

Where Needs Meet AGAPE Love

August, 2019

Prayer Team Keeps Agape Before God's Throne

AGAPE MEMBER CHURCHES

Bedrock Church—Franklin County

Bedrock Community Church

Covenant Fellowship

Franklin Heights—Rocky Mount,
Cross Pointe, & Union Hall

Dwelling Place Christian
Fellowship

EastLake Community Church

Flint Hill 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



Clients often consider Agape their 'church', commenting that they feel the Holy Spirit when they enter the building. The Holy Spirit is invited to be here through God's people every time the doors are opened. The Prayer Team meets weekly (Tuesdays at 9 am) to intercede on behalf of the clients and the fifty or so volunteers who work each time Agape is open. The Prayer Team also walks through each department and the outside perimeter of the building at least monthly, covering the place and the activities within Agape with prayer. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, simply show up on Tuesdays, OR do your own prayer walk-through before your shift. Contact Marion Reed at reed-marion22@gmail.com for more info of if you have specific requests you would like to have prayer for.



Marion Reed,
Prayer Team Coordinator

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

October 7—Getting Ahead Class Begins (See Page 7)

October 11-13—Charity Home Tour — Sign-up in break room or Sue's office.

October 24th—Thanksgiving Turkey Distribution Starts

God Provides Unexpected Housing, A Final Act of Service and Love From a Devoted Husband

After renting the same house for seven years, Kim and Kevin Hicks were forced to move in April, 2019 when the landlord sold their home. There were only thirty days to find another dwelling and to move everything they owned. Kim, who has been an Agape client since 2010 says, “God provided a home without a down payment, and we were able to move on schedule. It is on almost two acres of land, and felt like home the moment we walked in. It is comfortable, open, and well-lit. We felt God guiding us directly to this place! It was like it was sitting there waiting for us!”

Kevin loved the garage, which could accommodate a wood-burning stove, so he could tinker with his metal scrapping hobby – tearing metal parts into pieces for scrap – copper, aluminum, etc.

Kim’s good friend, Linda King (also an Agape client since 2013) said, “Kevin was totally focused on Kim. He loved her deeply, and made sure she had whatever she needed to be comfortable. He even asked me to come over when Kim was recently hospitalized, so I could help him prepare the home for her arrival. The house was a big example, but he also always made sure she had a reliable vehicle; provided a Smart TV, so she could enjoy games and movies; and a laptop. Whatever she needed, he found a way to provide.”

In fact, Kevin had called on a realtor friend from Roanoke, who helped them find Virginia Housing Development Authority, which provided home ownership without a down payment. Kim says, “Without that, we could never have purchased a house since we were both on disability.” They felt so blessed and were anxious to share their story of God’s care and provision. They agreed in May, 2019 to be interviewed for this story, but due to scheduling conflicts, the appointment for the interview was moved to August. Tragically, that interview never happened.



Linda King (left) has been Kim Hick’s compassionate supporter and friend for over ten years.

See **NEW HOUSE, 3**

By the Numbers . . .

July 2019

Families 765
Individuals 2615

July 2018

Families 797
Individuals 2750

August 2019 Volume 11 Issue 8

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:

Executive Director—Sue Lipscomb
sue@agapecentersml.org
Newsletter Editor—Karen Baker
karenbaker015@gmail.com

Published by The Agape Center
1159 Promised Land Road (PO Box 573),
Moneta, VA 24121 (Phone: 540/296-0609)

Welcome New Volunteers

Harley Brown — Clothing
Robin Brubaker — Clerk
William Buzumg — Pantry
David Byers — Pantry
Colleen Carrier — Clothing
Tara Holcomb — Clothing
Kathy McKelvey — Reception
Laura Reed — USDA
Gina Schirtzinger — Reception
Kathy Walker — Clerk, Pantry
Turner Welborn — Pantry
Andy Williams — Furniture

New House: Husband's Final Gift to His Beloved Wife

FROM 2

Everything came to a heartbreaking halt on July 28, 2019, when Kevin got up in the middle of the night, and Kim found him dead of a heart attack. It wasn't his first, but it had been several years since his last episode. He had been to the doctor only a few days earlier, and everything was great. Linda said, "They dreamed of growing old together. Now that is not an option."

Kevin was tired, but didn't focus on his health; he focused on Kim. In his

final act of service to his beloved wife, he followed his pattern of thirty-two years of marriage. Now that she is alone, she is able to continue to make the house payments, thanks to Kevin's care for her future.

Kim concluded, "Kevin meant the world

to me; he was very gentle and I never doubted his love for me. There was never a question about our love for each other."



Kim and Kevin on their wedding day
32 years ago.



Kim in front of the home she and Kevin purchased in April, 2019.

The Meaning of AGAPE

AGAPE is the Greek word used 320 times in the New Testament in describing Jesus' love.

AGAPE originates with God.

AGAPE is unconditional.

AGAPE is persistent.

AGAPE expects nothing in return.

AGAPE is a synonym for Jesus!

AGAPE is the type of love where one is willing to die for another, even if that person is unworthy, sinful, undeserving and is an enemy of the one who died for him/her. We are called to **AGAPE** like Jesus, because His **AGAPE** is in us. The best example of this **AGAPE** is encapsulated in **John 3:16** (TLB):

For God **loved (agape)** the world so much that He gave his only Son so that anyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

That is who we are as **AGAPE**. Demonstrate and tell your clients about that unconditional, persistent love, **AGAPE** love, today.

Mt Praisemore Overflows . . . Again

Agape is always thankful for overflowing donations, whether in household items, furniture, toys, linens, or shoes. One area that continues to overflow is Mt Praisemore, affectionately named for the piles of donated clothing that Agape receives. It takes many diligent hours to sort, hang, and organize the clothing by size, season, and sex, and extra hands always make the job easier. With the help of volunteer groups, like the Bedrock Community Church-Bedford, as well as all hands on deck with Agape volunteers, Leslie Burzynski and her team try to keep the exploding mountain at bay.

Extra help is always needed, so if you want to get in out of the heat, come to Agape and help in the Clothing Department.



What do these products have in common?

Body lotions and razors are a part of this year's Christmas gift baskets for Agape clients. We need new (unused) body lotions and razors of any brand for hundreds of adult gift baskets. Encourage your Sunday School class, small group, neighborhood, or other social group to collect these items during September and help fill Agape's Christmas baskets.

Items can be dropped off at Agape, *or* at two community collection points: Smith Mountain Building Supply at 13080 Booker T Washington Hwy, Hardy, VA 24101 7 am—5 pm Monday through Friday *or* Lu Lu's Closet Consignment & Boutique, 17980 Forest Rd, Suite H, Forest, VA 24551. Phone: 434/426-5175. The shop is open Tuesday – Saturday at 10 am. (See Lu Lu's story on page 5)



Agape Helps Supply over 1000 Kids for School



For the past 15 years, Agape clients have received basic school supplies for their children. This year, over 1000 students from Kindergarten through high school received required paper, pencils, pens, erasers, glue sticks, and folders to kick-off the school year. Iris Mills has coordinated this effort for many years. This year, her husband Jim assisted in the shopping and transporting of seven truckloads they brought from Walmart to Agape during the hot months of June and July, so that the packets would be ready for the August start of school. Those who helped with the project included Deb Cocrane, Ginny Harris, Alice Meador, Bonnie Fiori, Ruth Bernau, Monica Berger, Jack Lipscomb, Rick Cocrane, and Rick Johnston.

Consignment Shop Blesses Agape with Plus-Sized Clothing

Agape recently received a large donation of beautiful women's clothing items – all in large and plus-sizes! This surprise blessing, an ongoing need for Agape clients, came from Lu Lu's Closet in Forest, Virginia. Owner Sandy Mayberry explained how the name Lu Lu's came to be when she and her son were students at Liberty University. Her husband noticed the Liberty University logo, LU, and immediately added another Lu, nicknaming her Lu Lu. She has been known by this name to her friends, and decided to use the name in her new store.

The store specializes in women's new and gently used boutique clothing sized 12 and up. When people bring in their gently used items to be sold, Sandy always asked what they prefer if the clothing doesn't sell – return to owner, or give to a charity. Almost always, they prefer to have it donated to a charity.

Though the store has only been open a little over a year, she has received several awards in Forest and Lynchburg for the best consignment shop. Her husband remodeled a suite that had been a former gun shop and they opened in June, 2018. Sandy previously worked for Gleaning for the World, a world-wide ministry located in Lynchburg, and as a part of her job, she worked with local charities to distribute goods they could not use. Agape has been the recipient of Gleaning's donations for several years, so when the need to pass clothing along, Sandy thought of Agape's clients.

If you would like to check out the store, go to Lu Lu's Closet Consignment & Boutique, 17980 Forest Rd, Suite H, Forest, VA 24551. Phone: 434/426-5175. The shop is open Tuesday – Saturday at 10 am.



Lions Club Donates Stuffed Animals

Doris Foutz and Molly Croft donated new stuffed animals for Agape childrens' Christmas gifts on behalf of the Bedford Lions Club. Carol and Jeff Francis from Agape's Toy Department received the generous donation on behalf of Agape.

From The Agape Book Shelf

Kisses from Katie

By Katie Davis



Diane Davis
Agape Book Reviewer

Katie Davis went to Uganda on a mission trip during her high school senior year. She was captivated by the people and by the conditions in which they lived. She decided to follow the path she felt the Lord was asking her to take.

She went to Uganda and began her life of dedication to helping the people of the country. She ended up adopting thirteen children and housing many others in her home. She helped establish a ministry, Amazima, that feeds and sends hundred of children to school while teaching them about Jesus Christ.

It was not an easy life. Katie gave up all the plans that had been made for her life. She dedicated her life to following the Lord into this remote place.

The poverty, illness, faith, disease, lack of food and water, and the conditions in which people lived, told her that any resources she could find were needed desperately.

Pressing forward, she called on home and abroad and prayed daily for funds to help these children. Money came from all corners.

With the help of so many others, hundreds of Uganda's poor were fed, clothed, loved, given medical attention and even invited to know Jesus as their Savior.

Katie ends with these words: "Lord, remind us that all the children we touch, and all the children we don't touch, are Yours. Yours in this broken life and yours in eternity. Come, Lord Jesus. We wait in hope."

WHY I SERVE ...

"The main reason I volunteer at Agape is that I am serving my Lord through my service here. It is personally very rewarding, as we meet many different people and have the opportunity to share Jesus with them."



Debbie Vreeland, Moneta
Floor Supervisor
Volunteer since 2010

Getting Ahead Starts October 7

We are looking for 12 people who want to:

Become more financially stable

Take control of their lives

Help people in poverty

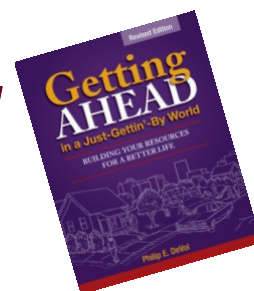
And attend a 17-session nationally known course called
Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World

All course materials provided

\$25 gift card provided for

each session attended

Food provided



Course begins October 7, 2019 ends December 9, 2019 and meets on Mondays and Wednesdays at Agape from 8:30 am to noon. Applications and details available at the Front Desk and through Mentors.

Bedrock Church—Bedford Sends Its Finest to Help Agape!



Agape welcomed fourteen of Bedrock Church's finest as they worked in various areas of the organization. Above, from left: Zach and Ashley Foresman; Dunn Richards; Lauren and Brent Dooley; Stephen and Brandy Burrill; Julie Mulliniks; Gayle and Ken Kok; Jordyn and Zach Ginn; Laura and Alex Grant. Clothing, Toys and Pantry were the departments where the volunteers helped the most.



Cleaning, repairing, and making sure all parts are present and working in each toy were from left: Dunn Richards, Zach Foresman, Brent Dooley, and Alex Grant.



Filling bags with dog food and rice for the Pantry were from left: Zach Ginn and Stephen Burrill.



August is KROGER RENEWAL Month

If you have a Kroger card, NOW IS THE TIME TO RENEW your designation of Agape as the charity of choice for your purchases to count toward a donation to Agape.

Go to the Kroger website to renew your designation, and Kroger will donate a portion of your purchases to Agape.

If you are not registered, NOW is the time to do so!