee is really good too.

We help our sister church in Mexico by buying their coffee. Each package of Fuente de Vida coffee weighs a full pound, 16 ounces, for those of you who remember their weights and measures back in 6th grade.

Buy our coffee from the coffee table and help our sister church. It is fresh roast, delicious, a pound weighs a pound and we help a valuable mission, Fuente de Vida, in Mexico. Thank you for your considerate purchase.

Jim & Von Ceil Bless



Wesley Foundation: Calling All Incoming Freshman

It's that time again! August is quickly approaching and a new school year is just around the corner. For incoming freshman the move to college can cause both excitement and anxiety. The Wesley Foundation at the University of Arizona would like to make this move as comfortable as possible. During the beginning of the semester there will be many opportunities for new students to meet current Wesley members. This is a great time for students to meet new people as well as a chance to feel a part of a community on their campus. In order for us to welcome new students we are going to need to know who they are! If you or someone you know, knows an incoming freshman, transfer students or anyone who would be interested in being a part of the Wesley Foundation, please send their names to Rev. Dee Dee Azhikakath at: deedee@e-mail.arizona.edu or 520-623-7575.



WAYS OF PRAYER

EXPAND YOUR PRAYER LIFE

**Learn: Praise and Intercession; Confession and Relinquishment;
lectio divina and Meditation; the Labyrinth and Discernment.**

No books. Tuesdays for five weeks - 3:30 – 5 p.m. - September 13 to October 12.

Homework: Daily practice of the week's prayer form and journaling of your experience.

The first class will include introductions, personal experiences with prayer, and practices of prayer postures and corporate prayer. Subsequent classes will follow in the order noted above.

Register with Arlene Lehto: honormom@q.com
or call Vista office 825-1985.

Education at Vista de la Montana United Methodist

Sign up now for
Fall and Winter classes.

Call Evonne Springer

825-1985



<u>Class Code</u>	<u>Class Section</u>	<u>Examples of some of the classes</u>
SS	Adult Sunday School	Faith Links TBA
CC	Core Curriculum & New Members	Bible 101 Meet the Methodist Biblical Religion UM Social Principles
E	Electives	First Light Christian History Living the Questions Saving Jesus
SD	Seasonal Devotional	The Shack A Love Worth Giving Fearless
Bible	Bible Study	Disciples Bible Study - Old Testament Disciples Bible Study - New Testament
LE	Life Events/Outreach	Health Directives Wills and Trusts Charitable Giving

<u>Class Code</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Book Cost</u>
Bible	Disciples New Testament	Rev Matt	Aug 4 - Sept 29	Wednesday	4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	\$ 11.00
SD	The Holy Spirit & Power, Wesley	Margaret Yohe	Sept 21- Dec 14	Tuesday	9:15 a.m. - 11a.m.	\$ 15.00
CC	Ways of Prayer	Arlene Lehto	Sept 14 - Oct 12	Tuesday	4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	
Bible	Invitation to John	Rev. Matt	Sept 29 - Nov 17	Wednesday	4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	\$11.00
CC	Spiritual Audit/Gifts	TBA	Oct 19 -Nov 16	Tuesday	4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	
SD	Advent Study	Rev Matt	Nov 28 - Dec 19	Sunday	9:00 - 10:15 a.m.	
SD	Advent Study	Rev Matt	Nov 28 - Dec 19	Sunday	10:45 - 11:30 a.m.	
Bible	Women's Bible Study	Joy Oram	On Going	Monday	9:00 - 10:30 a.m.	
LE	Financial Planning University	TBA	Sept 2 - Nov 18	Thursday	6:30 - 8:00 p.m.	\$20.00
LE	Stephen Ministry Training	Arlene Lehto	Nov 9 - TBA	Tuesday	9:30 - noon	

Ten reasons Why YOU Should Become a Stephen Minister:

10. You will learn to turn danger into opportunity - The Chinese word for crisis is made from a combination of two other characters: danger and opportunity. Every crisis provides both an opportunity for growth as well as a danger of choosing destructive solutions. The care of a dedicated, trained, Christ-centered Stephen Minister can help a person in crisis find equilibrium and wholeness.
9. Stephen Ministers are skilled caregivers - They receive 50 hours of training before they are commissioned and assigned to a care-receiver. They learn skills such as listening, identifying and expressing feelings, setting boundaries and being assertive. They feel well-prepared to walk alongside people in crisis, whether an assigned care-receiver, or in their own relationships with friends and family.
8. Stephen Ministers experience the joy of fellowship with one another - Stephen Ministers meet about an hour a week with their care-receivers, but they also meet once a month with other Stephen Ministers. The bonds of friendship and commitment are strong and positive.
7. Stephen Ministers learn to listen - Most people think of listening as a simple, natural, and passive activity, but it is actually a powerful caregiving tool. Using Jesus as our model, Stephen Ministers learn the skill of *active* listening.
6. Stephen Ministers are assertive caregivers - Stephen Ministers are trained to “speak the truth in love.” Christian assertiveness is a positive and constructive way of relating that respects others and ourselves. Stephen Ministers learn to recognize and avoid aggressive behaviors.
5. Stephen Ministers are *caregivers, not curegivers* – Stephen Ministers are **not** therapists or problem solvers; they are **caregivers**. Only God can bring about healing, forgiveness and hope. Stephen Ministers are trained to listen, reflect and pray, to be reliable and non-judgmental and to help care-receivers to express their feelings.
4. Stephen Ministers feel needed because they are - Stephen Ministry was created by a minister who realized there are not enough pastors available to provide patient, long-term care to people in crisis. By training Lay ministers, he was able to ensure that those facing crisis were able to meet regularly with a compassionate listener. Stephen Ministry benefits our pastors, our congregation, and our community.
3. Stephen Ministry skills apply in other relationships – Stephen Ministers are trained to listen, to recognize, accept and express feelings, to behave assertively, and to depend on God for healing and change. They often find themselves using these skills with their families, friends and co-workers.
2. Stephen Ministry is a Life Changing Experience – Have you ever avoided approaching a person who was hurting because you “didn’t know what to say?” We all have. But Stephen Ministers **know** what to say and how to act...and they feel confident in their caregiving skills.
1. Jesus Commanded it – “My command is this: ‘Love each other as I have loved you.’” We are called to “bear one another’s burdens,” and to accept one another. Jesus wanted us to be doers of the Word, not just hearers.

Register now for classes beginning Tuesday, November 9th from 9:30 to noon.

Contact: Mary Louise Roberson at 297-6053 - or speak to a Stephen Minister at the altar after Sunday morning service.

WANTED YOU!

Wanted in the Vista UMC
Territory for:
Your special gifts and abilities,
making you a
candidate for Stephen
Ministry Training,
a Lay Program in one-to-one
caring ministry
beginning in November with
weekly sessions
for about five months.
with generous holiday breaks

REWARD OFFERED:

The priceless joy of caring for
others in times of need
and
\$\$\$ worth of personal
understanding and growth.



For more information, contact
Mary Louise Roberson
297-6053
or Arlene Lehto
825-1327

*Offering yourself will NOT endanger
your health.*

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