



## Where Needs Meet AGAPE Love

February 2018

### Liberty Med Students Serve Agape

#### AGAPE MEMBER CHURCHES

Bedrock Community Church  
Covenant Fellowship  
CrossPointe/Franklin Heights Baptist Church  
Dwelling Place Christian Fellowship  
EastLake Community Church  
Flint Hills Baptist Church  
Goodview Baptist Church  
Halesford Baptist Church  
Inner-Faith Fellowship Ministries  
Morgans Baptist Church  
Palestine Baptist Church  
Radford Baptist Church  
Rocky Mount Baptist Church  
Staunton Baptist Church  
Vitalize Church  
Westlake Baptist Church

#### PRAYER FOR AGAPE

Please join as you are able in prayer for the Agape ministry, clients, and volunteers! Join the Agape Prayer Team in the Meeting Center at

**8:45 to 9:45 am**

**Tuesday — February 13**

**Thursday — February 22**

**Tuesday — March 13**

**Thursday — March 22**



Nine first year students from Liberty University's College of Osteopathic Medicine arrived at Agape on a recent Saturday morning, ready to serve! From left, back row: Kelsey Gillis, Taylor Moss, Farbod Farhang, Shaneish Nugent Lopez, Jeremy Jones, Kevin Franco; front row: Amelia Hubach, Kaylin Sin, and Thomas Balint.

Each year, the medical students at Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine are divided into groups of 9—10 people to do service projects together and bond as a cohesive unit while serving the community. This group chose to come to Agape as Mia Hubach was familiar with Agape through her church, Bedrock Community Church. She says, "I know from my church that Agape can always use the help, so I suggested Agape as our service project. Our group was really excited to be a part of this ministry since it represents what we believe in. It was a great way to serve our community with a Christian organization."

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**Pray for Agape — Join the Prayer Team** in the Meeting Center to pray for the day at Agape.

**February 7, 2018—Getting Ahead Classes Begin**

**March 14, 2018—Roanoke Valley Gives** (See Page 5)

**May 19, 2018—Agape Center's 14th Annual Golf Tournament**—The Westlake—Registration at 12 noon; T-Off at 1 pm. (See Page 4)

## Client Sees Her Life as God's Mission

"In 1992, I spoke to Jesus!" exclaimed Janet Kurz, an Agape client. "I was having a heart catheterization when I had an out-of-body experience. I saw the medical personnel trying to get me back, but I was in the presence of a very bright, white area, talking with Jesus. I felt an incredible calm come over me. I was very safe, very protected, and I wanted to stay with Him. But He told me I must go back. He said, 'Your mission on earth is not finished'."



**Agape Client Janet Kurz, is looking for her next assignment from God!**

Janet continued, "It was several years before I saw my mission, but in 2013, I was called back from my home in Alaska to New Jersey to care for my son who had Huntington's Disease. I was his care-giver for nineteen months, as his wife worked full-time. He died four years ago, and I don't regret one moment of taking care of Him. We were very close and he was always there for me; you don't ever get over losing a child, no matter their age."

Janet returned home to Alaska and tried going back to church, but it was difficult. She says, "I was blaming God for taking my son." She eventually found a church, "and I felt an instant confirmation that this is the church I should be at. The people in that church helped me move forward after my son's death."

"I still miss him, but I know I will see him again in heaven. After taking care of him, I thought that was my life's mission, but since I'm still here, God must have something else for me."

After a stroke in February, 2017, she decided to move back to Bedford in May, where some of her family lives and where medical care was more accessible. She says, "My granddaughter suggested I go to Agape. After leaving Alaska, I had to get

rid of everything and start over here. Agape has been a big help to me. I am so surprised at that organization; it runs so smoothly and helps so many people. If it weren't for Agape, I'd probably still be living with my granddaughter and her family. I really appreciate all they did for the holidays. Those people are a blessing. Now I am looking forward to the next mission God has for me!"

### By the Numbers Served. . .

#### January, 2018

Families 844  
Individuals 2917

#### January 2017

Families 846  
Individuals 2834

### Welcome New

Linda Call — Clothing  
Carol Cook — Store/Clothing  
Betsy Helderman — Store/Clothing/  
Stocking  
Scott Matthews — Firewood  
Tammy Pauley — Clothing  
Annette Schwendinger — Clothing  
Pete Schwendinger — Furniture  
Charlotte Wood — Store/Clothing

### February 2018 Volume 10 Issue 2

*The Agape Newsletter* is a monthly publication produced by The Agape Center for volunteers, member churches, and other interested individuals and organizations. Comments may be sent to:

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Moneta, VA 24121 (Phone: 540/296-0609)  
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## Book Department Completes Move to New Space

### Expanded Space Gives Book Department Room to Grow

Bonnie Fiori works tirelessly, sorting donated books, stocking them on shelves, and keeping the store supplied with a nice assortment for clients and their families. Clients are encouraged to ask for books they can't find in the store. If clients request a specific topical book, Mentors are welcome to look in the Book Department as the books are arranged by topic. (Clients cannot go into the Book Department.) Bonnie reminds us, "We have a wonderful selection of children's books available as well as many books on a variety of topics."

All Agape Volunteers are welcome to borrow books from the Lending Library Program. There are no due dates, fines or sign-out sheets; it is the honor system. Volunteers are invited to enjoy the books at your leisure and return them when you are finished. When returning borrowed books, please do not reshelve them, but return them to the Library Book Returns bin in the Book Department.

Books are available for spiritual growth, educational pursuits and reading pleasure. There are also Bibles, devotionals and spiritual topical books, and all are organized and clearly labeled.

Bonnie says, "I hope that not just our clients but our Agape volunteers will take advantages of the wonderful resources we have! I also want to say a special thanks to the men who helped get our Book Department set up: Don Frase, Jack Lipscomb, Paul Hadfield, Josh Allen, and Andy Fiori, my dear husband! All of the shelves and counter tables were constructed and set-up by these men; they have done a wonderful job making this department attractive and functional."

Donations are always welcome.\* If you are donating books, place them on the table nearest the bathroom, at the end of the aisle, under the sign that says "Book Intake".



Bonnie Fiori in the newly designed Book Department and Library.



We are always looking for volunteers to work in the Book Department as well. You may contact Bonnie Fiori for more information at: [abfiori@verizon.net](mailto:abfiori@verizon.net) or 540/892-5906.

*\*Note: We cannot use old encyclopedias or old text books; please bring them to Goodwill. We cannot use adult Sunday School materials or Vacation Bible School materials; the Rescue Mission or Salvation Army can use these.*

**The Book Department has moved and the Library is ready for volunteers to borrow books.**

## Register NOW for Agape Open—May 19th; Slots Filling Fast



Agape's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Open will be held at The Westlake on Saturday, May 19. Enjoy a complete program of special events, 18 holes of golf, including cart, an opportunity to win great prizes, and an awards dinner immediately following the tournament.

Registration is \$65/person or \$260/foursome. Prizes will be awarded for three lowest team scores, longest drive (both men and women), and closest to the pin (men and women).

Tournament Sponsorships are available for \$1000+; Gold Sponsor for \$500 - \$999; Hole Sponsor for \$200 - \$499; and Program Sponsor for \$100 - \$199.

Agape volunteers are invited to participate by contributing toward the Agape Hole Sponsor. Please give the Hole Sponsor contributions to Sue Lipscomb or Mark Plumb.

Additional details and registration forms are online at [www.agapecentersml.org](http://www.agapecentersml.org) or mail registration check (memo Agape Open) to The Agape Center, PO Box 573, Moneta, VA 24121. You may contact Bob Winters at 484-888-1856 for more information.

**Register your Team Now! If you are considering participating, sign-up your team now!**  
**We expect the event to fill quickly, as we have had no vacancies in the most recent golf tournaments.**  
**You can register at the Agape website.**

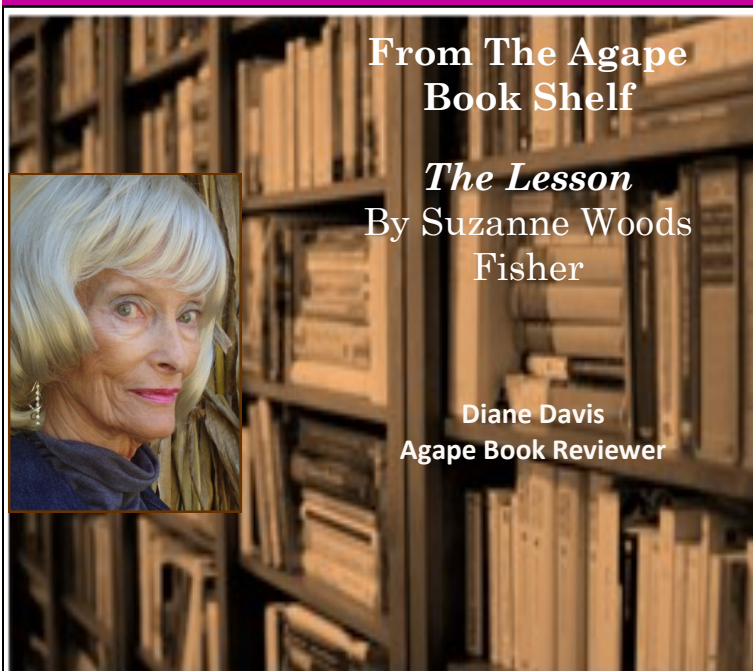
## Construction nears completion! Storage Shed will be ready soon!

Construction on the Storage Shed continues, and should be completed by the middle of February. The Gift Department remodeling is underway, with new lights, wiring and insulation removal expected to be complete by the end of February.

Following completion of the Gift Department, additional interior remodeling will begin, including three additional Mentoring Rooms, an office for Satellite Development, and a new storage area for the Shoe Department.







Mary Kate Lapp seems to always find herself in trouble. She jumps to conclusions and tries to have her own way about everything. She is about to learn a very valuable lesson!

When Mary was in town one day, she became distracted and ran into Alice, who happens to be the teacher in this small Amish community. Mary has had other accidents while driving her scooter, but this time she actually hurt someone! Alice was unable to teach for some time.

Since Mary is qualified to teach, she is forced by circumstances and by her dad to fill in for Alice. At first she has a terrible time trying to keep order and teach in the small school house. Finally she visits an older retired school teacher who gives her some much-needed advice on how to teach.

As time goes by, she meets Chris Yoder, the brother of one of her students named Jenny. Chris and Jenny's mom is in a drug rehabilitation center and has never been there for her children. Through Mary's love and care for Jenny, Mary and Chris become friends and fall in love.

Mary Kate says it was God's will that brought her to the school house and brought Jenny and Chris into her life. She was finally happy and settled in her small Amish community, surrounded by family and other loved ones. A lesson well-learned.

## Fill Our Lake With Agape Love!

Donate to Agape through **Roanoke Valley Gives**, an annual, community-wide fundraiser on March 14.

Help us to buy a new refrigeration unit for the Pantry. On Wednesday, March 14, 2018, Agape will be part of the "Roanoke Valley Gives" on-line fundraiser. We are trying to raise \$15,000 to increase the refrigeration space needed to store fresh fruits and vegetables. In addition to your donation, we will qualify for incentive cash prizes for most dollars raised, most donations given during a pre-selected hour, and if 100% of our board members donate during the 24-hour giving period. This time slot will be announced by the organizers of the fundraiser closer to the event.

It's easy to donate. On March 14, go to the Agape web site at [www.agapecentersml.org](http://www.agapecentersml.org). Click on the purple box that reads "RVG Website", then link to "Participating Organizations" and scroll down near the end of the list to "The Agape Center". Click the orange "Donate" button and fill in the required information. (You can donate earlier as long as the last block, "Charge date", reads 3/14/2018). Use your credit card only and the minimum donation is \$10.

Let's fill our lake with Agape love by helping to provide more fresh fruit and vegetables to those we serve. We truly appreciate your donation.