



Agape' MCC Newsletter

March 23 2010

Upcoming Events

Wed March 23:

7pm Spirit Road: Discover Your Inner Goddess

Thu March 24:

9am Weekly Gardening (*to spruce up our gardens & grounds!*)

Fri March 25:

5:30pm Samaritan House Supper Club

Sat March 26:

8am-noon 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

Thu March 31:

9am Weekly Gardening (*to spruce up our gardens & grounds!*)

Sat April 9:

8am Race For The Cure- Amazing Grace Team

6:30pm FW S.T.E.P.S. Mtg

8pm Dos Fallopia! -

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 your self.

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

Questions? e-mail Stephanie Lotz eattheredpill@aol.com

Meet, Greet & Eat This Sunday!

Join Us for Lunch On Sunday

It's time for our monthly Meet, Greet and Eat luncheon **this Sunday, March 27.**



This month's lunch is provided by the Men's Fellowship group. They will be serving **grilled hamburgers, hotdogs, beans and potato salad.** Yum!

We invite all our first time visitors to be our guests. Church members and regular attenders are asked to **donate \$5** a

**OpenDoor Production @
Youth Orchestra Hall**

Sun April 10:

**After Church Spring
Cleaning - light lunch
provided!**

March Statistics

03/06:

Attendance: 122
Offering: \$2,313

03/13:

Attendance: 119
Offering: \$2,350

03/20:

Attendance: 125
Offering: \$1,619

**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
www.Beers-Homes.com

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

Resolve Conflict, LLC
All types of mediation for the
GLBT Community- classes too.
www.resolveconflictonline.com

or call 877-9-2agree

person. Come join us for this monthly "fun-raiser!"

Weekly Meditation

by Rev. Teri Lubbers

None of My Business

*What you think of me is none of my
business. ~ Buddy R.*



I collect aphorisms, sayings that I live by. The ones I use again and again seem never to exhaust their meaning or relevance. The one above I learned from a man who had 20+ years of sobriety in AA.

We do an awful lot of things so that we will be held in high regard by our peers, or thought well of by those in power from whom we hope to gain something. We are sometimes like a child on the playground calling out to mom or dad as we climb to the top of the slide and shout out, "Look at me!" Something in us craves an audience, as if having someone watching makes us more real. As if someone approving of us will make us feel more whole, someone being proud of us will make us more valuable. And when someone is at odds with us we feel defensive or offended, self-righteous and self-justifying. To what end? Is something really added to my being because I convince you to agree with me?

Praise or blame...both are subtle traps. Both leave us craving and busy and distracted, listening more to someone else's voice than to the often-quiet voice of Spirit within us. This doesn't mean we should live with indifference toward one another. But there will never be a way to please all the people all the time. I can only follow my own heart, you can only follow yours. We needn't hold one another captive...

Prayer: God, may I have courage today to follow where you lead, even when others may not understand. Free me from the cycle of praise and blame that I may be whole in you. Amen.

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

Renovation Blessings!

Contact Us At:

www.agapemcc.com

817-535-5002

Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

From Our Board of Directors

The Agape' MCC Board wants to extend our thanks for the gifts and blessings of our recent church property renovations. We would like to ask that you, our Church Family, use caution when bringing food or drink items into the Sanctuary and make sure that they are covered to help prevent spillage. Should you bring in a food or drink item and it does spill, please clean it up as best you can and let an usher know so it can be cleaned up properly after church services are over. Please remember that this is God's house and we are all the stewards of it.



Thank you,

Your Agape' MCC Board of Directors

After Church Spring Cleaning- Sun April 10

Lite Lunch Provided

Please help us spruce up for Easter and our Anniversary events! We need all hands on deck for inside cleaning... We will provide a light lunch for you after morning service. Bring cleaning clothes and supplies. We will see you there!



Our Worship Team Recommends

Online Bible Resources

For your study! The worship team at Agape' would like to make some online resources available to you for your personal spiritual explorations. These are resources you can trust as you explore Scripture and for your personal meditation time. Blessings!



The Text This Week - Revised Common Lectionary, Scripture Study and Worship:

<http://www.textweek.com/>

Out In Scripture Archive:

<http://www.hrc.org/scripture/>

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. 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 or call Penny at (817) 916-5224.

Human Kind Day - April 4 *Update!*



HUMAN KIND DAY
IT'S ABOUT PEACE.
IT'S ABOUT TIME!
APRIL 4, 2011
[HTTP://HUMANKIND.WEBS.COM](http://HUMANKIND.WEBS.COM)

APRIL 3RD: COMMUNITY TRASH CLEAN-UP AFTER CHURCH
APRIL 4TH: NOON: PRAYER FLAG ASSEMBLY
4:00 PM PRAYER FLAG DEDICATION AT LABYRINTH

SPONSORS: 

SUPPORTERS: 

 HUMANKINDDAY@YAHOO.COM
 @HUMANKINDDAY
 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



Amazing Grace Team

April 9, 2011 Ridgemar Mall - Ft Worth TX

Next OpenDoor Production - Sat April 9

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



Next Healing Touch Session - April 16

You Are Invited

Are you ready to get some energy circulating? If you would enjoy a session of Healing Touch, Reiki, Massage or a combination of those, please come see us. Any practitioners who would like to donate time and get some practice in, please join us. We are setting up in the Social Hall at Agape' MCC.



Our first 'clinic' brought out 3 energy practitioners, 2 licensed massage therapists, and several 'clients'. Our goal is to offer the healing arts in answer to the needs of the community. We all need to be whole and well and balanced. We all want to live without pain in body, mind, soul. And we all are worthy ~ we must simply show up.

Agape' Healing Touch
4615 East California Parkway Fort Worth, TX 76119
11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Saturday, April 16, 2011

(and each 3rd Saturday of the month after)

If you have questions or would like more info, please call me - Linda Crear - @ 817-832-0038.

What happens in a Healing Touch or Reiki session?
"...the individual will lie fully clothed on a massage table while the provider gently places their hands slightly above or on the individual. The session generally lasts 40 to 60 minutes, and people frequently report feeling deeply relaxed and peaceful during and after the session." - HealingTouchInternational.org

There is no charge for this outreach and any donations you might wish to make should be directed to David Wynn, Pastor -

Agape' MCC.

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) or over the phone 817-724-4477.



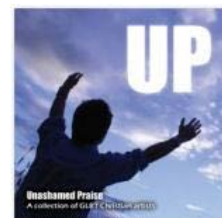
From Denise LaRae - As many of you know I am in Massage Therapy school at ATI in Dallas. I still need clients to finish my courses. Sooooo....if anyone would like a 50 minute massage and can drive to Dallas...2998 Stemmons Freeway...at the Inwood exit...the cost is \$30. The number to call and schedule 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.

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.

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, which includes links to all 14 artists and their websites! Check out <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqIBkgQ-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/

Newsletters:

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

New website for birth mothers:

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

Prayers

- Healing for Jerry and for peace for Rusty and David.
- For a friend going through a relationship transition.
- Healing and energy for Rayne.
- For a young man to find his way.
- Healing for Denise.
- Travel mercies for Stephanie and Mary.
- For a friend going home in a difficult time.
- For a father and his children.
- Continued healing for Lou and peace for Bailey.
- Healing and answers for Jaci.
- For Renny and Rhonda in the journey.
- For parents-to-be during this time of waiting.
- For those healing from the flu.
- For the journey of healing in its many forms.
- For the journey to find a new home.

God, hear our prayers.

Praises

- For the saints who are clearing out space so our new carpet can be installed.

- Evelyn and Denise - renewal of their vows after 20 years!
- Larissa and her gift of sound and music.
- Chris going back to school.
- Zac's acceptance into college and his mission trip to the Dominican Republic.
- Tony's new job which started Tuesday!
- Thomas' new job starting Friday!
- For the Open Hearts of Agape' MCC.
- For our church home.

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.