



Agape MCC Weekly News

Sept 9 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thu Sept 10:
7pm Spirit Road- Spirituality
in Colors with Wren Wynn

Fri Sept 11:
5:30 Samaritan House Supper
Club

Sat Sept 12:
7:30pm Open Door Concert-
"Ruby" w Erika Lockett &
Lisa Ferraro

Sun Sept 13:
10:30am Worship Service

Sat Sept 19:
8am-11am Labyrinth
Workday

Sun Sep 20:
10:30am Worship Service
2pm Dallas Pride Parade

Sun Oct 4:
10:30am Worship Service
2pm Tarrant Pride Parade

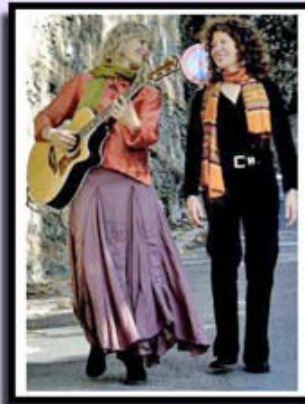
September Statistics:

09/06:
Attendance: 89
Offering: \$1,511

**Need a book? A Bible? A
music CD?**

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 are \\$20 at the door](#)

Weekly Meditation - September 9, 2009

by Rev. Teri Lubbers

You Said "Be"

*I read it here in your very word, in the story of the gestures
with which your hands cupped themselves around our
becoming - limiting, warm. You said "live" out loud, and
"die" you said lightly, and over and over again you said
"be." ~ Rainer Maria Rilke*

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Think of the times that you have cupped your hands around something.

It is a gesture of protection. I can think of all sorts of fire images in which I have held my hands that way: sheltering the flame of a match or a candle from wind that would blow it out, or protecting a timid fire until it starts to burn. I have held fluffy baby chickens and little hamsters in cupped hands, butterflies and moths, and caterpillars from which they come. And the little geckos or spiders which sometimes make their way into the house but need safe escort out again.

I love Rilke's image of God cupping God's hands around our becoming. The hands of the Divine guarding our tentative flames to help them stay lit until they are able to blaze steadily. Cupped hands also shape clay on a spinning potter's wheel. The wheel's momentum is such that even the slightest touch leaves its mark and design in the clay.

God grows us, God shapes us. And with tenderness God speaks these words - Live and Be. A Divine incantation over us, calling us by name, calling us into being.

Prayer: Creator, sometimes I wonder why you have made me the way I am. Cup your hands around me today and may I hear your voice inside me. I love you too. Amen.

Work the Labyrinth, Sat. September 19



Come join us as we have a clean up session in the Labyrinth on **Saturday, Sept 19**. Work from **8am-11am** (before it gets too hot). Bring your work gloves and tools. We will trim, weed and mulch this special area of our church. **Cold bottled water will be provided!**

Applications for Church Positions



Grace and Claudia will staff a table in the church lobby this Sunday to answer questions and distribute applications for the upcoming vacant positions:

4 Board of Directors positions

2 Alternatate Lay Delegate positions

Please talk with them and pick up an application this weekend if you interested in any of these important church positions.

Elections for these offices will be held at our **Annual Congregational Meeting** on **Sunday, Nov 15**.

Upcoming Pride Parades!



The **Dallas Pride Parade** is **Sun., Sept. 20**. All 5 Metroplex MCCs will march with Would Jesus Discriminate (WJD). There are only 80 parade entries so the parade will not be as long as in other years.

The **Tarrant County Pride Parade** will be **Sun., Oct. 4**. Again, all 5 Metroplex MCCs will march as one group with the WJD banners and t-shirts. Put on your walking shoes!

Sunday School Teachers Needed



Agape MCC needs additional teachers for our Children's Sunday School. Teacher plans, materials, and activities are already in place. We ask that teachers lead once every 4 to 8 weeks. If you are interested feel free to observe a Sunday School Class on any Sunday Morning. Just speak with Deb or Tina.

Our Agape kids are awesome, and it can be a special blessing to be part of their spiritual growth experience. Please consider this opportunity prayerfully!

WJD Billboards on Channel 11 News!



DFW's CBS TV affiliate, Channel 11 News, aired a news story last night on the WJD billboards put up by our local MCC churches last week.

The 4 billboards went up on I-30 close to the exits for Six Flags, the new Cowboy Stadium, and Ranger Ballpark. Two are eastbound and two are westbound.

Here's a link to their story:

<http://cbs11tv.com/video/?id=46207@ktvt.dayport.com>

There have been positive and negative reactions to these messages. Whatever reaction you may encounter from someone regarding these billboards remember that we are called to LOVE just as God loves us! Respond with love and appreciation that you have an opportunity to share another perspective on scripture and be an example of God's radically inclusive love. Show the world just how God's love has changed you!

You can find more conversation starters by reading this content on the Metroplex WJD website:

[Jesus Affirms a Gay Couple](#): and [The Early Church Welcomed a](#)

[Gay Man](#) .

May God bless these billboards and our local MCC churches' WJD outreach. May God's spirit speak a word of inclusion and hope to many who see them. May others have cause to reconsider the life and example of Jesus asking themselves "Would Jesus Discriminate?"

Rev. Delores Berry at Agape Oct 25 A.M. Service



Our special guest speaker on Sunday October 25 will be Rev. Delores P. Berry. Rev. Berry is an Evangelist and vocalist in the Metropolitan Community Churches. A former Christian Methodist Episcopal minister, she was ordained by the MCC in 1983. If you haven't heard her preach before, you're in for a treat. To say that she's dynamic is an understatement!

Please join us for this special event. Learn more about Rev. Berry and her ministry at her website:
<http://www.revdeloresberry.com> .

Praises!

- Phone calls and emails from people interested in our church since billboards and news stories came out.
- Billie M.- feeling better and at home after last Friday's hospitalization.
- For all my friends. I appreciate your support in ways you will never know.
- For my church home.

Prayers:

- Tim (a friend's husband) - searching for the right treatment decision for brain tumors.
- Anna R.- still hospitalized but feeling better; for continued healing and coming home soon.
- Kirk W. (Rev. David's cousin)- brain tumors.
- Jennifer N.- for healing, injured in a car accident.
- Lori G.- for healing.
- For those unemployed.
- Lost my car.
- Need meds.
- For those dealing with ending relationships.
- For those needing a place to live.

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.