



Agape' MCC Newsletter

September 14 2011

Upcoming Events

Sat Sep 17:

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

Sun Sep 18:

10:30am Worship Svc
2pm Dallas Pride Parade

Tue Sep 20:

7:30pm OutServe Prayer Service

Fri Sep 23:

5:30pm Samaritan House Supper Club

Sat Sep 24:

9am-3pm MCC Training Group
11am-2pm Healing Touch Ministry (Church Lobby)

Wed Sep 28:

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 23:

10:30am Pink Sunday!

Sun Oct 30:

12pm Congregational Forum

Yard Work - Part 2!

This Saturday - 6:30 a.m.

You still have an opportunity to play in the dirt this Saturday, Sept 17, starting at 6:30 a.m. Please bring any gardening tools you may have. We will continue spiffing up the labyrinth and weeding the garden spaces and grounds. Bottled water, coffee and snacks will be provided.



Agape' Church Property Clean-up

Sat, Sept 17 - 6:30am - 10:30am - See you there!

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!

Dallas Pride Parade This Sunday - Sept 18

Walk With DFW MCCers!

From Rev. Jeannie George from Harvest - inviting Agape' folks to join MCCers to walk together in the Dallas Pride Parade:



You are Invited to walk/ride with MCC in Dallas Pride

We are inviting all MCCers in the DFW area to join in and meet us at the parade route (float number 59) on Cedar Springs and Wycliffe, wearing a solid color tee for a rainbow effect. A member of Harvest MCC is donating a truck and trailer to ride. We are decorating in rainbow hues and banners with our slogan, "MCC Making it Better for more than 40 years." We welcome MCC's to wear their

Sun Nov 6:

12pm Annual Congregation Meeting

Sunday Statistics

08/21:

Attendance: 111
Offering: \$1,730

08/28:

Attendance: 103
Offering: \$868

09/04:

Attendance: 100
Offering: \$1,705

09/11:

Attendance: 113
Offering: \$3,184

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

church shirts if they wish. The parade starts at 2pm so come early!

Weekly Meditation

by Rev. Teri Lubbers

Like the Moon in the Night

I have come to realize that the people I've admired throughout my life, the ones I've tried to emulate, were all like the moon appearing in the night, and though I secretly wanted to be like these wonderful people, it was their openness that allowed them to shine in the middle of my darkness, an openness I didn't need to copy or envy, just uncover in myself. ~ Mark Nepo, "Book of Awakening"



There are a few bits of creation with which I have had a love affair for as long as I can remember. Trees, the ocean, the moon. I can remember times when my "moon cycle" was really like that...my body so in synchrony that I would ovulate with the full moon. I can remember standing at my kitchen sink looking out the window at dark-thirty in the morning, peering up at the moon and feeling its tug on my body...like gravity to the tides. So this image of Nepo's conjures up other images. If we will allow it, almost any image can be the thread we follow to our own souls...

It was a long time before I began to grasp the truth that those I admired and emulated mirrored to me something of my own soul. Of course I rarely knew it at the time. I perceived them as "farther along" or "more enlightened" or "very deep" and I wanted to grow up to be just like them. I wanted to be like my therapist, my professor, my spiritual director, my pastor...not realizing that it was their openness that beckoned me to come out of hiding.

Today, think about the people whom you most admire. Ponder how they both mirror and call your hidden wholeness into being. Uncover yourself.

Prayer: God, the psalmist says you desire truth in my inmost being. Thank you for all those who have been like full moons, shining into the darkness of my night. Grant that I also might reflect your light, a light which no darkness can overcome. Amen.

Help Us Support OutServe

Agape' Bake Sale & Tue Service

On Wednesday September 21st, Don't Ask Don't Tell is officially repealed. At that time, our LGB service members can officially serve their country and still be their authentic self. Notice that the "T" is missing. That is because our transgender brothers and sisters still cannot openly serve. So our battle



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Photographer**

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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

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is still not over. Also, the hearts and attitudes of the entire armed services will not change overnight; so we still have a long road ahead.

But all of this could not have occurred if it were not for the courageous men and women at outserve.org. They had hope and a vision that within their lifetime they would not have to live their lives in the shadows of secrecy. But OutServe is not stopping. They have three major events in the near future; they are hosting a summit in Las Vegas Oct. 14 - 16, 2011 and then a Conference at Cathedral of Hope in Dallas Oct. 21 - 23, 2011. Then March 1-3, 2012, they will offer a conference called "Pathways to Military Chaplaincy" at none other than Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth!

All of these outreach and education opportunities are wonderful but they do not occur for free. The Soldiers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) has generously provided financial support in the past for the outserve leadership conference. But this year when OutServe asked for the required \$15,000.00 to put on the 3 leadership conferences, they were informed that SLDN could only provide \$5,000.00 towards the final expenses for everyone that wanted to be part of the event.

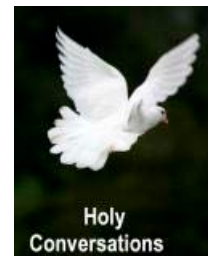
In order to help out fellow Americans at OutServe, Agape' is hosting a **bake sale on Sunday, Sept 18** and then a **prayer service on Tuesday, Sept 20 - 7:30 p.m. or 1930** (at which time a love offering will be taken). Additional donations can be made directly by visiting outserve.org online and clicking on the donate button.

Thank you in advance for any blessings and prayers that you are able to provide. - Nick Buskin

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. **The next class is Wed, 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.

Next Healing Touch -

Sat, Sept 24

Agape' Healing Touch Ministry

No appointment needed...

come one, come all!

4615 E California Parkway, Fort Worth, Texas 76119.



In the Church Lobby

Sat. September 24h, from 11 am à 2 pm.

We offer massage and energy work at no cost. Recharge your batteries and rebalance your life.

Linda L. Crear, HTP/RP/LMT, @817-832-0038
Denise LaRae, LMT

Peace.

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 - Deadline: Oct 16!

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. **Application deadline is Sunday, October 16!**



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](#)

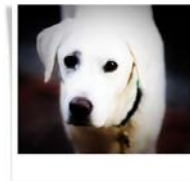
Personnel Committee: 2 open positions
(2 three year terms)
[click here for Personnel Committee application](#)

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

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

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

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



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!

Pink Sunday - October 23!

For Breast Cancer Awareness

Come wearing Pink on **Sunday October
23** to help support Breast Cancer
Awareness. Grace Gray will show the Lucie
Blue Tremblay video on breast self exam
after service and informational packets will
also be available.



Community Bulletin Board

Found out last week that a friend of ours lost her home and belongings in a fire. Her biggest problem is items for her 9 mo old grandson that she takes care of. If you can help, it would be appreciated. Of course, prayers, too. Thanks, Tinker - tinker0240@yahoo.com



From Trish and Amy -

To send Zac birthday wishes at college:

**Zac Edwards
Box T-3377
Stephenville, Texas 76402**

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

- A prayer that my papa is happier in heaven.
- Comfort for Tinker & Kim who had to send their dog Tasha on ahead of them.
- Continued prayer for Tommie Lee on the passing of her son Homer.
- For Sunshine & Chris may they find employment.
- Karyn & Dan and their continued health improvement.
- For the unspoken prayers, may they find their way.
- Cherlyn and her new journey.
- All who are struggling in the journey.
- Rest for the weary.
- For Rev. David.
- A friend who lost her home and belongings in a fire last week.
- Healing for Aubry W.

God, hear our prayers.

Praises

- For a beautiful service on Sunday.
- For Rev Teresa's moving being over and her being closer.
- Dawn & Cheri and their journey together.
- Mark H. and his support of Tommie Lee.
- Billy S. and his work with our new copier.
- Everyone who helped make Dawn and Cheri's Wedding spectacular.
- For Kelly and her gift of landscaping on our grounds.
- For all the gifts among us.

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

Worship Service This Sunday

Order of Worship - September 18

Words of Welcome:		Rev. David Wynn
**Song of Welcome:	"Hallelujah"	TGFM and Community
Call To Worship:		Community
**The Gathering Song:	"Lifesong"	Community
Time With Our Children:		Rev. David Wynn
A Response:	"This Little Light of Mine"	Community
Preparing to Hear the Word:	"Ancient Words"	Community
**Teaching In Scripture:	Matthew 26:6-10	Candice Hawn
**Our Response:	"Ancient Words"	Community
A Time of Teaching:	"Our Jesus Is Too Serious"	Rev. David Wynn

Centering Song:	"The Summons"	TGFM and Community
Community Prayer:		Mickey Howell
Prayer Response:	"The Summons"	TGFM and Community
A Time of Offering		Cassy Batts
Celebration of Holy Communion:		Rev. Teresa Mallott
**Sending Forth:	"Trees of the Field"	Community
** The Sending Forth:		Rev. David Wynn

MCC News from Around the World

from Lay Delegate Kathy Munn

[MCC Worship Summit](#)

[MCC Headline News - September 8](#)

[MCC Theologies Team Survey for Churches](#)

Community News and Events

from Lay Delegate Kathy Munn

[AIDS Outreach Center \(AOC\)](#)

[Dallas Pride Parade](#)

[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.