



# Agape' MCC Newsletter

March 30 2010

## Upcoming Events

### Wed March 30:

7pm Spirit Road: Discover Your Inner Goddess

### Thu March 31:

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

### Sun April 3:

Human Kind Day Activity (after service)

### Wed April 6:

7pm Centering Prayers & Guided Meditation

### Sat April 9:

8am Race For The Cure- Amazing Grace Team

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

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

### Sun April 10:

After Church Spring Cleaning - light lunch provided!

### Wed April 20:

7pm Centering Prayers & Guided Meditation

### Thu April 21:

7pm Prayer Service

### Fri April 22:

7pm Good Friday Sve

## Spirit Road Presents...

### Discover Your Inner Goddess

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



Part 2: Wed, March 30 at 7pm

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

## Weekly Meditation

by Rev. Teri Lubbers

### Separateness is the Illusion

*Why, then, in our ordinary experience do we feel so separate? This separateness, insists the mystic, is an illusion. If we meditate on the true nature of our self, we shall find, as mystics from many ages and times have found, that there is only one consciousness behind all the diversity. This one consciousness/subject/self goes by many names. ~ Amit Goswami, "The Self-Aware Universe"*



Many years ago (like 40!) I used to stand on street corners and pass out tracts to passersby. In these tracts were the "4 Spiritual Laws" in which it clearly explained the human plight: we are wretched, we are separate from God and there exists a great chasm between us, Jesus is the only mediator-bridge, pray this little prayer and you'll be redeemed. Hmm, it was pretty clear-cut and tidy. God systematized.

The journey has shifted my consciousness a bit...well more than a bit...it has rewritten everything I thought I knew. Especially this part of the story where we are told that we are separate from God. We may sometimes feel alone and even believe that for some reason we are outside God's realm but THAT is the great illusion. The being and nature of God permeates everything and everyone. There is no place where God is not. Not possible. Spirit is more than we have begun to imagine.

So, what if we started with a different premise? What if we started by believing that we are already beloved, accepted, and valued by God? That we are swimming in God. That wherever we are, if we would stop and sink into the depths of our own

**Sat April 23:**  
9am Easter Egg Hunt

**Sun April 24:**  
7:30am Sunrise Service  
11am Easter Celebration  
After Service- Easter Lunch

## March Statistics

### 03/06:

Attendance: 122  
Offering: \$2,313

### 03/13:

Attendance: 119  
Offering: \$2,350

### 03/20:

Attendance: 125  
Offering: \$1,619

### 03/27:

Attendance: 111  
Offering: \$5,218

## 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

consciousness and ground of our own being, we would touch it, this amazing pervasive Presence. Whether we call it the mind of Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Inner Light, it is there waiting for us to stop long enough to notice and feel. We stand at the shore of a great ocean of love and grace and mercy...the waves are lapping at our feet. Step in...

**Prayer: Beloved, open up space in me to receive you. Erase in me the illusion of distance between us. Open the eyes of my heart to see you in the unexpected today. Thank you for being present in every moment and in every place. Amen.**

## Renovation Blessings!

### 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



## April At Agape'

### From Rev. David

I was recently looking at the church calendar for April and found myself getting more and more excited about this last stretch of weeks that take us to the Festival of Easter and the celebration of our 40th Anniversary. Now, I stay pretty excited on a fairly regular basis about all that happens in this place...some have called me "odd" for that, but I simply cannot help it, LIFE excites me. So, while I have always said "when you miss a Sunday at Agape' you've miss a lot!"...you will not want to miss April at Agape' this year! Here's why...



**On April 3** following Sunday morning worship we will be picking up trash along the access road across from our church and under the overpass. This is in honor of **Human Kind Day** created to build a community based on kindness and intentionality. Each person in the community bolsters the next who lifts up the next who supports the next. We are a global community with overflowing, if untapped, compassion. Let's open the well of gratitude and extend kindness to all of the world and her inhabitants.

Contact Us At:

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

817-535-5002

Join Our List

Join Our Mailing List!

Beginning on **Wednesday, April 6** and continuing **Wednesday, April 20** at 7:00 p.m. we will gather in our sanctuary for **Centering Prayer and Guided Meditation**. We will focus on the benefits of relaxation and centering and I will lead us through some guided meditations based on some key events in Jesus' life. Bring pillows, yoga mats, or other soft things to sit or lie down on or feel invited to stretch out or sit in a pew. What better way to prepare our hearts for Easter, Spring, Anniversary and new life!

**Saturday April 9, 8:00 pm** at Youth Orchestra Hall let's engage the Spiritual Practice of laughter with **Dos Fallopi!** We understand that the economy is challenging and don't even get me started on gas prices!! So if you want to attend and need some financial help with that, email me at [revwynn@yahoo.com](mailto:revwynn@yahoo.com) and we will get you there!

**Sunday April 10** we will be in Spring cleaning mode! Renovating is "dusty" business! So plan to stay after service to **help wipe down pews, dust, and spruce up** our spiritual home for the upcoming Holy Week.

Holy Week will begin with **Passion Sunday on April 17**. We will be exploring the Passion of Christ for us and for his message of love and belonging. We will be re-dedicating our sanctuary as all of our updating and repairs will be complete: paneling is gone; walls are textured and re-painted; old water damage to our ceiling has been repaired and the ceiling completely re-painted; trim is all re-painted and coordinated; new Exit signs, and thermostats are installed; new carpet and tile are installed; light fixtures have been upgraded to eco-friendly solar lighting with additional natural light fluorescent lighting; the exterior soffits that were aging and rotting have all been replaced; exterior lights have been repaired; and all of the exterior trim has been re-painted.

This will be a time to embrace and express our deep gratitude for the past 40 years of our ministry in this space and our excitement and gratitude for the NEXT 40 years! We will also be sending our prayers of thanks to the anonymous donor who made all of this possible...it is a testimony to how much this Saint believes in what we have done here and what we will do here that they invested so generously in our future.

**Thursday April 21, 7 pm** your Minister's of Community Care will offer a **Holy Thursday Prayer Service**.

**Friday, April 22, 7 pm**, Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson will deliver the homily at our Taize style **Good Friday service** based on the Stations of the Cross.

**Saturday, April 23, at 9:00 am** we will be hosting our annual **Easter Egg hunt** for our children with a special appearance by the Easter Bunny!

**Sunday, April 24 at 7:30 am** we will gather on our **Labyrinth** for our Easter Vigil Sunrise Service with a processional of the Christ Candle into our sanctuary.

**At 11:00** we will have our **Easter and 40th Anniversary Celebration** with our special guest preacher the Moderator of Metropolitan Community Churches, Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson and our Regional Elder, Rev. Elder Lillie Brock, followed by a celebration lunch on the grounds!

It is my sincerest hope that you will come and be a part of this transformational time in the life of Agape' MCC. We are going to celebrate and we want to share that with you! Many blessings! *Rev. David*

## 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/>

## 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 Update!



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

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

SPONSORS: 

SUPPORTERS: 

 [HUMANKINDDAY@YAHOO.COM](mailto: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](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!](#)



## 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 -

## 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.

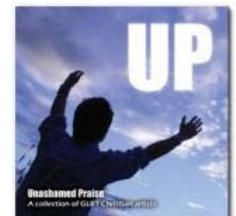
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South Arlington home for rent - with fireplace, 4 bedrooms, 2 full size bathrooms and 2 sky lights in living room with a double car garage. The back yard is a good size and enclosed by a six foot chain linked fence. The living space in the home is 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.

## 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=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/](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

- Anna and Billie- encouragement and improving health.
- Alice and Margaret - recovery from illness.
- Lou and Bailey- continued encouragement in their efforts in Lou's rehab and healing.
- Nora and Sherry-- faith, reassurance, healing.
- Mary W. -friend and coworker having leg amputation due to cancer and strength for her husband David.
- April Fundraising events of those organizations devoted to changing, treating, and ending AIDS, Breast Cancer, and M.S.
- For my brother and his children.
- For those in conflict, that it might lead to deeper understanding.
- For energy, clarity and balance for our church volunteers.
- For Kim, healing and relief from pain.
- For Nora, healing and strength.
- For Rayne, healing and energy.
- For all of those caring for those who are struggling...energy and peace.
- For those who are living in the aftermath of the tragedy in Japan.

- For clean water and clean air.
- For those in pain.
- For Tony, strength, wisdom, and support in his new job.
- Those who are grieving a loss.
- Those in transition.
- For compassion, love, and kindness for and towards all.
- Those who are searching.

*God, hear our prayers.*

## Praises

- New folks and Barbara who show us how to welcome strangers to be part of our Agape' home.
- Agape's Media Team, Pastors, Praise and Worship Team, and Leaders who continue to help us develop in our worship experience.
- Grace and Linda and the amazing flow of their Childrens' lesson that spoke to the adults as well.
- Patti and her inspired work with our children.
- Billy's skills and patience in updating the narthex through media and sound display along with leading the Usher Team.
- The experience of Spirit at Agape'- faith and works through vision, talents, gifts, and action.
- Anticipation of Humankind Day- 4/4/11.
- Wren who gets it... gratitude for her attention to prayer, meditation, and connection in our community.
- Nick and his quite and easy style of guiding us as stewards of renewal at Agape'.
- Sandra and Paul whose cooperation in their works team was very inspiring to experience.
- Nick and Rev. David and their helpers who cleared out furniture and materials from rooms and offices to allow carpeting.
- Rusty, Frank, and the other helpers of the Men's Fellowship who hosted a delicious meal and social time for Meet, Greet, and Eat on Sunday.
- Pat and Janna's love and patience with the children.
- Teresa M- for my parents' 50th wedding anniversary and the building of more good memories together.
- Ray and Wayne's 26 years together!!
- For Lynne and Val, sound gurus!
- For the saint who picked up the trash the four-leggeds hauled out of our dumpster.
- Everyone who has volunteered their time and energy during this time of renovation.
- For everyone who "showed up" last Saturday and Sunday after lunch to pack, haul, drag, push, pull, and relocate things so that we could replace our carpet and strip and wax the floor in the social hall.
- Jimmy M- for spending several of his vacation days re-doing the Social Hall floor! And Jimmy would like to thank Nick, David, Eric, Frank, and Gail for their help with the stripping of the floors. He says he couldn't have done it without your help!
- For the saints who hauled off landscaping clean up and trash on Saturday.

- For those who have hugged the pastor and reminded him to breathe :-)
- For Life.

*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.