



Agape' MCC Newsletter

December 14 2011

Upcoming Events

Sat Dec 17:

10am Public Mass of Our Lady the Holy Sophia Mission

Sun Dec 18:

10:30am Worship Svc

11:45am Meet, Greet & Eat Planning Session

Mon Dec 19:

5:30pm Worship Team

6:30pm Ministers of Community Care Mtg

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

Sat Jan 7:

10am Public Mass of Our Lady the Holy Sophia Mission

Sat Jan 21:

10am Public Mass of Our Lady the Holy Sophia Mission

Meet, Greet & Eat for 2012 After Worship

After Service This Sunday

For those who were out last Sunday or otherwise unable to attend our meeting last Sunday:

Meet with coordinator Mike Vasquez after service this Sunday, Dec. 18, 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

Pause for Happiness

Labor and rest, work and ease, the busy hand, and then the stilled thought: this blending of opposites is not merely the great law of being; it is the secret of its joy as well.

For, after all, what is happiness but the balance between toil and quiet. The heart pauses in its beat. The pendulum, too, on the completion of its stroke. ~ Alistair Maclean, "Hebridean Altars"



Some of my favorite words of Jesus are: "Come unto me, all who carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." We are living integrations of contradiction: labor and rest, busy and still, noisy and quiet, tense and relaxed. We aren't just one or the other. We are embodied paradox. But somewhere, in the midst of all the opposites that make us up, are these moments of balance, moments of being in-between, moments of pause.

Consider the little pause in your breath, where breathing in becomes breathing out. We barely notice, we are so used to breathing that we take it for granted. But be conscious of the space that opens up between breaths, and we become more awake, more aware. We remember that we are right here in our bodies.

Pay attention to the pauses all around you. A break in

Sunday Statistics

11/20:

Attendance: 71
Offering: \$2,181

11/27:

Attendance: 80
Offering: \$2,567

12/04:

Attendance: 109
Offering: \$1,604

12/11:

Attendance: 57
Offering: \$595

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

the clouds where light shines through, a moment of comfort in the midst of a sadness, the silence after a bird sings when you wait to hear it again, the laughter when something delights you, the color of the sky as the earth transitions from day to night, from night to day. Pause and notice. Pause for happiness.

Prayer: Thank you God that happiness is always at hand. Help me find it in the simplest of things and in unexpected places. Amen.

Miss Last Week's Activities?

Catch Up Here!

Our 2nd Friday Supper Club fed 42 residents at Samaritan House last Friday. The menu of baked ham, green beans, cheesy potatoes, and homemade cookies and cakes were served by Kathy M., Beth F. and Danny Q.



Weren't here last Sunday? Our numbers were low but hardy! We had an alarming number of friends and family out with a very aggressive flu virus last week.

Rev. David and his family were among the infirm and so Rev. Teresa Mallot spoke to us last Sunday. Her sermon was titled: "Elizabeth in Judea: Encouragement." [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

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 this Sunday:



Advent IV: December 18

"From Nazareth to Bethlehem: Perseverance"

Ring Those Bells

Janna Brown, Master

Photographer

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

817-657-9882

janna.brown@sbcglobal.net

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!](#)

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!



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!

Words From an Outgoing Board Member

Hi Agape',

I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you. I attended my last official Board of Directors meeting this week as the Fund Raising Chair and I must say it was bitter sweet. On some levels I was sad and others I was happy.



This has been a three year journey of learning, community happiness, sadness and unbelievable friendship. I want to thank all of my BoD cohorts for believing in me and our vision as a community. Thank you to all of the volunteers that helped out along the way. Thank you Kathy Munn for your guidance and friendship. We are an amazing family! Just a couple of things I learned while serving are patience, 'listen to your heart and Spirit', teamwork and a true sense of community. I set out on this journey three years ago to try and make a difference and help the community I love so much and I hope I was able to accomplish that. If there was one piece of wisdom that truly was an epiphany for me in this journey it would have to be that we as a community are the church. Yes we love our building and our home and we need to care for it and love it. But without us it is just a building. We make it a church and a community. Please always remember that my friends.

I now step in as one of our Lay Delegates or as I fondly like to say Kathy Munn's assistant. Which for me is a great honor by the way. And I hope I do her and my church

proud in that role.

Thank you Agape' for helping me to grow as a person and a Christian and for helping me understand the true sense of community.

Much Love,
Stace

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.

Begin Your New Year with Agape'!



The New Year always brings opportunity to move beyond our limitations... to find new beginnings and be better than we were before. We use this cultural word-play in our series title to remember that the most basic transforming experiences of our faith-communion and baptism-are the starting points for life "beyond" our limitations. Let's make 2012 a year of amazing transformations-for our lives, for our community, for our world!

"Bread" - Jan 1

"Bath" - Jan 8

"Beyond Belief" - Jan 15

"Beyond the Horizon" - Jan 22

"Beyond the Boundaries" - Jan 29

"Beyond the Chaos" - Feb 5

"Beyond the Hype" - Feb 12

"Beyond the Fear" - Feb 19

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 ybattlecrowv@gmail.com

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 for all who are experiencing illness.
- Healing and strength for Cassy, Lisa, and the moms.
- Healing and good test results for Stephanie.
- Continued healing for Lee and Jamie.
- Healing for Rev. Robert.
- Julie K. - sister in-law has breast cancer diagnosis.
- Rae P. - lung cancer.
- Curtis G. - heart valve issues.
- Patsy G and Sam G - health issues.
- Annettra - chemo treatment.

- Linda C. - continued recovery.
- Rayne - 13yr old with severe burns.
- For a big boost for the communal immune system.
- Continued healing and strength for Tony and Joe.
- Wisdom and clarity for our Board of Directors as they facilitate the financial health of our community.

God, hear our prayers.

Praises

- For Stace in his completion of his Board term and his amazing service on behalf of our community.
- Those who are back to health.
- For Kathy - picking up new mats for our doorways.
- For Trish, Mickey, Leigh, Robert, and Teresa...fantastic worship this past Sunday.
- Exciting new opportunities.
- Feeling better.
- Family time at the holidays.

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

Worship Service This Sunday - December 18

Order of Worship - December 18

"From Nazareth to Bethlehem: Perseverance"

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	"I Could Sing of Your Love Forever"	TGFM
Time with our Children		Rev. David Wynn
<i>Consecration of Paul Fucile, Minister of Community Life</i>		
Preparing to Hear the Word	"Beautiful One"	Community
Sacred Text	Exodus 12:37-42, Luke 2L1-7, Galatians 5:1, 13	Leigh Wolfer
A Response	"Beautiful One"	Community
Time of Teaching	"The Roads We Travel"	Paul Fucile
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	"Shine On Us"	Community
The Sending Forth		Rev. David Wynn

MCC News from Around the World

[L.E.A.D. Retreat Applications Are Being Accepted](#)

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

[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.