



Agape' MCC Newsletter

December 8 2010

Upcoming Events

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:

11am-2pm Foster Parent Association Meeting

Wed December 22:

7am Advent Morning Prayers

Fri December 24:

7pm Christmas Eve Service

November Statistics

Christmas Talent Show - December 11

Come Join Us!

Our 2nd Annual Agape Christmas Talent Show is here!!!

Please bring your family and friends to this free event on Saturday, December 11th from 6:00-8:30pm.



The show should run until between 7-7:30 with a **dessert potluck afterwards** in the Fellowship Hall. We have some very special "surprise" hosts for our event this year! Come and see who it is!

If you plan to attend the potluck, we ask that you please bring goodies to share! and remember...Santa will be here to check to see who has been naughty or nice!

Some have asked if there will be childcare available during the show and we are happy to announce that YES, we have arranged for someone to be here for the kiddos! We do ask for donations to assist in paying the babysitter.

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 at 4pm. Dawn Dujour will be here at that time to run through the acts that the children will be participating in. Questions? Call Lisa at 469-222-4382 or email lamoreaux2000@juno.com

If anyone would like to come earlier to work on their performance, Lisa O'Grady and Stace Jones will be at the church beginning at noon to assist, so feel free to come on over!

Weekly Meditation by Rev. Teri Lubbers

In-Between

Sometimes, to get from where we are to where we are going, we have to be willing to be in-between. One of the hardest parts of recovery is the concept of letting go of what is old and familiar, but what we don't want, and being willing to stand with our hands empty while we wait for God to fill them. ~ Melody Beattie, The Language of Letting Go



Curious how often we prefer to hold onto what is old and familiar - even when it is clearly not what we want - so long as we don't have to feel empty and feel like we have

12/05:

Attendance: 105

Offering: \$2,002

Need a Book? A Bible? A Music CD?

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Link on our

[Virtual Store Link](#)

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lost something. What's that about?

Feeling empty doesn't feel like winning to us. And we are pretty conditioned to think that "winning" is the deal, the goal, the whole game. Surrendering, letting go, emptying ourselves, are experiences that don't really come naturally to us. Getting, acquiring, being attached to things is more our style.

But here's the deal. When my cup is already full, it doesn't leave much room for Spirit to move. What if these in-between spaces - which can feel so empty - are really gateways to freedom and joy? Take a chance. Let go. Wait. See what Spirit will do.

Prayer: Creator, let your spirit move over the waters of my life and create me anew. Let me not be so attached to the familiar and the comfortable that I miss the amazing. Amen.

Thoughts from Agape' Member Lisa O.

Because God Loves Us

I requested that Agape' allow me to have an opportunity to put something in our newsletter... there was something I wanted to share with all of you, my family.



Cassy and I made the decision to send our beloved Springer Spaniel, Max, home this morning to be with Spirit. I know that many of you have had to make the same decision lately with your beloved pets. I sit here with tear-filled eyes knowing after much discussion at home and collaboration with our veterinarian that we made the right decision, yet my heart still aches. Was he really ready? Was it really my decision? Did I do the right thing...

[Click here to read the entire letter.](#)

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)

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?

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!

From the Share a Square Project

Share a Square 2010

We are looking for crafty folks with BIG hearts! Share A Square will be putting together 150 crocheted afghans to give to children with cancer. These kids will be attending three different summer camps in 2011 (Camp Quality in Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas). WE are going to blanket them with love from around the world.



To meet this goal, we need help with tagging the individual crocheted "granny squares" with tags provided by people who made them, and then stitching the squares together to make afghans.

For more information go to:

<http://thiseclecticlife.com/share-a-square-2010-faq/>

Prayers

- Cassy and Lisa as they grieve the loss of their dog Max.
- Kris and Linda as they grieve the loss of their dog Jordan.
- People and families in transition.
- Terry B. for healing and wholeness.
- Joshua for safety and health.
- Stephanie for healing and pain relief.

God, hear our prayers.

Praises

- For Paul's sermon last week.
- For Nick's efforts and energy around Morning Prayers.
- Thanks for all who shared food on Sunday.
- Thanks to Jessica and Rusty for coordinating the Holiday Potluck last Sunday.

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.