



Agape' MCC Weekly News

Dec 2 2009

Upcoming Events

Thu Dec 3:

7pm Spirit Road-
Meditation around
Medicine Wheel w Rev.
David Wynn

Sun Dec 6:

10:30am Worship
Service

Mon Dec 7:

7pm Chaplains Mtg

Thu Dec 10:

7pm Spirit Road- Muslim
Religion

Fri Dec 11:

6pm Sam House Supper
Club

Sat Dec 12:

**5pm Christmas
Pageant**

***Potluck Dinner to
follow!***

Mon Dec 14:

7pm Board of Directors
Mtg

Thu Dec 17:

7pm Spiritual Formation
w Rev. Teri Lubbers



Christmas Pageant- Dec 12

The Agape' MCC Christmas Talent Show and Pageant that is! The Pageant starts at 5pm and there will be a Church Potluck to follow.

For more information, please speak to Lisa O'Grady. There is also a sign up sheet in the church lobby.



Weekly Meditation - Dec 2 2009

by Rev. Teri Lubbers

Dropping Keys

The small man builds cages for everyone he knows. While the sage, who has to duck his head when the moon is low, keeps dropping keys all night for the beautiful, rowdy prisoners. ~ Hafiz, The Gift

Cages come in many forms...so do the keys to freedom.

I guess for me one of the biggest cages has to do with my own expectations. As soon as I settle in on how something "ought" to be, I close off some part of my heart. Instead of being open to the flowing, creative guidance of Spirit, I find myself constructing and defending forts that I think will keep me safe, bunkers in which to hunker down and ward off all I don't want in my life.

What a crummy way to live! And I suspect that to the degree I create cages for myself, I simultaneously create them for all who interact with me. How about we just let "whatever is out there come charging in?" (Hafiz)

What if we lived gently with ourselves and everyone around us? What if we held our expectations lightly and were willing to surrender them instead of trying to force them into being? Sometimes what looks like disaster is really a key to freedom.

I'm tired of building cages...I would much rather pick up the key Spirit

Thu Dec 24:
7pm Christmas Eve Service

Nov. Statistics:

11/01:

Attendance: 88
Offering: \$2,848

11/08:

Attendance: 98
Offering: \$3,774

11/15:

Attendance: 110
Offering: \$2,212

11/22:

Attendance: 159
Offering: \$1,959

11/29:

Attendance: 92
Offering: \$957

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:



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[Janna Brown, Master](#)

has just dropped outside my door.

Prayer: God, grant me the courage to leave all the cages of my own making and quit building them for others. Teach me how to get rowdy with all the other beautiful prisoners you have set free. Amen.



Bring a Bear to Church!!

Agape MCC is once again collecting teddy bears for the Warm Place in Fort Worth.

We will start collecting bears in the sanctuary on November 29th and continue **collecting until Christmas Eve** when we will bless the bears and send them on to do their own special ministry for children who have experienced the death of a parent or guardian.

Please bring only new or very gently used teddy bears. For more information contact the church office 817-535-5002 or Rev. Gina at 940-367-6124.



Want a Copy of Last Week's Sermon?

Check the door of the Media Center in the Sanctuary. Shelly will keep a sign up sheet on the door to keep up with your requests!



Tarrant County Food Bank

It is closing in on the holiday season and the Tarrant County Food Bank has asked for our help with their food drive. Non perishable food items are those items that can be stored without refrigeration and can stay on the pantry shelf for an indefinite period of time. These items would include canned foods such as vegetables, soups, fruits and meats; peanut butter, boxed pastas, powdered milk, dried beans, rice, boxed meal helpers and boxed cereal.

Please help us help our community! We will be collecting non-perishable food items through **December 13th**.



Agape' MCC Angel Tree is Here!

Agape' is once again partnering with Child Protective Services to bring holiday cheer to Tarrant County foster children this Christmas season. We have adopted 25 children who's wish lists are now located on the ornaments on the angel tree in the lobby.

If you choose to buy for a child this year, please pick up an information sheet located by the tree; this has information on it about the program and instructions for "packaging" gifts. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Patti Stephens at 817-501-2514 or via e-mail at pattiandleigh@sbcglobal.net.

[Photographer](#)

J3 Photographics

817-657-9882

janna.brown@sbcglobal.net



[Resolve Conflict, LLC](#)

[All types of mediation for the GLBT Community-classes too](#)

www.resolveconflictonline.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

817-535-5002

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Upcoming Would Jesus Discriminate Event

Here an opportunity to participate in our DFW Would Jesus Discriminate Campaign!

SCREENING FOR DFW-WJD DOCUMENTARY

DECEMBER 17
UNT AT RTD BUILDING



A Christmas Celebration! Dec 18

**Mansfield Wind Symphony in Concert with
Tim Zimmerman's King's Brass**

Friday, Dec 18 2009

St. John's Lutheran Church, Mansfield Texas

Dinner served at 6:30 pm

Concert at 7:45 pm

Meal and Concert - \$25 / Concert Only - \$10

Purchase 3 tickets by Dec 7, get the 4th free!

Tickets available at:

www.mwstexas.com

HRA Needs Assistance for Homeless Clients

From Sara Trigg, Program Support Manager at Helping Restore Ability:

- 1) If anyone has old computer, or if anyone is getting a new one and will have an old one in the future, I have several clients who could benefit from having a computer.
- 2) If anyone has old cell phones with chargers, they can be used by folks using Metro PCS regardless of what carrier the phone came from.
- 3) If anyone wants to donate money to a Christmas fund for the HOMES clients, please see Flora or me. If anybody would be willing to request donations from your families, friends, churches etc. that would be so cool. I would like to get our folks a gift card to Wal-Mart and some Christmas decorations (tree). We are putting the children in our HOMES families in the Catholic Charities Christmas Toy program.

Thanks again to all of you for all you have done and continue to do for the people in our homelessness programs. You have exhibited such a spirit of generosity and compassion.

Sara Trigg
Program Support Manager
Helping Restore Ability
817-469-1977

Praises!

- Thanks to Dawn D. - new beautiful banners in sanctuary.
- Thanks to Leigh W. - decorating touches to our church this holiday season.
- Candy D. - great job running the media center last Sunday!

Prayers:

- Aiden R. - tonsillectomy on Friday.
- Shawn M. - continued healing and recovery.
- Maribelle - recovery from surgery.
- For those who have lost loved ones this year - support during this holiday season.
- For those in transition with their relationships.

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.