



Dove of the Desert

Dove Tales

Vol. XXXII Issue 5
March 2021

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



Happy
St. Patrick's
Day





I want to share with you an experience I had a while back (well, at least pre-pandemic). I hope it is an encouragement to you. It shifted something in my spirit, for which I will always be grateful. As we enter into Spring, ideas around renewal, freshness, and life begin to break through as we watch our yards, gardens, and parks begin to bloom and buzz again. This story reminds me of Spring because of how it breathed such new breath into my life at the time.

Here's a quick spoiler alert: sometimes you agree to do something to help a friend, and it turns out you were the one being helped the whole time through it. God seems to show up in some of the wildest ways sometimes.

--
Before the pandemic hit, Thursdays were usually reserved for research or reflection/sermon writing for me. It's never the most exciting day, but it almost always serves as a day that I come away from having been mentally and spiritually challenged, as well as drained.

But it's never something I'd really write to tell anyone about. It's the behind the curtain work of pastoral preparation that you don't really share.

However, there is one Thursday that will stay in my heart and mind. It was brilliant and it's something I have to share with you!

After throwing together 1200 words on the spirituality of ecology (it's as exciting as it sounds) I drove up to North Phoenix. I had been invited by a new friend, Alex, to come and speak for a scouting troop that he established in 2011. Unlike any other scouting group I was familiar with, this one was made up of girls and boys who ranged from three years old to seventeen. And almost every one of them was an international refugee.

Alex asked me to come and share my experiences as an American Christian pastor. It was a small piece in a larger series that he designed to introduce different faith leaders to the group. The idea was to share stories, hear different perspectives, and allow the group to ask any types of questions they'd like to about world views, religious perspectives, or even tattoos (apparently).

I arrived and was immediately escorted into a room where I was the minority, with each scout introducing themselves; their name, their country of origin, and their faith heritage.

It was crazy beautiful.

And so I shared my little story about the life and faith of a white guy from America, the whole time bored with my own story and eager to hear theirs. I tried to integrate their experiences with the overall human experience, reminding them of the universe's need for each of their stories. If nothing else I was hoping something I said reminded them that their value was immense, no matter what another person might say to the contrary.

Q and A time came, and after the questions about my tattoos, I was again blown away by the insight and raw honesty of the questions the children and teens asked.

They asked about what I thought of their religions (I loved them), and about how my faith tells me to care for people (there are no boundaries I told them, but my heart was most with folks who feel like they are on the outside looking in). They asked why so many who say they are Christians don't seem to like Jesus (that one was tougher to answer). I told them my lived Christianity was not for everyone, and that they would encounter people who used the same title that I do, but teach about classifying and discriminating against people, all while treating people who were most like them better than others.

I don't think they needed me to tell them that part.



We talked about love, grace, Jesus, anger, hunger, racism, jealousy, and popcorn. As I listened, I could hear from the voices of youth lives lived much harder than I had known at their age. I saw in their words and actions a strength I had not expected, and I saw their bond with one another was something special, something holy. I didn't realize it then, but God had sent me to church that night. I continued my conversation with them, all with a growing realization in the back of my head that I was seeing something that God was pulling the curtain back on; the future seeks God just like our generations, and the generations before us, and the generations before them.

It was the quickest 90 minutes I've had in a long, long time. At the end of the discussion time, the group broke up, went into the next room and shared snacks and jokes and laughter. They offered me a chocolate donut and some chocolate milk; an act of great discernment and hospitality that I eagerly accepted. My friend Alex walked me out to my car where I think I thanked him four or five times for the opportunity.

I doubt any of them remember my name, let alone what I said to them about anything. If they do, I hope they heard that I loved them, their stories and their faiths, and that I saw each of them as sisters and brothers: Muslim, Baha'i, Sikh, Christian, some amalgamation of them, or none of the above.

I know that my soul was stretched last night, more than any article or book I had read earlier that day. I was reminded that I am a speck in an enormous story that's unfolding all around me, and I need a greater imagination of what the Divine might be doing. God placed me in the presence of eager, curious, loving souls that evening. I was reminded by the Divine that I must reject the philosophies of fear and hatred that some of my contemporaries spin as acts of security and safety. I was convicted that I must be a part of a better way so that these next generations of humanity have a wider lane towards peace and unity than what we are offering now.

Thank you again to Alex and the Paradise Shadows Scouts, you were a gift to me that night. You helped me see God in a new way.

For us here at Dove of the Desert, I pray that God tunes our hearts and minds like this, to see what more is in front of us. There is still a need for the church, there is still a place for the church, but we must be able to stretch ourselves to what God may be doing next. Thankfully, we have each other, and we will continue on this path of ours with joy and faithfulness as we seek to fulfill the joy of God together.



An Irish Prayer

May God give you...
For every storm, a rainbow,
For every tear, a smile,
For every care, a promise,
And a blessing in each trial.
For every problem life sends,
A faithful friend to share,
For every sigh, a sweet song,
And an answer for each prayer.

PointOfGrace.net



Pastor Louie



In conversations with Dove members and friends on the telephone I hear over and over how they miss seeing and being in conversation with their sisters and brothers in Christ who they regularly saw each Sunday or at church meetings. I have others tell me that they wish they were more in contact with what was happening at their church. We all are keenly aware of the events of the past year that has dramatically changed our lives. It seems that with the slower than hoped for vaccine rollout it will take longer to get back to normal than we had hoped for.

I, as I am sure you are, am grateful to know that our Lord is still present and by our side. The question is, have we stopped to speak with God to ask directions, or if we have, have we waited to listen? Dear Ones, I have learned through the years that God speaks to us through His Holy Spirit. That Holy Spirit comes to us by way of nudges, circumstances and words that come from the voices of those around us. Dove of the Desert is a community, it is a family for many and what I am hearing is that folks do not like to be separated from their family.

Well, I have an opportunity for those of you that have felt apart from your family, those who have not been connected but want to be. I am thinking as I write this of three ways you can bring yourself back to the family and feel apart of a caring community. Late each afternoon I send out a Church Email Prayer Chain to 104 email addresses that have asked for the Prayer Chain to come into their homes. This gives those receiving, an opportunity to be in support of a brother or sister in Christ that is in immediate need of prayer. You know, through the years I have had folks tell me that they don't need to attend church as they can watch a church service on the television (pre-Covid-19 time). My comment to them was, "Yes, you can, but what happens when you need prayer or support during a difficult time? Will the TV church be there supporting you?" I am one that believes that "Prayer Changes Things."

I am grateful to each and every one of my Dove sisters and brothers who are lifting others up each day in prayer. I can tell you that they "feel close" to their church family when they are lifting them up in prayer even though they aren't in a church building.

That face-to-face time you are missing on a Sunday morning by not attending in person worship can be taken care of any Sunday morning between 10:30 & 11:00 a.m. when we come together to share with one another via Zoom. There is no agenda, just conversations amongst friends. It does feel good to see one another and talk to each other. I want to invite you to consider being part of that Fellowship any Sunday you feel like joining us. The third way I mentioned about know how to keep in contact and know what is going on is by paying attention to the emails our church sends out to you each week sharing about opportunities that are there for **YOU** to be involved in something.

What all of this leads to is this...**It's up to YOU** if you would like to become part of the family again during our Covid-19 time. Just send me an email to Carepastor@doveofthedesert.com and let me know that you would like to be added either to the daily email prayer chain list or to receive an invitation to join us on Zoom for Sunday Fellowship...I have no question that if you decide to partake in any of these three modes, you will once again feel closer to your church family and will be blessed at the same time.

Shalom,

Louie



Board of Church and Society



The Conference Task Force on Economic Inequality will be holding a Zoom presentation on Economic Inequality and Education on March 4, 7:00-8:30 pm. We will be discussing questions such as: How does funding affect learning opportunities for schools? What resources could create a more equitable learning environment? What do we know about the funding of students with disabilities? What policies or legislative action should we be aware of? Panelists will include Sen. Christine Marsh (LD28). Register for the event at: <https://dscumc.org/blog/2021/01/15/economic-inequality-education-event/>



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! *(Currently not meeting)*



DOVE MEN'S BREAKFAST meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month for a time of devotion, prayer, and fellowship. Please join them at **8:00 am** on **Saturday, March 13** via Zoom! Please R.S.V.P. to Louie Lyon, 623.238.8455 or e-mail address: CarePastor@doveofthedesert.com and he will send you the Zoom information you will need to join the event. Don't forget to have your coffee and breakfast ready along with your Bible!!



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. *(Currently not meeting.)*



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY meets the 2nd and 4th 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.

(Currently working on projects from home).

OTHER FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Many other opportunities exist for fellowship at Dove, including Adult Sunday School classes, Women's Bible Studies, and Dove's musical groups including Celebration Singers, Dove Notes, Folk Group, and the Bell Choirs, Prime Time Live! plus many more. Please check the calendar found on the Dove website.



Special Prayers



Condolences to:

Tim & Micayla Baldwin & family on the death of her grandmother, Jackie Sconie

Joyce Griggs & family on the death of her brother-in-law, Ron Griggs

Ed Opstein on the death of his sister, Dawn

Dorothy Tipton & family on the death of her sister, Katie Patton

Family & friends of John McQueen

Family & friends of Stan Hembury

The Krebs Family on the death of Jill's uncle, Daniel Ellenberger

The Pierotti Family on the death of Joe's father, Reno Pierotti

For these churches:

City Square UMF, Phoenix
Community Church of Buckeye
Dove of the Desert UMC, Glendale

Finance



We're off and running!! 2021 is off to a good start with the month of January posting income higher than expenses by slightly more than \$7,000. Overall for the month of January, our income was about \$53,000 vs. expenses of \$46,000. This was a good start to the year in comparison to our anticipated budget and a positive trend we hope to continue. Thank you all for being faithful in your financial gifts and prayers as the wonderful people of Dove that you are. Your support is making a difference in the mission and ministry that your church is able to offer within the local community.

Have a question about Dove's finances? Interested in making a special financial gift to the church? Or would you just like to know more about the Finance Committee? Contact Finance Chair Rick Tesman at ricktesman@gmail.com with any questions. Thank you.

Prayer Line

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

Missions

Please deliver directly to the Mission
Donations for St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance
Pet Food & Supplies to Animal Shelters
Justa Center Donations
UMOM Donations

Valentine's Day at Dove

Valentine's Day at Dove was filled with love for our community!

Dove's ministries, Evangelism, M.O.R.E., Hospitality and Dove's Pet Ministry came together to host and volunteer at our Fill the Shelves (food and pet supply donation drive.) Donations go to Arizona Hope for Hunger, our local Glendale food bank, and Animal Rescue Friends. Thank you for your donations!



Zoom Groups



Come to the “M.O.R.E.” (message, online, reflect and engage) discussion group, as we go deeper into the message. We gather Sundays from 11 am to 12 pm on Zoom. Email mkburt2@att.net (Peggy Burt) for the Zoom link. **Thursday Morning Women’s Bible Study** ~ meets weekly on Zoom. We have a time of fellowship from 9:30 to 10 am, study begins at 10 am to 11 am. Join us as we dive into timely, relevant, scripture, based book studies. Contact Nannette Carr nannetecarr@gmail.com, 602-621-1665 for zoom link.

Care Ministry



NEW CARE MINISTRY TEAM CO-CHAIRS

Effective February 1, Richard and Doreen Borgmann assumed the Co-Chairmanship of the Care Ministry Team. Don and Velma Trotter will remain active with the team, training the Borgmanns and heading up some of the activities.

By way of introduction, Richard is a native Phoenician, though he lived in several other states and in Europe throughout his education and working career. He is presently retired from several careers, including ministry, hospital administration, and legal videography. He volunteers with the Heard Museum and Duet, operates the PowerPoint for Dove, and he enjoys anything to do with railroads and airplanes.

Doreen was born in Michigan but grew up in rural Mississippi and worked in New Orleans prior to meeting and marrying Richard. They lived in California, Mississippi, and Louisiana prior to moving to Arizona. Doreen is retired after 40 years as a court reporter. She also volunteers with the Heard Museum, has volunteered with Duet, and is active at Dove as a greeter, reader, Pet Ministry, Prayer Shawl group, Crafts Group, and recently Co-chaired the Annual Crafts Bazaar held in November. She also enjoys cooking, reading, crocheting, painting, and gardening.

Richard and Doreen are excited about this new venture and look forward to growing into this position with the assistance of Don and Velma.

The contact number for Care Ministry Team is 602-859-0136.

Rose Garden



News from the Rose Garden

New plants are coming in and being planted in small groups. Be on the look out for beautiful roses blooming soon. We hope they will give you peace, joy and hope for the future.

By the time all the roses have been planted there will be 43 new bushes. Each one given in love.

Goodbye...



To my Dove Family,

I have made the difficult decision to sell my home and move to Minnesota to be closer to family. The isolation of this last year made me realize how important it is to be near the ones you love. I shall miss Dove and my wonderful friends, but I take with me the priceless memories of being a member of the most compassionate church. I know I will find another church, but none can compare to Dove. I hope you will share in my joy and excitement for this new adventure for me. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors, being the hands and feet of our precious Lord.

Blessings,
Kathi Upham

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

Rev. David Wasson, 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

Youth Director: Greg Ramsey gr@gopiano.com

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



Dove of the Desert

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

Return Service Requested

Sending March Blessings to:



1 John 5:7

In This Issue

St Patrick's Day (March 17).....	1	Finance.....	5
Pastor Dave.....	2	Prayer Line/Monthly Missions.....	6
Pastor Dave (cont'd).....	3	Valentine's Day at Dove.....	6
Pastor Louie.....	4	Zoom Groups.....	7
Board of Church & Society.....	4	Care Ministry.....	7
Fellowship Opportunities.....	5	Rose Garden.....	7
Special Prayers.....	5	Goodbye.....	7
		Contact Information.....	7

