

Dove Tales

Vol. XXXIII Issue 1
November 2021

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



November

Give thanks to the Lord because he is good.
God’s faithful love lasts forever!
Psalms 136 CEB

Dove Calendar



- | | |
|------------|--|
| 6 | Church Workday |
| 7,14,21,28 | Worship Services:
8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 am |
| 11 | Veteran’s Day |
| 12 | <i>Dove Tales Deadline</i> |
| 13 | Craft Bazaar |
| 18 | Charge/Church Conference |
| 21 | Blessing of the Pets |
| 25 | Thanksgiving |
| 28 | Family Promise week begins |



A few years ago, a friend of mine sent a last-minute email to myself and a couple other pastors. He was giving a sermon that weekend and was hoping we would come over to his place the next morning to hear a draft of it and give some notes. He flattered me, and floored me a bit. This pastor was a well-respected communicator and the author of two books. He gave public presentations all the time.

Why would a competent, confident, speaker and author need feedback? Why would someone like him need to collaborate?

In her book, *The Collaborative Habit*, Twyla Tharp writes,

"People are people. And people are problems. But - and this is a very big but - people who are practiced in collaboration will do better than those who insist on their individuality."

The next morning, we sat on this pastor's back patio with cups of coffee in hand. He presented his sermon aloud to us, as if we were the congregation. He prefaced his sermon by asking for complete truth-telling. He wanted to know what was good and what wasn't.

"Now is the time for changes," he prompted.

The sermon was funny and heartfelt, and powerful. I took some notes of things I'd tweak here and there. The others chimed in.

Painless. I'd dare say we even had a good time with it.

But to him, this was a big deal.

He talked about how, as he wrote the sermon, and even as he was working on other original content as a pastor in an understaffed church, he needed a team. He needed feedback. He needed to collaborate. Not just to make what he was making better, but to know that he wasn't going it alone.

He realized what Twyla wrote and what Jack Johnson sings, "we're better when we're together."

My friend ended up with a (we believe) better sermon, and the relief of knowing that he wasn't standing on stage that weekend alone. Even though he was the one speaking (the rest of us on stage standing behind him would have been an awkward sight), he knew there were others that had his back.

Collaborating isn't easy. Some people love it and some people... don't.

What my friend asked for took vulnerability and courage. When you invite someone into your process, you're giving them a free pass to tell you what they think - something most of us spend our entire lives hoping to avoid.

And yet, what my friend's courage to collaborate reminded me was that if I don't hear the truth, what I'm making can't get any better. And perhaps more importantly, if I don't hear the truth, I can't get any better.

None of this hard work happens without great intentionality, however.

"Collaborators aren't born, they're made. Or, to be more precise, built, a day at a time, through practice, through attention, through discipline, through passion and commitment - and most of all, through habit." - Twyla Tharp, *The Collaborative Habit*

Good creating is about the habit of becoming a better human.

And one way we become better humans is cultivating the habit of inviting others into the process of our creative acts as well as our lives. As we close another giving campaign (Thank you again for being a part of "A Future with Hope"), I invite you to join this community of faith in collaborating together for a future that God blesses.

Throughout this newsletter you'll find events, gatherings, meetings, and opportunities to serve. Like my friend, it may take some vulnerability and courage, but joining us in building God's hope for this community could be the best next step you take in your journey of faith.

Blessings,
Pastor Dave



I know that we all have many things in common. I wouldn't be surprised if one of those things "was looking forward to getting away." Joyce and I sure looked forward to our RV trip to Indiana for the Nomads Annual Meeting and then visiting family. But once we were gone, we "couldn't wait to get home" because there is no place like home. Home is where "everything" is familiar. On my first Sunday back to Dove, I stood before those at worship sharing how unfriendly some of the churches we visited were. Did the congregations at those churches "know" they were unfriendly? I certainly do not think so, but it has led me to ask myself, "How would visitors to Dove of the Desert perceive us?" Would they think we are friendly? Let me explain.

Not one church that we visited asked if there were any visitors nor did they welcome those in attendance to the morning worship service. Once in the pews, we were pretty much ignored. I was wondering if it was just me or if others like being anonymous thus nothing mentioned about visitors. I would like to share why it is important to make visitors and everyone else feel wanted and welcomed at Dove. From 1991-1997 I served Desert Chapel UMC in Apache Junction, AZ. I used to say AJ was the "Snowbird" capitol of the US. During the summer months I would have 120 folks at worship but during the winter months it swelled to 1,200 on a Sunday morning. I always welcomed our guests and let them know they were important to us. After I left that church, the next pastor did not welcome or make a big deal about our visitors. In time, the 1,200 in attendance dropped to between 600-700 per Sunday. You see, visitors can go anywhere they want to worship. If they don't perceive that they are welcome, they will go elsewhere.

Visitors also can become regular attenders when they are in town or move to our community at a later date. So, my friends, when I ask if we are a friendly church, most folks would say, "Yes, Dove is a friendly church." But are we friendly to everyone or just the folks we already know? That is a question to ponder dear ones. I want to challenge you to "become the Friendliest Church in the valley." I know we can do it because we are a caring church who does so much for others to fulfil whatever needs are out there. Your pastors are proud of you and who you are, but I just wanted to put a little reminder out there about welcoming guests and others who we might not already know. Who knows, a new friendship might grow out of that effort. A story here. When I was a schoolteacher and member at Paradise Valley UMC in the late 1970's, I remember going up to someone and asking if they were a visitor because I didn't know them. The man looked at me and said, "No, I am a charter member of this church." I said, I am sorry but with 3 worship services each Sunday I guess I don't know everyone because we worship at different services. Dove is like that too; we have 3 services each Sunday and someone that is at worship at 8:00 am might not know someone that worships at the 11:00 am worship service.

What kind of effort will you make to greet or get to know someone who you don't already know is the question I want to leave with you in this article. We all have a challenge these days because of COVID and the masks we currently wear. It's a good excuse to go up to someone and say, "Excuse me, but because of these masks I don't recognize you." Could that be a conversation starter?

Shalom,
Louie



The Salvation Army

The holidays are fast approaching. Can you believe Thanksgiving and Christmas will soon be here? We sort of missed it last year because of COVID. Each year since 1991 I have rung bells for the Salvation Army at a Red Kettle. It has been a real blessing doing so. Joyce and Louie are looking forward to bell ringing again this year. (We ever rang bells last Christmas season in front of a Walmart). Yes, I am a United Methodist Pastor, but I have been active with the Salvation Army since 1991. For the past several years I have served as the Chairperson for the West Valley Salvation Corps. I tell you this because I want to challenge you to receive the same blessing that Joyce and Louie receive... If you might have an interest in signing up to ring bells at a Red Salvation Army Kettle, let me know. I will put you in contact with someone that can place you at a kettle. If standing at a kettle is not your thing, don't forget that the Salvation Army has Angel Trees. That's an opportunity to provide for a family so they may have a wonderful Christmas season. Yes, Jesus is the reason for the season but for some, the season can be a time of disappointment. Again, give me a call if I can get you involved this holiday season... Bell ringing begins the day after Thanksgiving and runs through December 24.

Pastor Louie

Fall Craft Bazaar



IT'S FALL CRAFT SALE TIME

Our Fall Craft Sale will happen this year on Saturday, November 13 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm on the Church Patio and grass area. We will be serving a lite lunch, tempting you with delicious sweet treats, funny stocking stuffers and an array of gifts for your loved ones. Of course, there will be Bean Soup. It's a tradition at Dove. Proceeds from the sale will go to support the missions of the church, such as our Pet Ministry, Justa Center, Family Promise, and UMOM.

Youth Ministry



Youth Calendar for November

November 7: Youth Event at SKY ZONE TRAMPOLINE PARK 4:15 – 6:00 pm.
SKY ZONE is located at: 9040 W. Larkspur Drive Suite 134, Peoria AZ 623-979-4000.

Must have signed waiver. Sky Socks will be provided. Cost is: \$20 per person.
(If any help is needed for admission to Sky Zone, please contact Greg Ramsey for Scholarship Money Assistance)

November 14: Youth Game Night And Devotional at Dove 5:00 – 6:00 pm.

November 20: Youth Service Project at St. Mary's Food Bank 8:00 - 10:00 am
2831 North 31st Ave., Phoenix, 85009
Must have a signed waiver

Nov 21: Prepare "Thinking of You" cards for those who are Homebound /Bloopers Reel Night & Devotional
At Dove from 5:00 - 6:00 pm.

November 28: No afternoon Youth ~ Please enjoy your Thanksgiving break!

Blessings, Greg Ramsey 623-203-0250. gr@gopiano.com



Many of our Dove Youth partnered with the St. Mary's Food Bank in order to help feed others in need. In the summer the youth were part of a team that boxed meals that fed over 500 families. In September some of our magnificent youth and awesome parents helped to put together 723 boxes to help feed senior citizens in need. We can hardly wait for our next date at St. Mary's Food Bank! By the time you receive this November Dove Tales edition, the youth will have worked again at the Food Bank. On October 16, they continued to share God's Love and Help those in Need by again working at St. Mary's! We are so very thankful for our youth and families!

Many Blessings!

Greg Ramsey, Director of Music and Youth gr@gopiano.com 623-203-0250



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.)*



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 9:00 to 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.



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.)*

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, Folk Group, and the Bell Choir, plus many more. Please check the calendar found on the Dove website.



Special Prayers

Condolences to:

Tiffany Dodge on the death of her uncle,
Herb Duff

Tim Birk and family on the death of his wife,
Nancy

For these churches:

Shepherd of the Hills UMC, Sun City West
Shepherd of the Valley UMC, Phoenix
Spirit of Hope UMC, Peoria

Shepherds



Shepherd program revived...

Do you remember what it was like when you first started coming to Dove and you didn't really know anyone, where things were or what programs may be available?

You can help make new people feel more comfortable. We are reviving our Shepherding program and you can be someone who can serve as a Shepherd for a new member.

As a Shepherd you will help new members feel welcome, introduce them to other Dove members, help them with the campus surroundings and the many opportunities Dove has to offer.

This will take minimal time on your part. The only requirements are attending a brief training session, meeting the new member, and assisting them in becoming a part of the life of the church.

Additional information will be provided at the training meeting. If you are interested in becoming a Shepherd please contact Mike Przybylka at mdprzybylka@gmail.com or 623-680-3596.





Prayer Line

Dove of the Desert

Please send prayer requests to:

Rev. Louie Lyon
CarePastor@doveofthedesert.com

OR
623-238-8455

Missions



Fifth Sunday

Fill the Shelves Food Drive for
Hope for Hunger Food Bank
Pet Food & Supply Drive

On-Going

Justa Center Donations
UMOM Donations

Blessing of the Pets



Join us at Dove of the Desert UMC for our **Blessing of the Pets** on Sunday, November 21, 2021 at 3:00 pm. There will be a short service on the patio, and your pet will be individually blessed and receive a certificate. One of the rescue groups we support will be invited to share information. Dogs must be on a leash and friendly with people and other pets. Cats, rabbits, and other small pets should be kept safe in a carrier.

Please join us for this special day to recognize how important our pets are to us.



Sweet Success



Sweet Success, the diabetes support group, will have the next meeting on Thursday afternoon, November 11 at 2:00 pm. Are you looking forward to the feasting season that was missed last year when you were staying home instead of gathering near or far? But why did so many still gain weight? How can holiday meals this year be simplified, streamlined, and healthier while dealing with possible food shortages, transportation and travel disruptions? Come join the discussion on creative meal planning and celebrating within reason for the upcoming seasons.

This month, again, the support group will have a hybrid meeting. You are free to meet at the church as last month (preferred) or join via zoom. In order to have zoom access, people will have to register prior to the Thursday class. Provide name, phone number and e-mail through the office. Then the link for the meeting will be sent to you. The support group is a covenant group. Personal information shared, especially protected health information, is not shared outside the group. Sharing is an important part of a support group because we learn from each other's experience.

Come join others to learn how to get on track with healthier eating and activity habits in these challenging times. Diane Byler, a registered dietitian, leads the session. One more sessions is planned for the second Tuesday of December. No further sessions are planned for the new year.

Zoom Groups



Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study ~ Steel Magnolias meets weekly on Zoom.

We have a time of fellowship from 9:30 to 10 am, study begins at 10:00 am to 11:00 am. Join us as we dive into timely, relevant, scripture based book studies. The Current study is *1 & 2 Timothy and Titus* by Max Lucado.

If you are interested, please call Nannette Carr at (602) 621-1665 for instructions on how to join the group and be added to the Zoom link.

Smoke Detectors



Trustees want to remind you to check your smoke detectors at home. If they are more than 10 years old, it's time to replace them. If you remove the smoke detector from the wall the manufactured date is printed on the bottom of the unit. When replacing them, replace all of them with the same model. Helping Hands can help you with this task.



Finance



The Finance update this month pertains to the month of September: Dove's year to date income continues to outpace expenses by approximately \$20,000 in which income through September is \$462,246. vs. expenses of \$442,099..Our net operating position continues to be more favorable than planned due to lower operating expenses as Dove's facilities are not fully utilized at the current time while the generous giving of the Dove community remains faithful to planned estimates. We are continually grateful for your financial gifts or talents that enable your church to sustain the important work, mission, and outreach that enables God's love to spread throughout the community and our world. Thank you for all that you do and for your extra consideration towards making a 2022 pledge commitment as part of the Future with Hope stewardship campaign.

Trustees



The October Trustee Work Day Thank you to:

Mary Patterson
Judy Martin
Roger Peckham
Don Trotter
Ron Vanderhoof
Keith Burt

Next work day is November 6..

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Fri.: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

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Dove of the Desert

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Return Service Requested

Sending November Blessings to:



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