



Agape' MCC Newsletter

November 30 2011

Upcoming Events

Sat Dec 3:

10am-3pm Christmas Pictures (Fellowship Hall)

10am Public Mass of Our Lady the Holy Sophia Mission

Sun Dec 4:

Noon Holiday Potluck Dinner!

3-5pm Tarrant County Foster Parents Christmas Party

Fri Dec 9:

5:30pm Samaritan House Supper Club

Sat Dec 10:

6-8:30pm Annual Christmas Talent Show

Sat Dec 17:

10am Public Mass of Our Lady the Holy Sophia Mission

Wed Dec 21:

4-7pm Life Pantry

Fri Dec 23:

5:30pm Samaritan House Supper Club

Sat Dec 24:

7pm Christmas Eve Service

Sunday Statistics

11/06:

Attendance: 104
Offering: \$850

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!



Christmas Photos

Saturday, Dec. 03

10 a.m.-3 p.m.

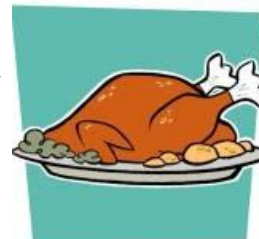
Prices: 4 x 6 \$5 or 5x7 \$8 or 8.5x11 \$10

Multiple photo packages available upon request

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!

Weekly Meditation

by Rev. Teri Lubbers

Compassion for Ourselves

It is all too easy to make a vow to be full of goodwill: Peace on earth, good will toward men...but how does this manifest concretely in the details of everyday life? What is the practice of a being who has chosen compassion as



11/13:

Attendance: 80
Offering: \$2,344

11/20:

Attendance: 71
Offering: \$2,181

11/27:

Attendance: 80
Offering: \$2,567

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



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

***a rule of life?* ~ Jean-Yves Leloup, "Compassion and Meditation"**

***The only reason that we don't open our hearts and minds to other people is that they trigger confusion in us that we don't feel brave enough or sane enough to deal with. To the degree that we look clearly and compassionately at ourselves, we feel confident and fearless about looking into someone else's eyes.* ~ Pema Chodron, "The Pocket Pema Chodron"**

A lot of us live double lives. There is what we say we believe and there is what we do. Hopefully our spiritual practice - whatever that practice may be - helps us bring both worlds into synchrony. So that what we are thinking matches what we actually say, and that what we say matches what we ultimately do. Then we can spend less time in that in-between place that is born of doubt and uncertainty about our own intrinsic worth. Then our insides begin to match our outsides.

When we know ourselves well - when we see the places we struggle, get hurt or upset, get tripped up - we become a whole lot more tender and patient towards others experiencing the same things. Courage to open our hearts and minds to others flows from fearlessness in looking at ourselves. Compassion for others begins with compassion for ourselves.

Prayer: Beloved, help me to see myself and others with your love and compassion. Amen.

Miss Last Week's Activities?

Catch Up Here!

Last Sunday, Rev. David Wynn's sermon was titled: "Mary of Nazareth: Her Journey is Our Journey. [Click here to enjoy the service](#) if you could not make to to worship (or to experience it again)!



Thanks to Nick and others who prepared and shared Thanksgiving dinner at the church on Thursday, Nov 24. [See pictures here.](#)

On Friday, the foundation of our Fellowship Hall was leveled (no more cracks)! And our 4th Friday Supper Club fed residents of Samaritan House.

Journey to Christmas with Agape'

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

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

This Advent Season

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 are 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! Coming up:



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"

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=mdtidtfw37mt>

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

Now Meeting at Agape'

Our Lady the Holy Sophia

The mission parish of Our Lady the Holy Sophia invites you to worship with us at Agape' MCC on the **First and Third Saturdays in December**. We are an open and inclusive group of Mariavite Christians who are especially devoted to Mary and the Divine Feminine. Our liturgies are traditional in form, emphasizing beauty and antiquity, but are highly progressive in spirit. We seek to promote spiritual growth within the context of intellectual and spiritual freedom. If you would like to learn more about us, please come visit in December. You may also wish to take a look at our website at mariavite.com. In the meantime, may God bless and guide you!



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**.



This Just In - Special News Bulletin from Pearl and Ethel - "Attention Heathens!!....We NEED you to sign up for the Annual Talent Show!! Come and see us and git yer glittery duds together for this here shin-dig. We want to see ya dancin' and singin'...or any other kinda talent you feel you might could muster up for Dec. 10th."

We ain't draggin' ourselves out and gittin' all gussied up that day for nothin'!

We'll be lookin' for ya! Hugs and kisses - Pearl and Ethel (your classy hostesses for the Agape' Christmas Talent Show)

Ring Those Bells

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Trish P. and Leigh W. want to perform one song with hand chimes at the **Christmas Eve Service** and want like to invite others who would like to participate. Some knowledge of rhythm and reading music would be helpful. Limited space available. **Please contact Trish at trishpenland@yahoo.com or 817-724-8003** (text or call). Participants must be able to practice with the group (times not yet decided).



Send Some of Our Own to New York!

Buy that Chocolate!

Crowley ISD Honor Choir is singing at Carnegie Hall on Feb 17. Help Zoie and Faith raise money to go on the trip by purchasing World's Finest Chocolate Bars in the church lobby!



Then on **Dec. 18 there will be a Bake Sale** in their honor also! You can buy some holiday cookies to eat and to share.

Groundswell Movement

Did you know that every day, right here in the U.S., girls and boys are regularly manipulated, coerced, and forced to have sex for money?



Some are as young as eleven or twelve. And they are sometimes sold online via prominent Web sites such as Backpage.com, a classified site owned by Village Voice Media.

As parents, aunts and uncles, brothers and sisters, and caretakers to children ourselves, we need to speak up for youth everywhere. Our diverse faith traditions and moral commitments call upon us to create a groundswell of responsibility to shut down Backpage.com's Adult section, so that no more girls and boys are trafficked via the Web site.

[Join me in signing the letter to Village Voice Media](#)

demanding it shut down the Adult section of Backpage.com.

[Learn more about the campaign by clicking here.](#)

Sincerely,

Rev. David Wynn

Groundswell is a multifaith social action network made up of people of all faiths and moral traditions.

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!**

Pride Needs Your Support! - Dec 18

Did you enjoy the move downtown for our "family-friendly" parade?

Decisions are now being made for Pride's future direction. Anyone can vote by simply **attending the December 18th Pride meeting at Best Friends at 3pm.** You will be asked to sign up as a member of the committee in order to vote, but any continued involvement after that will be entirely up to you.



At issue is whether the parade will continue downtown as a family-oriented event, or return to the Jennings St. area for a more bar-based event. **By attending the meeting and voting for the committee officers** who wish to continue the downtown parade (**Daune Littlefield, Tony Coronado**) you will help to determine the future direction of Ft. Worth Pride activities.

Please put this one afternoon on your December schedule to let your voice be heard and to influence the type of Pride events we will have for years to come. Every vote counts!

From the Life Pantry

It is hard to believe that our Life Pantry has only been open for 4 months, and within such a short amount of time so many wonderful things have happened. The pantry has taken in over 700 items of food and many necessary hygiene items such as toothpaste, deodorant and antibacterial wipes. We have also been blessed by an incredible amount of items for children and infants, the ones hardest hit by hunger. The Life Pantry has provided food to people all around the DFW area, and the Battered Women's Shelter of North Texas.



To learn more about what the Life Pantry has done, please [click here](#) to read the complete Open Letter to Agape' MCC from the Life Pantry.

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

- Linda G.'s brother Curtis has a leaky mitro valve and needs it healed.
- Tony & Joe health concerns.
- Health for Stephanie.
- Healing for Tinker.
- Rayne N. 13yr Weatherford boy burned over 90% of his body, he has only been give 50% chance of survival. Prayers for Rayne and his family.
- Health concerns for all.
- Healing for Cassy's mom who broke her leg.
- Energy and strength and peace for all who are caring for aging parents.
- Continued healing for Linda C. following back surgery.
- For parents who are making the many powerful journeys with their children.
- Those who feel lonely in this holiday season.
- For those searching for home.
- For Wren, David, Seth, and the baby that is on the way.
- For Zac and Erik as they finish their semesters in

- college.
- Those with employment concerns and decisions.
- For a powerful Advent season.

God, hear our prayers.

Praises

- Good news for Tony after early chemo treatments.
- For family connections that have been a long time coming.
- Our repaired foundation.
- Our re-worded sign and Nick's scaling the ladder once again.
- Denise P. and her team and wonderful hospitality in this place.
- The amazing door Leigh built for our sanctuary.
- Life Pantry and the many families we have fed.
- Lynne and all of her time and gifts with our sound system.
- TGFM and their gift of music each week.
- For the Advent Season.
- For Opening Doors.

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

Worship Service This Sunday - December 4

Order of Worship - December 4

The Gathering/Processional	"Like A Child"	TGFM & Community
Call to Advent	"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"	Community
<i>Lighting of the Advent Wreath</i>		Community
Advent Response:	"Light A Candle"	TGFM
Words of Welcome		Rev. David Wynn
Call to Worship		Community
Song of Welcome	"You Are Holy"	TGFM
Time with our Children		Grace Gray
A Response	"This Little Light of Mine"	Community
Preparing to Hear the Word	"Beautiful One"	Community
Sacred Text	"Matthew 1: 18-24"	Dawn Dujour
A Response	"Beautiful One"	Community
Time of Teaching	"Joseph of Bethlehem: Maker of Doors"	Rev. David Wynn
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	"Hosanna"	Community
The Sending Forth		Rev. David Wynn

MCC News from Around the World

[World AIDS Day - Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson](#)

[MCC Headline News - November 29](#)

[Advent Greeting from our Moderator](#)

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.