



Agape' MCC Newsletter

September 22 2010

Upcoming Events

Thu September 23:

7pm Spirit Road - on the road @ **1851 Club**, 1851 Division St in Arlington

Fri September 24:

6pm Samaritan House Supper Club

Sun September 26:

Meet, Eat and Greet (after service) - Our guests eat free!

Wed September 29:

6:30pm New Members Class

Thu September 30:

7pm Spirit Road

Sun October 2:

2pm Pride Parade

Wed October 6:

7pm Spiritual Types led by Jenny Cureton, LPC- Part 1

Sun October 10:

Pride Picnic @ Trinity Park

Wed October 20:

7pm Spiritual Types led by Jenny Cureton, LPC- Part 2

Wed November 3:

7pm Benedictine Spirituality led by Rev. Teri Lubbers- Part 1

Spirit Road This Week - Thu Sept 23

Meet Us @ 1851 Club 7 p.m.

We are out into our community this week. Out into the world where folks need to know that there are spiritual communities that are serious about Jesus' teachings that our goal in this journey is to love God, love each other, and love ourselves without the destructive and devious doctrine that has for too long left folks "outside" and ostracized from true spiritual community.



We will begin gathering at **7 p.m. for our evening discussion at the 1851 Club in Arlington...1851 W. Division St. 76012**. So come on out and join us and some folks from The Eucharastrophe, www.theeuc.net, to hang out and explore our journeys.

Meditation Sept 22 - by Rev. Teri Lubbers

Life Before Death

Many think the most important question in the world is: "Who is Jesus Christ?" Wrong! Many think it is "Does God exist?" Wrong! Many think it is: "Is there a life after death?"



Wrong! Nobody seems to be grappling with the problem of: Is there a life before death? Yet my experience is that it's precisely the ones who don't know what to do with this life who are all hot and bothered about what they are going to do with another life. ~ Anthony DeMello, "Awareness: The Perils and Opportunities of Reality"

Perhaps that sounds a bit scandalous coming from a Christian minister. But I agree with DeMello that the real question we need to be asking is: is there a life before death? What might it look like? What are the leading causes of life? What does the eternal now look like?

Be honest. What occupies your waking thoughts? If you are anything like me, it is frequently a rehashing of what I wish had happened or didn't happen, had done or didn't do, had said or didn't say. Geez, what a waste of time! It's like what a friend once told me...we create a great fuss about where we are going to sit on the train but the train has left the station...where we sit isn't the deal, we are already in motion.

Sat November 6:

8pm OpenDoor Production-Suede! with Julie Bonk
(Youth Orchestra Hall)

Wed November 17:

7pm Benedictine Spirituality
led by Rev. Teri Lubbers- Part 2

September Statistics

09/05:

Attendance: 131
Offering: \$956

09/12:

Attendance: 110
Offering: \$810

09/19:

Attendance: 103
Offering: \$3,241

09/26:

Attendance:
Offering: \$

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Link on our
[Virtual Store Link](#)

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I am all for self-reflection, self-observation, where we really pay attention to how we are in real time. But I'm talking here about the incessant internal conversations in my head that can wake me up in the middle of the night. Conversations about stuff that HAS ALREADY HAPPENED! It's kind of like a quake out in the ocean somewhere that generates a tsunami, which wipes my beach clean. Instead of looking for higher ground, I am busy bemoaning why this quake happened and why I didn't stop it!

Is there a life before death? Yes. How do we find it? Relinquish our cherished hopes for a different past. Let go of being proud of our past or being ashamed of our past - either can be a trap. Wake up to the moment we're in. Climb out of the groove habitual thinking can carve and survey the beauty of the landscape that is all around.

Prayer: Creating Spirit, wash me clean of all my crazy notions about the past and awaken my soul to the wonder of the present. Amen.

Tom Thumb Community Bucks

Earn Gift Cards for Agape'



Spend a minimum of \$50.00 at your local Tom Thumb between September 1-30, and you'll receive a Community Buck. Collect as many as you can and send (or bring) them to Agape' MCC. As a participating Good Neighbor charity, Agape' will receive \$1 for every Community Buck in the form of a Tom Thumb Gift Card.

We can use our Gift Cards for turkeys, hams, food baskets, holiday grocery needs, and more for persons and families in need this holiday season.

From Our Church Treasurer

Church Financial Update

As we begin our preparation for the 4th quarter of 2010, I just wanted to bring you all up to date on where we stand with our Tithes.

We had an amazing tithe commitment drive last year with commitments at almost 80% of the overall budget. I wanted to let you know that we our tithes are currently running at 88% of expectation for the year to date. With that data our budget projected us to be at \$100,248.00 in tithe income through August but we have only received \$88,363.83.

We want you to know that we have been working diligently to reduce our spending everywhere possible, while also continuing to help our community through your generosity as folks have hit difficult financial times...thank you!

Your Board of Directors is asking that you prayerfully consider using this time for get caught up with commitments so we can have a strong end to 2010.

Thanks - May God bless and prosper us all.



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Contact Us At:

www.agapemcc.com

817-535-5002

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Billy Stewart
Agape' MCC Treasurer

Music Survey

You Still Have Time to Complete!

Yes, you can still take the Music Survey through next week. To give input to our Worship Team regarding music options at Agape', please click on the link below or click on the link on our agapemcc.com home page.

[Click Here for Survey Link!](#)



New Member Class - Sept 29

Join Rev. David for Class

If you are interested in becoming a member of Agape' MCC, please join Rev. David Wynn on **Wednesday, September 29 at 6:30 p.m.** to hear about where Agape' has been, and where we are going, and where you might be called to in that! .



New Member Class

New Members Class

Wed, Sept 29

Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m.

Open Positions for Election in November!

We need Active Members Willing to Serve as:

Board of Directors - 2 three year terms

Personnel Committee - 2 two year terms

Lay Delegates - 2 three year terms

Alternate Lay Delegates - 2 three year terms

Please consider prayerfully the positions listed above and contact Rev. David with any questions. Applications are available at the church.

[Click here](#) to read a special invitation from outgoing Board Treasurer Billy Stewart.

Bubb Fundraising for Agape' - Recycle!

Recycle for Agape'

Our pick-up date has been extended until September! More information next week.

We just heard from Bubb that they now take toys and clothing! All donations need to be in boxes (no bags).



Click [here](#) to see some of the items you may donate for the church fundraiser. Stacy will be glad to come pick up things, meet you at the church, or at the storage unit.

For answers to your questions or to schedule donation pick up - Contact Stacy Jones at: simonntig@gmail.com or call her at: 817-680-4083.

Pride Float

Float and Parade Volunteers!

Our float is under construction and ready for riders. "imagine" is our Cajun river boat and it needs Cajun kids of all ages dressed in your best homemade swamp musician outfits to ride along. Have a great old instrument, hat, torn old pants, washboard or string guitar to pretend with? Bring it along and let's have some fun.

We will also have paper fish for you to decorate and hang on the sides of the float. They will be available Sunday so get your crayons ready.

RSVP helpful...sign up sheet Sunday or email Stacy Jones at simonntig@gmail.com.

Pride Week 2010

Set for Oct 3 - Oct 10, 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.



The Parade is on Sunday, Oct 3, and **the Picnic has been changed to Sunday, Oct 10**.

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

Spiritual Types Training - Oct 6 & 20

The Journey Continues

We continue on our journey of discovery - to discern where we are spiritually and understand where we would like to be and then to equip each person to create their own Rule of Life... a planned rhythm for living in which we are gradually transformed into Christlikeness.



Our next installment:

Spiritual Types led by Jenny Cureton, LPC

Wednesday, October 6, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Social Hall

Wednesday, October 20, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Social Hall

(pre-assessment to be completed online in September - please bring your 4 alpha-letter type to the sessions)

Here is the link to the assessment:

<http://humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/JTypes2.asp>

Any questions? Contact Jenny at:

jennycureton@EvolutionsCounseling.com

Christmas Pageant

Back By Popular Demand

The Christmas Pageant is returning this year so be thinking about what you would like to do.!

Details coming soon... *Lisa O'Grady*

Prayers

- Prayer for continued recovery for Pat P.
- Grace G....positive test outcomes.
- Gail R.- peace and comfort.
- Tina T. for surgery this week.
- Cassy's mom Lois healing and rest.
- Lisa and Cassy - rest.
- For Nancy & Maribelle's house to sell quickly.
- A cure fro Michelle D.'s cancer.
- Prayer for Rev Gina's interview / job search.
- Jobs for all seeking employment.
- Agape's Pride float preparations.
- Those who need more sleep.
- Dillon and Colene, sweet dogs who have bone cancer.
- Stephanie L. peace and rest.
- For those who are feeling forgotten- may they find comfort.

God, hear our prayers.

Praises

- For all who took our gift shop to Pride Dallas- Stacy J. for all her energy and enthusiasm and leadership! and for her volunteers: Rayne, Nancy, Stacy's family members (especially Tiff), Cassy, Lisa, Grace, Linda, Thomas, Carlos Grace, Linda, Denise, Thomas, Carlos and Maribelle. Also those who helped along the way, Trish, Dawn and Larissa.
- For our Ministers of Community Care.
- Tony Parente's safety during his car accident.
- Tony & Joe for their hospitality this past Sunday.
- Brenda & Claudia's new grandson born this week.
- Brad D.'s art sales & corporate contract.
- Gail Gore's recycling pick ups & moving helps.
- For Sebastian...a sweet, sweet Spirit.
- For Homer, Tommie Lee's son who was visiting on Sunday. Homer stepped up when a request was made for help to unload the van at the "BUBB ATTIC", and he recruited Mark H. and Billie S. to lend their backs and hands as well. Praises, prayers and gratitude for the three of them.
- For Friends, Joyce, Helen, David, Sara, Charlotte

and Dee who contributed "massively" to our "BUBB Attic".

- Spirit Road connections at Club 1851.

*Blessed are those who put their trust in God -
Psalms 40:4*

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.