



United Methodist Church of Vista

490 South Melrose Drive—Vista, CA 92081—Phone: (760) 726-0442

Issue 49

January 2017

From Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw



Pastor's Ponderings

Last year, during Advent, I started receiving information from Africa University, a United Methodist Affiliated University in Zimbabwe. I received this email from AU because of our congregation's financial support of this university. Early in the work with the Cable Outreach Foundation, our Church Council designated funds to the University in honor of Margie and Tommy Thomson. Many of you have continued to give to this fund since its inception. In 2015, the scholarship fund distributed \$4,657.00 to Priscah Fisho and Sandra Shanguro. Priscah graduated in 2016. This scholarship fund went to Tshipaya Alex Lumbwe in 2016. I am pleased that our congregation has such a powerful global alliance for education! (You can read more about our student, Mr. Lumbwe, in this newsletter.)

Even as our congregation has this connection with Africa University, I have a family connection with the school. My Great Uncle Macie was the Lay Leader of one of the five Texas Annual Conferences while he was alive. He was very active in the United Methodist Church serving on the General Board of Higher Education and the Commission on the Role and Status of Women, in addition to acting as a delegate to several General Conferences and World Conferences. Uncle Macie passed away in 1991 from cancer. At the time of his death, an endowment was set up in his name for Africa University that continues to fund educational leadership today. Last year, in my communications with the school, I learned that the endowment began with just over \$300,000 in 1991 and has over 2 million in it today. A lot can happen in 25 years!

In celebration of all these connections, during the month of March 2017, I'll be headed to visit Africa University for their 25th Anniversary. I will be going through an Education Opportunities tour with a delegation from the Mississippi Annual Conference, led by Bishop James Swanson. I'm excited to meet the student our church is sponsoring this year and to see the place my Uncle Macie was excited to support. Before my trip, on February 19, 2017, James Salley, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement from Africa University will be joining us in worship to share the sermon. In this way, you will be able to connect with the great work of Africa University also!

During the weeks I'm away in Zimbabwe, I'm coordinating some gifted connectional ministers to come be with you on Sunday mornings. More on this next month! In the meantime, let us look forward to greater opportunities for ministry and service in 2017! And let us commit to be together in our work and witness in this community! My prayers continue to be with you!

Blessed New Year!

Pastor Leigh Ann