



# Agape' MCC Newsletter

July 27 2011

## Upcoming Events

### Wed July 27:

7:30-8:30pm Wheelers & Walkers @ Gateway Park

### Thu July 28:

6am Weekly Gardening Group

### Sun July 31:

10:20am Worship

**Noon Fundraising Carwash (Part 2!)**

### Wed Aug 3:

7pm LGBT Grief Support Group

### Sun Aug 7:

**10:30am Guest Speaker  
Zac Edwards & pianist  
Julie Bonk**

### Wed Aug 10:

7pm LGBT Grief Support Group

### Wed Aug 17:

7pm LGBT Grief Support Group

### Sat Aug 20:

11:30am-3pm Back to School Bash

### Sun Aug 21:

12-1:30pm Town Hall Mtg  
1:30-4pm Leadership Mtg

### Wed Aug 24:

7pm LGBT Grief Support Group

### Sat Aug 27:

## Agape' Wheelers & Walkers Wed 7/27

### At Gateway Park Tonight 7:30 pm

Is life feeling a bit stressful right now? Do you have some restless and or anxious energy? Or are you looking for a new way to celebrate life in community?



Come out to Gateway Park and play with your church family! Bring your bicycle for a group ride. Or bring your sneakers for some walking meditation along the beautifully paved trail (with the exception of a few areas under construction).

*See you there!*

## Weekly Meditation

by Rev. Teri Lubbers

### Just Be Kind

***You should never have expectations for other people. Just be kind to them...setting goals for others can be aggressive - really wanting a success story for ourselves. When we do this to others, we are asking them to live up to our ideals. Instead, we should just be kind. ~ Pema Chodron, "The Pocket Pema Chodron"***



When I read this quote my mind immediately starts thinking about exceptions to the rule. I mean, shouldn't parents have expectations of their children? That they be polite, responsible, attentive, kind...? What if you are an employer? Don't you have a right to have expectations of those who work for you? How about your spouse? Aren't there some things we should be able to count on and expect? Hmm...well, yes and no. When young children are in our care we do have a responsibility for their safety, for their socialization, for their nurture. But the best way to teach them is to always be kind, an unwavering kindness and compassion that models for them who they can be.

I know of what Pema speaks. I know the kind of life I wish for my co-workers, friends, family, church, adult children. I also know when I get too "helpful" or "curious" about events or details of my sons' lives my middle son warns

11am-2pm Healing Touch  
Ministry

**Wed Aug 31:**

7pm LGBT Grief Support  
Group

**Fri Sep 30:**

8-10pm Suzanne  
Westenhofer- Sheraton  
Hotel Ballroom

**Sun Oct 30:**

12pm Congregational Forum

**Sun Nov 6:**

12pm Annual Congregation  
Meeting

## Sunday Statistics

**07/03:**

Attendance: 103  
Offering: \$1,609

**07/10:**

Attendance: 94  
Offering: \$3,358

**07/17:**

Attendance: 111  
Offering: \$1,614

**07/24:**

Attendance: 112  
Offering: \$1,248

## Quick Links

[Agape' MCC](#)

[Give to Agape' Online](#)

[Metropolitan Community  
Churches](#)

Follow Us On:



## 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](#)

me, "Don't nag, Mom!" And inside a little voice says, "But I just want what's best, good, right for you." So now, instead of telling them what to do, I ask if they would like to go out to dinner, or go to the movie, or come over and do their laundry. I tell them how proud I am of them, or affirm my confidence in their ability to make decisions that get them where they want to go, or validate when something is really hard in their lives without trying to tell them what to do.

I don't know what's best for any other human being. Period. I don't know. And it really is an act of aggression to impose that on anyone - what I think is best. Chances are that at the core of my being "helpful" is more often the desire to make some part of my own life more comfortable or easier. Truth is, I don't want to have to worry, be anxious, embarrassed or brokenhearted, and I am pretty vigilant about watching the signs and trying to be proactive (which might as well be translated as "pre-emptive") so that I don't get hurt or bothered. There are better uses of life's precious energy than trying to micro-manage the people and the world around me. As the mantra of last Sunday's children's sermon testifies: "Don't worry about tomorrow. Feed life!" One way to feed life is to just be kind.

**Prayer: Thank you God for those in our lives who have extended kindness to us, who have loved us without condition or expectation and freed us up to be ourselves. Help me to see the world through very kind eyes today. Amen.**

## Car Wash - The Sequel

### This Sunday - July 31

We had a successful car wash after service last Sunday. **Over \$300** was raised for youth activities later this summer! You can see pictures from last week by [clicking here!](#)



If you missed it last Sunday, **bring your car around for our Youth and Children to wash this Sunday, July 31, after service Sunday morning!** Donations are appreciated and this week's fundraiser goes to **funding the 3rd Annual School Supplies Drive.**

**!!Children and Youth be sure to bring water clothes!!**

## Rainbow Room Back Pack Drive

### 3rd Annual School Supplies Drive

We are collecting monetary donations for BackPacks for The Rainbow Room and CPS. Make Checks out to Agape' MCC and be sure to put "3rd Drive" on the memo line.



## Web 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/>

## 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 Bead Series

### A Season of Prayer

This Sunday is the last Sunday of our prayer bead series. But not to worry, Nick will still be around to assist in stringing or to make repairs.



In case you missed a week, here are the beads & what each bead should remind you of or assist you with as a touch stone for your prayers:

1. **God or Gratitude** bead.
2. The **letting go** bead.
3. The **silence** bead.
4. The **journey** bead.
5. The **struggle** bead.
6. The **simplicity** bead.
7. The **prayer intention** bead.
8. The **empty cross** (the cross is not in a basket but back at the table with Nick.)

## Being Like Little Children

### Children & Youth Spiritual Formation

In both Mark 10:15 and Luke 18:17, Jesus insists that to see the Realm of God we must be as little children. During the time of First century Israel, "Little Children" were the workers of the household that did the lowest and worst of the chores, and they were the last if at all to receive accolades for their efforts. Accordingly, this phrase "be like little children" had a specific meaning of having the qualities of openness, low status and no claim to achievement, and only through this perspective were persons able to see/ receive/ enter the Realm of God. This is the quintessential character of "servanthood."



Accordingly, our Children and Youth Spiritual Formation programming is perhaps more forming for our adult volunteers as they will be catering to our children and Youth as they enjoy a movie this Sunday. We will serve them snacks and juice at their seats as they watch. Should they require other forms of entertainment such as coloring books and such, those too will be provided for them.

With the months of August and September coming upon us, our scheduling of teachers and programming has begun. Should you find that you are called to share a spiritual gift with the children and youth of our community, please let me know. I personally would enjoy facilitating a class with both you and the children.

Shalom,  
Paul Fucile

## In The News - Lone Star Ride

### Agape' Member Deanie Sewell

Check out the article on Agape' member Deanie Sewell and the Lone Star Race by [clicking here](#) for last week's article in The Dallas Voice. Deanie has a passion for the race and its riders. Congratulations, Deanie - your recognition is well deserved!



## Life Pantry - New Ministry Opportunity

### Beginning at Agape' MCC

**The Life Pantry** is now gathering food and various items for those in need in our community. In August, we will begin a bi-monthly pantry where people from the community who have fallen on hard times or simply cannot afford basic necessities can come to Agape' MCC and receive help in the way of food and other household items. A copy of the suggested donations list are on our website - [click here to see the list](#).



For more information, contact The Life Pantry at [lifepantry@yahoo.com](mailto:lifepantry@yahoo.com).

## New LGBT Grief Support Group

### You Are Not Alone

VITAS Innovative Hospice Care® offers bereavement support groups to anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. These groups offer understanding, useful information and sharing with others who are grieving.



The next group will be a grief support group specifically intended to meet the needs of the LGBT community, **beginning Wednesday, August 3 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** and continuing for the 5 Wednesdays in August, at Agape' Metropolitan Community Church, 4615 East California Parkway, Fort Worth, 76119. This group will be **led by Chaplain Teri Lubbers**.

To register or for more information, **call the VITAS Bereavement Department, 817-870-7070**.

## Guest Speaker, Aug 7- Zac Edwards

## Mark Your Calendar!

**Coming to Agape', Sunday  
August 7....Guest Preacher Mr.  
Zac Edwards and Guest  
Accompanist Julie Bonk!!**



As many of you know our resident "big brother" and Youth Leader Zac Edwards is off to college this Fall! August 7 will be his last Sunday at Agape' for a bit as he starts school and so he will be preaching and sharing with us the highlights of his missions trip to the Dominican Republic and his challenge to us to keep being a place that embraces and empowers children and youth.

Along with Zac we have the great pleasure of hosting renowned pianist Julie Bonk to be part of the message in music...pen us in on your calendar! You will not want to miss this!

## Back to School Bash - August 20

### Come Join the Fun

- **When- Saturday 8/20**
- **Time- 11:30 am ~ 3 pm**
- **Where- Agape' back yard**
- **What-**
  - **Cookout**
  - **Music**
  - **Fun Activities**



The Back to School Bash and Cook-out will include water slide, pools and water balloon games. We are accepting donations of Hot dogs and hamburger patties, buns for both, potatoes chips and other appropriate snacks and if desired sodas. Tea and Lemonade will be provided. Also, if you have a canopy we encourage you to bring it and share.

**OpenDoor Productions Presents:**

Celebrating 30 Years of **GAY PRIDE**  
in **Tarrant County!**

**OpenDoor Productions Presents:**



A COMEDY NIGHT  
with

**SUZANNE  
WESTENHOEFER!**

**SEMI-SWEET**

Friday

Sept. 30, 2011

8:00pm-10:00pm  
Sheraton Hotel Ballroom  
1701 Commerce Street  
Fort Worth, TX

Followed by a **DANCE**  
10:30pm - 2:00am

**TICKETS:**

Comedy Show & Dance  
General Seating: \$25  
Reserved Seating: \$45  
At the door \$30

Buy Tickets: [OpenDoorProductionsTX.com](http://OpenDoorProductionsTX.com)  
Information: 817-637-8263



Order Tickets online by [clicking here](#)

## Community Bulletin Board

### Your Ads or Items for Sale Here

Rev. Teri is looking for a **temporary (4-5 months) or permanent home for her dog Lola**. Lola is an 80 pound black lab mix, well-trained in the house, loves people, sometimes loves other dogs.



Also from Teri: Anyone **need a working washer and dryer? Available for pick-up July 30 or 31.**

Contact Teri at [tlubbers@yahoo.com](mailto:tlubbers@yahoo.com) or 817-300-7648.

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Need a handyman, babysitter, dog sitter, mover, etc?  
Contact me: [drmline2007@aol.com](mailto:drmline2007@aol.com) or 417-225-8288 -  
Skye Newkirk

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**Need Help..** I need help with my swimming pool. I am unable to get it maintained.. Help.. Call me at 817-996-8152  
Thanks! Mitzi: [westieluvnlady@yahoo.com](mailto:westieluvnlady@yahoo.com)  
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**For Sale: Home - 1902 Delta, Arlington TX** - Awesome location! 4BR, 3Bath, Laundry Room and 2 car garage with work space. One owner home built in late 70's or early 80's. Mature trees, fenced back yard. Patio access from master bedroom. This is the last step needed to close out my mother's estate. The house has great energy and lots of potential. New A/C, refrigerator, washer and dryer included. \$150,000. Call Mike (realtor) 817-548-6000.

## Prayers

- Comfort and peace for the people of Norway.
- Healing and good results for Mickey's mom.
- Peace and love for Carol S.
- Grace G. - PET scan results.
- Healing and health for Erika L. as she journeys through chemotherapy.
- Healing for Chris R. who is recovering from a Copperhead bite.
- Healing for Lisa O.'s mom Evelyn.
- For all of those caring for loved ones.
- Health and healing for Evelyn B.
- RAIN, RAIN, RAIN.
- Safety for those who must work in this heat.
- Travel mercies and renewal for Gail G.
- For Anna's house to sell!
- Protection and peace for Steve working in Afghanistan.
- For a family to be reunited.
- Smooth heart surgery, healing, and recovery for Paul F.'s grandmother.
- Continued healing for Avery Jo's family as they grieve.
- Healing for Linda C. and relief from pain.
- for Andy & Kent's house to sell.
- Tinker's painful wrist.
- Carolyn M. - surgery on thumb from cat bite.
- Colette J. - Surgery.
- Kris and Linda - safe travels.
- Patsy and Sam G. - health.
- Travel mercies all around.

*God, hear our prayers.*

## Praises

- Trish P. and her presence and planning with Avery Jo's family.
- Rev. Teri and her help with last week's memorial.
- For healing touch and massage.
- For Rev. Teresa on the Djembe.
- Dan and his music and life.
- For our children, the car wash, and clean vehicles.
- Those who contributed to the car wash in many ways.
- For Vaughn's Vixens who grilled and served an amazing lunch this past Sunday!
- Kathy, Wren, Nick, Denise, and Stephanie who were amazing cooks and hosts for last week's memorial service.

- Billy S. - who got the church spruced up and ready for the last two weeks.
- Brennan and Logan - who helped with the trash.
- Trish, Zoie, Faith, Saige, and Tru and the gift of music.
- Alice - her sweet spirit and her gifts!
- New jobs for David V., Jeff, & Sunshine!
- Nancy's son & his good choices.
- Rev. David's Wed night "Potter & Clay" w/ Play-Doh.
- For Denise & Suzy all those who came Saturday for a "Healing Touch".
- Camp Rosales & all they do for Agape' kids.
- For the abundance that is born from simplicity.
- For children and laughter.
- For New York and Gay Marriage.

*Blessed are those who put their trust in God.  
Psalms 40:4*

## This Sunday July 31

### Order of Worship - July 31, 2011

<b>**The Gathering Song</b>	"Healing Rain"	Community
<b>Words of Welcome</b>		Rev. David Wynn
<b>Call to Worship</b>		Community
<b>Song of Welcome</b>	"Gather Us In"	TGFM
<b>Time With Our Children</b>		Rev. Teri Lubbers
<b>A Response</b>	"This Little Light of Mine"	Community
<b>Preparing to Hear the Word</b>	"Word of God Speak"	Community
<b>Teaching in Prayer</b>	The Bleeding Woman "Luke 8: 40-56" <i>based on writings of Julie Clawson</i>	
<b>Prayer for Justice</b>		Mickey Howell
<b>A Response</b>		Community
<b>Prayer For an End of Violence</b>		Rev. Teresa Mallott
<b>A Response</b>		Community
<b>Prayer For the Homeless</b>		Grace Gray
<b>A Response</b>		Community
<b>Prayer For an End to Poverty</b>		Rev. Robert Myers
<b>A Response</b>		Community
<b>Prayer For the Community and an End to Hunger and Thirst</b>		Rev. David Wynn
<b>Prayer Response</b>	"Hear Our Prayer"	GFM and Community
<b>A Time of Offering</b>		Cassy Batts
<b>Celebration of Holy Communion</b>		Rev. Teri Lubbers
<b>**Sending Forth</b>	"We Are Called"	Community
<b>**The Sending Forth</b>		Rev. David Wynn

## MCC News from Around the World

*from Lay Delegate Kathy Munn*

[MCC Headline News July 19 2011](#)

[MCC Two Opportunities for Young Adults](#)

[MCC New Organizational Structure](#)

[MCC Disaster Relief](#)

**Community News and Events**

*from Lay Delegate Kathy Munn*

[AIDS Outreach Center \(AOC\)](#)

[The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation \(GLAAD\)](#)

[National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Update](#)

[Samaritan House](#)

[Trans-cendance / Trans Support Center of Fort Worth](#)

[Transgender Education Network of Texas](#)

**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.