



Agape' MCC Newsletter

July 14 2010

Upcoming Events

Thu July 15:
7pm Spirit Road: R.A.P. Night

Sun July 18:
10:30am Worship Service

Mon July 19:
7pm Deacons Mtg

Thu July 22:
Spirit Road- R.A.K. Night Out

Fri July 23:
6pm Samaritan House Supper Club

Sun July 25:
10:30am Worship Service
11:45am Meet, Greet and Eat

July Statistics

07/04:
Attendance: 93
Offering: \$1,270

07/11:
Attendance: 95
Offering: \$6,241

07/18:
Attendance:
Offering: \$

07/25:
Attendance:
Offering: \$

Spirit Road

Summer Fun 2010

This Thursday, July 15: R.A.P. Night = Rhythm, Art, Poetry. Share your fave song, play your guitar, work on your art project, read a poem.

The rest of the summer's schedule goes something like this:

1st Thursday

(Aug 5) - **Meditation and Reflection Night** led by Special Guests

2nd Thursday (Aug 12) - **Media Night**...we will show a movie, documentary or TV show with spiritual meaning and discussion to follow (some of these nights may begin earlier or go a little later! We'll let you know)

3rd Thursday (Aug 19) - **R.A.P. Night = Rhythm. Art. Poetry.** Share your fave song, play your guitar, work on your art project, read a poem.

4th Thursday (July 22, Aug 26) - **R.A.K. Night Out - Random Acts of Kindness** ~ meets ~ Sundance Square, Museum exhibit, Starbucks game night ...details to come!



Meditation July 14

by Rev. Teri Lubbers

Blocking Receptivity

I learned that the things I judge are those I couldn't allow myself to have or experience. This is a defense mechanism that comes from fear.

When I block myself from experiencing things, it is the direct opposite of embracing them. Judgment becomes an act of pushing away and blocking receptivity. ~ David Elliott, "The Reluctant Healer"



I never made this connection before. Judgment blocks receptivity and is a defense mechanism, the opposite of embracing. I am still ruminating about it because one of my learning edges has always been around being critical and judgmental. Even if I don't say things out loud, the committee inside my head rarely has a quiet day. I never thought of that as fear of experiencing life. I am still

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thinking on it...

Jesus said, "Judge not that you be not judged, for the measure you give will be the measure you get." That kind of takes your breath away if you really ponder what he is saying. And the quote above carries it a bit further. Not only does what I put out there come back to me, if what I put out there is judgment then it also blocks, hinders, and becomes an obstacle to being receptive to Spirit.

Do I want my life to have joy, happiness, serenity, fulfillment, adventure? Then those are the things I want to be sending forth from my being to others, into the everyday world around me. I sometimes come up with visual images for spiritual things to help me embody them.

Lately I have been imagining my heart as a big open window for light and wind (of Spirit) to move through to touch the world around me. When I can hold that image I experience a sense of opening and connection, a sense of embracing God, others, myself.

Prayer: Spirit, I don't want there to be obstacles between us. Help me release judgmental thoughts and behaviors, and remind me there is nothing to be afraid of. Help me grow in awareness of you today. Amen.

Town Hall Meeting Review

Thank you to all who attended and shared. Here are the items we discussed:

- New Roof, paid for by insurance, is complete and flat roof repaired at no extra charge.
- Reports: Treasurer Reports, Board Meeting Minutes & New Standard Operating Procedures are on the website (Board web page).
- Facility inspection and review is in process. Looking at future repair and space needs.
- Schedule has been completed for our 2010-2011 adult education opportunities. These Spiritual Formation Classes titled "THE JOURNEY" will provide wonderful opportunities to grow in your spiritual walk here at Agape'. Begins September 2010.
- Eli has left the position of Music Director to pursue a law degree. We will not fill the position at this time. We will take 90 days to review the music department at Agape' and form a plan in the fall.
- Time to prepare for Pride Week, see Stacy or email the church if you would like to be on the picnic & parade committee.
- We have a new Recycling program and end of summer concert coming as fundraisers. Watch for details.
- A survey will be coming to you in August. We are looking for your feedback regarding two issues:
 - Agape' Music Department

Contact Us At:

www.agapemcc.com

817-535-5002

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Email any questions to agapemcc@aol.com and your question will be forwarded to the appropriate person. The next TOWN HALL meeting will be in the fall, date to be determined.

New Bubb Fundraising Program

Recycle for Agape'

Bubb Fundraising provides innovative fundraising solutions for non-profit organizations. Bubb's recycling program provides a simple, highly profitable, environmentally friendly on-going fundraiser. Their partners currently recycle over 100 different item types.

Agape' is starting to collect items for a Bubb Fundraising Drive. Click [here](#) to see the items you may donate for the church fundraiser. Any questions? Contact Stacy Jones at:

stacy_j9@yahoo.com.

Pride Week 2010

Set for Oct 3 - Oct 9, 2010

We will be building a float for the Parade this year, as well as getting ready for the Picnic and Parade activities. We are also taking the gift shop to the Pride Festival in Dallas in September this year and will be announcing a gift shop committee meeting soon.

To find out more info about Tarrant Pride Week, go to <http://www.tcgpwa.org/>. If you are interested in working on these teams, contact Stacy Jones at stacy_j9@yahoo.com.



Shaman Class To Be Offered

A Spirit Moon Workshop

Explore personal healing, transformation and empowerment from a shamanic perspective in a small community setting. Learn about the three worlds of the shaman, the healing attributes of the directions on the medicine wheel and the elements of nature, and learn how to integrate shamanic techniques into your spiritual practice and day-to-day life.



**Basic Shamanic Techniques
for Personal Healing and Transformation
Saturday and Sunday, August 7 and 8
from 10am-5pm both days
Meeting Saturday at Agape' MCC, Sunday meeting
TBA
\$75 workshop fee**

This workshop series will be held in Fort Worth at Agape'

MCC. Register by contacting Lynn
(workshops@turtlemedicine.net or 214-868-2049)
or by sending workshop fee via PayPal
(workshops@turtlemedicine.net) by Monday, July 26
Cash and checks are acceptable as well.

**Register by Monday, July 26 to reserve your place in
the workshop.**

Workshop is limited to 12 participants.

A Kind Note from Cleaning Services

From Agape' MCC Cleaning Service

We would gently like to remind you that no food or drinks should be taken into the sanctuary. Please limit eating and drinking to the fellowship hall as we have had some messes in the sanctuary recently that needed extra attention.

Also, we have had some minor plumbing issues due to some over-usage of paper in the restrooms. Please be mindful of how much paper you are putting into the commodes. And, please do not flush paper towels.

Thank you!

Prayers

- For Louise, Donna and Donna's father and family- following the death of Donna's uncle in Houston.
- Josh- full recovery from severe concussion.
- Anna R.- speedy recovery from laryngitis.
- Evelyn B.- relief of neuro symptoms with heat.
- Jennifer N.- mother broke 3 vertebrae while on vacation.

Praises

- The caring and comforting presence of the Deacons who were there for Josh and Denise P. during Josh's hospitalization for head injury.
- For Deacon Grace who stayed with Josh in ICU.
- The beautiful green spaces of Agape' following the quenching rains.
- Mary and partner who mowed our lawns.
- Members and friends who saw the need to weed our gardens. They did some serious weeding while they enjoyed fellowship before worship (our cigarette smokers & pals).
- Our Praise music and the talent and faithfulness of the vocalists/musicians.
- The pleasure of Cody's creative gifts.
- The generosity of our Hospitality Volunteers who minister to us after worship: we meet, greet, laugh, support each other and enjoy refreshments together after worship.

- Thank you Kathy for the wonderful hospitality treats on Sunday.
- Denise who has been the gentle voice of Agape' during the week. She phones us a reminder when we have an important worship assignment on Sunday.
- Evelyn G. who is always willing to serve in greeting, as usher, acolyte, and altar volunteer.
- The presence of some dear Agape' friends: Alice, Lee, and Sherry.

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.