



# Agape MCC Weekly News

Aug 12 2009

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Thu Aug 13:**  
7pm Spirit Road-  
Pentecostals: A Personal  
Journey

**Fri Aug 14:**  
6pm Samaritan House Supper  
Club

**Sun Aug 16:**  
10:30am Worship Service

**Mon Aug 17:**  
7pm Board of Directors Mtg

**Thu Aug 20:**  
7pm Spirit Road- Herbal  
Medicine with Terri Nelson

**Sat Aug 22:**  
9:30am North TX State Fair  
Parade in Denton- march with  
WJD

**Sun Aug 23:**  
Meet, Greet & Eat

## AUGUST STATS-

**08/02**

Attendance- 124

Offering-\$3,736

**08/09**

Attendance- 109

Offering-\$3,212

**Monthly Giving Target:**

**\$11,790**

## Spirit Road This Week: Pentecostals



**Spirit Road - Thu, Aug 13**  
**Agape Fellowship Hall**  
**7:00 p.m.**

## Weekly Medation- August 12, 2009

By Rev. Teri Lubbers

### Courage to Change

***Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference. ~ Reinhold Niebuhr***

The serenity prayer is part of a much longer prayer that was written by a German theologian during WW II. I will never forget the first time I heard it. It suddenly struck me how much of my life's energy was spent trying to change things that were completely beyond my control. Like what family I had been born into, whether the people around me would ever be emotionally "safe" for me, whether my children would make good life decisions. I kept wishing people and life were some other way. I wished it for over forty years of my life and allowed my sense of happiness and wholeness to depend on what others did or didn't do.

Where does change start? From acceptance of how things really are - acknowledging reality without denial or drama. To accept something doesn't mean I have to like the way it is, or that things are the way I would like them to be, but it frees me up from spinning in a hamster wheel that never takes me anywhere. Acceptance is the bedrock of change.

### 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:



#### OUR SPONSORS:

Shari Beers

Obrien Real Estate Group

817-996-1631

beershomes@gmail.com

[www.Beers-Homes.com](http://www.Beers-Homes.com)

Bentley A/C and Heating Inc  
817-834-5060

Resolve Conflict, LLC

All types of mediation for the GLBT Community- classes too

[www.resolveconflictionline.com](http://www.resolveconflictionline.com)  
or call 877-9-2agree

### 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.**

Contact us at:

[www.agapemcc.com](http://www.agapemcc.com)

It takes courage to change anything. Every single change in our lives - personal or corporate - means that we are letting go of something and embracing something unknown or unfamiliar. Scary and exhilarating all at once; our lives as living, growing human beings are a series of "first times." The image that comes to mind is how you feel on a roller coaster ride when your car has just reached the crest of the tallest peak. There's no escape. You can wish you were somewhere else or you can lean into it, raise your hands, yell your head off and enjoy the ride!

**Prayer: Teach me today how to accept and how to change. Give me wisdom to know what is mine to do and what I need to leave to someone else. And stay close to me when I feel uncertain. Thank you that you are closer to me than my next breath. Amen.**

### Open Hearts Gift Shop Update



From Trish at the Gift Shop: Agape MCC's Open Hearts Gift Shop is moving in new and exciting directions. We are going on the road. We are selling our wares and sharing information about our church with the community. This effort to raise money is also a great outreach program. Casting our nets on the other side and fishing for the fish that no one sees. Below are the dates and places you can find us:

Sep 12 - Open Door Production

Sep 26 - Best Friends

Oct 03 - Open Door Production

Oct 04 - Stampedes (Parade)

Oct 10 - Pride Picnic

Oct 24 - Best Friends

Nov 21 - Best Friends

Dec 12 - Best Friends

### March in Denton Fair Parade Saturday Aug 22



Would Jesus Discriminate MCCs will march together in the Denton North Texas State Fair Parade on Sat, Aug 22. We will meet up at Denton High School. Harvest MCC will be there early to get a "spot" so everyone else needs to be there by 9:30 AM. Look for people wearing the WJD shirts to find the starting place. Deb B. will have a sign-up sheet at Agape MCC this Sunday so we will know who all will be there.

[Click here](#) to get more parade information.

817-535-5002

Join Our Mailing List!

Join OpenDoor in a night of intrigue, risk taking, and going to a higher ground with

## Erika Lockett & Lisa Ferraro



as "RUBY"

Sat. 9/12

7:30 PM

Heart & Soul  
Coffeeshouse

The Persian poet Jelaluddin Rumi uses the ruby as a symbol of transformation in describing the spiritual process, which transforms us into jewels. This show celebrates Ruby's CD, "On the Way of Love: Songs Inspired by Rumi". Sensual voices, rich and harmonic, blending with guitar sounds, draw the listener into the visuals created from the lyrics.

Proceeds from the event support the artists and the ministries of Agape MCC. *Please join us!*

**Tickets: \$15 in advance / \$20 at the door**

### Praises!

- For everyone who helped make the Mystery Dinner a huge success.
- For the person who donated \$800 to our virtual food pantry.
- For exceeding our goal in providing backpacks for foster kids headed back to school.
- For Tina and Deb and their new adventure as foster parents.
- For all our children.
- For Pat and Janna who saw a need and met it.
- For Candy and Mary who stepped up in ministry.
- For Lisa D. who saw a need and met it.
- For Ray (daddy :-), who saw a need and met it.
- For Stephanie and her new journey here at Agape.
- For this community and our spiritual family.

### Prayers:

- Anna- breathing issues; continued healing
- Betsy
- Healing prayers for Ms. Billie

- For the pastoral search process
- Continued healing for Rudy L.
- For job and finances for Jade and Thomas
- Continued healing for Cassy B.
- Healing for Tim
- Healing for Tyson
- For relationships that are in transition
- Healing for Claudia K.
- For Sherri C.
- For Julie T. as she grieves her father's passing
- For Tim.

---

## Action Alert

### **Tell the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) to Cease Actions Against an LGBT-Affirming Reverend**

Rev. Eric Lee is the President of the Los Angeles chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, a civil rights organization founded by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He has become an outspoken advocate for Marriage Equality, and was particularly visible during protests against California's Proposition 8. The SCLC is now seeking a hearing, demanding that Rev. Lee explain his positions, and the National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC) believes that he is in imminent danger of being fired for his actions in support of marriage equality.

The NBJC asserts that Rev. Lee should be praised and supported for his support of LGBT rights - yet instead, it would seem that he is in danger of disciplinary actions that may include losing his job.

We invite you to take a moment to send the SCLC a message in support of Rev. Lee, his work and his accomplishments by clicking the following link [http://ga4.org/campaign/sclc\\_July09](http://ga4.org/campaign/sclc_July09) .

It is the position of the NBJC that the SCLC should not create an employment environment that gives way to discrimination based on one's personal values and beliefs. The loss of income to Rev. Lee and his family, particularly in these economic times, reflects the daily risk that LGBT people and our straight allies face in demanding equal rights for all.

We ask that you send the Dr. Byron Clay, president of the SCLC a letter in support of Rev. Lee, and call on the SCLC to rise to the occasion of supporting LGBT rights as part of our civil right!

Contact Information for the SCLC

Write to them online at:

<http://sclcnational.org/net/write.aspx?s=2607.0.12.2607>

Thank you for your willingness to add your voice to this action alert.

NBJC

---

## 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.

**If you would like to assist helping set up a new home for homeless individuals, please pick up household dry goods to help someone start a new life in their new home. Cash donations are also accepted. Bring your gifts to Agape MCC and we will gather these for pick-up by HRA staff.**

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

---

## Towels For Arlington Life Shelter



**Bring Us Clean New or Used Towels and Washclothes**

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. Can you help? Bring towels and washcloths to Agape MCC, 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!

**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.