



# Agape' MCC Newsletter

April 20 2010

## Upcoming Events

### Wed April 20:

7pm Centering Prayers & Guided Meditation

### Thu April 21:

9am Weekly Gardening (to spruce up our gardens & grounds)  
7pm Prayer Service

### Fri April 22:

7pm Good Friday Sve

### Sat April 23:

9am Easter Egg Hunt

### Sun April 24:

7:30am Sunrise Service  
10:30am Easter Celebration  
After Service- Easter Luncheon

## April Statistics

### 04/03:

Attendance: 88  
Offering: \$1,236

### 04/10:

Attendance: 119  
Offering: \$2,669

### 04/17:

Attendance: 125  
Offering: \$1,180

## Online Bible Resources

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

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

**Out In Scripture Archive:**

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

## Weekly Meditation

by Rev. Teri Lubbers

### Don't Be Afraid To Look

*Early the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance...as she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and other at the feet. They said to her, "Why are you weeping?"*



How curious that when two of Jesus' disciples look into the empty tomb they see only the empty tomb and the grave clothes, but when Mary looks into the empty tomb she sees angels...and they speak to her. I can't help but wonder, were the angels there when Peter and John went in? Did they just show up when Mary looked in? Were they there all the time but only Mary had eyes to see what the others could not? I do not know, but I wonder.

Light has not quite dawned when Mary shows up to care for the body of the Teacher whom she loved. Certainly dawning speaks of the physical sunrise, of the visible light, but it also speaks as metaphor. "While it was still dark" is an experience I know about, and probably you do as well. We frequently have to show up for our lives while it is still dark, when the path ahead is completely unknown to us, or when we believe that there is no path ahead. And we find ourselves fearful and distraught until something or someone poses the question to us, "Why are you weeping?"

Imagine Mary's surprise and confusion, wonder and dread, when she shows up expecting to see Jesus' body, but finds angels instead. She shows up expecting to find death - of her friend, her hopes, and her dreams - only to find a dimension of reality beyond her comprehension or recognition.

Death never gets the final word... it just becomes the fertile ground from which life comes forth once more. Nothing, not even death can quench love. And transforming love - love we have not imagined possible - is at work, here, now, in you, in me. Don't be afraid to look.

## 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!](#)

**Prayer: Beloved, guide us and be a light when the path seems dark. Remind our hearts that nothing can quench your life and your love...open our eyes to see your messengers that surround us. Amen.**

## April At Agape'

### From Rev. David

Holy Week continues at Agape'.

**Wednesday, April 20 at 7 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!



**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 a.m.**, we will be hosting our annual **Easter Egg hunt** for our children with a special appearance by the Easter Bunny!

**Adults and Children- Please come dressed comfortably-** we will also have a **Bounce House** and **Slide**, and will be serving **hamburgers** and **hotdogs** towards the end of these activities!

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

**At 10:30 a.m.**, 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*

## Easter Lunch Info

## Bring Your Favorite Dessert!

This year's Easter menu will include fried chicken, baked beans and potato salad to name a few items.

You are asked to provide the desserts! Bring the written recipe along with the dessert - we will collect them use them to publish a special 40th Anniversary Agape' Cookbook later this year!



## MCC Global Ministry Easter Offering

### A 2nd Offering on Easter Sunday

Greetings Saints, Agape' MCC is proud to join with other MCC Churches in collecting a second offering on Easter Sunday this year. In this place we take very seriously our connections around the world and our mission to tear down walls and build up hope for all! By taking part in MCC's 2011 Easter Offerings for Global Ministries, you make it possible for us to address urgent needs in Russia, the Philippines and Uganda. And these local church offerings represent a new day in MCC. You see, this work is not about North America exporting justice to the world; rather, it's a global MCC impacting our world, including North America, with energy and hope! - from Rev. David

## Sanctuary Lights For You!

### This Little Light

If you would like to reclaim a lighting fixture from the church, please see Nick. We are requesting a suggested donation of \$100.00 for each sanctuary light.



Each light still works and we also have the current shades and the original milk glass filters. Any questions do not hesitate to contact Nick at [operacub1978@gmail.com](mailto:operacub1978@gmail.com).

## Driving Ms. Billie

### Volunteers Needed

We will need someone to drive Ms. Billie to church once a month on the third Sunday of each month starting in May.



Interested persons should contact Ray at 817-751-6140 (cell) or [wayray69@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wayray69@sbcglobal.net)

## Suicide Survivors Presentation

## The Healing Journey After Loss

All are welcome to for a continental breakfast and brief presentation on this program. RSVP required.



**Suicide Survivors  
The Healing Journey After Loss  
Continental Breakfast  
Wednesday, May 4  
7:30am - 8:30am**

Learn how we are working to change the legacy of suicide in our community by offering support and hope to those who have lost a loved one to suicide.

**First United Methodist Church , Wesley Hall  
700 West Fifth Street  
Fort Worth**

**Please RSVP to Marti Lawrence**  
817-925-7608 or [SuicideSurvivors@myfumc.org](mailto:SuicideSurvivors@myfumc.org)

## Community Bulletin Board

### Your Ads or Items for Sale Here:

Dear Members, I have been unemployed for the past 7-8 months. If anyone knows of an employment opportunity, please, please, let me know. I live in Weatherford, on west side of Ft. Worth. I have been in property management for the past several years and have also recently been attempting to start a Farmers Agency, however I am not limited to these... please let me know if you hear of anything or have any suggestions. I can be reached at 214.952.8859 ... this is my cell or my email [frank.marino96@gmail.com](mailto:frank.marino96@gmail.com) Thank You, Thank You, Thank You ~ Frank Marino



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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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Volunteers needed with good organizational skills, and a strong back. Linda, and I are down sizing in 3 months. I

have to have several garage sales over that time period. I am going to need a lot of help sorting and moving things. Lucky for Linda she will be out of town for most of it. If you are interested in helping please call me at 972-366-8034 or 817-487-7283 and we can work out dates and times. Thank you in advance, Janet.

For sale this month antiques! I have 2 wash stands, 2 very small desks, a bar mirror, a small leaded glass bookcase, an ice cream stool, a metal industrial stool that is so cool. Tons of what knots, most of them are Pegasus in nature, and a few pictures of that animal too. oh and glass bowls. Last but not least a wedding band quilt made in 1890 that is in excellent condition. If you want pictures or are interested in anything please call me at 972-366-8034 or 817-487-7283. Thanks, Janet.

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## Prayers

- Continued healing for Rayne.
- Healing for Bob's mother.
- For Mitzi's continued healing.
- For healing for Ana, and strength for Sarah and Robert.
- For all who are caring for aging parents.
- For Jessica, Teri, and Aaron, peace in the journey.
- For Bill and all who are helping to fight the wild fires.
- Continued healing and strength for Lou.
- For a dear friend who is struggling with relationship.
- Travel mercies for Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson this week.
- For energy and peace for all on this Holy Week path.
- For all who are seeking employment.
- For all who are in transition.
- For those who seek clarity and direction.
- For a home.

*God, hear our prayers.*

## Praises

- For Linda's craftsmanship on our altar candles and her restoring of "Dedication Sunday" poster from 1983.
- For Shell's and Nick's mowing of the back 40.
- For Liz's wonderful hospitality on Sunday.
- For all of our new prayer flags.
- For Wren's installation of our new flags.
- For Leigh's creation of sacred space in our sanctuary.
- For good test results for a brother.
- For Paul's supervised year at Agape'.
- For those who love and care for our church home.
- For all who step up and help hold our vision of community for all.
- For our healing touch ministry.

- For celebrating 40 years of Tearing Down Walls and Building up Hope.
- For our Board of Directors...leaders and servants.
- For our Ministers of Community Care.
- To "Big Paul" the "gecko wrangler" for much appreciated assistance with guiding one back outside to freedom!
- To dear friends who are willing to move heavy items at a moment's notice - Bless you!!!
- To those working so awfully hard on our 40th Anniversary. You are angels!
- For wonderful worship opportunities this Holy Week.

*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.