



# Agape' MCC Newsletter

March 16 2010

## Upcoming Events

### Wed March 16:

7pm Gender Identity & the Faith Community

### Sat March 19:

6:30pm Men's Fellowship at Rio Mambo

### Mon March 21:

5:30pm Worship Team Mtg

### Wed March 23:

7pm Spirit Road: Discover Your Inner Goddess

### Sat March 26:

8am Church Spring Cleaning Day!

### Sun March 27:

Noon Meet, Greet & Eat!

### Mon March 28:

5:30pm Worship Team Mtg

### Wed March 30:

7pm Spirit Road: Discover Your Inner Goddess

### Sat April 9:

8am Race For The Cure- Amazing Grace Team

8pm Dos Fallopias! - OpenDoor Production @ Youth Orchestra Hall

## March Statistics

## Gender Identity & the Faith Community

### Continues Tonight Wed, March 16

Rev. David Wynn continues the discussion of Gender Identity and the Faith

Community tonight **March 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall.** Explore the

diversity of gender expressions we encounter in our faith community and in life and how we can all learn from one another.



## Weekly Meditation

by Rev. Teri Lubbers

### Help!

*Help, I need somebody, Help, not just anybody, Help, you know I need someone, help!*

*When I was younger, so much younger than today, I never needed anybody's help in any way.*

*But now these days are gone, I'm not so self-assured, Now I find I've changed my mind and opened up the doors. ~ The Beatles*



I was eleven years old when the Beatles came to the U.S. for the first time. My best friend in the neighborhood, Katie, was the same age as me. She was CRAZY in love with the Beatles. They were barely on my radar, but her bedroom was plastered with their photos and all her allowance was spent on their albums.

I didn't quite get it. But this Beatles' song...I get that. I get being in the place where I am certain I don't need help from anyone. I get believing that self-sufficiency is the prime directive. I get what a hard place it is to be, because not only is it lonely, not only does it feel like the weight of responsibility cannot be shared with anyone, if you DO have to ask for help you feel guilty and even ashamed...like you failed the test somehow.

What a crock! What a big lie! We need others the way we need air. Do I feel like a failure because I need to breathe? Certainly not! But needing help? Needing others? Needing

**03/06:**

Attendance: 122  
Offering: \$2,313

**03/13:**

Attendance: 119  
Offering: \$2,350

### 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](#)

### Business Directory:

**Shari Beers**  
**Obrien Real Estate Group**  
817-996-1631  
[beershomes@gmail.com](mailto:beershomes@gmail.com)  
[www.Beers-Homes.com](http://www.Beers-Homes.com)

**Janna Brown, Master Photographer**  
**J3 Photographics**  
817-657-9882  
[janna.brown@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janna.brown@sbcglobal.net)

**Resolve Conflict, LLC**  
All types of mediation for the GLBT Community- classes too.  
[www.resolveconflictionline.com](http://www.resolveconflictionline.com)

or call 877-9-2agree

### Contact Us At:

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

817-535-5002

### Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

God? There is a wonderful Rumi poem, part of which says: "Give your weakness to one who helps. Crying out loud and weeping are great resources. A nursing mother, all she does is wait to hear her child. Just a little beginning-whimper, and she's there...Cry out! Don't be stolid and silent with your pain. Lament! And let the milk of loving flow into you." We are here to open up the doors...

**Prayer: Jesus, you promised when you left that you would send me a Helper. Remind me that help is always at hand. Today I open to the door of my heart to that help. Amen.**

### Men's Fellowship - This Sat, March 19

**Men's Fellowship - Sat March 19**

6:30 p.m.

Rio Mambo

6125 SW Loop 820  
Fort Worth, TX 76132  
817.423.3124 Phone

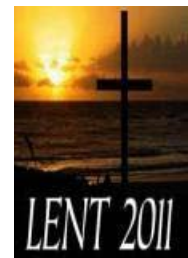
*See you there!*



### Lenten Series at Agape'

**Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places**

In our journey toward Easter this ,we are exploring where love, grace, forgiveness, righteousness, and healing, can REALLY be found. Typically, it is usually not in the "usual" places. Isn't it as true of us today as it was in Jesus' time that we often look for wholeness and happiness (love) in places that offer only temporary "good feelings" and shallow satisfaction? Lent is a wonderfully reflective time to re-assess where we are searching for meaning, for "redemption." We will move with Jesus through the journey to find out who offers the "real deal"...and yes, you will no doubt hear Waylon Jennings and some other country songs...this IS Fort Worth after all!



### Property & Gardening Volunteers Needed!

**From Board Member Nick Busken:**

For those who are interested, we will be starting to **meet each Thursday @ 9:00 a.m. to weed the gardens starting this Thursday the 10th.**



**Clear your calendars - we will be hosting a spring cleaning on Saturday March 26th.** This will help to trim back trees, fix honey-do issues at church and help to clear things out to get the church ready for the new tile and carpeting. **Please meet at church at 8:00 a.m.**

Any questions? Please email Nick:  
[operacub1978@gmail.com](mailto:operacub1978@gmail.com)

## Spirit Road Presents...

### Discover Your Inner Goddess

by Wichita Falls MCC Interim pastor &  
Agape' MCC intern, Mary Cantrell



**Wed, March 23 and Wed, March 30  
at 7pm**

Are you someone who will "risk it all" for love? Or maybe you take particular delight in children...have an unusually deep spiritual life...seek upward mobility....or long for a cabin in the woods. We are all uniquely and exquisitely created by God....a fun way to discover all of who we are is by studying the archetypes of the Greek Goddesses - Aphrodite, Hera, Demeter, Persephone, Athena and Artemis!

The original myth is of Zeus dividing the Goddesses into parts to disempower them as whole beings. Living in a patriarchal society we've been lead to a division of our own parts. If you experience powerlessness, shame, guilt, unworthiness, unlovable issues, the Goddesses provide a guide to confront these weaknesses and find new strengths. As you reintegrate these parts, clarity will come and you can feel less of those negative energies. This will be a time to discover all of the exciting and mysterious parts of yourself.

Please complete the questionnaire before the first class. The questionnaire may be found by [clicking here](#).

Questions? e-mail Stephanie Lotz [eattheredpill@aol.com](mailto:eattheredpill@aol.com)

## Beyond Bullying

### An Elephant In The Room Series Forum

**Beyond Bullying: Empowering  
Children, Youth & Adults to Win with  
Each Other**

**Tuesday, March 29, 2011  
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**



**First Congregational United Church of  
Christ  
4201 Trail Lake Drive, Fort Worth, TX**

"Why does bullying happen? How can victims fight back? The dynamics of bullying and being bullied are complex, but we can address them effectively to prevent and stop bullying. How do we respond? With love. With care. With truth. With faith.

Please join us as we explore the issues that are involved in the dynamics of bullying and how to address them from a faith perspective. Learn how clergy and congregation members can offer help and healing.

Speakers for the evening include Kathryn Everest - Director of Guidance and Counseling for the Student Support Division

of the Fort Worth ISD, co-designer of the It's Not Okay district-wide anti-bullying initiative in place since 2009 and Rev. Cody Sanders - Ordained Baptist minister and a certified counselor through National Board of Certified Counselors. His most recent article, "Why Anti-Gay Bullying is a Theological Issue" was published in the Fall 2010 issue of Religion Dispatches."

The event is sponsored by TACC, Brite Divinity School and First Congregational Church. Cost is \$15. Light refreshments will be served. For more information and to register, please visit their [website](#).

## Taking 7,000 Steps in the Right Direction

### AIDS Walk 2011



Help commemorate AIDS Outreach Center's 25th Anniversary of providing vital programs to the greater Tarrant County community and seven surrounding rural counties.

Join the walk on **Sunday, April 3, 2011** at the Trinity Park Pavilion on 7th Street, Fort Worth, Texas.

To pre-register visit [www.firstgiving.com/aocwalk](http://www.firstgiving.com/aocwalk). Pre-registration is only \$25.00.

If you wait until the day of the walk to register, go to Luke's Locker located in the Montgomery Plaza at 2700 West 7th Street, Fort Worth, Texas. Registration day of the walk is \$30.00.

**Pre-walk party and warm up starts at 1 pm and the walk begins promptly at 2:30 pm.** Enjoy the entertainment and vendor booths! For more information contact [aidswalk@aoc.org](mailto:aidswalk@aoc.org) or call Penny at (817) 916-5224.

## Human Kind Day - April 4

A promotional graphic for Human Kind Day. At the top left is a green peace symbol inside a white circle. To its right, the text reads: "HUMAN KIND DAY", "IT'S ABOUT PEACE.", "IT'S ABOUT TIME!", "APRIL 4, 2011", and "HTTP://HUMANKIND.WEBS.COM". Below this, it lists activities: "APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup>: COMMUNITY TRASH CLEAN-UP AFTER CHURCH" and "APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>: A.M. GROUP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY" and "7:00 P.M. KINDNESS ENERGY CIRCLE ON THE LABYRINTH". A "SPONSORS:" section includes logos for "opendoor EDUCATIONALS" and "Agape". A "SUPPORTERS:" section includes logos for "Equal Housing Opportunity", "Dove", "First Monday", "AIDS", and "AIDS OUTREACH CENTER". At the bottom, contact information is provided: "HUMANKINDDAY@YAHOO.COM", "@HUMANKINDDAY", and "HUMAN KIND DAY".

## Race for the Cure - April 9

Coming Soon!

Susan G. Komen  
Race for the Cure

Register or Donate online at:  
[www.komengreaterfw.org](http://www.komengreaterfw.org)

Amazing Grace Team



April 9, 2011 Ridgemar Mall - Ft Worth TX

## Next OpenDoor Production - Sat April 9

See Dos Fallopia on April 9 at Youth Orchestra Hall!  
Tickets: \$20 General \* \$40 Reserved \* \$25 @ the door  
[For online tickets, click here!](#)



## Community Bulletin Board

Place Your Ads or Items for Sale Here

From Zac Edwards

- My choir is going to New Orleans, Louisiana, April 14-17. It costs \$475 not including the deposit I have already paid. It will be my last trip with my choir both as a senior and as president. I am willing to "loan myself out" for days that fit both our schedules and work for people in return for help financially. I can be contacted either in person, via email ([Zac\\_Edwards@yahoo.com](mailto:Zac_Edwards@yahoo.com)) or over the phone 817-724-4477.



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From Denise LaRae - As many of you know I am in Massage Therapy school at ATI in Dallas. I still need clients to finish my courses. Sooooo....if anyone would like a 50 minute

massage and can drive to Dallas...2998 Stemmons Freeway...at the Inwood exit...the cost is \$30. The number to call and schedule massages is 214-989-3001. Just ask for Denise. I do massages from 9 am to- 3 pm Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday...and will make special appointments (call me personally at 479-285-9899) on weeknights after 4:00 pm if needed.

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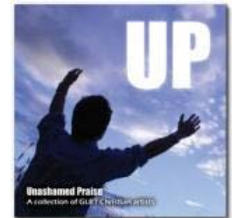
South Arlington home for rent - with fireplace, 4 bedrooms, 2 full size bathrooms and 2 sky lights in living room with a double car garage. The back yard is a good size and enclosed by a six foot chain linked fence. The living space in the home is approx. 1,400 square feet. Good school district: Ditto Elementary, Young Jr. High and Martin High School. Not far from the major highways 1-20 and 1-30. The rent \$950.00 - very competitive with what homes in this area are renting for. I am putting it up for rent because my mother is ill and I am having to move in with her on short notice. I can be reached at the following number 817-449-9541 and ask for Dianne.

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## UP (Unashamed Praise) RELEASED

### New Music CD

"UP" is a brand new compilation CD of LGBT Christian artists and their music created by Shawn Thomas. It features 14 singer/songwriters, groups, and duos with a wide variety of music styles from praise and worship, to jazz, to dance, to gospel, to folk and rock.



Featuring: Justin Ryan, Susie Brenner, Roger Anthony Yolanda Mapes, Delores Berry, Affinity Praise, Shelly Torres-West, Marsha Stevens-Pino, Jeremiah Cummings, Canaan Band, Jason DeShazo, Sam Sampson, Marshall-Grant Ministries, Danny Riddle, and Shawn Thomas. Many of the featured artists are MCCers and you may recognize the names of those who have performed here at Agape' in the last few years.

You can learn more or order a copy at [www.unashamedonline.com](http://www.unashamedonline.com), which includes links to all 14 artists and their websites! Check out <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqlBkgQ-3f8>, too!

## Independent Adoption Center

### Interested in Adopting?

Independent Adoption Center (IAC) is a nationwide non-profit domestic infant open adoption agency. The agency began in California and has been around for almost 30 years. The Texas branch, which just opened an office at the beginning of the year, is looking to connect with members of the Texas community that might be able to benefit from having their information.



Information sessions will be held in Houston starting in

March and weekend intensive sessions starting in April.  
Information sessions may also be held over the phone.

**IAC websites:**

Main: <http://www.adoptionhelp.org/>

**Information specifically for LGBT families:**

[http://www.adoptionhelp.org/gay\\_lesbian\\_adoption/](http://www.adoptionhelp.org/gay_lesbian_adoption/)

**Newsletters:**

<http://www.adoptionhelp.org/news/newsletter.html>

**New website for birth mothers:**

<http://www.iheartadoption.org/>

## Prayers

- Continued healing for Lou and peace for Bailey.
- For Renny and Rhonda in the journey.
- Pastor Larry and his church.
- Continued healing for Stephanie.
- Peace and strength for all who support and care for aging parents.
- For a co-worker, Kelli, with health issues.
- Encouragement and support for the journey of Creating a Life That Matters.
- Nora - for positive test results.
- Kim and her mother - for upcoming medical procedures.
- Jacki - for calming days.
- Linda G.'s parents- Patsy and Sam.
- Those with job issues, stress.
- Nick and his journey at work.
- For Stace in the journey.
- Pat and Janna's grandbaby on the way.
- For Shell in the journey.
- For all parents who are managing Spring Break :-)

*God, hear our prayers.*

## Praises

- Tony's new job.
- Jessica and her hospitality.
- A wonderful volunteer fair.
- Tammy and her gifts among us.
- Billy who brought David a new computer monitor.
- Leigh who showed up early with a gift.
- For Leigh who ran the vacuum early Sunday morning.
- Our amazing Board of Directors.
- For Skye and AOC.
- For our first Healing Touch Outreach.
- Our updated sanctuary and the love that made that possible.
- James our contractor and his crew.
- For Bob, Carlos, and Teresa whose donations covered the expenses for bringing Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson to our church for Easter.
- Nick who is managing our renovations.
- For Nick, Big Paul, and Stace who put our sanctuary back together on Saturday.
- Denise who weeded and loved our land.
- Pat and Janna who will be grandparents again.

- Linda G.- A wonderful extended weekend with Grace and Alli.
- For Spring Break.
- For Fort Worth S.T.E.P.S.
- For those who stretch beyond their comfort zones to embrace a new vision of community.

***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.