

First Edition

NOVEMBER 2017



Our wonderful choir, led by out Choir Director Warren Dennis, gave a wonderful performance on Coming Home Sunday.

- Wesley Student Campus Ministry
- UMOM New Day Center
- Adopt a Family Christmas Gifts
- Child Development Center
- Birdsong annual fundraiser
- Spirit Song United Methodist Church, new church start up
- Habitat for Humanity
- Suzy Foundation
- Banner Desert Hospital Newborn Nursery
- Tempe St. Luke's Hospital Newborn Nursery
- Sunshine Acres Children's Home

Your support of the Stitch in Time boutique has allowed us to donate \$23,670.00 cash and in kind gifts to continue our mission focus.

STITCH IN TIME

Stitch in Time is a group within TFUMC, who loves knitting, crocheting, quilting, sewing, crafting and creating.

We meet monthly for Christian fellowship and focus our talents toward a yearend holiday boutique. The holiday boutique raises funds to support financial needs of our church, community, and United Methodist missions.

Along with handmade items crafted by Stitch in Time members, additional items are gratefully accepted from members of our congregation. 100% of featured boutique items are donated.

In the last five years, these are the missions we have supported:

- Tempe First UMC Capital needs: plumbing repair
- Shower ministry clothing and refrigerator
- Audio Visual, parking lot, pastor refrigerators, custodial extractor and vacuum cleaner, custodial apartment repair, upholstery for office chairs, kitchen carts, 6 foot tables, chairs, table clothes, LED lights, exit lights, exterior mats, parlor carpet and paint, curtains in nursery rooms and landscape assistance.
- Tempe First UMW Cookie Walk,
- Local missions

We thank you!



New Church Members Josh & Scott welcomed on Coming Home Sunday



One of the beautiful quilts that one of the Stitch In time ladies made was auctioned off this year.



Join Rev. Rosemary Anderson on Sunday morning, December 24, at 9:30 a.m. for a service of comfort and hope: A Blue Christmas Worship.

In the midst of all the wonder, joy, and celebration of Christmas, with its carols, parties, decorating, baking, gift giving, and family time, it's easy for us to forget that in our own churches, Sunday school classes, and choirs there is likely to be someone for whom the idea of Christmas joy is not part of the season this year.

Events take place at this time of the year that simply make celebration impossible — illness, sudden death of a loved one, or the burden of caring for a loved one, the loss of a job, oppressive financial difficulties, strained family

relations, divorce or separation.

For some people, Christmas may simply bring up memories of a difficult and troubled past. Perhaps a spouse, child, or parent has been taken away to fight a war. And for some, they have been confronted with their own mortality, having been told that this may be their own last Christmas.

When your life has been turned upside down by these or other circumstances, the last thing you feel like doing is singing with the angels.

But as we Christians tend to do on Sunday morning, we put aside our problems and sufferings, greet our fellow worshipers with a smile, sing Joy to the World, and pretend that all is well, while all the while we may be suffering physically or emotionally. As followers of the risen Lord, how can we be anything else but happy?

The reality is, of course, that in every Sunday morning service, in every choir rehearsal, and at every Christmas Eve candlelight service, there are people who are hurting and in pain, whose lives are in turmoil, and who seek help or answers, even surrounded by our candles, poinsettias, the laughter of children, and the great joy of the Christmas season.

~Dean McIntyre

KYLE

One day, when I was a freshman in high school, I saw a kid from my class walking home from school. His name was Kyle. It looked like he was carrying all of his books. I thought to myself, "Why would anyone bring home all his books on a Friday? He must really be a nerd."

As I was walking, I saw a bunch of kids running toward him. They ran at him, knocking all his books out of his arms and tripping him so he landed in the dirt. His glasses went flying, and I saw them land in the grass about ten feet from him. He looked up and I saw this terrible sadness in his eyes.

My heart went out to him. So, I jogged over to him, and as he crawled around looking for his glasses, I saw a tear in his eye. As I handed him his glasses, I said, "Those guys are jerks. They really should get lives." He looked at me and said, "Hey thanks!" There was a big smile on his face. It was one of those smiles that showed real gratitude. I helped him pick up his books and asked him where he lived. As it turned out, he lived near me, so I asked him why I had never seen him before. He said he had gone to private school before now.

I would have never hung out with a private school kid before. We talked all the way home, and I carried some of his books. He turned out to be a pretty cool kid. I asked him if he wanted to play a little football with my friends. He said yes. We hung out all weekend, and the more I got to know Kyle, the more I liked him, and my friends thought the same of him.

Over the next four years, Kyle and I became best friends. When we were seniors, we began to think about college. Kyle decided on Georgetown, and I was going to Duke. I knew that we would always be friends, that the miles would never be a problem.

Kyle was valedictorian of our class. I teased him all the time about being a nerd. As he started his speech, he cleared his throat, and began. "Graduation is a time to thank those who helped you make it through those tough years. Your parents, your teachers, your siblings, maybe a coach, but mostly your friends. I am here to tell all of you that being a friend to someone is the best gift you can give them. I am going to tell you a story."

I just looked at my friend with disbelief as he told the story of the first day we met. He had planned to kill himself over the weekend. He talked of how he had cleaned out his locker so his Mom wouldn't have to do it later and was carrying his stuff home. He looked hard at me and gave me a little smile. "Thankfully, I was saved. My friend saved me from doing the unspeakable."

I heard the gasp go through the crowd as this handsome, popular boy told us all about his weakest moment. Not until that moment did I realize its depth.

Never underestimate the power of your actions. With one small gesture, you can change a person's life. For better or for worse. God puts us all in each other's lives to impact one another in some way. Look for God in others.

WINNERS OF THE 2017 PET CONTEST

We decided to award 3 entrants.

The cutest puppy went to Princess , owners Geroge & Sallee Anderson.

The best service dog went to Dory, owner Myrtle Glyn. Dory served as her hearing dog for many years.

The best dog was Dillion D Dog, owner Annabel and the Buxton family.

Please read Anabels letter telling us why her dog is the best dog. She is the only entrant that wrote us a long letter



For the pet contest this year I, Annabel K. Buxton, would like to introduce my

good buddy, Dillion D. Dog.

He is a male dog, and often known by the name Dil-Dil. We have no idea how old he is, but we can assume that he is in the 11 to13 year-old range.

This essay contains only three of the thousands of reasons why Dillion should be recognized for his service. To start, Dil-Dil is just the right size for our family.

Dillion also is a tremendous support to our daily lives, and feels like a friend. To finish, our puppy protects us when we need him most.

Dillion is perfect size to fit into our household. Since he is small, we can carry him easily to high places like our bunkbeds.

He can also sit in smaller areas. Conveniently, he perfectly fills the empty spot next to each of us when we sit in our recliners and watch tv. To top it off, Dil-Dil's small size enables him to walk around the house at night without waking Mom, Giles, or I.

Dil-Dil's awesomeness doesn't stop there though! He supports our family

like no other!

He keeps us running whenever we feel down, sick, or have had a bad day. Whenever one of us catches a cold, he always puts his own heath at risk, and snuggles with us until we feel better.

Another reason why Dillion is an amazing dog is that he puts his life on the line for us every day.

Our dog is the best at guarding who comes into, out, or even passes by our house. Giles, and I always keep him practicing this beautiful skill by sneaking around the house and seeing if he can find us.

He has terrified the neighbors, and threatened all the birds, but everyone still loves him.

Although there are many ways to describe the amazing Dillion dog, this essay only features three.

These include his perfect size, his team effort, and his protective side.

I know that there are many other amazing pets, but for us Dillion D. Dog is the top dog.

COOKIE WALK

Get your Christmas goodies at our 41st Annual Holiday Cookie Walk scheduled for Saturday, December 9th from 9am to 11am in Ross Hall.

Thousands of cookies and treats are needed for the sale, so start baking!

Cookies may be made early, frozen and stored in the church freezer. (Be sure to mark your containers: For the Cookie Walk Only).

Plan to drop off cookies in Ross Hall on Friday, December 8, from 9am to noon or bring them on Saturday morning, December 9.

Proceeds will benefit local missions. For questions, contact Carmina Loreda (carminaloreda@gmail.com or 480-215-3893).



WHERE DO WE COME FROM

A little girl asked her mother, "Where did people come from?"

Her mother answered, "God made Adam and Eve and they had children and that's how all mankind was made." A couple of days later she asked her father the same question.

The father answered, "Many years ago there were monkeys, which the human race evolved from."

The confused little girl returned to her mother and said, "Mommy, how is it possible that you told me that we were created by God, and Daddy said we came from monkeys?"

The mother answered, "Well, dear, it is very simple. I told you about my side of the family and your father told you about his."

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday, November 21, 2017
7 p.m.

Valley Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
6400 West Del Rio Street
Chandler, AZ 85226

Come and join with all the World
Faiths of Tempe, as we celebrate
an attitude of gratitude.



THE CONTEST

One day a group of scientists got together and decided that man had come a long way and no longer needed God.

So they picked one scientist to go and tell Him that they were done with Him.

The scientist walked up to God and said, "God, we've decided that we no longer need You. We're to the point that we can clone people and do many miraculous things, so why don't You just go on and get lost."

God listened very patiently and kindly to the man.

After the scientist was done talking, God said, "Very well, how about this? Let's say we have a man-making contest?"

To which the scientist replied, "Okay, great!"

But God added, "Now, we're going to do this just like I did

back in the old days with Adam."

The scientist said, "Sure, no problem," and bent down and grabbed himself a handful of dirt.

God looked at him and said, "No, no, no! You go get your own dirt!"

Volunteers Needed

There is an urgent need for volunteers in the AV/Sound Booth! People are needed to help put together the powerpoint screens each Sunday, run the slides on Sunday morning, and, adjust for the sound and lighting needs. This is the job for you if you are seeking to serve an important need in the church and have a couple of hours a month!! See Michael Hitt or Steve Smith, or call the church office! 480-967-3376



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PASTORS

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