



Agape MCC Weekly News

July 1 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed Jul 01:

8:30pm Candlelight Vigil for Chad Gibson @ Rainbow Lounge

Fri Jul 03:

7pm Movie: Call Me Troy @ MCC Greater Dallas

Sun Jul 05:

10:30am Worship

Mon Jul 06:

7pm Chaplains Mtg

Thu Jul 09:

7pm Spirt Road- Bibliodrama

Fri Jul 10:

6pm Samaritan House Supper Club

Sat Jul 11:

8-11:30am Yard Work Volunteers!

pm Mens Fellowship TBA

JUNE STATS-

06/07

Attendance- 102

THE RAINBOW LOUNGE - by Rev. David Wynn

"Love, like truth and beauty, is concrete. Love is not fundamentally a sweet feeling; not, at heart, a matter of sentiment, attachment, or being "drawn toward." Love is active, effective, a matter of making reciprocal and mutually beneficial relation with one's friends and enemies." - Carter Heywood

"Jesus said, "Love your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.' This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' These two commands are pegs; everything in God's Law and the Prophets hangs from them." - Matthew 22:37-40

If you have been following the news at all you will know that this past Sunday on the 40th anniversary of Stonewall, Six Fort Worth Police officers, two agents from the Texas Alcoholic Beverages Commission, and Fort Worth Supervisor were conducting inspections at several Fort Worth bars. The second bar to be inspected was the newly opened gay bar the Rainbow Lounge. During the inspection, several people were arrested and one person, Chad Gibson, was severely injured. He has been hospitalized since then with bleeding on the brain which has now stopped and is clotting, leaving his health still compromised. If you would like to have more complete and up to date information regarding all of the news around this, The Dallas Voice, www.dallasvoice.com has done a remarkable job reporting on the event and reactions and responses that have followed.

As with almost every emotionally charged situation, details have been fluid and sometimes contradictory and are still unfolding. While we would like to have answers right now! It is true that the truth almost always takes some time to surface and what we tend to find is that there are many versions that folks hold to be true. There is nothing quite as unnerving as feeling as though your safety has been compromised, especially in your home. As I have followed the news and had conversations with community leaders, what has become apparent is that there was no intention on the part of the Fort Worth Police to raid a gay bar on the anniversary of Stonewall...I can buy that as that would seem like it would have been a really stupid move...to be frank. Other bars were inspected on that night and folks at those bars were also arrested for public intoxication.

Offering-\$2,362

06/14

Attendance- 115

Offering- \$2,651

06/21

Attendance- 92

Offering- \$1,745

06/28

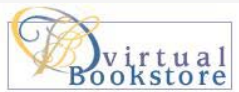
Attendance- 109

Offering- \$1,486

**Monthly Giving Target:
\$11,790**

Need a book? A Bible? A music CD?

Shop Online at Your Agape MCC Bookstore. Save 20% on most items & get 5% back for our church. Link on our Virtual Store Link:



ALTAR GUILD

We need 2 to 3 people to join the altar guild team. This is the team responsible for setting up our altar before service begins on Sunday mornings. Please contact Lisa Davenport or Leigh Wolfer for more information.

GREETERS NEEDED!



A GREETER is a friendly smile, a helpful hand to hold the door, or a steady arm to help someone to the entrance of our worship space.

What is troubling to me is the fact that at the Rainbow Lounge a young man was so severely injured that his life has been and continues to be in jeopardy. There is a lot of speculation on every side but for me...regardless of the stories...the fact is something just seems "off". Were the TABC agents "ramped up" having just come from a bar where nine people were arrested? Maybe, but come on, that does not justify what happened. Were they more aggressive because Chad and the other patrons in the bar were gay? Again, maybe. I'm not sure we will ever know that even with all of the investigations that have been called for and launched...so were does that leave us?

Here's how I answer that for me...Fort Worth is MY home, and every person involved in this situation is my neighbor. Because I trust God, I will not feel unsafe in my home. Jesus calls us to the holiness of community with one another, so in that energy and that calling I offer up my presence, the truth of who I am, and my prayers...prayers for Chad Gibson and his family, for all who are connected to the Rainbow Lounge, for Kathleen Hicks, the City Councilwoman in that district, for the Fort Worth Police Department, the TABC, and for all souls connected in big and small ways to this justice journey. I invite the community of Agape MCC to do the same.

There will be a candlelight vigil for Chad tonight, Wednesday, July 1, at the Rainbow Lounge from 8:30 to 9:30. Please check the Dallas Voice website for details on this and a fund that has been set up to help pay for Chad's health care.

MOVIE @ MCC GREATER DALLAS - JULY 3

Meet the man whose spiritual quest led him on a civil rights journey.

**Movie: Call Me Troy
Friday, July 3rd
7pm at MCCGD**

No charge. Donations welcome.

Profiling the life and times of one of the gay community's most visible and tenacious advocates for change, Rev. Troy Perry. Call Me Troy is a truly inspirational story about a remarkable and dynamic individual whose activism was decades ahead of its time.

Rev. Perry is perhaps best known as the founder of the Metropolitan Community Church - the first church to recognize the spiritual needs of the gay community - but his "firsts" don't stop there. He was the first openly gay person to serve on the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations. In 1969, Perry performed the first public same-sex wedding in the U.S., and in 1970 he filed the first-ever lawsuit seeking legal recognition for same-gender marriages. From presidential advisor to outspoken advocate, Perry has been on the front lines leading the charge for equal rights and protections for gay men and

A GREETER sets the tone for what the community of Agape MCC is - a place where everyone feels the love of God.

We need at least 4-5 new greeters to be the first face and arms people meet at the doors of Agape MCC.

Interested? Contact Tommie Lee Phillips or Linda Schram for more information.

CALLING ALL YARD & GARDEN VOLUNTEERS!

We are looking for 2-3 more volunteers to help water our landscape during the week. If you can spare an hour or two a week to help out, please email Rev. David at revwynn@yahoo.com. Thank you!

SUN. SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED!

If you are available to work with our children one Sunday a month please contact Stacy Jones or Deb Beaulieu.

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Resolve Conflict, LLC

All types of mediation for the GLBT Community- classes too
www.resolveconflictionline.com

lesbians the world over as well as providing a place for all people, gay and straight, to worship side by side. This film celebrates his life and his legacy.

This film has incredible historical footage of the gay rights movement and will help people learn not only about Troy the man but also about the role of MCC in working for GLBT rights while being a spiritual leader.

I highly commend it to you and your people (Not everyone will be going out of town for the 4th so we thought this would be a good time for a movie night!). We will have soft drinks and popcorn available for a donation!

Blessings on the journey,

Rev. Colleen Darraugh
Lead Pastor
MCC of Greater Dallas

LANDSCAPING WORK DAY, SAT JULY 11



We need all your help to clean up the landscape so we can "Grow where we are planted."

What we are going to do:

1. Clean up the labyrinth by weeding and laying in new bricks to hold back the mulch.
2. Trim the bushes and hedges around the church.
3. Weeding the old fashioned way between the flower beds.
4. Remove the poison ivy along the fence.

How you can help:

1. Come and enjoy the fellowship as we take out the week's frustration on the weeds.
2. Come and cheer us on as we bring the labyrinth back to its beauty.

We need: shovels (2), trowels (2) hedge clippers, pruning scissors, garden gloves, plastic bags, a wheel barrel / yard cart to move bricks.

Saturday, July 11 2009, 8:00am - 11:30am

Location : Church Grounds

Contact : Tony P. at 817-902-7613

We'll provide the cold bottled water!

TARRANT CO RAINBOW ROOM BACKPACKS

or call 877-9-2agree

Contact us at:
www.agapemcc.com

817-535-5002

Join Our Mailing List!



Agape has joined forces with the Tarrant County Rainbow Room to provide back to school backpacks for Tarrant County Foster Children. The Rainbow room estimates the need for 700 backpacks and we are hoping Agape will provide 200 of these needed backpacks.

Envelopes are available in our church pews labeled for this ministry outreach. We will be able to purchase the backpacks at wholesale prices once we have the funds collected. Our goal is to order the backpacks Monday August 9. We are requesting a \$5 donation per backpack.

PRAISES!

- For Kathleen Hicks.
- For Freedom.
- For Mike and Tikva.
- For Tina H. and her help with our land.
- For Billy S. and a job well done through faith.
- For Shawn who helps in so many ways.
- For Claudia K. and her healing.
- For our new website.
- For our Pastoral Search Team.
- For those LGBTQI saints who have gone before us.
- For Robert and his leadership.
- \$305 raised on Sunday by Lay Chaplains to provide food for those who need it.

PRAYERS:

- Chad Gibson, critically injured during the raid at the Rainbow Lounge on Sunday.
- Kathleen Hicks the Fort Worth City Councilwoman who represents the district where the Rainbow Lounge is located and who has assured citizens that an investigation will take place.
- Fort Worth City Police Department.
- Mickey and Cynthia B. for health and finances.
- Carol G. dealing with cancer.
- David D. for healing and his upcoming surgery.
- For Agape MCC.
- Dawn D.
- Loretta.
- Fern.
- For everyone traveling.
- For our country as well, celebrate inter-dependence.
- For our service women and men.
- Evelyn B.

- Lisa D. continued healing.
- Mickey H.- continued healing as well as safe travel.

TOWELS FOR ARLINGTON LIFE SHELTER



This note was forwarded to us by a member of our church. It was originally sent by Becky Orander, Executive Director, Arlington Life Shelter (325 W. Division St. Arlington, TX):

"New or used towels and washcloths are needed immediately at the Arlington Life Shelter. The shelter is operating at emergency capacity due to the triple digit temps. Call Arlington Life Shelter at (817) 548-9885 x 2001 if you need more information. Thanks for spreading the word! B"

Can you help? We would ask you to contact the Shelter with your donations immediately or bring towels and washcloths to Agape MCC this Sunday, June 28, and we will get them to the shelter for you. Thanks in advance for your help in this emerging need in one of our communities!

HELPING THE HOMELESS IN TARRANT COUNTY

HRA (Helping Restore Ability) is asking for some help this summer:

The City of Fort Worth and its partner agencies are working to make homelessness a rare, short-term and non-recurring experience in Cowtown by 2018 through the Directions Home program.

HRA case managers assist the client to qualify for housing programs, find housing, sign a lease and obtain all the basic necessities to set-up a household. Clients come with nothing but a few clothes. They need furniture, plates, cleaning supplies, paper goods, towels, bedding, everything. Approximately \$1000 worth of dry goods are needed to fully set-up a new apartment for a homeless client who starts over from scratch.

If you would like to assist, please pick up some of the items listed in this article to help someone start a new life in their new home. Cash donations are also accepted. Bring your donations to Agape MCC and we will gather these for pick-up by HRA staff.

Here are some suggestions for the needed dry goods:

Set of dishes (4 plates/4 bowls/4mugs), set of silverware, set of glasses (4-6), knives, kitchen towels and rags, set of pans, set of

bake ware, mixing bowls, spatula, pancake turner, potato peeler, cooking spoon, can opener, slotted cooking spoon, measuring cups/spoons, grater, set of plastic storage containers w/lids, small coffee maker, small microwave, trash can, paper towels, trash bags, foil, Ziplock baggies, dishrack, potholders, 4 bath towels, 8 washcloths, 2 hand towels, 1 bath mat, 1 shower curtain/hooks, bathtub grippers, trash can, Bed-In-A-Bag, extra sheet set, 1 blanket, alarm clock, bedroom lamp, coat hangers, bed. nightstand, pillows, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo/conditioner, deodorant, multi-pack of soap, package of disposable razors, cleaning supplies, toilet brush, toilet bowl cleaner, multipurpose cleaner, glass cleaner, furniture cleaner, dishwashing soap, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, vacuum cleaner, laundry basket, mop, broom, dust pan, scrub brushes, plunger, first aid kit, antacid, pain reliever, vitamins, cold medicine, small tool kit, TV, DVD/VCR, lamp for living room, monthly bus pass (\$25), clothing (\$ for gift card), flashlight, calendar, accordion file folder, ironing board, couch or loveseat, chair, end table, dinette set.

For more information about HRA, go to <http://www.hratexas.org/index.htm> .

PICK UP THE PHONE...& raise funds for Agape!



Call the Kudlac Insurance Agency at 817-656-0885. Identify yourself as a member or friend of Agape MCC and ask for an insurance quote: home, auto, renters, life, etc.

**Agape MCC will receive a \$25 check
for your inquiry.**

Our Mission- With open hearts, open minds, and open arms, Agape' MCC is a nurturing faith community seeking God's will by celebrating inclusive worship, redefining family, and providing a voice for justice.

Our Core Values- We believe that a sacred space: Welcomes and affirms all people; Does not "stand idly by" in the face of inequity and injustice; Communicates the unconditional love of God for all; Improves the spiritual connections between each person and God as she or he understands God.