



# Agape' MCC Newsletter

October 5 2011

## Upcoming Events

### Wed Oct 5:

7pm Holy Conversations

### Sun Oct 9:

10:30am Farewell to Rev. Teri

### Fri Oct 14:

5:30pm Samaritan House Supper Club

### Sat Oct 15:

11am-2pm Healing Touch Ministry

### Wed Oct 19:

7pm Holy Conversations

### Fri Oct 21:

8pm OpenDoor Coffee House: Wishing Chair

### Sat Oct 22:

MCC Training Group

### Sun Oct 23:

**10:30am Pink Sunday!**  
Noon Meet, Greet & Eat!

### Fri Oct 28: 5:30pm

Samaritan House Supper Club

### Sun Oct 30:

12pm Congregational Forum

### Sun Nov 6:

12pm Annual Congregation Meeting

## Sunday Statistics

09/11:

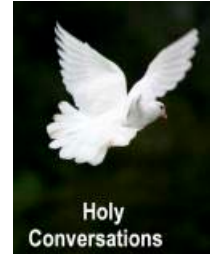
Attendance: 113

## Holy Conversations - Tonight

### Continues in October

Join us for Holy Conversations tonight, Wed, October 5 at 7pm. The subject: Communion.

The series continues the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in October.



**Mark Your Calendars Now! We hope to see you there.**

## A Sacred Sending Forth- Sun, Oct 9

### Our Blessings to Rev. Teri

***"All of me was welcomed in this sacred space, even the parts of me I barely knew. You and God have grown me, Agape'." - Rev. Teri Lubbers***



Please plan to join the Agape' family on **Sunday, October 9 at 10:30 a.m.** as we bless Rev. Teri Lubbers into a new journey of love and life. Teri will be moving to California to begin a new adventure and October 9 will be her last "official" Sunday at Agape...(you can bet we will be demanding visits!) She will be preaching (and no doubt singing) and giving us all a chance to say goodbye and affirm her ministry and life among us. We will be collecting a second offering on that day to send along with Rev. Teri as she heads for the west coast. She will be a grandma soon and we want her to be prepared! Please join us in this ritual of sending forth!

## Weekly Meditation

by Rev. Teri Lubbers

### The Great Bottomless Stream

***In actuality, the infinite coherence of all things and events continues like a great bottomless stream, and we like fish have but one choice, to find and ride the flow. That stream is God, or the Tao, as the great Chinese sage Lao-tzu terms it, and the strength that lifts us when our tiny wills merge with***



Offering: \$3,184

**09/18:**

Attendance: 90

Offering: \$1,501

**09/25:**

Attendance: 84

Offering: \$417

**10/02:**

Attendance: 73

Offering: \$1,436

## 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)

[www.Beers-Homes.com](http://www.Beers-Homes.com)

Janna Brown, Master  
Photographer

[J3 Photographics](#)

817-657-9882

***that stream of being is the sacred luminosity we experience as grace. Once in the stream, the life of preparation ends, the life of defense ends, the measuring of individual traits ends. Fear somehow gives way to Trust. Control somehow evaporates into Surrender. The fish and stream are for the moment one. ~ Mark Nepo, "The Book of Awakening"***

I am home from Scotland...a land of many streams and peat bogs, lochs and firths, and views everywhere of vast ocean. On the tiny Isle of Erraid, my feet stood on granite outcropping, surrounded by heather and fern, rock and peat, and I faced into the sun and the strong winds that blew off the Atlantic. I am a water person to my core. Scotland was like heaven to me. To describe God as a great bottomless stream works for me all day long...

We are funny fish. We are like the story of two fish talking and one says to the other: What is this I hear about water? What is it? Let's go find some! And off they go...little realizing that they are already surrounded by, sustained by and swimming in it. You and I are already swimming in the flow of grace and luminosity. Each morning the only choice we really have to make is whether we will intentionally seek and ride its current. All preparations and planning, protective defenses and self-promotion collapse in the presence of this immensity. Nothing else matters and yet, when we move in this stream, we find that everything matters in a new way.

This is not my last meditation, but it is the last one I will write in residence here. There are no words to describe my love, gratitude and appreciation for you, Agape. No way to list all the ways you have gifted and nurtured my life. I am a little fish who found the bottomless stream here. And because I believe in the infinite coherence of all things, I know we are a part of one another...always.

**Prayer: Thank you God.**

## Life Pledge beginning Sunday Oct 16!

### Please Fill Out a Life Pledge

At Agape' MCC, we believe deeply in each other and understand that God has drawn us all together for deep purpose. One of the primary reasons we all gather weekly is to hold a time of intentional discernment around who we are called to be in the world as individuals and as a community. We sit solidly in the truth that the question is never "what will we do", the question is "who will we be?" From that "knowing" our doing flows spontaneously, and joyfully.



**Beginning October 16, we will be asking all of you to fill out a Life Pledge.** We will have "hard copies" available at church and there is an electronic copy available that you can print out and complete by [clicking this link](#). Let us know what your "being" is calling forth in you!

**Positions Need Filling - Deadline: Oct 16!**

[janna.brown@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janna.brown@sbcglobal.net)

### Resolve Conflict, LLC

All types of mediation for the GLBT Community- classes too.

[www.resolveconflictonline.com](http://www.resolveconflictonline.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!

## 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.

## 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.



## OpenDoor - Wishing Chair, Fri Oct 21

Heart & Soul Coffeeshouse presents the folk duo

# Wishing Chair

Mariam Davidson - Kiya Heartwood

with accordion, guitar, keyboard, banjo  
and great vocal harmonies

Friday - Oct. 21, 2011 - 8:00 P.M.

4615 E. California Parkway, Ft. Worth 76119



"Wishing Chair serves up a lively batch of original songs that follow on two of the oldest traditions of folk music: storytelling and political broadside."  
*Dirty Linen*

*Tickets:*  
*\$15.00 in advance*  
*\$18.00 at the door*

Order Tickets on-line at by [clicking here!](#)

## LGBTQ Youth Dance

### Volunteers Needed!

Agape' MCC and other local churches are joining LGBTQ S.A.V.E.S. (Students, Administrators, Volunteers, Educators Support) in sponsoring an LGBTQ Youth Dance for high school students, to be held on **December 10, 2011! @7pm-10pm at Celebration Church.** Agape's own Larissa Baxter will be DJ-ing!



Volunteers are needed to supervise! We are also looking for more sponsors to help with contributions for both of these events, as well as future projects. This is a very exciting opportunity for our LGBTQ students; however, we need YOUR monetary support, big or small! Your tax-deductible contributions will allow our young people to keep marching forward, regardless of their daily strides, and believe in who they are, without prejudice and indignation.

**Please give your contribution to Deanie Sewell at Agape' MCC church on Sunday's. We will make sure your money gets to LGBTQ S.A.V.E.S! \*\*\*Cash is accepted! - Please include your name!**

LGBTQ S.A.V.E.S. (Students, Administrators, Volunteers, Educators Support) fosters the well-being of LGBTQ K-12 students, administrators, volunteers, and educators in Tarrant County by eliminating discrimination, bullying and retaliation, on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. S.A.V.E.S. is an autonomous all-volunteer group and not affiliated with any local school districts.

Spokesperson/Educator Liaison: Marvin Vann  
Student Liaison: Bernardo Vallarino  
Parent Liaison: Cindy Loesch  
President: Sharon Herrera

## Community Bulletin Board

**Frank L. Marino**  
**AdvoCare® Independent Distributor**  
P.O. Box 1625  
Weatherford, TX 76085  
214.952.8859 - CELL  
[frank.marino96@gmail.com](mailto:frank.marino96@gmail.com)  
[www.advocare.com/110613963](http://www.advocare.com/110613963)



A world class nutrition company specializing in health and wellness, weight management, vibrant energy and sports performance - supplements and skincare

## Iraq or Afghanistan Vets

**Free therapy sessions** for veterans of Iraq or Afghanistan, as well as their immediate family members (e.g., spouse, children)-individual or couples sessions.

Contact:

Rev. Cody J. Sanders, M.S., M.Div., NCC, LPC Intern  
Counseling Resident  
Pastoral Counseling and Education Center

4525 Lemmon Ave., Suite 200  
Dallas, Texas 75219-2100  
Voice Mail: 214.526.4525 ext. 200  
Office: 800.340.7557 or 214.526.4525  
Fax: 214.520.6468  
Email: sanders.pcec@gmail.com  
Website: <http://www.pcec-counseling.org/>

**Fort Worth Satellite Location:**  
**Broadway Baptist Church**  
**305 West Broadway Ave.**  
**Fort Worth, Texas 76104**

To schedule an appointment, call: 214.526.4525 or  
800.340.7557

**Thank You!**

A Heart-Felt **THANK YOU** from



for the blessings you've given the homeless citizens of  
Arlington through your dedication and generosity. We couldn't  
do what we do without the support and care of people like you!

**Arlington Life Shelter** | 325 W. Division Street, Arlington, TX 76011  
817-548-9885 | [www.ArlingtonLifeShelter.org](http://www.ArlingtonLifeShelter.org)

**Prayers**

- Trish & Steph are seeking employment.
- Jimmy M. and benign test results.
- For all those who still think God can hate.
- Denise L. as she continues to mourn her brother's passing.
- For Mary W. and family. Mary's continued struggle with cancer as they recently found another tumor which has caused blood backup into her lungs.
- For our brother who went home to join Spirit at the Pride parade and his partner, friends and family.
- For Cassy's mom Lois to get her diabetes under control.
- Angie and her family as they grieve the sudden passing of Angie's mom, Velma.
- For Paul F. as he mourns the passing of his

grandmother

- Rev. Teresa as she journeys with a friend whose mom passed away.
- Continued healing for Ms. Billie.
- Linda G. and her journey with her mom.
- Continued healing for Tommie Lee.
- For all of those on healing journeys.
- Safe travel for Kathy M - heading home on Thursday.
- For Rev. Teri and Rev. Brenda on their new adventure.

*God, hear our prayers.*

## Praises

- Denise and Evelyn's new grandson, Scott Michael, 6 pounds 11 ounces, 19 inches long!
- For kitty wranglers and Don and Kelly for adopting them!
- An awesome Pride weekend.
- All the folks who worked the Pride Events.
- My wonderful and loving partner, Cassy. You are the best.
- The AWESOME Fort Worth Police Dept. and Betsy Price.
- EVERYONE who helped with our colorful float and Linda Schram -the best paint can creator in the universe!
- For Brennan, his health and heart.
- Michelle, Kevin, Evelyn, and Nick and their wisdom and courage this past Sunday.
- Open Door Productions and a great comedy event and dance.
- For Linda and Loretta, masters at creating our giant Paint Can.
- For all who showed up to get our float decorated... well done!!!
- For Leigh's truck for the parade and Kathy M. driver extraordinaire.
- For Charlie and her whistle.
- Agape's Board, their presence and wisdom.
- Tina H. and the Tarrant Co. Pride Committee and their work in this year's Pride.
- Trish, Stace, and all of the folks who set up, sold merchandise, and tore down the Pride Shop.
- For Wren and Patti who stepped in to teach our preschool children on Sunday.
- For Stephanie and her wisdom with our school aged children.

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

**Worship Service This Sunday - Oct 9**

**Order of Worship - October 9 - Rev. Teri Lubbers, Service of Sending Forth**

The Gathering Song

"Healing Rain"

Community

Words of Welcome		Rev. David Wynn
Call to Worship		Community
Song of Welcome	"Welcome"	TGFM
Time with our Children		Rev. Teri Lubbers
A Response	"This Little Light of Mine"	Community
Preparing to Hear the Word	"There is Only Love"	Community
Sacred Text	"Look for the Gaps" Pema Chodron	Kathy Munn
A Response	"You Are Mine"	Community
Time of Teaching	"Mind the Gap"	Rev. Teri Lubbers
Centering Song	"O Christ Surround Me"	Community
Community Prayer		Rev. David Wynn
Prayer Response	"O Christ Surround Me"	Community
A Time of Offering		Cassy Batts
Song of Offering	"Be Now My Vision"	Community
Celebration of Holy Communion	"In the Upper Room"	Rev. Teri Lubbers
A Litany of Thanks and Farewell		Community
Sending Forth	"Go Light Your World"	Community
The Sending Forth		Rev. David Wynn

## MCC News from Around the World

[MCC Headline News](#)

[MCC Theologies Team Survey for Churches](#)

## Community News and Events

[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](#)

[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.

[Forward email](#)