



Agape' MCC Newsletter

December 7 2011

Upcoming Events

Fri Dec 9:

5:30pm Samaritan House Supper Club

Sat Dec 10:

6-8:30pm Annual Christmas Talent Show

Sun Dec 11:

10:30am Worship Sve

11:45am Meet, Greet & Eat Planning Session

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

Sun Dec 25:

10:30am Christmas Day Service

Sunday Statistics

11/13:

Attendance: 80
Offering: \$2,344

11/20:

Attendance: 71

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.

Bring your favorite dessert to share after the show!



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 shindig. 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)

Meet, Greet & Eat for 2012!

After Service This Sunday

Meet with coordinator Mike Vasquez after service this Sunday, Dec. 11, to plan for our monthly Meet, Greet & Eat meals for our church family. You can get more information, volunteer to provide a meal, food items, or set-up and clean-up. Your participation will be appreciated!



Weekly Meditation

by Rev. Teri Lubbers

Offering: \$2,181

11/27:

Attendance: 80

Offering: \$2,567

12/04:

Attendance: 109

Offering: \$1,604

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

Resolve Conflict, LLC

God's Likeness In Your Face



The mark of Celtic spirituality that had appeared first, and been stressed by Pelagius, was that of the image of God at the heart of the human. There was the conviction...that to look into the face of a newborn child is to see the image of God. 'The lovely likeness of [God] is in thy pure face,' is a phrase in one of the invocations of blessing on a child. It was believed that by looking deeply enough into any human face, not just that of a child, we may glimpse the image of God, although often, maybe usually it is covered over by marks of...confusion. ~ J. Phillip Newell, "Listening for the Heartbeat of God: A Celtic Spirituality"

As of last Friday I am officially a grandmother. I got to hold my little grandson in the first hour of his life. Holy ground that. Amazing and precious and awe-filled. All of us present got to hold him and gaze at him - we could barely wait our turn. It is true: looking into the face of a newborn is like looking into the face of God.

Looking deeply into any face will reveal the One who is at the heart of each of us. But we are more inclined to turn away than to look too deeply at one another. Whether out of shyness or respect, embarrassment or vulnerability, we are tentative about gazing too deeply at one another. So you want to see God? You can find a newborn to hold. Or instead of rushing past those you encounter today, you could take the time to look deeply at each one you meet, even if only for a moment. Don't be afraid to let others see you. Connection happens when we see and are seen. Eternity happens in the fleeting moments of our lives.

Prayer: Holy One, give me eyes to see you in every face I meet today, and help me to offer kindness in every encounter. Amen.

Miss Last Week's Activities?

Catch Up Here!

Our Lady the Holy Sophia Mission held their first Public Mass at Agape' MCC last Saturday morning. Their next service will be Saturday, Dec. 17, at 10 a.m.



Last Sunday, Rev. David Wynn's sermon was titled: "Joseph of Bethlehem: Maker of Doors." [Click here to enjoy the service](#) if you could not make to to worship (or to experience it again)!

What a great Holiday Potluck Dinner we had after service. [See pictures here](#). Thanks to Board Members, Rusty C. and all who brought food.

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!](#)

Santa pictures were also available for those who could not make the other scheduled times. Thanks, Stace and Susan for all your hard work in offering this Agape' Fundraiser to our family.

The Tarrant County Foster Parent Association also held their annual Christmas Party in our Fellowship Hall later on Sunday afternoon.

Journey to Christmas with Agape'

This Advent Season

This year we are engaging Adam Hamilton's book, *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem*, during Advent. 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? Come join us and discover things you never knew! Coming up:



Advent III: December 11

"Elizabeth in Judea: Encouragement"

Advent IV: December 18

"From Nazareth to Bethlehem: Perseverance"

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).



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](http://www.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 **Third Saturday 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](http://www.mariavite.com). In the meantime, may God bless and guide you!



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.

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.

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!

Spiritual Guidance & Growth Workshop

Living A Transpersonal Life

Spiritual Guidance and Growth Workshop

Living a Transpersonal Life

by Trace Whitley, B.A., Certificate in Transpersonal Studies



What is the Transpersonal? It's about Transcending the Ego and discovering our Authentic Self behind the masks we wear. This is an introductory course on how to develop spiritual tools to promote individual Enlightenment and Self-Actualization. Techniques like Meditation and Dreamwork will be highlighted, but many other tools will be explored. Join us for a loving spiritual journey toward wholeness.

Where: Agape' MCC
Dates: Thursday Jan. 12th & 26th
Thursday Feb. 9th & 23rd
Thursday Mar. 8th & 22nd

Please RSVP if you can...
Trace Whitley 214-232-7680 or vbattlecrowv@gmail.com

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.

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

- Continued healing for Cassy's mom Lois who is

- undergoing rehab for a broken leg!
- Jana W. - recovering from surgery.
- Rayne - 13 year old burn victim.
- Curtis G. - heart valve problems
- Speedy recovery for Lee & Jamie who both have surgeries this week.
- Ray B. - bully at work and injustice at work.
- Ray B. - his sister needs work.
- Cain - who has brain cancer and his Mom.
- Kelly - and continued health concerns.
- Gary - and may he see the open doors.
- Valerie D. - may she not close the doors.
- For Tony & Joe.
- Rosanna's Mom.
- Grace and Linda G. - stomach bug.
- For all those in need of employment.

God, hear our prayers.

Praises

- Praises for Boston Terrier Rescue of N. Texas in Irving for taking a stray Boston Terrier found over the Thanksgiving Holiday. "Hollie" was found at 4:30 am early last Sunday morning and after an extensive search for the owner this group took the pregnant little lady under their wing where she gave birth via c-section to 6- pups on Friday, Dec 2nd. www.texasbostons.com Great folks!
- For an awesome Church potluck - tummies are full.
- For Whitney graduating with her BSW on Dec 17th from UNT.
- Our Church Home.

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

Worship Service This Sunday - December 11

Order of Worship - December 11

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	"Hosanna"	TGFM
Time with our Children		Trish Penland
A Response	"This Little Light of Mine"	Community

Preparing to Hear the Word	"Beautiful One"	Community
Sacred Text	"Luke 1:39-45"	Larissa Baxter
A Response	"Beautiful One"	Community
Time of Teaching	"Elizabeth in Judea: Encouragement"	Rev. David Wynn
Centering Song	"Fill Me Now"	Community
Community Prayer		Rev. Teresa Mallott
Prayer Response	"Fill Me Now"	Community
A Time of Offering		Cassy Batts
The Celebration of Holy Communion		Rev. Robert Myers
Sending Forth	"Shine On Us"	Community
The Sending Forth		Rev. David Wynn

MCC News from Around the World

[MCC Call to Prayer for U.S. West Coast](#)

[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.