

Echoes



Vista De La Montaña United Methodist Church



Reverend Monte J. Baker Senior Pastor

A few weeks ago, I watched my seven year old grandson, Hunter, on *YouTube*. He was participating in his very first wrestling tournament in upstate New York. It was fantastic! He demonstrated ability to execute the moves and holds, he listened to his coach and followed his direction, and he showed remarkable self-confidence and courage. And best of all, he won the match by a superior decision, 10-1. I found myself shouting at the computer screen! When he executed a lightning fast single-leg takedown, I cheered; and when he scored a three point near-pin, I was ecstatic!

I wrestled in high school. It was a character building experience. It teaches self-discipline and self-sacrifice, endurance, patience, and perseverance. For those of you who aren't familiar with the sport, it's not at all like the spectacle of professional *WrestleMania* and *SmackDown* on television. I don't much care for the World Wrestling Federation nor the so called athletes who are its stars.

So, I was captivated by a regular Wednesday sports essay by Frank DeFord on National Public Radio. He told a story about John Westerhoff, who teaches at the Duke Divinity School. Westerhoff took his students to a *WWF* match. In fact, they went

Continued

Contributors:

Rev. Monte J Baker
Rev. Matt Colby
Gerry Alberts
Jim Bless
Delores Brindle
Kay Gragg
Sue Hedrick
Arlene Lehto
Evonne Springer
Glenna Snyder
Nedra Thomason
Marilyn Waldo
Margaret Yohe

Editors

Debbi Maloid
Leana Glende

Photographers

Peter Rice
Bob Snider, cover page
Katrina Stogner
Margaret Yohe

Publishing

Margaret Yohe
Evonne Springer

Prep and Mailing

Howard & Mary Lou Young
Carl Terry
Debbie Phelps
Mary Cary
Marlin Bolar
Florence Duckett
Ann Renshaw
Betty Jacob

Observations of a Cat

This has been an interesting two weeks around our home. My Lady has been sitting in front of her window (screen) almost day and night. Luckily for me and the Master she gets up to feed us.

She says this is a new day for the Echoes, which she seems to be looking at through her window and constantly moving her fingers on a funny black thing. My Lady is not too happy with me when I chase her fingers. Or rest my head on it.

All else aside here is the scoop. This Echoes Newsletter has a deadline for information each month

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Note from Publisher

This edition of Echoes is not the final look of the new Echoes. This is a work in progress, please be patient as we continue to work on its presentation. If you like it, tell Rev. Monte, if you do not like it please send your suggestions to vistaechoes@aol.com

and that is the 15th of the month. All information, articles or ads should be sent to vistaechoes@aol.com.

Then another lady is going to check out what comes in, something called editing. Shortly after that My Lady will be sitting at this window again tapping her fingers for several days. After that another lady comes by and picks up papers, which come out of a very noisy square box. Soon after she returns with the same paper all marked up. You know My Lady does not like to pick up my 'marked' up papers. Hmm well, they chat for a while and then My Lady goes back to the screen and taps her fingers some more. I heard her say after she gets



Pan Cake Toss Race



UMM Valentine Dinner

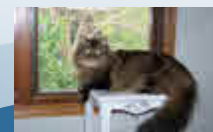


Vocal Seniority

finished tapping her fingers, there are even more ladies that make copies, fold the copies and prepare them for mailing and yet another person takes them to the blue box. Thank goodness they don't do that here, a cat has to sleep you know. Well it sounds like a lot of work to me. I need a nap.

I have to scat before My Lady realizes I am playing with this black thing with all these little things to push up and down.

Nikolas the Cat



Reverend Monte Baker

March 2010 Greeting Continued

several times. (They had to pay for both tuition and tickets for this experience.) Westerhoff asked them to take a look. "Look around. What do you see? What do you notice?"

They saw that people usually sat in the same place week after week. They had food and drinks with them. They had specific ways of speaking... or yelling. These were like rituals they followed, religiously. Like we do. We tend to sit in the same place. We have things we say and do, regularly, as a part of a service.

And there in the center ring, is the biggest ritual of all. There, Westerhoff said, you have acted out, in a dramatic (if contrived) way, the cosmic struggle of good versus evil. Good guy versus bad guy. And it seems like the bad guy is always going to win; then (usually), the good guy will turn the tables, and defeat the bad guy. Good wins. Evil is defeated. And there is hope.

"That is the drama we are supposed to see in church," Westerhoff said. Maybe I should shave the rest of my head like Kane, the Big Red Machine, and wrestle Matt, just to reenact the drama! Of course, Matt would be the good guy.

But we don't have to do that. One drama we rehearse during Lent is the problem in theology known as "theodicy." God is all-powerful. God is good. Bad things

happen. You can have any two of those, but not all three. Different religions try to solve the problem in different ways. Some deny the existence of evil; others say that if bad things happen, you deserve them; and still others say that when bad things happen, its good for your character.

Christianity doesn't really provide a theoretical answer. It points to the cross, and says that there is no evil so dark and so obscene that God can't turn it something into good.

In Mitch Albom's book, *Tuesdays with Morrie*, the dying teacher says,

"Life is a series of pulls back and forth. You want to do one thing, but you are bound to do something else. Something hurt you, yet you know it shouldn't. You take certain things for granted, even when you know you should never take anything for granted...A tension of opposites, like a pull on a rubber band. And most of us live somewhere in the middle."

Mitch, a former student, now spending Tuesdays with his dying teacher, says, "Sounds like a wrestling match."

"A wrestling match?" Morrie laughs, "yes, you could describe it that way."

"So which side wins?" Morrie smiles, crinkled eyes, crooked teeth. "Love wins. Love always wins." Not in the short run, maybe, but God's love wins. See you in church. MJB

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 minds, open doors

FRIDAY FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

In February our young families were able to have a date night or relax time while the children were lovingly cared for. March will see the group enjoying good fellowship at a BBQ and game night at Nancy and Dave Yob's home.

SON QUEST

On the first Sunday of Lent we began "Journey to the Cross" in the Kdg - 3rd grade class. This unit is facilitated by Anne Gruensfelder who has been a faithful station leader for several years.

Our theme in Live BIG is "A Love to Remember", and we will be looking about how Jesus' life and death made it possible for us to know God's great love. As a part of our unit, we'll be looking at the Last Supper and studying exactly what communion represents, so we'll be doing our own communion in class. We'll also be starting the Heifer Project, which is an appropriate follow-up to our discussions about the Good Samaritan and what we can do to help others.

Sue Hedrick,

Children's Ministry Chair

Seeds of Wisdom on Dreams & Goals Reasonable Deadlines #5

- Give yourself enough time to achieve your goal.
- Good things take effort and time.
- Be honest with yourself concerning your talent, time and resources.
- Focus on those tasks that you feel worthy of your total attention and time.

The Bible

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the Heaven (Eccl. 3:1)

Mike Murdock

Witness

February went by like the speed of light. The Lenten study has been fun and enlightening. Burrito Sunday is becoming a favorite 3rd Sunday of the month. The Evangelism team appreciates all your support. The team continues to work with the Catalina Communities Services to support their program however we can. This past month many of you brought in milk jugs for the herb planting event. We sent out our 3rd postcard campaign and have seen an increase in Sunday visitors. We are very happy to welcome these visitors to Vista and hope they will return. We had 7 people from the community join our Lenten Studies. These are wonderful folks and Margaret Synhorst and I

are really enjoying getting to know them.

The Vista Daily Planner made its debut in February and has been well received. I find it is a helpful resource when I am trying to remember event details. Keeping it in my email, making it easy to get to, has been a big help for me. Remember to send your event notices to VistaEchoes@aol.com. Events are added to the VDP two weeks before the event. If you would like to receive the VDP, please email your address to VistaEchoes@aol.com. March will be another busy month for Witness. May God's blessings come upon you in March.

Margaret Yohie

Witness Coordinator

Echoes Open positions:

Camera enthusiast

Do you enjoy taking pictures? We are looking for several adults and youth who will join our team. Responsibilities will be to take pictures at events you attend, identify the people in the picture, the event and email to vistaechoes@aol.com, in a timely manner. The team will share in creating a photo yearbook for Vista that will be made available to our members. Please email VistaEchoes@aol.com if you are interested.

Journalist

Is journalism one of your skills? If so we have need of your talent. We are looking for people who are skilled article writers who can help ministry leaders write their monthly articles. If you can donate a couple hours a month to help with this task please email vistaechoes@aol.com. You may already be a part of a ministry that you would enjoy helping.

Willing to share your expertise?

In your past life did you gain experience in an area that will help our vista family. Would you be willing to share your expertise? If so please email vistaechoes@aol.com. Let us know your speciality and a month that would be good for you to write an article.

Proof-readers

Are you really good at spotting two spaces between words instead of one? Maybe you can spot an incorrect punctuation? If so, would you be willing to proof one or two pages of the Echoes most months? Please email me at VistaEchoes@aol.com. We would like to have a team of proof-readers so we can share the work of proofing each month.

E-mail, Snail mail, Smile mail

Yes, Smile-Mail.

A birthday card, get well or even a special note can bring a smile. The second Sunday of each month the beautiful cards made by the women's group co-op at Fuente de Vida church in Agua Prieta, Mx. will be on sale between services for fifty cents each. Support their efforts, stop by and see the lovely work they do.

Carol Witt

UMW Circle Meetings:

Mary Martha Circle

March 4, 2010

9:30 AM

Hostess: Peggy Higgins
37765 S Boulder Wind Dr.

Program: Peggy Higgins
RSVP 520-818-3409

Susanna Wesley Circle

March 16, 2010

Nonna Marie's Restaurant
Carpool from Vista UMC 11:15 AM

LECTIO DIVINIA.

.a holy reading

Lectio Divina, a holy reading, begins a 3-part series on:

March 18th

April 15th

May 20th

9:30 to 11:00a.m.

Education Building-RM 2 r.
Beginners and guests are welcome. If you have questions please contact
Arlene Lehto at 825-1327

CPR

If you haven't been trained, here are some more opportunities:

March 11- Saddlebrooke Station

April 8 - Sun City station on Rancho Vistoso.

All non certificated classes are free and are from 1 to 4 PM. Please call me if you're interested and I'll get you registered. Thanks.

Gerry Alberts, 825-4642

UMW Spring Tea

Luncheon

April 17, 2010

Vista UMC Sanctuary

Adult Tickets \$10.00

Children 12 & under \$ 3.00

Music

Gift Basket Silent Auction

Everyone is Invited

Contact: Marilyn Waldo

520-825-9542

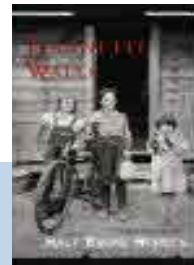
Café la Colonia coffee

This high quality fair traded Mexican coffee is purchased in Chiapas, MX by our sister church, Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta. It is then roasted and ground by them in their coffee shop, and shipped to us for sale. All proceeds return to them to support the programs of their church. The price is \$9.00 per full pound.

We, and Pastora Gela deeply appreciate your support of this vital ministry. You will see our table on the patio most Sunday mornings.

Glenna Snyder

for the Outreach Team



The Vista Book Club began a few years ago as a summer discussion group only. Since that time, the group has evolved into a year-round activity. Size varies from as low as five members to as high as nine, but all adults who attend Vista and love to read are welcome. The book club meets on the third Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Education Building. Kay Gragg is the long-time facilitator.

This month's book is entitled Half Broke Horses by Jeannette Walls. Ms Walls tells the story of her exceptional grandmother, Lily Casey Smith. By age six, Lily was helping her father break horses. At fifteen, she left home to teach school in a frontier town. She commuted 500 miles alone on her horse to get to her job. Eventually she learned to drive a car, fly a plane and run a vast ranch in Arizona with her husband. She raised two children, one of whom--Rosemary Smith Walls--is the author's mother. The latter was unforgettably portrayed in The Glass Castle.

Get Connected
Thursday, March 18th
5:30 p.m.
Vista Education Bldg
Kay Gragg
520-544-2545

March Birthdays

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| David Alligood | 3/1 |
| Rev. Monte Baker | 3/2 |
| Reenie Dedrick | 3/2 |
| Jim Holman | 3/2 |
| Joan Piepenburg | 3/3 |
| Richard Beaty | 3/5 |
| Kayley Mohr | 3/5 |
| Liz Zebal | 3/5 |
| Alice Douglas | 3/6 |
| Jim Hedrick | 3/6 |
| Hunter Wenal | 3/7 |
| Don Isch | 3/8 |
| Dick Triboulet | 3/10 |
| Bill Allen | 3/12 |
| Erin Wenal | 3/12 |
| Fran Hampton | 3/13 |
| Barbara Miller | 3/13 |
| Shirley Richards | 3/13 |
| Lauryn Burrow | 3/14 |
| Esther Dethman | 3/14 |
| Nora Nancekivell | 3/14 |
| Jean Aimetti | 3/15 |
| John Edris Jr | 3/15 |
| Jerry Reeves | 3/15 |
| Kathy Smith | 3/16 |
| Llywella Stuchlik | 3/16 |
| Walt Roberson | 3/17 |
| Tyler Lauger | 3/19 |
| Peter Rice | 3/19 |
| Tom Biehler | 3/22 |
| Monty Derting | 3/22 |
| Jim Griffin | 3/23 |
| Marshall Sanders | 3/23 |
| John Crown | 3/24 |
| Don Erickson | 3/24 |
| Alexis Extract | 3/24 |
| Debbie Derting | 3/26 |
| Susan Tjossem | 3/26 |
| Marge Allen | 3/27 |
| Dottie Lou Colby | 3/27 |
| Pete Schwartz | 3/28 |
| Christiana Colby | 3/29 |
| Dr. Scarlett O'Casey | 3/29 |
| Alice August | 3/31 |
| Debbi Maloid | 3/31 |

April Birthdays

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Ethel Amator | 4/1 |
| Lorraine Rice | 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 |



March Anniversaries

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| Ken & Kathy Allred | 3/6 |
| Boyd & Karon Carpenter | 3/10 |
| Richard & Leigh Beaty | 3/19 |
| James & Joyce Crippen | 3/29 |
| Rick & Dee Berman | 3/31 |

April Anniversaries

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Jim & Jody Obear | 4/4 |
| Hub & Reenie Dedrick | 4/5 |

To my dear Vista Church Family

There are not sufficient words to thank you all for your Prayers, Calls, Cards, Flowers, Good Wishes and Love you have sent my way during these past 2 months while I have been recovering from my recent illness. I have truly missed being with you during all this prolonged recovery time. If all goes well with my recovery, I will be back in early March to resume my responsibilities. I want to thank all the great folks on the Mission Outreach Committee and especially Glenna Snider who has stepped in to take over my job. She is truly a very special lady. I also want to thank my dear husband Rick who has been my loving caregiver thru all of this. It is truly a blessing to be part of the very special church Family at Vista.

With Love and Gratitude to each of you...

Dee Berman

United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men (UMM) is a group open to all adult males who attend Vista. If anyone has not previously considered getting involved with UMM you might want to attend a meeting. We eat, work and sponsor activities at Vista. In short, we work, but we also have fun and develop long-lasting friendships!



The most recent UMM sponsored event was the highly enjoyable "Valentines Day Pizza Party." We had great entertainment and delicious pizza--brought to us by "National Pizza." This vendor is also a caterer of breakfast so don't be surprised to see him at Vista again! The youth did a wonderful job of serving at the Valentines event.

The UMM get things done! We have several good projects we are currently working on and we have a good time working on them. UMM is a great team. Come and see for yourself !!



Our next meeting will be on Saturday, March 6th. We begin with a breakfast at the "Sunnyside Up Cafe" at 7:00 a.m. After breakfast we will move to Vista for our 8:00 a.m. meeting. We look forward to seeing you then.

Jim Bless, UMM President
520-825-3475

Vocal Seniority

Vocal Seniority, our men's ensemble, sang for the Valentine banquet on February 12. They wish to thank the UMM for the opportunity and express their heartfelt gratitude to all who attended and gave them such a warm reception. Thanks go to all involved with the program, especially Betty Little who faithfully rehearses with the group week after week and did such a fine job for this particular concert. Betty is appreciated by all of us in the group. We all know that we couldn't do anything without her musicianship and dedication. Thanks Betty.



On April 15, Vocal Seniority is proud to welcome back to Vista "The Desert Tones" for a joint concert. Two years ago, over 200 people attended the first concert by these two groups and we are hoping for another great turnout this time as both groups have new, exciting musical repertoires and several new members. Once again, it will be an evening of fun-filled music, laughter and fellowship as these two fine musical groups meld their talents into a delightful program. Make plans to attend this concert on Thursday, April 15 and relax from the stresses of the income tax season. What a great way to "Celebrate" the end of this particular civil obligation.

Bill Bellah
520-742-3226

Hospitality is in great need for special folks to sign-up for refreshments either at the 9 or 10:45 service. The social time after church gives us all time to connect with our church brothers and sisters. Please stop by the sign-up table after the service

Thanks, *Delores Brindle*
520-907-5706



Holy Week Service Schedule

March 28, 2010 Palm Sunday

Worship 9AM

Worship 10:45AM

These services embodies the sharp contrasts of Holy Week. They commemorates the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem with the joyous demonstration of loyalty by his disciples and followers. It also reminds us that the celebration of Palm Sunday should not crowd out the reality of Christ's Passion. Going directly from the lesser joy of the entry into Jerusalem to the joy of Easter, without being addressed by the passion and the cross of our Lord misrepresents the gospel. There is no triumph without suffering, no crown without a cross.



Easter Walk 2PM - 4 PM

Journey through the events of Holy Week, with witnesses who were there. Participants will travel to different stations on this approximately 30-40 minute experience. Don't worry there will be places to sit along the way, and the walk is not strenuous. You may arrive anytime from 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Last journey will take place at 3:15 pm. Inspiring for all ages.

Easter Egg Hunt 3PM

For families, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt at 3 pm for children inside the Worship Center, along with crafts, and a gathering place for cookies and refreshments. We hope you will join us to experience the full joy of Easter that comes from the sacrificial love poured out in the upper room and the cross!

Sunset Maundy Thursday to sunset Easter Day

During the Great Three Days, from sunset Maundy Thursday to sunset Easter Day, we celebrate the saving events of Jesus Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. In the development of Christian worship, each event came to be remembered on a separate day.

April 1, 2010 Maundy Thursday 7PM



On this night Christians commemorate the supper Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion, when Jesus washed his disciple's feet (John 13:1-17) and instituted the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:13-20; I Corinthians 11:23-25). Traditional actions observed in this service include confession and pardon; proclamation of the Word; and the Lord's Supper.

April 2, 2010 Good Friday 7PM



This year our Good Friday service will feature the Chancel Choir in a Tenebrae Service, taking us all the way to the cross.

During this Lenten season, we have been lighting a candle and adding a symbol of ministry and discipleship to our Communion Table each Sunday. At this unique Good Friday service, we will extinguish these "lights" as we replace each symbol with one of passion and sacrifice. The varied Lenten music from the choir will be threaded together with scripture and readings that will complete our Holy Week walk as we leave our Christ in the tomb, surrounded by the feeling of darkness.

Both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are amazing experiences for the Christian who knows - knows beyond a shadow of a doubt - that Sunday is just around the corner, and another celebration of Easter resurrection rises with the morning sun. Come join us during Holy Week, and especially come witness the mixed emotions of Good Friday.

April 4,2010 Easter Sunday Services

Sunrise Service 6:30AM

Worshippers experience the transition from predawn to sunrise, a metaphor for the triumph of Easter over the darkness of Good Friday.

This is an open table communion service with the living cross.

Our communion service is open to all who believe in God.

The living cross is a cross which we attach daisies to the cross to symbolize the life that Comes from the cross.

This service is held on the patio facing the sunrise. Please dress Warmly and bring blankets to help keep warm.

Following the service the youth will provide a pancake breakfast Fund raiser for their summer mission trip.

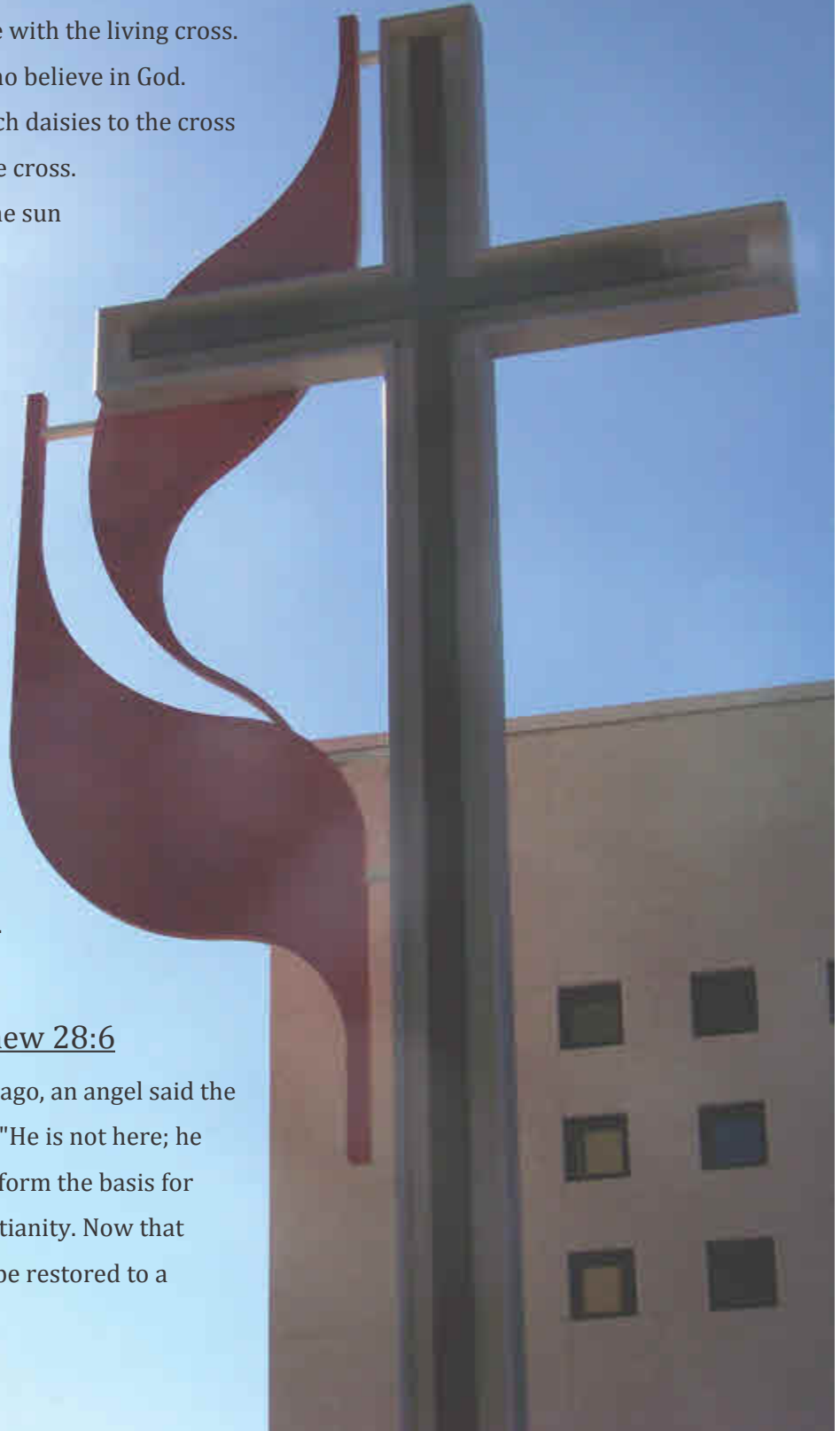
Traditional Worship

9:00 AM and 10:45 AM

Worship services on Easter Sunday commemorate the joy of resurrection, the reality that new life may be born out of physical and spiritual death and despair. Join in worship with us and our 50 member choir as they sing The Hallelujah Chorus.

"He is risen" in the Bible: Matthew 28:6

On Easter morning two thousand years ago, an angel said the words that would change all of history: "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said." Those words form the basis for Easter and are the central hope of Christianity. Now that Christ has risen from the tomb, we can be restored to a relationship with God.



Mark Your Calendar for Fun



Family Fellowship Friday

BBQ and Games

March 19, 2010

6:30PM - 8:30PM

Host: Nancy & David Yob

12764 N. Pioneer Way

Oro Valley, AZ 85755

Coming April 15, 2010

After you drop your taxes in the mail come on over to

Vista UMC for a Joint Concert

Our own Vocal Seniority and The Desert Tones

Time TBA

Enjoy and relax from the stresses of the income tax season



Boy Scouts

Rummage Sale March 19th & 20th

Friday and Saturday

8AM - 1PM



THE GOLDEN GOOSE IS MOVING!

The volunteers and the supporters of the Golden Goose are looking forward with excitement to the opening of the Goose at its new location in Golden Goose Plaza at 15970 N. Oracle in Catalina. They currently remain at their "old" location but will be accepting donations at their new facility beginning March 1. (Use the back door marked "Donations" please.) The Grand Opening Ceremonies will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 20. The opening festivities will continue through Sunday and Monday, March 21 and 22. The

"old" store will remain open through Friday, March 19 but will permanently close its doors at the end of that day.

It is anticipated that the new, larger retail space will generate even more revenue supporting the local charities – SaddleBrooke Community Outreach and Catalina Community Services. Congratulations to this organization which so successfully joins with all of our community in assisting local families in need.

Thank you notes



Dear people of Vista
Thank you for donating to the Wesley Foundation
In 2009. Your partnership in ministry allows for
the students of Wesley to continue to grow spiri-
tually. Your support is greatly appreciated and
we look forward to your continued partnership.
Sincerely,
Mil Roberts
Alumni '09, Board Member



Dear Brothers and Sisters of Vista
Thank you so very much for your generous hospitality last Sun-
day. We really enjoyed visiting your church and being apart of the
services. Thank you so much for your big hearted donation to-
ward the upcoming mission project and toward the Wesley Foun-
dation of Tucson.
Blessings
The students from Wesley



12/24/09
Dear Vista De La Montana,
We are extending a sincere thank you for your continued
support, helping children and single moms who are less
fortunate.
On behalf of the employees and Board of TMM Family
Services, we appreciate your \$200.00 contribution.
Sincerely,
Don Strauch



Dear Monte & Matt,
Let me send along a word of thanks to you both for leading Vista to pay it's
apportionments in full once again.
I am pretty sure if all those who benefited from Vista's generosity through
U. M. World Service were to send "thank you" notes to the church, you mail
carrier would black list you. Your participation does a world of good.
I truly understand that your paying in full doesn't come easy and represents
sacrifice. I do appreciate your fine efforts.
Please share these sentiments with your leaders.
Again, a sincere thank you,
Mike

Evangelism In The 21. Century

Authentic Christianity

Part One

Last month I stated that our community is full of people hungry for the truth of the Kingdom of God – but if we are to reach them we must be authentic! We must be real!

My husband's cousin, Rusty, was one of the "real" people in my life. Rusty's dream job was to be a rocket scientist with NASA and he spent his entire career working there. But he wasn't a typical rocket scientist. He was a regular guy. He loved people and he loved his work; and out of those loves he conveyed the essence of that work to we earth-bound people.

His primary job was to retrieve the shuttle upon landing and convey it back to NASA. He was also one of a handful of people who NASA sent out when they received a request for a speaker; and I can't imagine anyone more qualified. His work required a great depth of technical knowledge, but when he spoke of it he didn't use "rocket-scientiestese" – he used everyday language. Everyone in my family who met him loved him. He was one of us! Rusty loved to talk about his work, but he didn't ever dominate a conversation. Information just rolled out of him, seemingly without effort. He made everyone his equal. Spending time with him was always a pleasure and we all ended up feeling a little more intelligent. Rusty was authentic! He was real! Rusty imparted grace in an easy, natural way.

One of the secrets behind Rusty's ability to engage an audience was that he didn't have an agenda. He wasn't trying to change us. He was telling us about his life and the things that brought him joy without trying to force us to become like him. Evangelism isn't trying to make others like us. It's about us striving to

become like Jesus and allowing the Holy Spirit to create a desire to change in others. *"The true gospel is a call to self-denial. It is not a call to self-fulfillment."* John McArthur.

"The true gospel is a call to self-denial. It is not a call to self-fulfillment."

John McArthur

Our job is to be salty and to shed light. Our job is to let the love of God flow through us to others. Our job is to encourage their efforts to walk the spiritual path set out for them by the Lord. Our job is to let them know, by example, that there is a better way than that taught by the World. And, our job is to be ready to answer their questions through the power of the Holy Spirit, because it is the Holy Spirit's job to change them.

Evangelism takes many forms but its essence is to be salty enough to make others thirsty and to shed the Light Of The World to draw people to where you are – in the arms of Jesus.

We are called to reveal the secrets of the Kingdom of God and to give away His Grace. We are saved by grace, and this grace is what we are to share with others. *"Preach the Gospel always; when necessary use words."* St Francis of Assisi

"Preach the Gospel always; when necessary use words." St Francis of Assisi

Authentic does not mean perfect. We will spend our lifetime struggling to learn to see life as God sees it. He told us that His ways are not our ways. The Israelites expected their Messiah to be a king born into royalty. They expected a mighty warrior who would raise a mighty army

and defeat all their enemies. But what they got was a poor, uneducated carpenter who preached love, not retribution. What they got was a Messiah who cracked the shell of empty power structures and revealed the meat of a life lived in the spiritual realm.

He showed us that no act of worship, theology, creed, prayer, or giving has any meaning unless it comes from our innermost being. This is true evangelism.

The Vista lifeboat says, *"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors."* Let's show the world this Messiah.

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors."



Four men were out golfing. "These hills are getting steeper as the years go by," one complained. "The sand traps seem to be bigger than I remember them too," said the third senior.

After hearing enough from his senior buddies, the oldest and the wisest of the four of them at 87 years old, piped up and said, "Just be thankful we're still on the right side of the grass!"

Outreach Ministry Report

In this past month, much of our attention has been focused on the Haiti relief project. There has been a special offering opportunity for several Sundays, and the people of Vista have responded by donations of \$7,221.00. In addition, the Outreach Team coordinated the collection of 75 Health Kits from the congregation, and from the UMYF, for Haiti. They have been shipped to the UMCOR West Depot in Salt Lake City, where they will be forwarded on to Haiti. We thank everyone for the generous gifts of funds and of Health Kits. Our donations are a small part of the huge effort by UMCOR to bring relief to a suffering people.

ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM. "Opening Doors to Success". Fuente de Vida. The Cafe la Colonia coffee shop on the patio is now open between services at coffee fellowship on the First and Third Sundays of the month. We are selling the fair trade gourmet Mexican coffee for \$9.00 per full pound. There are several types available, including decaf. All proceeds of the sales go back to Fuente de Vida church for the support of Pastora Gela's family, and for the many programs of their church.

Carol Witt is also selling very nice all occasion greeting cards for fifty cents each, re made by the ladies' co-op in their church. They will be available on the Second Sunday of the month.

CREATIVE HANDS Jan Bohe reports that they are beginning to sew Spring and Summer clothes for the children of clients of CCS. If you would like to donate fabric, notions, or funds, it would be welcome. Also, new sewers are always welcome to join this ministry. Call Jan at 825-9725.

CATALINA MOUNTAIN SCHOOL The team is having their usual monthly get together with the boys on the 24th. To remember Presidents' Day, a fun, patriotic game will be played, followed by fellowship and ice cream and cupcakes. More help is always needed in this program, and it is a very rewarding experience. Contact John and Carol Witt if you would like to participate. 825-7017.

CATALINA COMMUNITY SERVICES Vista's support of the CCS food bank continues to be very generous. Our first Sunday of the month collection filled the large grocery cart, and the cash donation in February was \$458.00. This cash donation helps keep the shelves of the food bank well stocked. The faithful support of CCS by the wonderful people of Vista is very much appreciated.

*Glenna Snider,
Interim Outreach Chair, for Dee Berman*

Tucson Hospitality Inn

THI is an accredited hospital hospitality house which provides a home away from home for patients and their families who have come to Tucson for medical needs. 60% of the patients have cancer. The remaining 40% are divided between trauma cases and organ transplants. Some guests stay for a few days, others months. As we know, being ill is a costly process, and the low cost fees the Inn charges saves guests many dollars. Guests can also reduce their costs by cooking their own meals in the fully equipped kitchen.



Our church members help by donating goods, contributing money to help with expenses, and volunteering time. On Wednesday nights four different groups in the community provide a meal. Our UMW Circle ladies are responsible for the third

Wed. of every month. Women not in Circles can also help.

My thanks to Susanna Wesley Circle who provided the February 17 meal and to John and Carol Witt who took the meal to the Inn.

The UMM have been hard at work creating an office for the manager in a large storage building. However, during the recent rains, the roof substantially leaked, damaging wall board, insulation, and the ceiling. The men have since repaired the roof. If you want to help with this project, call Pete Schwartz or Jim Holman.

We are currently looking for someone experienced in fund-raising and for someone else who is skilled at arranging speaking engagements for the manager. For more information or questions, contact Kay Gragg at 544-2545.



Kay Gragg

Pancake Toss Race



UMM Valentine Dinner

**Vista De La Montaña
United Methodist Church
3001 E. Miravista Lane
Tucson, AZ 85739**

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Office hours

Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Phone: 520 825-1985

Fax: 520 825-2997

E-mail: VistaUMC@aol.com



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

Return Service Requested



**THE BIG BOPPER
Dinner and Sock Hop
Sunday
March 7th
4PM - 8PM**



It's time to get nostalgic and turn back to those good ol' happy days of the 50's. Our youth group is inviting everyone to this festive fundraiser, "The Big Bopper" will be a 50's Diner and Sock Hop where participants are encouraged to dress the part, enjoy the food, the entertainment and a few competitions as well. We hope you will join the fun, while helping to support our youth's summer mission project. Don't worry, you won't have to dance...unless you want to!

Rock around the clock!

