



Agape' MCC Newsletter

August 31 2011

Upcoming Events

Wed Aug 31:

7pm LGBT Grief Support Group

Sat Sep 3:

6:30am Yard and Labyrinth Workday!

Sun Sep 4:

10:30am Special Guest- Rev. Brenda Hunt

Mon Sep 5:

OFFICE CLOSED

Wed Sep 7:

7pm The Journey: Holy Conversations

Fri Sep 9:

5:30pm Samaritan House Supper Club

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

Rev. Brenda Hunt Here This Weekend

Preaching This Sunday!

Please join us for worship this Sunday as one of our former pastors, Rev. Brenda Hunt, returns to the pulpit to share her insights and wisdom around the story of Jesus feeding the 5000...and no doubt to share a few stories of her own!



Rev. Hunt and Rev. Lubbers will also be celebrating communion and we will get to join them in the "Upper Room". You will not want to miss this powerful day!

Yard and Labyrinth Workday on Sat!

This Sat, Sept 3

We know that some folks will be out of town this weekend for Labor Day holiday. If you don't have plans and would like to get a little exercise, come to the church property **this Saturday, Sept 3.**



We will do some **property and yard maintenance and tidy up the labyrinth.**

Yes, it will be hot - so **we will start at 6:30 a.m.** - If your starter doesn't start that early, **please come when you can.** We will only work the morning hours, and we will have plenty of bottled water.

Hope to see you there. Bring gardening tools if you can!

Questions? **Contact Nick** at operacub1978@gmail.com

Weekly Meditation

by Kathy Munn

Meeting

Sunday Statistic

08/07:

Attendance: 126
Offering: \$2,336

08/14:

Attendance: 119
Offering: \$8,760

08/21:

Attendance: 111
Offering: \$1,730

08/28:

Attendance: 103
Offering: \$868

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

Give Yourself A Break

I don't necessarily agree with everything I say. -

Marshall McLuhan, Canadian author, educator and philosopher (1911-1980)



O.K. - let me tell you a little secret about myself. I am so much harder on me than I am on you. I can cut you all kinds of slack and at the same time be relentless and narrow regarding my own path.

Do you love something one day and change your mind about it today? That's o.k. You're only human. If we weren't supposed to change (and possibly grow?), then why were we created with the capacity to change? See how easy I am on you? People change, they stretch, they grow.

Then why do I sometimes make myself feel like I have only one chance to decide how I feel about something... or someone? I have held on to ideas and feelings and habits and responsibilities for years because I thought I had to. I had to be consistent. I had to be reliable. I must not change.

So, today, for you and for me - let's cut ourselves some slack. Today, it's o.k. to have a new thought, to change how we feel and think. We can turn ourselves around 180 degrees if we want to (maybe 90 degrees if that's too scary yet).

I promise not to be so hard on myself, today. How about you? Let's give ourselves a break.

Prayer: Thank you Holy Spirit, for holding me close and comforting me when it is hard for me to nurture myself. Continue to guide me on the path of forgiveness, awareness and self-love. Amen.

Agape' Life Campaign 2011

Growing Roots This Sunday!

For those of you wondering what the Life Campaign is all about...Life Campaign is a shared ministry that lives out the affirmation that God calls all people to ministry. As members of a faith community, we are invited to serve together in a spirit of mutuality as partners. Working cooperatively, we strive to discover, develop, and support the gifts of each person and, as responsible stewards, to participate in God's ongoing creative and restoring activity in our communities and the world.



At Agape' MCC, we believe deeply in each other and understand that God has drawn us all together for deep purpose. Life Campaign will be an ongoing practice to help

**Janna Brown, Master
Photographer**
[J3 Photographics](#)
817-657-9882
janna.brown@sbcglobal.net

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817-535-5002

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one another discover where we feel called to plant our seeds and give voice to what we hope grows from them. Please be in prayer and discernment with us as we listen for God's direction in our spiritual community...and be ready to get rooted! See you Sunday!

Agape' Pride Parade Float!

It's almost here!

Your Agape' float team is making plans for this year's entry in the Pride Parade on Oct 1st. A design is well underway and in the next few weeks we will be asking for your help in gathering a few items and later in helping to assemble.



We would like to ask everyone who will be on the float or walking with us around the float to try and have some white pants and a white T shirt for the parade. Painter's style pants would be best, but any white pants or white sweats would do. We are going to get some painter's hats from one of the local home improvement centers.

On Sunday, Sept 25th please plan on bringing these clothes to church with you. After church we will "decorate" these clothes with some paint splashes and spatters of many colors. Those clothes along with the painter's hats are going to transform us all into rainbow painters!

More details to come!! - Lisa O'Grady

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](#)

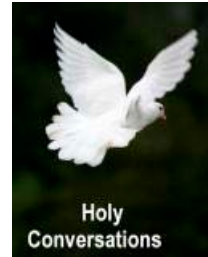
Personnel Committee: 2 open positions
(2 three year terms)
[click here for Personnel Committee application](#)

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

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.

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

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
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!

Prayers

- The friends and family of Jan Machen, who passed away this week.
- Lisa - for healing.
- For Health.
- A new job.
- Relationships.

God, hear our prayers.

Praises

- Our church leadership.
- New awareness.

- Renewed strength and hope.
- Connections with loved ones.
- Family and friends.

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

This Sunday September 4

Order of Worship - September 4, 2011

The Gathering Song	"Welcome"	Community
Words of Welcome		Rev. David Wynn
Call to Worship Community	(based on the writings of Parker Palmer)	
Song of Welcome	"Hallelujah"	TGFM and Community
Time With Our Children		Trish Penland
A Response	"This Little Light of Mine"	Community
Preparing to Hear the Word	"Ancient Words"	Community
Teaching in Scripture	Mark 6:30-44	
A Response	"Ancient Words"	Community
Time of Teaching		Rev. Brenda Hunt
Centering Song Community	"O Christ Surround Me"	TGFM and
Community Prayer		Rev. David Wynn
Prayer Response	"O Christ Surround Me"	TGFM and Community
A Time of Offering		Cassy Batts
The Celebration of Holy Communion		Rev. Brenda Hunt and Rev. Teri Lubbers
Sending Forth	"We Are Called"	Community
The Sending Forth		Rev. David Wynn

MCC News from Around the World

from Lay Delegate Kathy Munn

[An Update about the U. S. East Coast \(Hurricane Irene\)](#)

[MCC Pays Tribute to Canadian NDP Leader Jack Layton](#)

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

[MCC Young Adult Leadership Mentoring Retreat](#)

[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.