

# The Vistoso Voice

## Weekly

Friday, January 29, 2021

### ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Since the current health situation has led us to cancel our Annual Meeting, this page in the *Vistoso Voice Weekly* will communicate what would have been some of the 2020 highlights. In addition, our Annual Report, which contains a summary of the past year as well as comments on the year ahead for most of our ministries, will be available on Sunday.

#### Finance Committee

The two items of greatest interest with respect to church finances are typically: 1) Was giving adequate to meet the budget? 2) Were expenses under budget?

The answer to both questions is an unqualified yes. Because the newsletter is posted on the web, we won't give specific numbers, but we are very grateful to our congregation for their continued strong giving—even during this time of decreased attendance. In addition, the church's heart for ministry was very apparent as a result of your exceptional *designated giving* to ministries outside of our budget—primarily missions and benevolence.



**John Bechard**  
Finance Officer

#### Property Committee

The routine care for our building and grounds continued without pause during 2020 along with two out of the ordinary projects. First, the Property Committee took on the



**Darwin Thonton**  
Property Officer

responsibility for providing additional safety items, such as masks and sanitizer. They also completely sanitize the entire building by means of a chemical fogger before and after each Sunday service.

Second, we are in the early stages of working with an architect to see if we can make better use of our patio spaces in view of the day when our full congregation can again gather and enjoy our post-service fellowship.

#### Missions Committee

The Committee has a number of things to report.

First, thanks to our congregation's ongoing commitment to missions, we were able to make every obligation we took on in 2020. That means that we were able to faithfully provide the full amount of monthly support to 14 missionaries and even add a 15th toward the end of the year. We were also blessed to be able to make our quarterly distributions to the variety of missions enterprises we support.

Further, generous giving to missions through the year allowed us to make an additional disbursement to all of our missionaries at the close of the year. This was a great blessing to them, as many had significant shortfalls or unexpected expenses due the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lastly, your generous Christmas Missions Offering has allowed us to start 2021 with full monthly



**Mike Galyen**  
Missions Chair

support for each of our missionaries—even increasing amounts for those who have added needs.

#### Deacons

Deacon focus changed in two very special ways during 2020. First, our lessened ability to see and interact with the congregation led the deacons to begin a phone contact ministry to check on our congregation's general well-being and any special needs.

Second, because we have been blessed by relatively few needs within the congregation, your generous ongoing Benevolent support has allowed us to provide a significant amount of support to meet critical food needs outside our congregation, particularly in NW Tucson.

#### Communications

Since the shutdown, our communications team has continued to provide our standard printed materials—daily devotionals, books, and Bible Study materials. The Audio/Visual team, however, deserves special mention. They stepped up the day after the shut down with support for streaming of daily Bible studies, services, and even the recording of virtual choir numbers. Throughout 2020, the team worked to upgrade equipment, train new volunteers, and improve skills, so that the Word of God continues to go out from VCC despite the pandemic.



**Bill Studt**  
Deacon Chair



**Regina Bechard**  
AV Coord.



## OUR HOPE IS ALWAYS IN THE LORD!

Peter and I are now teaching, and streaming, Bible lessons at 10 am weekday mornings. If you listen to the messages—both Sundays and during the week—you will know exactly where our minds and hearts are focused. You will see there is no shadow of turning with us, for we are committed to preaching the Word of God in season and out of season.

In the meantime, the COVID yoyo continues. The Federal and state governments are doing their own things, and all kinds of alarmist links and materials are being circulated. Now you know why we have increased the amount of teaching, as the truth is the only way we are going to get through this.

**Streaming at 10:00 am and available all week!**

**Tuesday:** Revelation 1-3—*Letters to the Seven Churches*

**Wednesday and Thursday:** Refresh My Heart — *New Testament Lessons*

**Friday:** *The Christian Life—Advancing to Maturity*

**Sunday:** Worship Service

So, we will keep teaching, and I am simply asking you to be extra careful. To that end we have limited our in-church gatherings to Sunday and Tuesday mornings. I do recommend you join us via streaming for these times for your own safety. But, if your spiritual and emotional well-being are best served by joining us in person—you are welcome to do so.

After implementing these precautions, I was immediately chided for my lack of faith. There is a certain humor to be found in such chastisement, as the complaining individual was not currently gathering with us. I ride my motorcycle to and from church every day. I have to have some measure of

faith just to ride a motorcycle in Tucson! Nonetheless, I try not to ride my motorcycle in the rain, or when the temperature drops below freezing. I don't think of this change as a lack of faith, but one of wisdom.

So let's put these two together. As a church of mostly older individuals, we need to keep our focus on spiritual things while at the same time being as wise as we can be. Our current service schedule simply reflects my best understanding of how to do that.

In fact, I would go so far as to encourage you to make use of curbside pick-up at the grocery store and pick up the more effective n95 or k95 masks. We have already had some in our fellowship get the first round of vaccine, and we can surely keep our focus for the short term while vaccination continues.

Before I get another scolding—my hope is not in the vaccine, my hope is in the Lord. I am not personally worried about getting COVID-19:

**For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain.**

Philippians 1:21

Rather, I am worried about all of you. No shepherd takes injury to the sheep lightly. And so continuing with Paul's line of reasoning in Philippians Chapter 1, it is my fervent hope that the Lord would allow us as a church fellowship to continue our *progress and joy in the faith*, and no matter what comes our way that we *would conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ*.



Praying for you, Kevin

## INFORMATION CHANNELS UP ON WEBSITE

This week we improved website access to information on our current ministries. All the standard links to past lessons and materials remain while the new design provides four information channels:

- **Start Here** for new visitors.
- **Sermons** for quick access to our current series in Hebrews
- **Bible Studies** with links to all of our ongoing studies
- **Missions** with a link to the current missionary video

When we can return to a regular schedule, we will add an information channel for music as well.



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