



Agape' MCC Newsletter

August 10 2011

Upcoming Events

Wed Aug 10:

7pm LGBT Grief Support Group

Thu Aug 11:

6am Gardening Group

Fri Aug 12:

3pm Kathryn Robinson Memorial Service
5:30pm Samaritan House Supper Club
6pm Youth Lock-In

Tue Aug 16:

7:30pm Arts & Crafts Night

Wed Aug 17:

7pm Space In Our Week-Sanctuary
7pm LGBT Grief Support Group

Sat Aug 20:

11:30am-3pm Back to School Bash

2pm - Men's Fellowship (Meet at Dallas Holocaust Museum)

Sun Aug 21:

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

Tue Aug 23:

7:30pm Arts & Crafts Night

Wed Aug 24:

7pm LGBT Grief Support Group

Fri Aug 26:

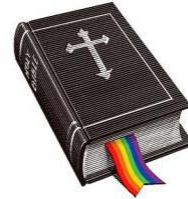
5:30pm Samaritan House Supper Club

Sat Aug 27:

Something New This Sunday

Relay Preaching?

Beginning this Sunday and for all the Sunday's in August, Rev.'s David, Teri, Robert, and Teresa will be offering a time of "relay preaching"...they will each speak to a part of our reading in scripture. This week we will be exploring how Jesus would teach us today who our neighbor is with a modern twist on the story of the Good Samaritan. Don't worry the sermon will NOT be four times as long! Take a break from the heat and join your spiritual family for this amazing experience!



Camp Rosales Lock-In This Weekend!

This Friday - Aug 12

Drop off time is at 6pm Fri, Aug 12 in the Fellowship Hall. All meals will be provided. Your child/youth will need play clothes, sleep clothes to include sleeping bag and pillow, and swim clothes to include a towel. Transportation will be provided to Pat and Janna's house for the swim-out / cook out. **Pick-up is at 6 pm Sat, Aug 13 at Pat and Janna's house**



Memorial Service on Friday at 3pm

Kathryn Robinson (1937-2011)

A friend of Agape' MCC and aunt of member Denise Smith has passed and her service will be held at Agape' this Friday at 3pm.

See more information by [clicking this link.](#)

Weekly Meditation

by Rev. Teri Lubbers

11am-2pm Healing Touch Ministry

Tue Aug 30:

7:30pm Arts & Crafts Night

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 Westenhoefer- 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

07/17:

Attendance: 111

Offering: \$1,614

07/24:

Attendance: 112

Offering: \$1,248

07/31:

Attendance: 83

Offering: \$2,499

08/07:

Attendance: 126

Offering: \$2,336

Quick Links

[Agape' MCC](#)

[Give to Agape' Online](#)

There Was More

Engaging in ancient rituals with people as ordinary as I was, I watched their faces open to reveal night skies full of stars. Who would ever have imagined they carried so much around within them? Turning aside from everything else we could have been doing, we did things together in those sacred spaces that we did nowhere else in our lives: we named babies, we buried the dead, we sang psalms, we praised God for our lives. When we did, it was as if we were building a fire together, each of us adding something to the blaze so that the light and heat in our midst grew. Yet the light exceeded our fire, just as the warmth did. We did our parts, and then there was more. There was More. ~ Barbara Brown Taylor, "An Altar in the World"



As I prepare to move to California in less than two months, I am shifting into that place that I call "poignant." My other word for it is bittersweet. Both words describe life in general, as well as particular, reminding me that some of the most wonderfully joyful things can also bring me to tears. I will never forget the very first time I came to Agape'. I was still married and came to see a friend join the church. I remember going home and telling my husband that I had been to what I thought a church ought to be... my first inclusive language experience instead of the Father-Son boys' club I had always felt left out of, singing together "The Prayer that Jesus Taught Us" while holding hands, my first experience of a preacher inviting me to show up with all of my thinking AND feeling, so that I might become more me. All of me was welcomed in this sacred space, even the parts of me I barely knew. You and God have grown me, Agape'.

So, did you ever imagine you carry so much around within you? That each one of you adds something to the blaze that provides light and warmth for one another and for those yet to come? I hear Rev. David's weekly words to us: you haven't just been to church, you ARE the church, and if the world is to know anything of the love of God, it will leave here with you. And I hear the truth of Taylor's words...we do our parts but something More is at work in our midst.

Prayer: Holy, Wholly, God-of-Fullness, we acknowledge that you are the More in us. You are calling us into being moment by moment. Be light and warmth in and through us this day. Amen.

Children & Youth Spiritual Formation

The Long Journey of A Great People

by Paul Fucile

Matisyahu Jewish reggae artist asks the rhetorical question "What is a person with



[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.resolveconflictionline.com

or call 877-9-2agree

Contact Us At:

www.agapemcc.com

817-535-5002

Join Our List

no history?" He speaks from his own knowledge of Jewish heritage and history. We too share in this history and see regularly its influence in the Gospel writings. This week we will take our first steps to embark on the long journey of a Great People. Accordingly, we will ask and try to answer the questions "Why did an Almighty God choose Creation?" and "Should we, and how do we, as Creation, choose God."

Craft Night at Agape' in August

Project #1 - Lanterns

Craft Night

7:30 Tuesday nights in August



We are making some of the decorations Dawn & Cheri need for their upcoming wedding and reception.

Project # 1 - funky cone-shaped lanterns. Dawn will teach us how to make them. We need as many hands on deck as possible.

Questions? - contact Stephanie at eattheredpill@aol.com

And this word from Dawn & Cheri - please give them your RSVPs to their reception now as they try to finish up the planning. Speak to Dawn as soon as possible.

Rainbow Room Back Pack Drive

3rd Annual School Supplies Drive

We are still collecting monetary donations for BackPacks for The Rainbow Room and CPS. Make Checks out to Agape' MCC and be sure to put "Backpacks" on the memo line. You can place your donations in the offering plate - talk to Paul Fucile or Patti Stephens if you have any questions.



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

Join Our Mailing List!

lifepantry@yahoo.com.

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

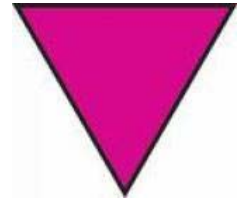


The Back to School Bash and Cook-out will include water slide, pools and water balloon games. **We are accepting donations of Hot dogs and hamburger patties, buns for both, potatoes chips and other appropriate snacks and if desired sodas.** Tea and Lemonade will be provided. Also, if you have a canopy,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

Men's Fellowship - August 20

Trip to Dallas

- Dallas Holocaust Museum
- 211 N Record Street- Suite 100
Dallas TX 75202
- 214-741-7500
- Saturday, Aug 20
- Meet at Museum @ 2pm
- Admission \$8.00
- Dinner afterwards at Heartattack Grill - West End!
- TRE & DART schedules are available online



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.**

August Healing Touch at Agape'

On Sat August 27

**Healing Touch Ministry
Saturday, August 27, 2011
from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
In the Fellowship Hall**



We invite you to come and find some relief from the busy-ness of the world. We will be offering energy work (Reiki, HT...) and Massage... fully clothed on massage tables.

Community Care Ministers will also be on hand. You are welcome here. There is no charge for this service. Your body, mind and spirit will be grateful for the opportunity to re-balance and heal.

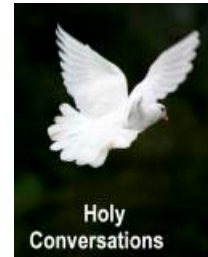
For more info on Healing Touch see:
www.healingtouchinternational.com.
Or just drop me a note @ yogilindi02@yahoo.com.

Peace to you.
Linda and Denise

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

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

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

**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

opendoor
PRODUCTIONS

Order Tickets online by [clicking here](#).

Community Bulletin Board

Your Ads or Items for Sale Here



Needs A Baby Crib - Denise P. is looking for a baby crib: free, trade, to buy - please contact Denise at 817-204-7943

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

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 those who are struggling financially and searching for work
- Denise S. as she mourns the loss of her Aunt Kathryn R.
- Healing and resolution for Danielle.
- Energy for all of the caregivers.
- Strength and healing for Lisa D.
- Energy for Pat as she supports her company.
- For Dawn's friend, Jennifer - her young son is having open heart surgery on Friday.
- For rain and a break from the heat.
- For all who do not have consistent access to air conditioning.
- Healing for Linda C.
- For the city of Kemp Texas - severe water shortages; the city has shut off the water.
- For our economy and wisdom for the decision makers.
- For Zac and Erik and all those headed to college and back to school.
- For the adults who are leading and loving the children during the lock in!
- For a new beginning.

God, hear our prayers.

Praises

- Chris and Sunshine who are engaged.
- Rayne and Nancy's third Anniversary.

- Julie Bonk and the gift of music.
- Zac and his message to us.
- Nick and his gentle service.
- Denise and her giving spirit.
- For the Life Pantry and all who are offering their service.

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

This Sunday August 14

Order of Worship - August 14, 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. Teri Lubbers
A Response	"This Little Light of Mine"	Community
Preparing to Hear the Word	"Word of God Speak"	Community
Teaching Through Many Voices	A Modern Re-telling of Luke 10: 25-37 Rev. David Wynn, Rev. Teri Lubbers, Rev. Robert Myers, Rev. Teresa Mallott	
Centering Song Community	"Hear Our Prayer"	TGFM and
Community Prayer		Trish Penland
Prayer Response	"Hear Our Prayer"	TGFM and Community
A Time of Offering		Cassy Batts
	Special Music: Julie Bonk	
The Celebration of Holy Communion		Rev. Teri Lubbers
Sending Forth	"From This Very Place"	Community
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](#)

[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.