



Agape' MCC Newsletter

November 16 2011

Upcoming Events

Wed Nov 16:

4-7pm Life Pantry
7pm Grief Group

Fri Nov 18:

8a-3p Church Garage Sale @ Kris & Linda's Home

Sat Nov 19:

8a-3p Church Garage Sale @ Kris & Linda's Home

6pm Transgender Day of Remembrance Gathering
7pm Unfinished Lives presentation- Rev. Steve Sprinkle

Sun Nov 20:

10:30am Worship Sve
2:30-5pm Christmas Pictures (Fellowship Hall)

Fri Nov 25:

5:30pm Samaritan House Supper Club

Sat Dec 3:

10am-3pm Christmas Pictures (Fellowship Hall)

Sun Dec 4:

Noon Holiday Potluck Dinner!

Sat Dec 10:

6-8:30pm Annual Christmas Talent Show

Wed Dec 21:

Don't Forget! Life Pantry is open today, Nov 16, at the church from 4-7 p.m.

And the Grief Group meets tonight Wed, Nov 16 at 7 p.m. in the Worship Room.

Church Garage Sale - Nov 18-19

It's Here!

Agape' MCC Fall Garage Sale

Fri, Nov 18 & Sat, Nov 19

8am - 3pm each day

@ Kris & Linda's home

6421 Lavano Drive, Ft. Worth 76134

Any questions, contact organizer Jimmy M. @ 682-583-8374



Transgender Day of Remembrance Nov 19

Mark Your Calendars!

Please join Agape' MCC, Brite Divinity School, Trinity MCC and members of the Tarrant County TBLGQ community on **Saturday, Nov 19 at 6 p.m. for the 13th Annual Transgender Day of**

Remembrance and Empowerment gathering. Our guest speaker will be Tori Van Fleet who transitioned while working as a senior forensics analyst for the Fort Worth Police Department.

Then plan to stay for a **presentation on the Unfinished Lives Project at 7 p.m. by Rev. Dr. Steven Sprinkle.** To obtain a copy of Rev. Sprinkle's book, [click on this link](#). Rev. Sprinkle will be available to sign copies of his book after the presentation.

The Transgender Day of Remembrance memorializes those killed due to their actual or perceived gender identity and expression. This year we have added the component of



4-7pm Life Pantry

Sunday Statistics

10/23:

Attendance: 103

Offering: \$1,194

10/30:

Attendance: 88

Offering: \$1,658

11/06:

Attendance: 104

Offering: \$850

11/13:

Attendance: 80

Offering: \$2,344

Quick Links

[Agape' MCC](#)

[Give to Agape' Online](#)

[Metropolitan Community Churches](#)

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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

"empowerment"... as well as remembering, we will encourage and support all people in living their truth in our world.

Weekly Meditation

by Rev. Teri Lubbers

Words Are Not The Thing

One reason we don't perceive people clearly is evident - our emotions get in the way, our conditioning, our likes and dislikes. We've got to grapple with that fact. But we've got to grapple with something much more fundamental - with our ideas, with our conclusions, with our concepts. Believe it or not, every concept that was meant to help us get in touch with reality ends up by being a barrier to getting in touch with reality, because sooner or later we forget that the words are not the thing. The concept is not the same as the reality. They're different. ~ Anthony DeMello, "Awareness"



Our own needs, desires, obligations and obsessions are like a big paint brush coloring the world we live in. Let's say you go to a party where you don't know anyone. Are you an introvert, shy and retiring? Are you outgoing, chatty and witty? Are you comfortable, ill-at-ease, or indifferent? Maybe you will talk about the latest book, the latest movie, the latest episode of your favorite TV show. It's kind of like fishing and you hope you hook something. And the other folks at the party, don't you often make a pretty quick judgment about who they are, whether you like them or find them interesting? What's all that about? We are constantly defining ourselves in terms of others, and others in terms of ourselves.

We see the world not as it is, but as we are. Even if we try really hard to be present, to listen, to see what's right in front of us we will eventually find ourselves wandering off on some side road again because our conditioned opinions, concepts or belief systems tell us "turn at the next corner - I know a shortcut." Our words, our concepts, even our beliefs and understanding of Spirit, God, and the universe are not the same as the reality, and frequently the very words and concepts to which we are so attached, become a barrier to that which we seek. There aren't any shortcuts to enlightenment. No travel guide books to awareness. There is only showing up. Showing up with openness and compassion for ourselves and others, with at least a willingness to set aside what we think we know so that there is room for a deeper kind of knowing that goes beyond our limited ideas about how things are or ought to be. Show up. Show up with a sense of wonder. What is real will find you...

Prayer: God, just for today help me to keep things simple, and to see things with the innocence of a trusting child and the patience of a loving grandmother. Amen. The important things are for

Janna Brown, Master
Photographer

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

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Resolve Conflict, LLC

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or call 877-9-2agree

Contact Us At:

www.agapemcc.com

817-535-5002

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[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

me to do, and help me discover who you are calling
me to be. Amen.

Take Your Holiday Pictures Here!

Santa Claus Is Back

Our Holiday Picture Fund-Raiser was very
successful last year, so we're back for
year two! Bring your pets, kids, family,
plants, etc. for a photo session with
Santa and friends! You have two date
options this year:



Christmas Photos

Sunday, Nov. 20 Or Saturday, Dec. 03
2:30-5 p.m. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Prices: 4 x 6 \$5 or 5x7 \$8 or 8.5x11 \$10

Multiple photo packages available upon request

Meal Train

Help Our Members

We have Agape' members needing help
with meals right now because of health
and medical care issues.



Meal Train is an online scheduler we can
use to help organize meal planning and
delivery to our friends. Just click on one
or both links below and you will go to the meal train site.
You need to set up an account and all of this is free.

Linda is recovering from surgery. Please use the following
link to access the Meal Train for Linda Crear:
<http://www.mealtrain.com?id=mdtidfw37mt>

Tony is also asking for assistance. Tony is unable to cook
right now and Joe is very tired after working all day.
Please use the following **link to access the Meal Train
for Tony & Joe:**
<http://www.mealtrain.com/?id=mei0k29p9art>

Learn more about mealTrain at [mealtrain.com](http://www.mealtrain.com)

Miss Last Week's Activities?

Catch Up Here!

The Worship Team held their weekly
meeting to plan for future worship
experiences. The Ministers of Community
Care met for their support of our
members and friends.



Our 2nd Friday Samaritan House Supper Club served pizza, tossed green salad, and fresh fruit to 35 residents of Samaritan House.

And last Sunday, Rev. David's sermon was titled "Where Do We Go From Here." [Click here to enjoy the service](#) if you could not make to to worship (or to experience it again)!

Journey to Christmas with Agape'

This Advent Season

It is hard to believe that in just over a week, we will be in the season of Advent! Advent is that time of waiting and expectation when we prepare our hearts and spirits once again to celebrate the birth of Christ anew in our midst. This year we will be engaging Adam Hamilton's book *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem*. What actually happened leading up to and including the first Christmas? What does the story teach us about the character of God? What does it tell us about the child whose birth we celebrate? What does the story mean for our lives today? There is much more to the Christmas story than meets the eye! Come join us and discover things you never knew!



Advent I : November 27

"Mary of Nazareth: Willingness"

Advent II : December 4

"Joseph of Bethlehem: Mercy"

Advent III : December 11

"Elizabeth in Judea: Encouragement"

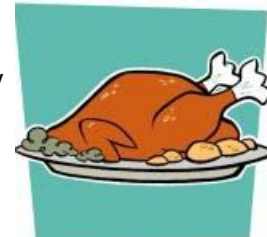
Advent IV: December 18

"From Nazareth to Bethlehem: Perseverance"

Holiday Potluck - Dec 4

Special Holiday Lunch after Church

The turkey and ham will be provided by the Board. Rusty will also prepare a vegetable, scalloped potatoes and rolls. You are invited to bring a favorite side dish. Can it get much better than this?



Agape' Holiday Potluck

Sun, Dec 4

Noon

Please Join Us!

Agape' Christmas Show Dec 10!

Come Join Us!

The 3rd Annual **Agape' Christmas Talent Show** will be held on **Saturday, December 10th from 6pm until 8:30pm.**



The evening will consist of a talent show in the sanctuary with treats and fun to follow in the Fellowship Hall. **PLEASE BRING A DESSERT TO SHARE!** There may even be a visit from Santa!

ALL are welcome to attend this free event, and if you have a talent you'd like to share in the show that evening, sign up sheets will soon be in the church lobby (or talk to Lisa O').

Bring your friends and family and join your Agape' MCC family for some holiday FUN!

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! Dance organizers would like 2 or 3 chaperones from Agape' for the dance. Can you help? A background check through Agape' will be required! :-)...Contact Rev. David at revwynn@yahoo.com if you can serve. Thank you!

Financial Contributions are also needed - please give your tax-deductible contributions 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!**

Community Bulletin Board

Jobs Available

Two Quality Control positions and one Administrative position are open at my company. Quality Control positions need at least 3 years experience in quality control and be familiar with measuring devices and have a basic knowledge of computers.



Administrative position needs basic knowledge of computers and be able to follow directions. Contact me, **Stace Jones** at **214-499-0378** or send your resume to simonntig@gmail.com

Prayers

- Healing from infection for Candy D.
- Linda C - recovering from surgery.
- Tony and Joe - in this journey with cancer.
- Prayers of comfort and peace for Von who is in hospice care and for her family and friends as they are present to her.
- Rayne - who is mourning the loss of her mom.
- Deanie - for the loss of her aunt and her dad's surgery this week.
- Jaci G - dad's surgery.
- RayRay - healing for his broken leg.
- Employment for those seeking jobs.
- Prayers for justice and love for the Transgender community.
- Prayers for Rev. Pat Bumgardner as she mourns the loss of her father and healing for her mother, both involved in a car accident.
- Alycia - mourning the loss of her father.
- Prayers for a friend who is suffering.
- Healing for a friend who is in pain.
- Travel mercies for Mickey, Jeff, and family.

God, hear our prayers.

Praises

- Pam and Shel and their new life together.
- For those who reach out.
- For Rev. Teri's Labyrinth.
- Tinker and her visit with one in need.
- Linda S. and her amazing work on our new altar.
- Jimmy M.'s pick up service for the Garage Sale.
- Kris and Linda's "hosting" of the Sale.
- For the Garage Sale crew.
- Cassy B. and Robert M. and their presence at worship conference.
- For Guitar Sunday.
- For Trish's gift of special music.
- Thanks Kathy for the new seating at the Labyrinth and Jimmy for transporting it to the church.

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

Worship Service This Sunday - Nov 20

Order of Worship - November 06

The Gathering Song

"Thank You God"

TGFM & Community

Words of Welcome

Rev. David Wynn

Call to Worship		Community
Song of Welcome	"The Heart of Worship"	TGFM
Time with our Children		Trish Penland
A Response	"This Little Light of Mine"	Community
Preparing to Hear the Word	"There is Only Love"	Community
Sacred Text	"John 1:1-5, 14"	Mickey Howell
A Response	"You Are Mine"	Community
Time of Teaching	"Everyday Epiphanies"	Rev. David Wynn Jimmy Marshall Kathy Munn
Centering Song	"Fill Me Now"	Community
Community Prayer		Rev. Robert Myers
Prayer Response	"Fill Me Now"	Community
A Time of Offering		Cassy Batts
The Celebration of Holy Communion		Rev. Teresa Mallott
Sending Forth	"May You Run and Not Be Weary"	Community
The Sending Forth		Rev. David Wynn

MCC News from Around the World

[MCC Headline News Special Edition - November 10 2011](#)

[2012 L.E.A.D. Program](#)

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.