



Agape' MCC Newsletter

August 3 2011

Upcoming Events

Wed Aug 3:

7pm Space In Our Week-Sanctuary

7pm LGBT Grief Support Group- Fellowship Hall

Thu Aug 4:

6am Weekly Gardening Group

Sun Aug 7:

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

Mon Aug 8:

7pm Board of Directors

Wed Aug 10:

7pm LGBT Grief Support Group

Fri Aug 12:

5:30pm Samaritan House Supper Club

Wed Aug 17:

7pm Space In Our Week-Sanctuary

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

Space In Our Week - Tonight 8/3

Prayer Beads...and More!

Having finished our Prayer Beads this past Sunday, we will be dedicating our **Space in the Week for August (3rd and 17th, 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary)** to praying together through our beads with a particular focus on intercessory prayer and praying for the world. Plan to join us as we extend ourselves in prayer on behalf of all of creation...it makes a difference! Expect other prayer helpers as well such as crayons, paper, glue, scissors, play doh, you get the picture!



Weekly Meditation

by Rev. Teri Lubbers

Power To Feel

Now pray, as I who came back from the same confusion learned to pray. I returned to paint upon the altars those old holy forms, but they shone differently, fierce in their beauty. So now my prayer is this: You, my own deep soul, trust me. I will not betray you. My blood is alive with many voices telling me I am made of longing. What mystery breaks over me now? In its shadow I come into life. For the first time I am alone with you - you, my power to feel.

~ Rilke, "Book of Hours: Love Poems to God"

Deep soul...longing...feeling...mystery. I have to read Rilke's words over and over to begin to taste the flavor of what he speaks. As if his words lie just beyond my reach, just beyond awareness or cognizance. We hide from ourselves at times. Or we split ourselves up into manageable parts.

I think I have spent a great deal of time living like a double decker bus, where head and heart are these two levels of riding through life, levels that don't always see one another or interact. I imagine the head - seat of thinking and logic and rationality - as the first level, boxed in, a closed space whose environment can be heated or cooled as needed to maintain a narrow comfort zone, with windows that have a limited view of the sky. I imagine the heart - feeling, intuitive, connecting conduit - as the



Fri Aug 26:

5:30pm Samaritan House
Supper Club

Sat Aug 27:

11am-2pm Healing Touch
Ministry

Wed Aug 31:

7pm LGBT Grief Support
Group

Wed Sep 7:

7pm The Journey: Holy
Conversations

Wed Sep 21:

7pm The Journey: Holy
Conversations

Fri Sep 30:

8-10pm Suzanne
Westenhofer- Sheraton
Hotel Ballroom

Sat Oct 1:

10am Pride Parade -
Downtown Fort Worth

Sun Oct 2:

12-6pm Pride Picnic -
Trinity Park Fort Worth

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

07/31:

Attendance: 83

Offering: \$2,499

second level, open to the sky and all the elements, whose variability is unpredictable and beyond management. The immensity of life will never fit into the thimble of my rationality. I am one, even though I act like two.

Rilke points to a hidden wholeness within us, a place where we can trust ourselves, where our deepest longings are honored, not held suspect or dismissed out-of-hand. A place where we discover the holy in our midst, beckoning from every corner, a mystery breaking over us and calling us into life. God in us. The power to feel, the power to trust, the power to be.

Prayer: Holy One, source of my wholeness. Help me trust the whispers of your longing that ripen in me. May I move through this day with the power to feel and see and be open to you in all the ways you show up today. Amen.

Guest Speaker, Aug 7 - Zac Edwards**Mark Your Calendar!**

Coming to Agape', This 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!

**Thank You, Agape'****Dear Agape' Family,**

On behalf of Cassy, myself and especially my mother, Evelyn O'Grady, I wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart. I was overwhelmed by the help from many of you when my mother was ill while Cassy and I were out of town. So many of you helped in numerous ways.

Some of you probably don't even realize what a blessing you were to us. Words can't begin to express our gratitude for all of your kindness in helping and for those of you who also made offers to help. Trust me when I say that nothing



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](#)

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

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

Contact Us At:

went un-noticed.

Evelyn O' is doing GREAT. She has been home for a week, is feeling very good and already driving us crazy. LOL! (In a good way!)

Again, thank you so very much. We love all of you!
Lisa O'Grady

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.



Life Pantry - New Ministry Opportunity

Now at Agape' MCC

The Life Pantry gathers food and various items for those in need in our community. In August, we 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.

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.**

Back to School Bash - August 20

www.agapemcc.com

817-535-5002

Join Our List

Join Our Mailing List!

Come Join the Fun

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

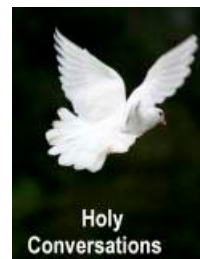


The Back to School Bash and Cook-out will include water slide, pools and water balloon games. We are accepting donations of Hot dogs and hamburger patties, buns for both, potatoes chips and other appropriate snacks and if desired sodas. Tea and Lemonade will be provided. Also, if you have a canopy we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

Holy Conversations Series

Begins in September

Starting the **first Wednesday in September - 9/7/11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall** - "The Journey" series will begin again on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. The intention of this series is to provide a structure for Adult Spiritual Formation and education within our faith community.



The 2011/2012 cycle will be led by Rev. David Wynn and will focus on "Holy Conversations" following a curriculum developed by the Metropolitan Community Churches Theologies Team.

The MCC Theologies Team seeks to create opportunities and provide resources that will enable "holy conversations" within our denomination about our various beliefs concerning the integration of sexuality and spirituality, the nature of Jesus, baptism, communion, the unique place of all who find themselves on the margins of society, and the priesthood of all believers, among other things. Our experience in MCC is that theological labels and characterizations can be hurtful and misleading. Our hope is to build bridges across our theological differences and empower all people to do theology.

This study does *NOT*:

- * aim to indoctrinate participants in a particular way of understanding the topics presented;
- * define what is a "normative" understanding of any topic for the whole of MCC, a particular local church, or any church member;
- * attempt to provide THE one right answer to any question posed.

This study *DOES invite and encourage participants to:*

- * reflect on their own experiences of various issues, and especially their thoughts and/or feelings about what was "Holy" about that experience (e.g. how God was present or at work in it);
- * articulate and share their experiences with others, and to listen to and respect the experiences and reflections of others, whether or not they agree or disagree;
- * explore the connections between their various beliefs about a particular topic and the testimony offered in the experiences, opinions, and questions of others ... including the witness of Scripture and Church Tradition(s);
- * make friends with any ambiguity or tension that might be present in the midst of conversations with diverse and divergent truths being claimed;
- * notice and honor God (the "Holy") in the conversation itself, rather than the materials that we hope will serve to meaningfully facilitate that discussion.

Mark Your Calendars Now! We hope to see you there.

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

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

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

Buy Tickets: OpenDoorProductionstx.com
Information: 817-637-8263



Order Tickets online by [clicking here](#)

Community Bulletin Board

Your Ads or Items for Sale Here

Need a handyman, babysitter, dog sitter, mover, etc? Contact me:

drmline2007@aol.com or 417-225-8288 -



Skye Newkirk

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

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

- For clarity in a relationship.
- Kendal - who needs a liver.
- Healing for Rico and his wife.
- Healing for Richard recovering from war injuries and the loss of his daughter.
- Healing for Billy D. in hospital with P.A.D., blood clots and heart problems.
- Healing and good results for Carolyn M's thumb.
- For those who must work/live in the heat.
- For rain.
- Energy and healing for Evelyn B.
- Healing for Paul F.'s grandmother.
- Comfort for Saige as she processes unearthed feelings.
- Healing and strength for Tommie Lee.
- Rest for Lisa & Cassy who hit the ground running after their vacation.
- Patience and wisdom for those who parent.
- For Zac and Erik as they head off to college.
- For those in transition.
- For those "coming out".

God, hear our prayers.

Praises

- For Billy, Kathy, and Shell who make our podcast possible.
- For Rev. David's parents' safe return from Florida.
- For Nick and Evelyn's care of the land during these hot/dry days.
- Grace's PET scan results.
- For Brad outgrowing one-sided friendships.
- Danielle & Linda's provision so Lisa & Cassy could go on vacation.
- For a brother's gift.
- Our Agape' family around the world.
- Denise's hospitality.

- An amazing worship experience this past Sunday.

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

This Sunday August 7

Order of Worship - August 7, 2011

The Gathering Song	"Healing Rain"	Community
Words of Welcome		Rev. David Wynn
Call to Worship		Community
Song of Welcome	"The River is Here"	TGFM
Time With Our Children		Rev. David Wynn
A Response	"This Little Light of Mine"	Community
Preparing to Hear the Word	"Word of God Speak"	Community
Teaching in Scripture	"Jeremiah 17:7 and Isaiah 11:6"	Valarie McMullan
A Response	"Word of God Speak"	Community
Time of Teaching	"Uh-oh...It Just Got Real"	Zac Edwards
Centering Song	"Hear Our Prayer"	TGFM and
Community		
Community Prayer		Rev. Teresa Mallott
Prayer Response	"Hear Our Prayer"	TGFM and Community
A Time of Offering		Cassy Batts
	Special Music: Julie Bonk and Zac Edwards	
Celebration of Holy Communion		Rev. Robert Myers
Sending Forth	"Stand Up"	Zac's Crew
The Sending Forth		Rev. David Wynn

MCC News from Around the World

from Lay Delegate Kathy Munn

[MCC Calls for Prayer on Behalf of LGBT People in Uganda](#)

[MCC Celebrates Rev. Dee and Judy Dale](#)

[MCC Impact July 2011](#)

[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](#)

[Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association](#)

* [Join the Fort Worth Gay Pride High Steppers!](#)

[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.