



Agape' MCC Newsletter

September 7 2011

Upcoming Events

Wed Sep 7:

7pm The Journey: Holy Conversations

Fri Sep 9:

5:30pm Samaritan House Supper Club

Sat Sep 10:

4pm Dujour-Lee Holy Union

Sat Sep 17:

6:30am Yard Clean-up
11am-2pm Healing Touch
6:30pm Men's Fellowship at Mamma Mia's

Fri Sep 23:

5:30pm Samaritan House Supper Club

Wed Sep 28:

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

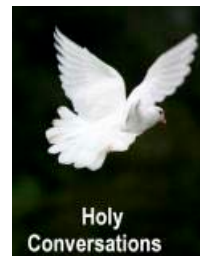
Sun Nov 6:

12pm Annual Congregation Meeting

Holy Conversations Series

Begins in September

Join us for Holy Conversations which follows a curriculum developed by the Metropolitan Community Churches Theologies Team. The series will be led by Rev. David Wynn. **September classes will be on Wed September 7 and September 28.**



This study invites and encourages 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.

09/11/2011

Sharing Our Experiences

Please plan to gather with us this Sunday as we remember the events of September 11, 2001. It will be a time of "re-membering" of drawing together and in the uniting energy of the light and life of the healing, loving Christ, stitching together our hope for our world. Who will we be and how will we continue to respond to an event that so devastated our country? What signs of life do we embody and experience?



Sunday Statistic

08/14:

Attendance: 119

Offering: \$8,760

08/21:

Attendance: 111

Offering: \$1,730

08/28:

Attendance: 103

Offering: \$868

09/04:

Attendance: 100

Offering: \$1,705

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

The worship team would like to invite you to bring, as you feel called, any pictures, symbols, poems, stories, songs, drawings, etc... that you would like to place upon our altar to represent our shared experience of this event that changed our world.

Weekly Meditation Lubbers

by Rev. Teri

Alike For All

I am alike for all! I know not hate, I know not favour! What is made is Mine! But them that worship Me with love, I love; They are in Me, and I in them! ~ Bhagavad-Gita or "The Song Celestial"



We resist the idea that God is alike for all, that God doesn't have favorites....we resist Jesus' words when he says that God is not a respecter of persons but makes the sun rise on the good and evil alike, and sends rain on the just and the unjust. The nature of God is generosity, abundant, overflowing, cornucopia generosity. We have not begun to imagine it. But if we are attentive and awake we can sometimes get glimpses of it...can sometimes taste the sweetness of it, like honey on the tongue.

Hmmm, we are much more familiar with the idea of a God who keeps a ledger, a kind of celestial Santa who keeps track of naughty and nice and either brings you what you asked for, or leaves behind a lump of coal, depending on whether you towed the line or not. (Not sure whether that is "towed" as in pulling the line, or "toed" as in lining up.) Either way - whether you are behaving well or not - that is not why you are loved. Those ideas miss the point of God-ness, miss the love story of God in whom we are constantly immersed.

We are loved because we are in God and God is in us. Everything is in God and God is in everything. We are God's, whether we know it yet or not. God doesn't take sides the way we think. I marvel at the humility that would flow into the world if ever we got that. God is on everyone's side, unendingly whispering to us our names, calling us into being.

Prayer: God, in little ways and big ways, help me to not take sides today. Help me to relinquish the desire and drive to be right and help me to see You in every face I meet. Amen.

Life Pantry Starts Today!

**Janna Brown, Master
Photographer**

[J3 Photographics](http://www.j3photographics.com)

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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

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Helping Those In Need

Hey all! This is just a reminder that the Life Pantry officially opens today. We will be distributing food from Agape' MCC in Forest Hill. If you know anyone who could benefit from this service, please send them our way. We will be open today from 12-3.

Those who need help do not have to be from the Forest Hill community; the pantry is open to anyone in need of assistance. There will also be assistance tomorrow (Thursday from 10-4) should anyone not be able to make it today

Thanks for helping us get the word out and feed the people!



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 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!

Men's Fellowship in September

Let's Do Italian!

Date: Sat - 09/17/11

Location: Mamma Mia Italian Grill & Pizza

3124 E. Belknap, FW 76111

817- 759-0100

Time: 6:30 p.m.

See you there!



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

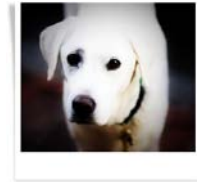
(2 three year terms)

[click here for Personnel Committee application](#)

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

Society For Companion Animals

Dear Friends,



The **Society for Companion Animals** is in Dallas and they are **in need of volunteers on Saturday, Sept 17th** to help put crates together for the transport of dogs and cats.

You may have heard of these folks. They are responsible for working with the airlines here in Texas and sending hundreds of animals all over the country to their "forever" homes to live with happy families.

All they need is a few hours of time for people to come put together crates (they have them) so that they can be prepared to ship more animals. These are good folks. They work hard and they need our help.

If you can go on Sept. 17th please let me know. We can get together for breakfast beforehand and possibly all ride together in one or two cars. Thanks!

Lisa Rose O'Grady

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

opendoor
PRODUCTIONS

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!

Young Adult Therapy Group

New Group in Fort Worth

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Sexually Questioning Young Adult Therapy Group

Pastoral Counseling and Education Center
Fort Worth Satellite Office

Rev. Cody J. Sanders, M.S., M.Div., NCC, LPC Intern
Facilitator

Group Focus: This group is intended to facilitate emotional, social, and spiritual growth and health for young adults who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or sexually questioning.

Group Values: The group is based upon the belief that the gender identity and sexual orientation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons is a healthy and whole experience of human sexuality and gender. Group participants should expect to be treated with affirmation toward their experience of sexual and gender identity.

Group Time: The group meets once per week for a 1.5-hour group session.

Membership: Group is open to people ages 18 to 25. Anyone wishing to join the group should contact the facilitator at the number below to have a telephone conversation in order to determine if the group is the "best fit" at the current time.

Fee: \$10 per session payable in cash, check, or credit/debit card at each session. Fee negotiable based upon financial circumstances.

Note: Cody J. Sanders is under the clinical supervision of Wayne L. Albrecht, D.Min., LPC, LMFT

To inquire about joining the group, please contact:
214.526.4525 or 800.340.7557

sanders.pcec@gmail.com

Prayers

- Health and healing to Sebastian L. who is ill again this week (and for his mom and family).

- Healing for Jimmy M.
- Tommie Lee - on the sudden loss of her son Homer.
- My friend Kathy - test results and upcoming surgery.
- Kevin H. - health concerns.
- Brenda's niece - recent miscarriage.
- Linda K. - health concerns.
- Travel mercies for Tommie Lee and Mark H. as they travel to California.
- Those searching for work and for those who can offer work.
- For families & friends of those who lost their lives surrounding 09/11/2001 - as we observe the 10th anniversary of a day that forever changed their lives, our lives and our world.

God, hear our prayers.

Praises

- Nick, Denise, Evelyn and Kathy for property and labyrinth care and clean-up last weekend.
- Rev. Brenda Hunt and the amazing gifts she brought to last Sunday's service.
- Grace's new job.
- Safe return of the campers out for the holiday weekend.
- For Dawn and Cheri as they celebrate their Holy Union this weekend.
- For the cooler weather!

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

MCC News from Around the World

from Lay Delegate Kathy Munn

[MCC Headline News, Special Edition - September 2](#)

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.