



# Agape' MCC Newsletter

August 24 2011

## Upcoming Events

### Wed Aug 24:

7pm LGBT Grief Support Group

### Fri Aug 26:

5:30pm Samaritan House Supper Club

### Sat Aug 27:

11am-2pm Healing Touch Ministry

### Tue Aug 30:

7pm Arts & Crafts Night

### Wed Aug 31:

7pm LGBT Grief Support Group

### Sat Sep 3:

6:30am Yard and Labyrinth Workday!

### 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:

## TCU Church Fair & Picnic - Aug 26

### Agape' Hosting a Table

Agape' MCC will be hosting a table at the TCU Church Fair and Picnic this year on Friday, Aug 26 from 11am - 1pm. Please join us if you would like to volunteer or show up as a visitor. Talk to Paul Fucile for more information.



## Meet, Greet and Eat this Sunday!

### Sunday Brunch

Our monthly luncheon "fun-raiser" - **Meet, Greet and Eat** is an opportunity to share a meal with church family and friends in a relaxed and social setting - our Fellowship Hall! We suggest members and friends donate \$5 a person if possible (children may be less) to cover costs of food purchase and prep. Our guests are invited to join us at no cost.



This **Sunday, Aug 28**, the menu will be **Sunday Brunch** and will include egg breakfast casseroles, sausage patties, fruit and biscuits. *Please join us!*

## Weekly Meditation

by Rev. Teri Lubbers

### Take Your Sweet Time

*Jesus walked a lot, and not only during the last week of his life... he walked everywhere he went, except for a short stint on a donkey at the end. This gave him time to see things, like the milky eyes of the beggar sitting by the side of the road, or the round black eyes of sparrows sitting in their cages at the market. If he had been moving more quickly - even to reach more people - these things might have become a blur to him. Because he was moving slowly, they came into focus for him, just as he came into focus for them.*



12pm Congregational Forum

**Sun Nov 6:**

12pm Annual Congregation Meeting

## Sunday Statistics

**07/31:**

Attendance: 83  
Offering: \$2,499

**08/07:**

Attendance: 126  
Offering: \$2,336

**08/14:**

Attendance: 119  
Offering: \$8,760

**08/21:**

Attendance: 103  
Offering: \$1,730

## 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](mailto:beershomes@gmail.com)

***Sometimes he had a destination and sometimes he did not. For many who followed him around, he was the destination. Whether he was going somewhere or nowhere at all, going with him was the point. Food tasted better at the pace he set. Stories lasted longer. Talk went deeper. While many of his present-day admirers pay close attention to what he said and did, they pay less attention to the pace at which he did it. Jesus was a walker, not a rider. He took his sweet time. ~ Barbara Brown Taylor, "An Altar in the World"***

As I make preparations for my Scotland trip next month and my move to California the month after, I am faced with the knowledge that not only am I committing to the woman I love, and committing to geographical change, I am also committing to a drastic change in the pace of my life. It is all a bit scary - wondrously scary - but honestly committing to a change in pace is the most challenging for me.

I am a very productive person. I pretty regularly manage to squeeze ten pounds into five-pound bags. I tell myself the things I do are important; the people I serve, the tasks I perform. But every once in a while I get this niggling feeling, hear this voice I can barely make out, that no matter how valuable all the things I "do" may be, that perhaps I run the risk of missing or overlooking some important things I am meant to "be." After watching how I conducted my daily self for a few weeks, my mother once asked me whether I stayed busy to avoid something. I didn't know how to answer her. I wasn't ready yet to sink beneath the everyday time-consuming surface to this vast timeless place, a place that scares me the way swimming in the ocean on a moonless night scares me - where I feel very small in the dark something that could swallow me up, and at the same feel alive in an exhilarating sort of way.

So for at least part of today, I will move more slowly, will be more aware of how I attend to the people, the work, the food, the energy, my own body. I will walk instead of ride for some part of my day, even though it's hot. I will take moments to really savor taste and touch, sight and sound. At some point today, I will take my sweet time.

**Prayer: God, help me attend more to the pace of my moving today. Slow me down, help me feel the still place within where you reside. Thank you for the promise of your Presence. Amen.**

**August Healing Touch at Agape'**

[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!](#)

## 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](http://www.healingtouchinternational.com).

Or just drop me a note @ [yogilindi02@yahoo.com](mailto:yogilindi02@yahoo.com).

Peace to you.

Linda and Denise

## Rainbow Room Back Pack Drive

### 3rd Annual School Supplies Drive

Our 3rd Annual School Supplies Drive continues! We are collecting monetary donations for Back Packs for the Rainbow Room and CPS. Back Packs are approximately \$5. **We would like to donate at least 50 back packs, but to do so we need \$165 more to reach that goal.** Make checks out to Agape' MCC with "backpacks" in memo line. Any Questions? Speak with Paul Fucile or Patti Stephens.



## Positions Need Filling!

### Elections at Annual Meeting

The following elected positions are available this year. Please remember that if you want to run for the Board, you must attend one meeting prior to the Congregational Forum.



### Board of Directors: 3 open positions

(2 three year terms, 1 two year term)

[click here for Board application](#)

### Lay Delegate: 1 open position

(1 three year term)

[click here for lay delegate application](#)

### Alternate Lay Delegate: 2 open positions

(2 two year terms)

[click here for lay delegate application](#)

**Personnel Committee: 2 open positions**  
(2 three year terms)

[click here for Personnel Committee application](#)

**Please see the Personnel Committee for applications and more information about the positions.**

## Craft Night with Dawn

### Project #2 - Butterfly Lanterns

**Craft Night** with Dawn

**7 pm Tuesday nights in August**



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

**Project # 2 - Butterfly 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](mailto: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.**

## LGBT Grief Support Group Continues

### 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.



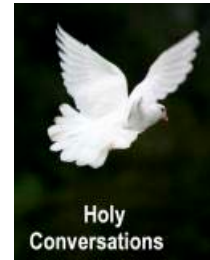
The next group will be a grief support group specifically intended to meet the needs of the LGBT community, **began Wednesday, August 3 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** and continues for the 5 Wednesdays in August, at Agape' Metropolitan Community Church, 4615 East California Parkway, Fort Worth, 76119. This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

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

## 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](http://OpenDoorProductionstx.com)  
Information: 817-637-8263



Order Tickets online by [clicking here](#)

### Also - Raffle Tickets for Sale:

**2 seats to - k.d. lang**

**in Concert Tue, Oct 11, 8pm**

**Dallas Meyerson**

**Raffle Ticket Prices:**

**1 for \$5, 3 for \$10, 6 for \$20, 15 for \$50, 30  
for \$100**

The **drawing will be held on Oct 2** at the  
Tarrant County Pride Picnic. You do not need to  
be present to win.

Gook Luck!

## Community Bulletin Board

**Your Ads or Items for Sale Here**

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Hello Everyone,

Thank you for taking a moment to read  
this email.



In this day and time when there is a lot of talk about the  
economy and jobs (good or bad) and I am asked on a daily  
basis for help from someone who is either looking for a job

or who is looking for a new employee. So, I figure, if I'm being asked - you probably are, too.....

**Help Wanted:**

I have been asked to pass along a job opportunity for a project manager for a commercial construction company in our area. Their new employee must be willing to travel and work nights. If you or someone you know would be interested in more information about this positions please email Joey Robertson at [joeyrobertson@RightWayFS.com](mailto:joeyrobertson@RightWayFS.com).

**Job Needed:**

Experienced, brilliant (my opinion) graphic designer with expertise in signage, branding and print. Go to [www.jarrodholtworkshard.com](http://www.jarrodholtworkshard.com) to view his work and contact Jarrod directly.

If you've worked with Amaya Realty Group then you know how strongly we feel about taking care of our clients, friends and families. These two gentlemen are part of the Amaya Realty Group Family - I hope you can help.

Wishing you continued success - Tracey, Sophie, Cassy  
Amaya Realty Group

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

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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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**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**

- Sunshine asks for prayers for Chris' application to Geek Squad and seeing her kids this week.
- Jordan and his fight with brain cancer.
- For Brennan and his family.
- Linda Odom who had a stroke last Friday.
- Gary, may he allow God to lead his life.
- The new school year.
- Those still needing employment.
- Rain.

- Folks who are working in this heat.

*God, hear our prayers.*

### Praises

- Our church visioning and where it will take us.
- Improved work place situation.
- For my family.
- Loretta's here!

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

## This Sunday August 21

### Order of Worship - August 21, 2011

<b>The Gathering Song</b>	"Gather Us In"	Community
<b>Words of Welcome</b>		
<b>Call to Worship</b>		Community
<b>Song of Welcome</b>	"The River is Here"	TGFM
<b>Time With Our Children</b>		
<b>A Response</b>	"This Little Light of Mine"	Community
<b>Preparing to Hear the Word</b>	"You Are Mine"	Community
<b>Teaching in Scripture</b>	Romans 12:9-18, 20a	
<b>A Response</b>	"You Are Mine"	Community
<b>Time of Teaching</b>	"We Are Agape' MCC"	Rev. David Wynn
<b>Centering Song</b> Community	"O Christ Surround Me"	
<b>Community Prayer</b>		
<b>Prayer Response</b>	"O Christ Surround Me"	Community
<b>A Time of Offering</b>		
<b>The Celebration of Holy Communion</b>		
<b>Sending Forth</b>	"For Everyone Born"	Community
<b>The Sending Forth</b>		Rev. David Wynn

**MCC News from Around the World**

*from Lay Delegate Kathy Munn*

[MCC Declares Aug 28 as Solidarity with Somalia Day](#)

[MCC Young Adult Leadership Mentoring Retreat](#)

[MCC Headline News August 12](#)

[MCC Call to Prayer for England](#)

## 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.