

LUMINARY

October 2017

The Rev. Canon Timothy M. Dombek



Feel The Connection... Not Just a Slogan

It has been a year since my arrival as your priest at Advent Episcopal Church. My, how quickly those weeks and months have passed. One of the great pleasures of serving as a parish priest—one of the major joys that I missed over nine years!—has been getting to know you all by name, connecting personally with a congregation again. The relationships that form the basis of parish ministry are the heart and soul of what it means to be a priest—to be among you, with you, for you, to baptize, preach to, teach, bless, and cajole you; to celebrate the sacraments together. *The life of the parish community is based in relationships.* All of us have a part in nurturing relationships with others in our parish community. Far too often, however, we unintentionally fail in this.



Timothy M. Dombek

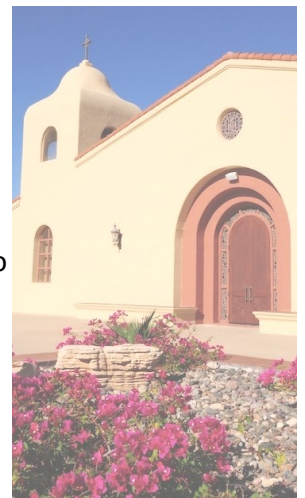
Within the frantic pace of daily life, we can easily forget others, forget neighbors in need. So many distractions draw our thoughts away. At times, people feel forgotten by their church, or worse. This benign neglect happens in most parishes of 150 or more members, and sometimes even in smaller family sized churches. People want and need to feel connected to their church, and by that relationship feel the love of God. “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them,” says Jesus (Matthew 18:20).

At Advent Episcopal Church, your leadership, both clergy and lay, seek to create ways to foster deeper relationships, and to find multiple ways to help keep our members feeling connected, regardless of how their life circumstances may have altered their church participation. First, our ministries themselves provide a sense of community, and those ministries are making more intentional steps to adding brief scripture reflection and prayer to their regular meetings, if they haven’t been doing it already. For years, our wonderful Parish Visitor program has kept track of and cared for people who for one reason or another need a check-in from the church—they also send birthday and anniversary cards to all church members. TeleCare is a new ministry closely related to the already good work of the Parish Visitors.

TeleCare volunteers will call member households regularly to check in with them and ask if they have any prayer requests that the church can offer up for them. TeleCare is often described as a phone call of love. Soon we seek to add to our Sunday liturgies the sending out of Eucharistic visitors. They will take communion to those who can no longer come on Sunday because of illness or condition—a vital relationship link to Advent.

Did you realize that over sixty of our households are those who have lost a spouse to death and now live alone? In addition to keeping up with them through Parish Visitors or TeleCare, *Walking The Mourners Path* provides an opportunity for members to “transform their grief into joyful living,” through a limited series of facilitated workshops. Of all places, the parish community must be a place of support and strength for those living with grief, living alone.

Even our recently revamped coffee hour—now known as “Food and Fellowship”—provides such good choices, and many healthful choices, that many of our folks could make a Sunday lunch of it, and we hope that they do! Food and fellowship time presents a perfect opportunity for sitting with one another and getting to know one another. Each one of us can do one small thing each week to welcome a visitor, or to connect with another member—a friend we’ve just met or a friend for years and years.



Continue to next page

The point is: **Make the connection.** Reach out to one another, and fulfill the blessed vision of St. Theresa of Avila:

Christ has no body now but yours.

No hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world.

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.

Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world...

Christ has no body now but yours.

(taken from a song by John Michael Talbot)

At Advent Episcopal Church, “feel the connection” is not just a tag line slogan, but a way of living a baptized life. We invite you to become more involved in feeling that connection yourself, through connecting with others in our activities and ministries. Thank you in advance for your increased involvement and God bless you for all that you do for others at Advent.

Consider ‘Percentage Giving’

“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.” – Malachi 3:10

Again and again the Bible lifts up tithing – giving a tenth of our income – as a benchmark for faithful giving. The prophet Malachi goes so far as to say God promises to rain down abundant blessings upon those who tithe. Yet most Christians fall quite short of tithing, generally giving less than 3 percent to the church.

Why? One reason is that in calculating how much to give, most people use the fixed-rate method. They first take stock of how much *they are able* to give, and then how much *they want* to give. Weighing these two factors, they then decide how much *they will* give.

There’s nothing particularly bad about this method, but it has limitations. While giving folks an offering amount they can live with, the fixed-rate method doesn’t necessarily put them on the path toward tithing.

A better method is percentage giving, that is, determining your offering as a percentage of income. Here’s how: Using a calculator, divide your weekly (or monthly, or yearly) church offering by your total income (salary, SSI, pensions, investment earnings, annuities, etc.) for the same period (week, month or year). Then multiply that figure by 100. This gives you the percentage of your giving. For example, if your weekly offering is \$30 and your average weekly income is \$500, your percentage of giving is 6 percent ($30 \div 500 = 0.06$, then $0.06 \times 100 = 6$).

Can *everyone* afford to tithe? Of course not. Certainly God would not want children to go hungry or be cold so that their parents could tithe to church, but it’s also true that many of us, maybe most of us, could afford to give more. The important thing is to be prayerful about your offering, be as generous as you are able, and keep tithing in mind, perhaps as a goal.

Keeping track of your giving as a percentage of income provides you with information to gauge your offering and perhaps build up to a tithe. You can make it a goal gradually, over time, to increase the percentage until you reach a tithe – 10 percent. One simple way would be to increase your giving by one half of a percentage point or one full percentage point per year.

As Malachi promises, God will bless you richly for your tithing, and not only that, your church will be blessed, too. Switching from fixed-rate giving to percentage giving is a good start.

--Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2017, Rev. Robert Blezard. Used by permission. Pastor Blezard is the content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org and serves as an assistant to the bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA.

ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR AND CONCERT SERIES DATES SET

As summer comes to an end Advent Episcopal Church is gearing up for the start of the Concert Series and the Arts and Craft Fair.

Our annual Arts & Craft Fair is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, Nov. 17th & 18th. Come and visit over 30 vendors who will be displaying their works and offering them for sale, including several new vendors this year with great handmade products.

Last year's popular food vendor is returning, as well, and new this year, a kettle corn vendor—Mike and Sharon's Cactus Corn from the Arizona Diamondback games at Chase Field. Come, see, and enjoy! Support the annual Advent Arts and Crafts Show and its vendors. *We hope to see you there!*

Mark your calendars today on the first Sunday of each month at 3:00 PM. (Note: December is at 4:00pm). The upcoming performances include:

Nov. 5th – 3:00 PM Sonoran Sounds Women's Chorale of the West Valley

Dec. 3rd – **4:00 PM:** "*Holden Evening Prayer*," with the Advent Choir

Feb. 4th – 3:00 PM A musical group – "Sing, Sing"

March 4th – 3:00 PM *The Desert Brass Band* in concert

May 6th – 3:00 PM *The Surprise Pops Band* in concert

The Concert Series schedule has a new entry: our very own Advent church choir! This year the Advent choir will be offering *Holden Evening Prayer*, on December 3, 2017, at 4:00 PM. Named after the tiny village in Washington State where noted musician Marty Haugen composed it, *Holden Evening Prayer* celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. Canon Timothy will officiate. This is a wonderful event to invite your friends and neighbors to attend.

Also in December, plans are in the works to visit some local retirement facilities and sing Christmas carols. Our choir director, Jill will lead the choir and invite members of the congregation to participate. If you haven't gone Christmas caroling in a while, be sure to join us!

Remember to invite your family and friends to the many upcoming events that are planned at Advent Episcopal Church. If it's a community of warmth, acceptance and caring that they seek, they'll need look nowhere else.



If you are the last one to leave the Church, Paine Hall and Kitchen, please make sure the doors are locked . Thank you for your service and keeping Ad-

WHERE IS ADVENT MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.

Proverbs 19:17

Advent certainly leads the way in generosity by supporting various outreach programs in and beyond the surrounding community of Sun City West. Here are the organizations and programs and that benefit from our generosity and members to contact if you'd like to support their efforts.

Through the hard work of ECW and the Men's Club fund raising programs they support the following charities and programs.

Lotions & Potions: supports the homeless veterans and other organizations as designated.

Chris Payne

Happy Hat Hookers & Helping Hands: support the following organizations: Homeless men and women veterans, Soldiers, Salvation Army, Surprise Crisis Center and Police Department, U.M.O.M. homeless shelter, Child First, Phoenix Children's Hospital, MANA (Marines, Army, Navy, Air Force) Bishop Bailey, Hospice of the Valley, Shriners/D of the Nile, Del Webb Hospital, Bylas Indians and the Valley View Community Food Bank. Judy Purdy and Jody Johnson.

Miles of Pennies (M.O.P.) is an Episcopal Diocese program the gives grants that serve the needs of children from kindergarten through high school wherever there is a need. Grace Roumell

Neighbor's Keeper: benefit our neighbors, homeless, Surprise Crisis Center, Surprise Community Outreach. Sharon Navratil

UTO: Is an Episcopal Church ministry that supports the missions of the entire church and the Anglican Communion through daily thanks to God. Arlene Arnold

Prayer Shawls: available to all in Paine Hall at all times for anyone you feel is in need a small donation is requested IF possible. Babs Vaughan & Karen Andrews

Diaper/Undie Drive: distributed to various organizations. Judy Purdy

Soup Kitchen: benefits parish members in need. Judy Purdy

St Mary's Food Bank, Dick Sulley and John Long

Aluminum Can Sales: benefit the Men's Club Outreach fund. Bill Cicola

Lunch & Laughs: benefits parishioners that are caregivers to others but is open to all, Sharon Mather

Annual Rummage Sale: Benefits ECW and Men's Club Outreach. Ann Fletcher

Annual Native American Support and Angel Tree: Judy Laffin, Sharon Navratil & Deacon Debbie. Pat Stewart engages contributions from St. Albin church in Wickenburg.

Be Our Guest: is a new FREE SOUP KITCHEN that will start on October 31st then monthly on the fourth Tuesday, this free lunch is being offered to ALL of our surrounding communities as we focus on those with financial needs at the end of the month, the homeless and those in need of companionship. Come join the effort! Chris Payne.

For more information or how to get involved contact your Outreach Chairpersons;
Deacon Debbie Greenleaf and Sharon Navratil.



Episcopal Church Women

Women's Ministry

Fall has arrived and the ECW monthly Board meetings have resumed after a summer siesta.

At the September 13th meeting the following decisions were reached:

- ♦ To purchase and place a plaque on the Advent Columbarium wall in memory of Paula Bachman.
- ♦ Voted and approved to pay for the repair and overhaul of our commercial kitchen dishwasher at a cost of approximately eight hundred dollars.
- ♦ Agreed to reduce the price of tickets to five dollars for the ECW Meetings/Fellowship events.
- ♦ Tickets to be sold following the ten o'clock service on October 1st and 8th, in Paine Hall or at the Advent Office any morning from Monday thru Thursday for the ECW FALL MEETING /BRUNCH to be held October 12th.
- ♦ Arlene Arnold to act as UTO Chairman filling the vacancy left by Paula Bachman.

Coming Events:

- ♦ October 11, 9:00 A.M. ECW October Board Meeting
- ♦ October 12th, 10:30 A.M. ECW MEETING/BRUNCH/FELLOWSHIP, "Return to the Desert"
- ♦ October 15th, both services FALL UTO INGATHERING

Joyce Rozon, ECW President

Newcomers' News

We hope that everyone had a healthy and happy summer. In August, Advent has welcomed June Stanley to our church community. If you have friends who are searching for a warm and welcoming church family, please invite them to our services and activities – many of our new members were introduced to Advent by their friends. During the past couple of months, we have received visitors from Hawaii, Virginia, and all around Arizona.

The Newcomers' Ministry is planning its next Welcome Newcomers' Gathering on October 15th at 2pm in Paine Hall. All new members who have not attended in the past are invited to join us. During this event you will have an opportunity to meet your clergy, vestry, and ministry leaders and learn a little bit about each of them and their ministries. It is also a chance for us to meet you and learn about your hopes for Advent.

If you are interested in joining the Newcomers' ministry, please contact me – we always welcome assistance with our endeavors.

Pat Carroll

Coming to Advent—Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Advent Episcopal Church on 11/21/2017. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.

In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or Call the Church office to get signed up

OUR TREE OF LIFE

by Nan Wheeler

Looking at the Tree of Life in Paine Hall? What do you see? A lovely charming piece of art or possibly a collection of gracefully engraved names. Well, it is both! We remember those Advent Episcopal church members who acknowledge what God has given us and who wish to confirm their connection with the success and stability of the Church both for current needs and into the future. Specifically, those who have contributed a single amount of \$1000 or more in addition to pledge giving are recognized on a leaf. Some of these are in remembrance of others while others may have been for a special purpose. The rocks around the bottom of the Tree recognize those who have contributed a single amount of \$100,000 or more.

The generosity of our parishioners is boundless. The Tree of Life is one way we can recognize our appreciation for these acts of support and love.

The power and excitement we feel in our spiritual and outreach activities makes this commitment even more important. Momentum can be useful for success only if it is nurtured and maintained. This fall we will see a powerful and delightful presentation of new leaves for our Tree of Life and a renewal of conversation about its part in planning our personal giving for the future. And, if you have any questions please be sure to chat with one of the Major Gift Planning Committee members.

Be on the lookout --

Major Gift Planning Committee: Nan Wheeler, Herb Norton, Pat Finnell, Fr. Timothy Dombek



EXERCISE CLASS CONTINUES IN PAINE HALL

Every Wednesday at 10:30 over 20 people are huffing and puffing their way through an hour-long BALANCE-STRETCH-STRENGTHEN exercise class.

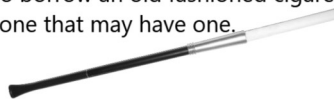
As of OCTOBER 6, we will add a second exercise class. We'll add a little CHAIR YOGA and a bit harder cardio but it will basically the same class content as Wednesday. Donation is \$1 per class. So get your heart moving and your joints stretched out – ***join us either on Wednesday at 10:30 and/or Fridays at 10:45 (starting OCTOBER 6.)*** Tell a friend or bring your neighbor.



Greetings

from the Advent Attic and Rummage Sale committees. **This month** we are looking for gently used, boutique type donations of scarves and jewelry.

We are also looking to borrow an old fashioned cigarette holder from anyone that may have one.



Please leave your donations in the box in the office during the week. Remember us as you clean and de clutter, re-**organize**, re decorate. Our Fashion Show and Rummage **sale are thankful** for your help.





Birthdays of the Month

Tatiana Trailov October 02	Frances Rakestraw October 22
Janet Ward October 02	MJ Schreiner October 22
Zibby Lang October 05	Charles Adams October 23
Karin Williams October 10	Jean Carlson October 23
Patricia Tomlin October 13	Willidean Hirsch October 23
Geoffrey Dibbs October 14	Phyllis Kuykendall October 23
Arlen Madole October 14	Sarah Haskell October 24
Karen Andrews October 15	Warren Sax October 24
Allison Nicolosi October 15	N Robert Carlson October 26
Natalie Whittington October 16	Jonathan Dombek October 26
Barbara Alfvín October 17	Carol Gunderson October 26
Patricia Baltins October 18	Carol Lovdahl October 27
Judith Huffman October 18	Pete Arndt October 29
Fay Brattain October 19	Noel "Bud" Thomas, Jr. October 29
John Erickson October 19	Dermot Keary October 30
Bob McLaren October 20	Mary Jane Ostrom October 31
William Mendonsa, Jr. October 21	June Stanley October 31
Ellen Cromwell-Cecrle October 22	



Welcome our newest Acolytes!



DOK installation of Sue Ralston and Nan Wheeler



40's 50's & 60's

Rock-N-Roll Sock Hop

Saturday October 14, 2017

3:00pm to 6:00pm

In Paine Hall



Staring our very own Reverend
Canon Timothy Dornbek as the DJ

Contact the church office at 623-584-0350 or Dianne

Diaz at 623-734-7180

- Join us for a fun filled afternoon
- Wear your favorite Sock Hop finery or come as you are
- No cost to you just bring a snack to share
- Beverages will be provided

ECW FALL BRUNCH

"RETURN TO THE

DESERT"

Guest Speaker – Pat Kindle

Fellowship ~ Fun ~ Memories

Thursday October 12, 2017

Paine Hall ~ 10:30a.m.

Tickets are \$5.00

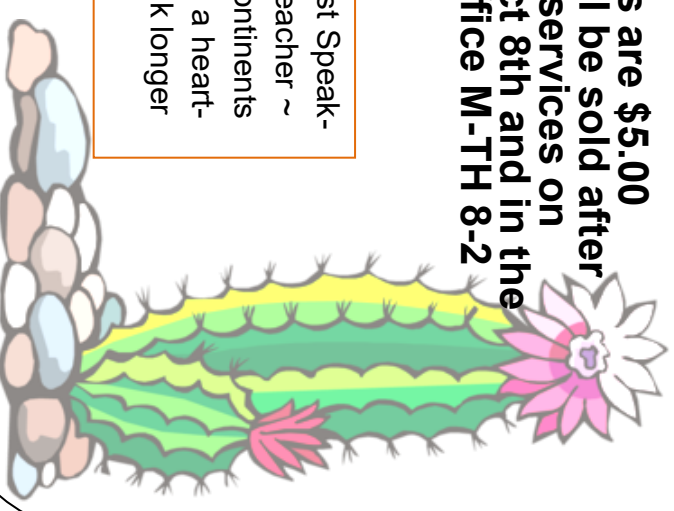
Tickets will be sold after

Church services on

Oct 1st & Oct 8th and in the

Church office M-TH 8-2

Come hear from our Guest Speaker, Pat Kindle. She is a teacher ~ 31 years ~ 2 states ~ 3 continents and she would go back in a heartbeat ~ and she will not talk longer



October 2017

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
1	8:00 AM Holy Eucharist-no music 8:30 AM Choir Practice 9:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study - Paine Hall 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist with Music & Sermon	2	8:30 AM Helping Hands Kitchen & Paine Hall	3	8:00 AM Men's Club Regular Mtg - Paine Hall 9:30 AM WTMP workshop Conf. room & Bereavement room 10:30 AM Marketing Committee Meeting - Conf. Room	4	Altar Guild 9:00 AM Parish Visitors - North Hall 10:30 AM Balance & Strength exercise class 2:00 PM EfM - conference room 5:00 PM Blessing of the Animals Service	5	10:00 AM Al Anon - North Hall 8:00 PM AA Variety Group	6	7:30 AM Win & Lose - Paine Hall 10:45 AM Balance & Strength exercise class 2:30 PM Janiking Cleaning services	7	8:30 AM Altar Guild
8	8:00 AM Holy Eucharist-no music 8:30 AM Choir Practice 9:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study - Paine Hall 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist with Music & Sermon 11:00 AM Appreciative Inquiry Summit - Dreaming God's Dream 11:30 AM Outreach meeting - North Hall	9	8:30 AM Helping Hands Kitchen & Paine Hall	10	9:30 AM WTMP workshop Conf. room & Bereavement room	11	Altar Guild 9:00 AM ECW Board Meeting - North Hall 10:30 AM Balance & Strength exercise class 11:30 AM Setup ECW Brunch - Paine Hall & Kitchen 2:00 PM EfM - conference room 4:00 PM Jesus, scripture and the Twilight Zone study - Paine Hall 5:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Anointing	12	10:00 AM Al Anon - North Hall 10:30 AM ECW Brunch & General Meeting-Paine Hall 11:00 AM Lector Training - Church 1:30 PM Lector Training - Church 8:00 PM AA Variety Group	13	7:30 AM Win & Lose - Paine Hall 10:45 AM Balance & Strength exercise class 2:30 PM Janiking Cleaning services	14	8:30 AM Altar Guild 3:00 PM Homecoming Sock Hop-Paine Hall
15	LUMINARY DEADLINE - adventluminary@cox.net UTO Fall Ingathering 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist-no music 8:30 AM Choir Practice 9:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study - Paine Hall 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist with Music & Sermon 11:30 AM DOK meeting - North Hall 2:00 PM Newcomers gathering	16	8:30 AM Helping Hands Kitchen & Paine Hall 2:00 PM Al Anon - North Hall	17	9:00 AM Men's club social breakfast - Trivoli Gardens 9:30 AM WTMP workshop Conf. room & Bereavement room 5:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Anointing	18	Altar Guild 10:30 AM Balance & Strength exercise class 2:00 PM EfM - conference room 5:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Anointing	19	9:00 AM Finance Committee Conf. Room 10:00 AM Al Anon - North Hall 8:00 PM AA Variety Group	20	7:30 AM Win & Lose - Paine Hall 10:45 AM Balance & Strength exercise class 2:30 PM Janiking Cleaning services	21	8:30 AM Altar Guild 5:00 PM OktoberFest
22	8:00 AM Holy Eucharist-no music 8:30 AM Choir Practice 9:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study - Paine Hall 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist with Music & Sermon 11:30 AM Vestry Meeting - North hall	23	8:30 AM Happy Hat Hookers Kitchen & North Hall 2:00 PM Al Anon - North Hall	24	9:30 AM WTMP workshop Conf. room & Bereavement room	25	Altar Guild 10:30 AM Balance & Strength exercise class 2:00 PM EfM - conference room 4:00 PM Jesus, scripture and the Twilight Zone study - Paine Hall 5:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Anointing	26	10:00 AM Al Anon - North Hall 8:00 PM AA Variety Group	27	7:30 AM Win & Lose - Paine Hall 10:45 AM Balance & Strength exercise class 2:30 PM Janiking Cleaning services	28	8:30 AM Altar Guild 9:00 AM Spiritual Gifts workshop - Paine Hall 3:00 PM Jill Piano Recital - Church & Paine Hall

Return address
Advent Episcopal Church
13150 Spanish Garden Drive
Sun City West, AZ 85375

Church Leadership

The Rt. Rev. Kirk S. Smith, Bishop of Arizona
The Rev. Canon Timothy M. Dombek, Rector
The Rev. Janet Gooltz, Assisting Priest
The Rev. Meg Lewis, Deacon
Sharon Mather, Licensed Lay Pastoral Care Minister
Karin Williams, Licensed Lay Pastoral Care Minister
Carrie Macon, Parish Administrator (623) 584-0350
Jill Tabata, Organist/Music Director
Carrie Macon, Luminary Editor adventluminary@cox.net

Advent Vestry Officers

Dianne Diaz, Senior Warden	623- 734-7180
Harry Roumell, Junior Warden	360-580-9202
Neil Haskell, Treasurer	402-677-9226

Members

Jan Hendrix	785-224-3559
Pat Kindle	623-202-3505
John Long	928-252-6438
Joe Marquis	623-584-4648
Sharon Navratil	623-544-4390
Herb Norton	623-975-6896
Sharon Paine	623-512-2616
Diane Prueher	623-258-9133