



*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.

**Pastor's Ponderings**

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" I woke up this morning with this scripture going off in my head like an alarm bell. What do we achieve in life if we gain all things but lose our soul in the process? Every which way I could think to translate this passage kept moving through my brain. It's a scripture for our time like the Rubik's cube was to the 80's. You can find this scripture in Matthew, Mark and Luke but the ethic of it is everywhere in our scriptures.

The context of this teaching from Jesus is the foretelling of his death and resurrection. Jesus is calling his disciples and others to follow him. He is talking about sacrifice for the well-being of all people. Jesus is challenging those who listen to his teaching to focus on what matters, not on the acquisition of goods and things and material. SACRIFICE! There is great consistency in this teaching among the gospels and great consistency in who Jesus challenges us to be. Sometimes following Jesus just doesn't seem to be much fun, does it?

There was a 'Peanuts' cartoon with Charlie Brown reading a newspaper article to Lucy. "It says here that young people of today don't believe in any causes..." Lucy responds: "That's not true at all! I believe in a cause. I believe in ME! I'm my own cause. If I'm not a cause what is? I believe in the cause of good ol' me. That's the cause I believe in." Lucy walks away, still ranting and raving. All Charlie Brown can do is turn away and mutter, 'Good Grief!'

Is Lucy the voice of our time? Is she the one who most closely represents the spirit that is overwhelming our country and community and world? There is a popular theology of some television preachers called the 'prosperity gospel' which focuses on prayer and loving God as a means to get all you can. Some Christian leaders believe that if you pray right and live right that God will give you health and wealth. Lucy says it best when she rants and raves... 'I believe in the cause of ME!' That's the origin and conceit at the heart of the prosperity gospel, sometimes called 'health and wealth theology.' It starts with you at the center of all that is important rather than putting Jesus or someone else at the heart of our life's focus.

Barbara Brown Taylor says, 'Following Jesus means receiving our lives as gifts instead of guarding them as our own possessions. It means sharing the life we have been given instead of bottling it for our own consumption. It means giving up the notion that we can build dams to contain the bright streams of our lives and letting them go instead, letting them swell their banks and spill their wealth, running full and growing fuller.' Jesus teaches about the value of giving our lives for the care and love of others, and IN SERVICE to God because God is the giver of life. The message of Jesus is a counterculture one! The message of Jesus demands we follow him and care for the poor, the lost and the lonely.

This newsletter article has gotten a little preachy and so if you are still reading...thanks for that! As you read this, I have already departed to Zimbabwe (March 20) with packed pens and pencils and some scarfs in my suitcase to give away to folks at the school and in the neighborhood. I'm looking forward to learn from those who live there, about their culture and food and country. I'm excited to see the ruins at the Great Zimbabwe and hope to see some beautiful giraffes. I've learned that curiosity is a great asset in travel. I have often found my soul and life enriched by the people I meet on my journeys.

I pray you profit from meeting people who bless you with wisdom and compassion... on your travels around the world, or around Vista! God bless you today and throughout the rest of Lent. See you on Palm Sunday!!

Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

**Easter flowers** that will brighten our worship on Easter may be given in honor or memory of someone special in your life. A list of these people will then appear in our Easter bulletin. Please fill in the form below and turn it in to the church office or the offering plate along with your check made out to UMC of Vista, clearly marked for "Easter Flowers." Last day to order is April 7. Easter flowers are \$12 each. *(You can call Paula, 760.726.0442, with your information.)*

Name of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Given in Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given in Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

The Flame

## Where does our money go?

Tithing? I know - we have heard this word almost from the day we first became active in the church. But what really does it mean? According to the Bible, the Lord said the first 10 percent of your income is to be donated to the Lord. I would guess that it was just as tough thousands of years ago to do this as it is today. I would argue that it is tougher today, what with the high cost of rent or mortgages, the high cost of food, the high cost of utilities, the high cost of health care, the high cost of transportation and the high cost of taxes. However, for those of us who have been involved in the church most of our lives, the word TITHE is familiar but seems to be a goal out of reach for most of us. It is a goal worth reaching for. Let me present you a way to reach this goal over the coming years.

Divide your current pledge or giving to our church by the Adjusted Gross Income figure from your current Income Tax form. This will give you your current percentage of giving. Each year try to increase your percentage by 1/2 percent. Your circumstance at the time will dictate whether you will be able to do so. If not 1/2 percent, maybe 1/4 percent. It is a goal worth reaching for and it may take years to achieve, but if in your mind you agree to do it, stay with it, even if it takes another 10 to 15 years. Think of the great things our local church could do for our community and beyond. After all - isn't this what we are all about?

-Tommy Thomson

Total Budget for 2017	\$501,275
Total Received (12 weeks)	\$179,506
Total Spent	\$152,113

## Welcome to New Members...

Joining us in February were Alfred and Charlotte Chappell and Rob and Katie Pierce. Both couples attend first service.

Alfred, a native Californian, grew up in the Lakeside area. He is a research scientist and enjoys camping, computers, reading and travel. Charlotte was born in Hoboken, New Jersey, and grew up in Lemon Grove, California. Charlotte, currently on her third career as a stay-at-home mom, was a biochemist and a teacher in her first careers. Alfred and Charlotte met at Point Loma Nazarene University. They have a son, Dominic, 6-years old. Charlotte enjoys camping, crafts, computers, dancing, gardening, music, photography, reading, travel, cooking and baking.

Robbie was born and raised in the Dallas, Texas area. Robbie has already gotten involved in choir and has been "picking Pastor Frank's brain" since he is a candidate for ministry in the UMC. His interests include camping, music, sports and travel. Katie was born in Provo, Utah and raised in Arizona and California. She is a clinical psychologist with the Navy. Katie wants to learn to play bridge; likes gardening, music, photography, reading, sports and travel. They have two children Keira (6) and Amy (3).

## Holy Week and Easter Events

### Saturday, April 8

"Easter Walk" at 1 pm

Join the journey of the Easter Story through an interactive, worshipful, and family-friendly opportunity to walk with Jesus! Tours are self-guided and take approximately 50 minutes.

### Palm Sunday, April 9

Concert: "Jesus, Won't You Come Down?" 4 pm, Sanct.  
Pre-Concert Refreshments/Lecture begins at 3 pm

### Good Friday, April 14

7:00 pm: Worship Service, Sanctuary

### Easter Sunday, April 16

6:30 am: Sunrise Service (upper lawn)

8:45 and 10:30 am: Worship Services

Egg Hunt between services (est. 10:10 am, upper lawn)

## Annual Palm Sunday Concert

Music Ministry invites you to attend our annual Palm Sunday Concert on April 9th at 4:00 pm. This special presentation will feature our Sunshine Magic Singers children's choir (13 elementary-age members strong), joining with the Chancel Choir and orchestra to offer an original work, "Jesus Won't You Come Down?" This short cantata will explore what the week of Christ's Passion might have felt like to a child. Pastor Frank Hallock has contrasted the open and honest emotions of childhood with the wide range of emotions around Holy Week: Jesus entry into Jerusalem, his blessing of his followers, dark day of the crucifixion and the joy of Easter morning.

The concert will also include our Anderson Handbell Choir, our gifted Chamber Orchestra members and the Chancel Choir with several selections of other beautiful, uplifting and powerful music celebrating this season. Admission is free, however, there will be a free-will offering opportunity that helps support the concert and other ministries of the church. You are invited to a pre-concert Director's Discussion at 3:00 pm in the sanctuary. Light refreshments will be served.. The concert begins at 4:00 pm. Plan to come and support our inclusive and inter-generational Music Ministry, and perhaps to experience Holy Week differently by seeing some of it through children's eyes.

Flame Editors  
Lenore Averell and Barbara Mitchell  
Flame Production  
Paula Amaro  
WEB Master  
Jim McGlocklin

Next deadline is Wednesday, April 19, 2017  
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

**The Flame (monthly newsletter)**  
**United Methodist Church of Vista**  
490 S. Melrose Drive  
Vista, CA 92081

## Communion Sunday, April 2

The “Co-op Cafe” at Wesley UMC in San Diego will be helped by our April 2 communion offering. Most of those who participate in the program are homeless or live in nearby low income senior housing. The “Co-op Cafe” provides free coffee, hot meals two days a week, showers with clean towels and toiletries, Bible Study and healing prayer circles...a place of peace. It is part of the Wesley Community Services Center’s goal to provide health through care for the body, mind and spirit. A few years ago, with Cable Funds, we helped up-date their kitchen in the fellowship hall to meet city regulations. Now we can help provide food for the Co-op Cafe”.

-Sue Humphrey, World Missions Committee

## X-tra giving for April

X-tra Giving for April goes to Stand Up for Kids, a national volunteer organization with an Oceanside Chapter, has as its mission the elimination of youth homelessness. They have an outreach and drop-in center staffed by volunteers providing a place for youth to come in off the streets. They provide meal packs, and when available, blankets, and sleeping bags. Stand Up for Kids accepts donations of money, food, clothing and hygiene products. For more information, see Karen Felien.

## New Member’s Brunch

Something new is coming Sunday, April 30—it’s the New Members Brunch! Who is invited? Anyone wishing to formally join with our church family, all who have joined recently, anyone who would like to help welcome them. This will take place following the 10:30 worship service (11:45 ish!). Folks who wish to join will take their vows and be celebrated right there. We hope you might join us for this special event. Please RSVP to the church office or Barbara Mitchell (760.724.0923) by April 21. Let’s take advantage of this exciting opportunity!

## Scholarships available from UMC Vista Foundation

**District Camp Scholarships:** The UMC Vista Foundation is pleased to offer financial assistance to the children of UMCV who want to attend in 2017. The children of active UMCV members are eligible. The Foundation will pay half of the early-bird registration fee, regardless of when the child is registered for camp. To receive this scholarship, first register the child on-line at the Cal-Pac Camp website. Pay the \$25 registration fee to secure their enrollment. Print a copy of the enrollment confirmation and put it in the Foundation mailbox in the Church Office. The Foundation will make payment directly to the Cal-Pac Camp office in your child’s name. Questions? Ask any Foundation board member or call Gary Lamb, Foundation President, 760.598.1915.

**Academic Scholarships:** If you are an active member of UMC Vista or the family member of an active UMC Vista member, you may be eligible for one of our academic scholarships for the 2017/2018 school year. If you are planning to attend an accredited college, trade school or other training program, we encourage and welcome you to apply. Applications must be completed by the student and are available on the church website and in the church office. The UMC Vista Foundation will receive completed application packets through May 31, 2017. They will be reviewed at our June 2017 regular meeting. Applicants may be invited to an interview. Questions? Ask any Foundation board member or call Gary Lamb, Foundation President, 760.598.1915.

## Student Ministry News (Beckie Henselmeier)

- This Easter, join the journey of the Easter Story through an interactive, worshipful, and family-friendly opportunity to walk with Jesus! Stations include: Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, the jail cell of Barabbas, the Roman soldier at Jesus’ cross, and the Road to Emmaus. Tours are self-guided and take approximately 50 minutes. Connect with the Easter story in a whole new way that is accessible for the entire family. Contact Beckie Henselmeier or Deb Forbis for more information.
- Mark your calendar: Maker’s Fun Factory VBS 2017 is scheduled for July 24 - 28, 2017 from 6 - 8 pm daily. Registration will begin Holy Week! If you’re interested in volunteering, please contact Beckie Henselmeier.

## A special thanks

Our Youth Group visited the Museum of Tolerance on March 19. After several months in study around power, culture, and justice, the youth concluded their study with a visit. Our youth also composed cards of support and compassion for the staff at the MOT. We are grateful for the help and support of the congregation that enables us to minister to these students with grace and compassion.

## United Methodist on contemporary issues

“The United Methodist Church has a long history of concern for social justice. Its members have often taken forthright positions on controversial issues involving Christian principles. Early Methodists expressed their opposition to the slave trade, to smuggling, and to the cruel treatment of prisoners.” “The Social Principles, while not to be considered church law, are a prayerful and thoughtful effort on the part of General Conference to speak to the human issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation as historically demonstrated in UM traditions.” (Book of Discipline, 2016, page 105)

Our Social Principles are broken into six sections and address many issues of our modern world. The six sections are: The Natural World, The Nurturing Community, The Social Community, The Economic Community, The Political Community, and the World Community.

Our statement (in part) on *Poverty* from the Economic Community: In spite of general affluence in the industrialized nations, the majority of persons in the world live in poverty. In order to provide basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, education, health care, and other necessities, ways must be found to share more equitably the resources of the world. Increasing technology, when accompanied by exploitative economic practices, impoverishes many persons and makes poverty self-perpetuating. Poverty due to natural catastrophes and environmental changes is growing and needs attention and support. Conflicts and war impoverish the population on all sides, and an important way to support the poor will be to work for peaceful solutions.... Poverty most often has systemic causes, and therefore we do not hold poor people morally responsible for their economic state.

## Shrove Tuesday celebrated at IHOP

Sixty-seven people attended Shrove Tuesday (Feb. 28) at IHOP, eating pancakes, etc.! The last 13 years, Janet Hughes and Sara Baldwin have been hosting this event, greeting and fellowshiping with fellow church members. The past three years, IHOP has donated 15% of the checks back to UMC Vista. These proceeds go to World Hunger. Thanks to all of those who participated!

-Sara Baldwin

## Happy “April” Birthdays

*Felix Fernandez (1)*

*Don Diegelman (5)*

*Glady Baird, Mary Ann Gallagher, Ko Kim (6)*

*Mal Blakeslee, Jimmie Smith (7)*

*Joan Lindegren (11)*

*James Hill (12)*

*Lorelei Clarke, Edward McGinn (14)*

*Susan Kronoff (15)*

*Evelyn Lawson (16)*

*Bill Rockwell (18)*

*Connor Flanagan (20)*

*Lauri Arrowsmith (21)*

*Heidi Kendall (22)*

*Alison Mathias, Katie Newman (23)*

*Lynne Slavinski (24)*

*Tom Johnston, Michael Murray (28)*

*Daniel Gubaton, Yolanda Gubaton (30)*

*Note: If your birthday is not listed, please call Paula at the church office.*

### Why I joined the Reconciling Ministries Community

*Reconciling Ministries is a national ecumenical organization recognizing the full inclusion of all people in God's kingdom. Within our Vista UMC is a small group of folks that have come together to learn more about how to advocate for inclusion of all people in our church. We have begun this process of learning, and some of our team will be sharing periodically. We hope that you will prayerfully participate in this conversation and share your thoughts with us. UMC Vista is NOT an official member of the Reconciling Ministries Movement, only our small group. We welcome your questions and concerns.*

I am a supporter of our Reconciling Ministry Community. I am also a gay man. I worry about children and youth who are questioning their sexuality, being turned off, discouraged or feeling bullied by their church, their families, their peers, insisting they have no worth. Without education, love and respect for and from all persons, it can leave children, youth and adults, too, feeling depressed, unwanted and even suicidal or worse. I also want us to provide good models and a safe environment for others of the LGBTQ&I where all can study, question and learn from each other. Church is very important to me and being accepted and respected is one of the reasons I am part of this community. These feelings are important to all persons no matter who or what their place in life. Our Reconciling Ministries Community can help lead us into that place of love and acceptance that is freely given to us and all people by God and Christ. -Gary Lamb

### Family Game Night in May

Please note that Family Game night will be on May 12 at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. (Dark in April.) Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship. For questions or for more information, please see Suzanne McMurchie.

## Heartfelt Thanks

Dear UMC Vista Foundation members,

On behalf of our staff, and members of our congregation, we thank you and the UMC Vista Foundation for your financial support enabling us to participate in the CPR/AED/First Aid Training courses.

I am certain I express the sentiments of all who attended that we now feel more knowledgeable and prepared to meet health emergencies. This course provided us with information and skills to use in an emergency prior to trained professionals arriving on the scene.

The training we experienced included excellent presentations by certified instructors. Also included were video enactments, demonstrations, and hands on training.

Again, we thank you for his opportunity. We feel we are better prepared for emergency situations at our church, home and community.

Blessings,

Dakota Koenig, Chair, Staff-Parish Relations

Thanks to all who helped by bringing food and toiletries and giving cash for our Vista Teen Outreach drive. Your generosity made a difference in the lives of some of our 2,443 homeless students in the Vista Unified School District. You are a very generous and caring congregation.

Pat Rose

### Yamaha Grand Piano

A glossy black Yamaha S-400 B Grand Piano has a new home in our sanctuary. The piano is a gift from Alice Robeson and her family in loving memory of Ross Robeson - husband, father and grandfather. It is a foot longer in size than the Samick baby grand piano which has been moved to the chapel. The larger size and hand-crafted workmanship of this Yamaha Grand features a finely tuned action, singing tone and full sounding bass. Special thanks to Pastor Frank Hallock for handling the many details involved in arranging for the moving and placement of the pianos.

-Carol Graham

### Need a helping hand?

If you need a Helping Hand around the house...some chore that needs doing, something hauled off, put up or taken down...please call or email Vic Johnston, 760.941.9149 or vicjohnston11@yahoo.com. There may be jobs he doesn't feel can be done by volunteers, and he will let you know that too; but please ask!

And the charge? There is none! It's a service and ministry for folks in our church. Now if you would like to make a donation to the church to your favorite budget item, you would be welcome to do so...up to you!

And if you are a handy person who might like to help in this ministry, please give Vic a call and let him know you are interested. Working together we can help each other.

-Evangelism Committee

## United Methodist Women's Corner

- The Circles will meet on Tuesday, April 4: Esther Circle will meet at the home of Marlene Philippi at 1511 Saran Court in Oceanside at 10:30 am. Ruth Circle will meet at Coco's Restaurant in Vista at 9:30 am. Kenworthy Circle meets at 1:30 pm in room 203.
- The UMW leadership meeting is April 18 at 10 am in Fellowship Hall.

### Nursery/Child Care Attendant position

If you are interested in a position as a Nursery/Child Care Attendant, applications, requirements and the job description are available in the church office. We are also interested in applicants that would serve as substitutes as well. Applicants must be 18 years or older. You may contact Dakota Koenig, Staff Parish, or Beckie Henselmeier, Director of Family Ministries for details.

**Easter Egg Hunt!** The story of the Easter Egg is a fun and meaningful way to explain the Christ story to children. We will be having an Easter Egg Hunt between services (about 10:10 after Sunday School). Volunteers needed to stuff eggs on April 11 at 2 pm.; be watchers during the hunt itself; extra bodies to serve in full classrooms; second service for children's activities (30 minutes); refreshments for the Hospitality table. We also need candy and/or small prizes that will fit into eggs. Signup sheets and container for candy/prizes will be in the Narthex. Together we can make this a fun event for all.

## Pray together for...

Family of Dick Frizzell, Family of Jojo Bustamante, Loretta Pierce, Maggie/Giorgio Graziano, Barbara Baldrige, Ed Christensen, Bob Hickman, Joan Lindegren, Ron Bradshaw, Joan Brainerd, Joan Bearss, Nancy Koski, Carol Yunt, Randie Annin, Russ Townsend, Alice Leclair

### Stay connected

E-mail: [umcvista@umcvista.org](mailto:umcvista@umcvista.org)

Website: [www.umcvista.org](http://www.umcvista.org)

Facebook: United Methodist Church of Vista

Be sure to check us out on Yelp!

**Support Operation HOPE-Vista's** 14th Annual Dinner and Auction on April 1 from 4:00 to 7:30 pm at the Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum (2040 N. Santa Fe Avenue in Vista). Cost is \$55 at the door. Doors open at 4 pm, dinner at 5 pm. Call Sharon Hall, 760.726.0442 for more information.

**Email Directory coming!** Please check your email information on the list on the Name Badge table in the Narthex. If you have any changes or wish to add another email, please do so on the blank sheet on the table. Everything okay? Please initial so we know you have seen it. You have until the end of March to make corrections. For more info, or if you don't want your email listed, please call Paula or Barbara, 760.726.0442.

United Methodist Church of Vista  
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Phone: (760) 726-0442  
Web: [www.umcvista.org](http://www.umcvista.org)  
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Sunday School 9:00 am  
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