



Dove Tales

Vol. XXXI, Issue 7
May 2020

"Increasing Love for God and Neighbor by Going Deeper, Reaching Farther, Transforming Lives"





Rev. George

Wow!! It is amazing how quickly life can change. Who would have thought that our very way of being could be so upended? Even as I write this article, our way forward, the impact upon our church, the way we will be the church are still being discussed.

As people of faith, we may wonder and we will surely hear "How can you believe in a God in the midst of something like this pandemic?" "Where is God in the midst of this all that is happening? Why is God allowing this to happen?" These questions, and even doubts, may continue. Here is what I know for sure. God has promised to be with us in and through the community that seeks to love each other. God is in the acts that show compassion and concern. That in the midst of crisis, we discover the best of who God created us to be, as we bring encouragement, help and support to each other.

It is when people see us, as the church, living from these relationships, showing our care and concern for each other, living by the commandments we have received, that people will see the light that shines from the hill, or the light from the lamp on the lampstand. In these acts of compassion and love, people will see the glory of God through the people of God who live their faith in God. God never promised the easy road, in fact we are called to take up the crosses of life daily and show that God still brings resurrection and new life. That renewed life will come. We are indeed an Easter people, and it is in this we experience and share hope.

Pastor George



Family Promise

FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE - A BIG THANK YOU....to all the volunteers and drivers who have helped make this ministry a success. The following is a note to Dove from Kathy Kaplan, FP Program Director at the Glendale FP Center - Good Morning Friends of Family Promise. *It is with a grateful heart that I write this note of appreciation for your continued support. Never in my wildest dreams did I think that we would find ourselves in this situation, but here we are. And thankfully we are here together! Your generosity in partnering with us is nothing short of miraculous. The meals you so lovingly craft and deliver provide not only sustenance but encourage a sense of normalcy. Our families are breaking bread together, sharing their feelings, supporting each other and I am happy to say that everyone is well and looking forward to better days. Please know that we hold each of you in our hearts, and with abiding gratitude we are storming heaven with prayers ... and the earth with kindness! Where Love Abounds ... Miracles Happen ... and there can be no doubt that you are our miracle makers.*

Blessings & Grace, Kathy & Kristina



Finance Committee

Finance Committee Update:

Roof Repair Fund - Thank you to everyone who contributed to the special request for funds towards roof repairs earlier this year. The generous contributions received have resulted in a total of \$19,910.72 collected to date. The total cost of the repair was \$26,500, therefore, any additional contributions would certainly be appreciated to replenish the remaining difference that was funded through other designated funds that were required to be used due to this unexpected expense. Any additional roof contributions can be sent to the church office or made online through the Dove website with "Roof Repairs" in the memo line.

COVID-19 Impact - Many of you may be wondering how Dove is doing during these challenging times from a financial perspective due to the impact of COVID-19. Through the month of March, Dove's year-to-date expenses and income were essentially even and aligned closely to our budget expectations.

As we move forward into potentially more challenging times as the impact of COVID-19 sustains longer-term, we are monitoring overall giving trends and making adjustments to controllable expenses where possible. We have been fortunate that Dove is blessed with prayerful and cheerful givers in which many have adjusted to online or electronic giving through the Dove website, while others continue to send checks directly to the office. We hope this trend of financial support for your church will continue during these physically distanced times while the hard-working Dove staff continues to adjust and adapt in leading us in ministry and maintaining church operations in slightly different ways. Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do in your financial support to the important ministries of Dove. Please stay safe, stay healthy, and stay connected.



April - As I prepared to write the article for the April newsletter, so many different thoughts were running through my mind. I want to run a few of those thoughts by you in this month's article.... Joyce and I had planned a "trip of a lifetime," or so we thought, two years ago. It was a bucket list trip. We would fly to Dubai, UAE and spend several days there and in the surrounding area before boarding a cruise ship with stops in the surrounding country of Oman, and then to Aqaba, Jordan where we would then visit the ancient city of Petra and then go through the Suez Canal. From there on to Greece for a couple of ports and end with visits in Naples and Rome, Italy. Sounds like a wonderful trip or at least we thought. Many of our friends are saying that you are crazy if you take this trip at this time. Trying to be prudent I checked with the cruise line, trip insurance company and airline only to find that if we cancel our trip we lose all that we expended on the trip because a "Pandemic" is not covered and is no reason for a cancelation.

The other day, I headed over to Arrowhead hospital to visit a church member who had been in the hospital for many days. All the doors leading into the hospital were locked with a sign stating, "You must enter through the front doors of the hospital." Upon entry everyone is screened for the Coronavirus before being allowed to enter. This was another sign of the times. So thought number one, "Will I be numbed by fear of something that might or might not be worse than the flu?" "Will my precautions against catching the virus be enough?" At a previous staff meeting I stated that I am scheduled to lead worship on Good Friday as I will return home on Maundy Thursday afternoon. But then I said "That is if we are not quarantined." You see, we are all "walking with uncertainties."

Our Bishop has sent the churches of our Annual Conference a list of things we should do to help prevent the spread of any virus. **I believe it would be prudent to follow the list of suggestions around the church. But the question arises, "Am I to be paralyzed by everything going on around me?" My answer to that shouldn't surprise you, "No, I refuse to succumb to fear." I know that God is present with me at all times and that I need to remember the words of the Apostle Paul who said, "I can do all things through Him that strengthens me." I might add also, that protects me... Yes, we are to be careful at a time like this but we should go on and lead our lives not in fear, but knowing that our Lord walks with us...**

Update: Guess what? We are home with you all, we never left on vacation and I refer you to the above paragraph that is in **Bold Print**.

Shalom,
Louie

MAY - As most of you already know "Prayer Is My Thing." I believe that daily communication with God is a most important thing, especially during times when we feel uncertain about things, as during a time of a Pandemic. Each day I am blessed to have the opportunity to send out a daily prayer chain to those who have asked to be on it. During this time I also have been given the opportunity to offer up a daily devotion on our church's Phone Prayer Line (602) 375-7729). But, I don't only send out the Prayer Chain, I pray for and check-up on the folks that are listed.

Our daughter-in-law Sarah sent me a Facebook post that I would like to share with you. It began by saying, "Someone has said that **if Christians really understood the full extent of the power we have available through prayer, we might be speechless.**" Wow! That is a most powerful statement that I ask you to consider. During WWII there was an advisor to Winston Churchill who organized a group of people who dropped whatever they were doing everyday at a prescribed hour for one minute to collectively pray for the safety of England, its people and peace.

During these days of Pandemic I have been telephoning members of Dove of the Desert (if I haven't reached you yet I am working my way through our directory) to check on them and make sure they are well. At the conclusion of my call I ask if I could pray for them. As of this writing I have only been turned down once. I think this proves that most of us believe that prayer is an important thing. In the post sent to me by my daughter-in-law that I mentioned, it was suggested that every evening at 8:00 pm we would stop what we are doing and spend just One Minute praying for the safety of the United States. I know that our Daily Prayer Chain receivers are doing this already at a time of their choice but what I am asking here is if **ALL who read my article this month will set aside One Minute at 8:00 pm** to lift up our Dove Family and your own family. Be in prayer for our healthcare workers, our elected officials and those who are making decisions concerning this Pandemic. Of course we need also to lift up those who are ill and the families and friends who have lost a loved one to Covid-19.

Dear Ones, I thank you in advance for being a Prayer Warrior and look forward to the time when we all can be together again in person as we worship our Risen Lord and Savior.

Shalom,
Louie



For a daily prayer and devotion with Rev. Louie, please dial 602-375-PRAY (602-375-7729).

Please send all prayer requests to Rev. Louie at CarePastor@doveofthedesert.com or 623-238-8455.



First Sunday in June (?)
Food Drive for St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance
Pet Food & Supply Drive

Please deliver directly to the Mission
Justa Center Donations
UMOM Donations



Alzheimer's Resources - Alzheimer's disease is a type of dementia that causes problems with memory, thinking and behavior. Symptoms usually develop slowly and get worse over time, becoming severe enough to interfere with daily tasks.

Dove's library now has excellent Alzheimer's resource materials that have been carefully organized and placed in binders for anyone to access. If you, a family member or a friend needs information about Alzheimer's, please feel free to visit Dove's library (Room 4) and check them out.

The Alzheimer's Association's website is also a valuable tool and lists dementia/Alzheimer's warning signs and symptoms, risk factors, treatments and much, much more. Please check alz.org or call 24/7 help line 1.800.272.3900.

Anita Burnett, Coordinator - 623. 581.2732



Thank you Church family for the lovely cards, emails, phone calls, texts, and Prayers with your kind and loving words during this time, as my father Red Melton has gone to be with his Lord.
Dee May

Dove of the Desert UMC
7201 W. Beardsley Road, Glendale, AZ 85308

Rev. Dr. George Cushman, Sr Pastor
SrPastor@doveofthedesert.com

Rev. Louie Lyon
Minister of Pastoral Care and Visitation
CarePastor@doveofthedesert.com or 623.238.8455

Director of Music:
GregRamsey@doveofthedesert.com

Choral Director: Lovita Christianson
Choirs@doveofthedesert.com

Bell Choirs Director: Brent Fike bfike2@cox.net

Children & Family Director: Jan Ramsey
SundaySchool@doveofthedesert.com

Nursery Childcare Coordinator: Susan Duncan
susan@visualizerset.com

Dove Tales Editor: Colleen Centner
4dovetalesumc@gmail.com

Office Manager: Robin Lemkuil
DoveAdmin@doveofthedesert.com

Administrative Assistant:
MartiBetts@doveofthedesert.com

Phone: 623.572.7334, Fax: 623.572.8973
www.doveofthedesert.com
www.facebook.com/doveofthedesert
Twitter: @DoveUMC

Dove Tales is a monthly publication of Dove of the Desert United Methodist Church. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit all items submitted for publication.





Fellowship Opportunities

We will let you know when Fellowship Opportunities Resume



The **LUNCH BUNCH** meets the 1st Thursday of each month for good food and fellowship. Please call: 623.931.4283 for reservations or information. Newcomers are always welcome!



DOVE MEN'S BREAKFAST meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month for a time of devotion, prayer, and fellowship.

Dove Men, including Fathers & Grandfathers, Sons & Grandsons, age 13 and up, are invited to come and bring a friend. A great way to make some new friends!



PRIME TIME LIVE! is the Dove of the Desert adult fellowship group and includes all Dove adults: married, single, young and young at heart. We meet the 3rd Friday of each month at a member's home and enjoy the evening together with food, fun and Christian fellowship. The host supplies a main course, attendees bring sides and dessert. Everyone is welcome to the party!



PRAYER SHAWL GROUP meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 9:00 - 10:00 am in Room 7. The group knits

or crochets shawls, baby blankets, lap blankets, prayer squares, and other items to be given to Dove members and others in need of comfort. For information, please call **Mimi Griffiths** at 602.762.6709 or at mimig7852@gmail.com. New people welcome! Please join us.

OTHER FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
Many other opportunities exist for fellowship at Dove, including Adult Sunday School classes, Tuesday Talks, Women's Bible Studies, and Dove's musical groups including Celebration Singers, Dove Notes, Folk Group, and the Bell Choirs, plus many more. Please check the weekly Announcements included with the Sunday Bulletin, as well as the calendar that you can find on the Dove website. Please join in the wonderful fellowship!

Special Prayers

Condolences to:

- Sidney, Madonna, and Sidney Michael Thomas on the death of Sidney's brother, Stanley
- Family & friends of Maxine O'Dell
- George Davis on the death of his brother, Joel
- Fred & Sandy Kriess and family on the death of Sandy's mother, Margaret
- Ron & Jan Bender on the death of her sister, Carole
- Family & Friends of Faith Griffiths
- Dee May and family on the death of her father, Red Melton
- Jean LaMore on the death of her father, Charles Boole
- Shannon Sanders & Michal Peckham on the death of their cousin, James Michael O'Brien
- Jim & Kathie Wright on the death of their sister-in-law, Ruby
- Evelyn DeMont and family on the death of her husband, Tony

For May:

- First UMC, Phoenix
- First UMC, Sun City
- First UMC, Yuma





30th Anniversary

Over a year ago, a steering committee was formed to plan and administer a celebration of Dove’s 30th Anniversary. That committee includes Rebecca Curless, Sandy Dorland, Peggy Burt, and Barbara Fike. With many meetings involving many people from all committees in the church, we have celebrated the family of Dove of the Desert UMC for 6 months. May we share at least 30 more years! #Dove is Love!

30th Anniversary Events September 2019 – April 2020



September 21, 2019, we celebrated our first worship gathering on Sept. 19, 1989 with a Birthday Party. There were games, and music, and cake, and everyone had a good time. Groups in the church had donated baskets and items for a silent auction, and we raised over \$2000. Special thanks to Peggy Burt and Kathryn Fike and Andrew Capper.

On October 26 we celebrated with the community with a Fall Funfest. Everyone enjoyed the dunk tank, bouncy houses, games, and food. Special thanks to Patti White, Joy Gladden, Kathryn Fike, Keith and Peggy Burt, and Dee May.

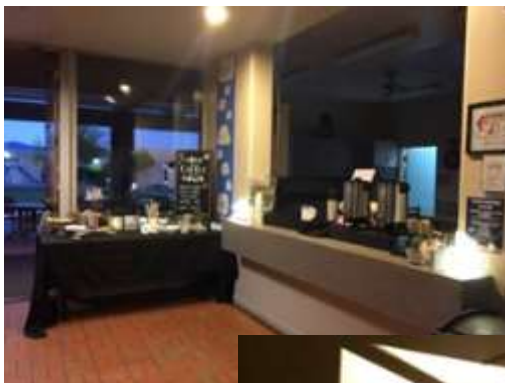


November 10 & 17 saw a continuation of the bean soup sale and a reintroduction of a craft sale that raised another \$2000 for the church while helping everyone with their holiday shopping.

On Christmas Eve, 2019, everyone was able to take home their very own Dove ornament, thanks to Debi Ports and the Craft group.



The Narthex was transformed into an intimate coffee house on January 25 in a revival of a Coffee House tradition at Dove, with a new twist thanks to Kate Smith (and family) and the music and hospitality committees, especially Greg Ramsey, Lovita Christianson and Dee May. Attendees enjoyed coffee and pastries while listening to truly unique acts. Ginger Worden and Tom Griggs were emcees par excellence, and who will soon forget the sight of Pastor Louie on a stick horse?





30th Anniversary Cont...

Clearly the Holy Spirit was present at Dove on Saturday, February 22, in the renewal of vows and celebration of love and family. It was an amazing, heart-warming, and fun evening for all who were there. The 30th Anniversary committee wants to thank the MANY people who made it happen: the creative vision in design and decoration from Kate Smith and Kathryn Fike (not to mention their beautiful song!); Liz Pierotti's organization of the dinner, Liz and Brent Fike's music; Rev. George and Nancy Cushman's beautiful ceremony; Sandy Dorland and Doreen Borgmann for the cupcakes; Jane Oswald and Amaya Burkhart for decorating the cupcakes; Altar Arts for flowers and wall hangings; Dave Dorland for running the sound and making it possible for Barb to have music for the dance (and Bryan Fike for teaching her how to use Spotify!); Dion Loughry for loaning Kathryn a camera at the last minute to take the official pictures; plus all of these and others who pitched in to set up and tear down. (Special thanks to Brent and Joe, who put a lot of muscle behind their renewal of vows to Barb and Liz!) It takes a village, and Dove is a great one! #Dove is Love!



March 21 was planned to be a family movie night, introducing our new popcorn popper, but the date has been postponed to sometime this summer, hopefully.

Palm Sunday, April 5 was intended to be our grand finale with a congregation-wide membership vow renewal, because we were constituted and officially recognized as a local church in the Desert Southwest Conference on Palm Sunday, April 8, 1990. We will still have the membership vow renewal and final celebration, hopefully in May or June. When that happens, we will ask everyone to stand as the year they joined Dove is read, and when everyone is standing, we will repeat the vows of membership. If you're not sure when you joined, check the booklet hanging off the timeline in the sanctuary, or ask Marti in the church office.



30,000 Hours of Caring – With donations to the roof fund and people making masks and donating them and many more acts of compassion and love for our church and our community, Dove reached its admittedly ambitious goal by logging 32,012 on April 27, with more still coming in. We did it!



Dove of the Desert

United Methodist Church
7201 W. Beardsley Road
Glendale, AZ 85308

Return Service Requested

Sending May Blessings to:



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