



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.

Annual Summer Music Camp for children and youth

The Annual Summer Music Camp for elementary and middle school children is coming! The camp days are Monday, July 18 through Friday, July 22, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am, with a rehearsal on Saturday, July 23 at 10:00 am. The campers will join forces with the Chancel Choir for a performance on Sunday, July 24 at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary. This year's musical is entitled "Mystery at Holyoake Music School". Registration information will be available in the narthex or church office by July 3. Please contact Rev. Frank Hallock for further information.

Annual Conference, 2016: Therefore, Go! Matthew 28: 19-20

The 32nd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Conference is, in movie jargon, a wrap! Principles and extras have left the building and now begins the work! It began Wednesday, June 15 with a Pre-Conference briefing followed by workshops to help attendees get a better outlook on how to strengthen their congregations through best practices and meeting needs in a variety of areas: including ministries to the poor, the Hispanic/Latino, Young People, LGBTQI, environment and funding for ministries.

Sessions were filled with music, worship, reports from conference committees, and legislation. We saw videos of retiring clergy; heard the to-be-newly-ordained take the historic Wesley examination for admission into full connection. We celebrated the 60th anniversary of full clergy rights for women after hearing about the trials of that 1950 annual conference. We also celebrated the 20th anniversary of Deacons (1996-2016).

There was an update on the Imagine No Malaria campaign. Cal-Pac has given \$170 thousand (of its pledged \$300 thousand) saving 170,000 lives thus far! An offering was taken and \$8,158.75 was added. We heard Bishop Unda of the newly created East Congo Episcopal Area. Bishop Unda, with his inspiring story, shared that he was challenged to drink a shot of straight lemon juice for a \$20 donation to INM! On Saturday, the Cabinet (District Superintendents) decided to challenge Bishop Carcaño in the same way—this raised over \$2,000 more dollars! And on Saturday we also learned that two children, Joshua and Sophia Kim, had a lemonade stand Friday and Saturday, and with help from their parents, presented the Bishops \$570 from lemonade sales!

Always meaningful, this year's Memorial and Communion Service was no exception. Rev. Lanny Arrowsmith and Barbara Mitchell were honored to walk across the stage representing the Diegelman family with the passing of Dorothy Diegelman, one of our own clergy wives. Also celebrated was the life of Elsa Kendall Reese (Heidi Kendall's mom) who passed in December, 2015. An especially difficult celebration for all of us this year, was the beautiful, vivacious and spirit-filled Leanne Nakanishi who had served as Conference Secretary of both our Cal-Pac Conference and the Western Jurisdiction. She had been Conference UMW President.

We had several sessions on the joys/concerns/hope from our General Conference delegates. We spent time in small groups discussing questions designed to help them take information to the Jurisdictional Conference happening in July in sunny Scottsdale, AZ! One of the most difficult issues at General Conference was the issue of human sexuality, and the oft-times confusing, contradictory and hurtful language in the Book of Discipline. Bishop Carcaño spoke of the tension/division in the church, but pointed out that unity of the church is a gift, and the Bishops are committed to helping us remain united. They wish to name a Commission with folk from all walks, as diversified as possible, to work revising the Book of Discipline and looking to unity of the worldwide UMC. They are open to calling a special General Conference on revisions to the Book of Discipline ahead of 2020 should the work get done.

The Cal-Pac was able to pay its apportionments this year in full as many of the Cal-Pac churches (ours included) paid their apportionments at 100%. We are in ministry in the farthest reaches of the world! There was so much more, and if you would like to read or hear, please go to calpacumc.org/AC2016. Thank you for the opportunity to once again represent you in this way.

-Barbara Mitchell

The Flame

From Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

noun: barrier; plural noun: barriers

synonyms: obstacle, obstruction, hurdle, stumbling block, bar, block, impediment, hindrance, curb.

- *a fence or other obstacle that prevents movement or access.*
- *A circumstance or obstacle that keeps people or things apart or prevents communication or progress. "a language barrier"*

The last couple months I've been writing and thinking about how we are the 'church' together. In order to be God's living breathing church we need to have vision and (spiritual) discipline. I'll get back to the things we need as a church later, but as I'm sitting at Annual Conference 2016, I'm thinking of things that stop us from faith or faithful living. What are the barriers to faith?

'Faith is confidence in what we hope for and the assurance about what we do not see' says the author of Hebrews 11:1. Some translations or versions of this text use the word 'trust' or 'assurance' in place of 'confidence'. Whatever word you use, faith starts with something of the heart that is strong and clear. From that place of strength, faith takes on hope despite any odds that are stacked up before you. Faith, from this perspective, is powerful and strong, even when things are difficult.

I am convicted that faith makes our life better and more satisfying. Maybe you agree! I know many people agree with this but do not have a faith home or community of faith. They say things like, 'I'm praying for you,' and 'thank God,' but haven't invested in relationships or experiences that support their faith. It is a little like standing on the porch of a home and declaring the home beautiful without going inside and walking around. Having strong faith requires exploration and practice. I dare to suggest, it even requires a community of support and interaction.

So, what stops folks from investing in relationships or experiences that build or grow faith? What stops folks from finding or investing in a faith community? What are the barriers between people and God or between people seeking faith? It must be more than scheduling that prevents people from seeking faith. We can find an hour a week to sit in front of the television, or play on Facebook, or stop at a brewery, why do we have such a hard time engaging in faith? Why do we have such a hard time inviting another person into a community that might help them with something they already want in their life?

As I've been talking to folks at Annual Conference, I've been asking the question, 'what do you think is a barrier to faith?' The answers I've received are not that surprising. Here's what I've heard so far:

- Guilt... is a barrier to faith.
- Lack of invitation or engagement from other people of faith... is a barrier to faith.
- Not listening to others or lack of willingness to grow in grace... is a barrier to faith.
- Fear or anxiety about church people... is a barrier to faith.

As we think of church, our faith and friends gathered in worship and community, it's easy to forget that some people don't feel like they belong. They have encountered personal barriers that stop them from attending church or finding a community of faith.

For now, I'm going to leave this an incomplete thought. I want to invite YOU to think about barriers to faith and folks growing in faith. Perhaps it is even YOU or a friend that is running up against a barrier. Email me your list of barriers. I'd like to put them together and share them with Church Council. As we seek to be a more effective and faithful church, people will know us by our welcome and our capacity to overcome what separates us. Let us be the people who build bridges and breakdown barriers between one another! Our world needs us! Our World needs your faithfulness as we look into the future!

God bless you today and everyday!

Pastor Leigh Ann

Where does our money go?

Did you know that the United Methodist Church supports the largest number of accredited Black colleges and universities than any other denomination in the United States? Eleven in nine different states, and an interesting fact is that the first one was started in 1865; the last, in 1904 and ten were started between 1865 and 1882. One of these schools is a medical college in Tennessee. The education of Black students is not a new endeavor of the church and it is one of which we can certainly be proud. The main theme of these schools is to build leaders who are committed to making a difference in the world. The colleges emphasize community service and social responsibility as well academic excellence. In a small way the UMC of Vista has been contributing to these schools for many years. After all, isn't this what we are all about?

-Tommy Thomson

Family Game Night

Game Night is Friday, July 8, 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Bring favorite game and snacks to share.

Flame Editors Lenore Averell and Barbara Mitchell Flame Production Paula Amaro WEB Master Jim McGlocklin Next deadline is Wednesday, July 20, 2016 Comments or suggestions, please let us know.
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The Flame (monthly newsletter) United Methodist Church of Vista 490 S. Melrose Drive Vista, CA 92081

Communion Sunday, July 10

The communion offering for July 10 goes toward the Mulungwishi Theological School in Lubumbashi Congo, (Democratic Republic) Africa. The school was started in 1951 by Woody Bartlett with the goal to educate men and women to serve the church in the Congo.

Not only does the Mulungwishi School provide financing and training for Bachelor's and Master's degrees for ministers, they offer a comprehensive program for couples. The Doris Bartlett Women's school provides training for wives of students. Christian History, Childcare, Health and Nutrition and Women's Leadership are some of the subjects studied. These women also go on to become leaders in their communities.

-Patricia Avilla

X-tra Giving for July

Extra giving for July will benefit the "Neighborhood Resource Center" at Grace Presbyterian Church. This center provides many services to children and adults, including an afterschool literacy and tutoring program for at-risk second and third graders at Foothill Elementary. They also have ESL classes, job and casework management help for adults, a food pantry, and help for the homeless. The children who will be starting back to school in August, need backpacks and school supplies. Healthy snacks, such as granola bars and raisins, and food pantry items such as peanut butter, tuna, cereal, rice, beans, and pasta are needed to give to families who need help in this community. Another way that GPC helps people in our community is by making and delivering a meal to Operation HOPE-Vista families, every single week during the season. They provide much needed services and training to neighborhood families. Let's help them help others.

-Loretta Pierce

UMC of Vista Foundation, Inc.

Barbara Axness passed away on April 7, 2016. She was born with cerebral palsy. In spite of doctors saying impossible, Barbie learned to walk, run, cycle, bowl, ride horseback and swim with the help of her parents, family, friends and church members. Barbie won a gold medal swimming the last leg of the backstroke relay at the National Special Olympics competition at UCLA in the late 1980's. She enjoyed listening to music, especially polkas.

Her mother, Inge Axness, has donated a leaf to the Ada and Matthew Chesser "Family Tree of Life" in her honor. All funds contributed are placed with the UMC of Vista Foundation, Inc., which retains them in a trust. The earnings are used to support higher education scholarships, camperships, support of United Methodist seminaries, missions and special programs in our local church.

Student Ministry News (Beckie Henselmeier)

Special things to uphold this month.

- **Communion Sunday, July 10** with students returning to worship to receive communion with their families.
- Vacation Bible School was June 27 - July 1st. This year we ventured into the Caves with "Cave Quest" VBS - Following Jesus, the Light of the World! Our mission project was "The Shoe that Grows," supplying shoes to kids all around the world for \$15 a pair. The Education Committee would like to thank our crew of volunteers, who worked with and without our students, our congregation for your generosity, and of course our families for sharing your students with us!
- This month we have two "Movies on the Lawn." Friday, July 1st will feature the movie *Home* and Friday, July 29th will feature *The Good Dinosaur*. Bring your lawn chair or blanket starting at 6:00 pm. Food trucks will be onsite if you'd like to purchase dinner from them, and our movies will begin at sunset. Help us with our mission project for the Breeze Hill Elementary School supply drive, more information at <http://umcvista.org/movies/>.
- District Camps are finally here! Please pray for our 15 students attending both Elementary (July 10 - 16) and Junior High Camps (July 17 - 23).
- Our Senior High will be on Sierra Service Project from July 22 - Aug. 1, please pray for their trip.

Welcome new members

Meet our New Members from February. (We are catching up!) Welcome all!

- Merlee Sheridan (married to Ken) was born and raised in Spokane, Washington as a Presbyterian. She and Ken met at Whitman College. They have 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 4 greats! Merlee is an accountant and has many interests including bridge, crafts, dancing, golf, music, photography and reading.
- Ken Sheridan (married to Merlee) was born in Yakima, Washington, and was a Methodist in his younger days. He too attended a Presbyterian church. His interests include computers, golf, tennis and travel.
- Gail Wills (married to Jim) was born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska! She and Jim met at the University of Denver. They have two children and three grandchildren. Gail is a homemaker, learning computer, and enjoys baking.
- Jim Wills (married to Gail) was born in Dayton, Ohio, but says he grew up "all over"! Raised as a Presbyterian, he and Gail have transferred to us from First Presbyterian Church in Oceanside. Now retired, Jim has a background in Finance. His interests are computers, sports and fishing.

Happy “July” Birthdays

Mary Ann Maniti (1)
Cailin Schneider (1)
Chad Green (3)
Terry Lenker (3)
James McGlocklin (4)
Nancy Koski (5)
Noah Wheeler (5)
Marlize Clarke (6)
Justin Felien (6)
Angelina Maniti (7)
Tom Humphrey (8)
Ruth Lloyd (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)
Joan Bearss (18)
Rev. Chung Kim (19)
Jim Wright (21)
Jim Rogers (23)
Merlee Sheridan (23)
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.

Operation HOPE-Vista workday

Have you heard? It is almost time...Operation HOPE-Vista opens year-round August 1st. Opening day will be here before you know it! Please save the date! The Annual Operation HOPE-Vista workday is on Saturday, July 9 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Tasks for every age, activity level, interest and skill. Donations welcome as we prepare to open. Please call to sign up and/or for donation information at 760.536.3880. Operation HOPE-Vista is located at 859 East Vista Way (behind Barnicle’s Express) in Vista.

Volunteer opportunity

If you would be interested in volunteering as an Usher during the 8:45 am or 10:30 am worship service, please let Pastor Leigh Ann know. (Ushers are an important part of worship - passing out bulletins, escorting latecomers to the pews, helping with communion when needed or assisting in taking the offering.)

Heartfelt Thanks

A big hug and thanks to the many families that came to get pictures; to the many others that either sent in or allowed us to come take a picture...even those who hate having their picture taken (you know who you are!). You all are amazing!

Thanks to the wonderful folk who volunteered to get those pictures, who signed folks up and who hosted our picture days. A BIG hug and smooch for Lyn Berry and Madeline Knight who are working on our story pages.

With all of us working together we can accomplish a lot. You are all a blessing and it would not have gotten done without the participation of so many. Thank you again.

In His Service, Barbara Mitchell

BSA Troop 709 thanks you for graciously allowing us the use of your facility to host our Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser benefiting the Northern Tier group. Your generous support helped make our event successful.

Donna Huss, Event Coordinator

Cable Snapshot

We are very pleased to report to you that Africa University celebrated its 22nd conferment of degrees ceremony on June 11, awarding undergraduate and graduate degrees to 830 students from many of the 55 nations of Africa.

We are also pleased to share with you that Prisca Makanyara Fisho of Zimbabwe, one of the current recipients of the UMC of Vista Endowed Scholarship Fund in Honor of Tommy and Margie Thomson, was among the graduates, having successfully completed all academic requirements to receive her Bachelor of Science degree in Education.

You will also be pleased to know that General Conference 2016 continued the Africa University Apportionment Fund through the 2017-2020 quadrennium and approved Africa University’s continuation as a World Service Special Gifts project. Furthermore, more than 100 AU alumni and students were in attendance at General Conference in several capacities: delegates from the Africa Central Conferences, interpreters, translators, choir members, missionaries, and staff of general agencies.

We are profoundly grateful to you, the Thomsons, and the congregation for making it possible for the young men and women of Africa, like Prisca, to realize their dreams of obtaining a first-rate university education so as to be of service to their families, communities, and nations.

May unconditional love, peace, joy, and hope be your many blessings in this Holy Season of Pentecost and throughout the remainder of the year. Take excellent care!

Post Script: Africa University will celebrate its 25th anniversary next year. We hope to see you, Tommy, and a delegation from the congregation on the campus in March 2017 for the 25th anniversary celebrations!

Elaine Jenkins
Director of Planned Giving
Africa University Development Office
P. O. Box 340007
Nashville, TN 37203-0007
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United Methodist Women's Corner

- UMW Circles meet in September.
- Please be sure to sign up (sheet on kitchen table downstairs) for Sunday morning cookies.

Brief one-page weekly e-mail updates

The Spark is the church's weekly e-mail update. To subscribe to this notification, send an e-mail to: Flame-UMCV-subscribe@yahoo.com. Be sure to add: Flame-UMCV@yahoo.com to your list of trusted senders in your e-mail program. Information to be posted in the Spark will need to be in the church office by Monday mornings.

Be sure to check us out on Yelp! as well as UMC Vista Rocks (Facebook). Don't forget to Twitter where you are on a Sunday morning.

Pray together for...

Marlies Weaver, Ruby McCormick, Joan Lindegren, Giorgio Graziano, Jean Cole, Debbie Forbis, Beverly Johnston, Pat Hotaling, Peggy Watson, Raub Mathias, Max/Louise Foss, Don Raun, JaDene Dugas, Lenore Averell, Ruth Matzigkeit (hospice), Gary Lamb, Jane Fischer, Bill Peaker, Joan Brainerd, Harold MacDermot, Nancy Koski, Carol Yunt, Randie Annin, Richard/Juanita Frizzell, Russ Townsend, Don Smith, Alice Leclair

Memorial Service for Dick Vought is on Wednesday, July 6 at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary.

Our Worship attendance

	8:45	10:30
06/19	84	104
06/12	88	98
06/05	88	100
05/29	110	110

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Sunday Worship: 8:45 and 10:30 am
Sunday School 9:00 am
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