



# Agape' MCC Newsletter

December 1 2010

## Upcoming Events

**Wed December 1:**  
**7am Advent Morning Prayers**

**Sun December 5:**  
10:30am Worship Service  
**11:45am Holiday Potluck Dinner**

**Mon December 6:**  
6:30am Ministers of Community Care Meeting

**Wed December 8:**  
**7am Advent Morning Prayers**

**Fri December 10:**  
5:30pm Samaritan House Supper Club

**Sat December 11:**  
**6-8:30pm Annual Christmas Talent Show**  
**Christmas Photos available also!**

**Sun December 12:**  
10:30am Worship Service

**Mon December 13:**  
7pm Board of Directors Mtg

**Wed December 15:**  
**7am Advent Morning Prayers**

**Sat December 18:**

## No Spirit Road in December

### Break for the Month

Spirit Road will not be held for the month of December. See you in January!



## Christmas Poinsettias

### Order Now!

You can still order Christmas Poinsettias for \$10.00 at Agape' in memory of a loved one, in honor of an anniversary, or to mark a milestone or significant event in your life.



Amy Ashton will be in the narthex (lobby) to receive **orders and payment on Dec. 5**. Poinsettias will be delivered by December 12, and will be in the sanctuary until December 26 when you will be invited to take them home with you.

## Weekly Meditation by Rev. Teri Lubbers

### Wonder

*I do not want to touch any object in this world without my eyes testifying to the truth, that everything is my Beloved. Something has happened to my understanding of existence that now makes my heart always full of wonder and kindness. ~ Hafiz, The Gift*



Ever watch a toddler moving through the day? If so then you have seen wonder in action. They approach everything with curiosity and expectation, wonder and anticipation. Everything for them is like a teacher about to reveal a hidden secret. Children explore the world with energy, motivated by the sheer pleasure things. They look, they touch, they taste, they enjoy. Wonder.

Not sure what happens, why we are so quick relinquish our sense of wonder and awe. Is it because we are grown-ups? Is it that once we've slapped a label on things or people or feelings that we think we know them, can

11am-2pm Foster Parent Association Meeting

**Wed December 22:**

**7am Advent Morning Prayers**

**Fri December 24:**

**7pm Christmas Eve Service**

## November Statistics

**11/07:**

Attendance: 121  
Offering: \$4,342

**11/14:**

Attendance: 103  
Offering: \$1,057

**11/21:**

Attendance: 116  
Offering: \$1,135

**11/28:**

Attendance: 125  
Offering: \$897

## 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:

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dismiss them and move on? Is it that taking a moment to feel the wonder rise up in us doesn't seem "productive" enough? Or that if we share it out loud folks will think we're nuts?

Advent is the liturgical time when we are asked to ask ourselves things like: why are you here? what are you looking for? what are you waiting for? where is that star leading? where did all these angels come from? Give yourself permission to wonder for a moment and then surrender to it. Surrender. Surrender. Surrender.

**Prayer: Beloved, help me see the world through a child's eyes, fresh, new and full of wonder. Water the seed of wonder and awe that you planted in me so long ago and let it grow in me a little bit today. Amen.**

## Advent 2010 - by Rev. David Wynn

**Come Join Us for Advent!**

**You are invited to join us on**

**Sundays** as we seek to recapture the awe of this life and recover acts of cultivating "odd" practices such as:

Peace in the Midst of Conflict, Love in the Midst of Hate, Joy in the Midst of Despair, Hope in the Midst of

Hopelessness, Presence in the Midst of Loneliness, and

Praise in the Midst of Suffering?! Let's keep Agape' "Awed and Odd!"

**And join us on Wednesday mornings for Advent**

**Morning Prayers.** We seek to balance the sacred part of the Advent season with all of the other things you are doing. If you don't make time for quiet reflection, prayer and conversion of heart, you will find yourself physically, emotionally and spiritually exhausted by Christmas Day. Prayer time will restore your spirit. Spiritual insights will help to keep you focused.



We will be using a form of the Benedictine Daily Office adapted to the language of today. The Daily Office is the daily worship of the Church.

May this time be an offering back to God to prepare us to celebrate the true gift of the Advent season, the rebirth of the Christ child, the light of the world.

**Advent Morning Prayers  
Wednesday Mornings  
Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22  
7 a.m.**

**Will You Donate?**

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### Resolve Conflict, LLC

All types of mediation for the GLBT Community- classes too.

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

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### Contact Us At:

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

817-535-5002

### Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

### Gifts for the Holidays

Agape' MCC is again partnering with **Community Partners of Tarrant County and the CPS Rainbow Room** to make sure **foster children** in Tarrant County **receive gifts** this holiday season.



**We are collecting donations through December 12** and will use the funds collected to purchase toys at deeply discounted prices through the Mattel Toy Store Charity Sales program.

**Toys will be delivered** to CPS/the Rainbow Room **the week of December 13**. Donations can be made during worship (please note CPS Christmas on your check and make checks payable to Agape MCC), in the donation box in the lobby, or to the church office. More information is available in the church lobby.

*Thank you for making a difference in the life of a child!*

### Holiday Potluck - Sunday December 5

#### Sign Up Soon!

We will have an **Agape' Family Holiday Potluck on Sunday, December 5**, after morning worship service.



Please sign up for bringing your favorite foods to share on the sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall, on the Kitchen door!

### Christmas Talent Show - December 11

#### Come Join Us!

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Agape' Christmas Talent Show will be held on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 6pm until 8:30pm. Our Agape' Worship Planning Team has arranged for some VERY special guests from another church to host the show this year. Who?? It's a secret, so you'll have to show up to see them!



The evening will consist of a talent show in the sanctuary with treats and fun to follow in the Fellowship Hall. **PLEASE BRING A DESSERT TO SHARE!** There may even be a visit from Santa!

ALL are welcome to attend this free event, and if you have a talent you'd like to share in the show that evening, please sign up on the forms posted in the narthex (church lobby).

Bring your friends and family and join your Agape' MCC family for some holiday FUN!

**TO ALL PERFORMERS - we will have a technical run-through earlier in the day - time to be announced. We'll contact you**

**soon to see what you will need sound-wise as far as mics, music, etc, so please make sure your contact number is on the sign up sheet in the Narthex. Thanks!!**

## **Photo Sessions with Santa on Dec 11**

### **Santa Claus is Coming Back!**

Bring your pets, kids, family, plants, etc. for a photo session with Santa and friends!



Our first Holiday Picture Sessions last weekend were such a success, that we have scheduled a second opportunity for you to get your holiday pictures taken!

**Prices: 4 x 6 \$5 or 5x7 \$8 or 8.5x11 \$10**  
**Multiple photo packages available upon request**

**Holiday Photos**  
**Agape' Fellowship Hall**  
**Saturday, Dec 11**

**(night of the Christmas Talent Show)**

## **Prayers**

- Pray for repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell. Pray that the hearts of those in the U.S. Senate be filled with the compassion and the love of the God that we all know.
- For Linda and Danielle and their children as Danielle is on a healing journey.
- Healing for Evelyn B.
- Healing for Kim and Tinker.
- Rayne for improving health.
- For David and his journey of release.
- For all the moms and dads this holiday season and beyond.
- For our interns and their supervisory committee.
- For a friend of Deb B.'s undergoing heart surgery.
- Tommie Lee and peace through her journey.
- For Gail R. to find a new place to live and packing up her house.
- For peace amidst the chaos.

***God, hear our prayers.***

## **Praises**

- Jessica & Jaci's hospitality after service.
- Tom G.'s faithfulness week after week.
- Wren's shining face.
- The Agape' Ensemble and our entire worship team.
- For a listening ear and big hugs.
- Alice's sweet presence.
- Leigh and Jimmy's hard work on our sanctuary!
- Lisa D., Lisa O., Cassy, and Wren's help with our sanctuary.

- Rev. Teri's direction of the ensemble and her sweet spirit.
- For Nick and Paul and morning prayers.
- Gail R. sold her house in Cleburne.
- For great big diverse families.

*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.