



Where Needs Meet AGAPE Love

November 2017

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 Agape ministry, clients, volunteers! Join the Agape Prayer Team in the Meeting Center at

8:45 to 9:45 am
Thursday — November 14
Tuesday—December 12

Ride for Hope A Success



Nearly one hundred motorcycles dotted the byways of the three-county area of Franklin, Bedford and Pittsylvania Counties on Saturday, October 22. The Third Annual Ride for Hope, sponsored by the Christian Motorcycle Association and Radford Baptist Church, raised over \$1400 for Christmas gifts for children of Agape's clients. In addition to a newly purchased gift valued at \$30, each gift basket will include a blanket, crocheted by volunteers from the community.

See **BLANKETS**, 5

Second Agape Walk/Run Raises \$6000

Walkers and runners flooded the streets surrounding the Agape Center to help raise money to provide Christmas gifts for about 1300 children this coming Christmas. This event, with both sponsor contributions and event participation, raised over \$ 6,000! Santa, Mrs Claus and a host of elves volunteered on a beautiful October Saturday to support Agape's Second Annual 5K.

Top winners in the Men's Division were 3rd Place Drew McElvain, 2nd Place Timothy Blankenship, and 1st Place Gregg Mullen. Women's Division winners were 3rd Place Vicki Kuhlman, 2nd Place Michelle Kist, and 1st Place Jessica Geyer. Participants included two local pastors, Troy Keaton of EastLake Community Church and Tony Gray of Vitalize Church.

See **5K**, 2

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

November-December Prayer for Agape — Join the Prayer Team in the Meeting Center to pray for the day at Agape.

November 23—Happy Thanksgiving!

November 28 — Christmas Gift distribution begins.

5 K Sponsors



Grayson Brown celebrated his second birthday with a party, inviting all of his friends and relatives to bring a canned item to give to Agape's Pantry! His mom, Jamie, said this was not only to teach children about giving, but to make the party accessible to everyone! With so many friends having birthdays, they didn't want anyone to miss because of the cost of birthday gifts! They ended up donating nearly 60 pounds of groceries! Grayson's family is from Bedrock Community Church.

FROM 1

Local sponsors of this event were: American National Bank; Bryan G. Sicher, DMD, FAGD; By Design Interiors LLC; Capps Home Building Center; Carilion Clinic; Davis Heating and Air Conditioning Co.; Eagles Roost Campground; Edward Jones - Carl M. Grove; Emerson Creek Pottery; The Douglas and Mary Fash Estate; Halesford Harbour LLC; Halesford Harbour RV Resort; Haywood's Jewelers; Interactive Design Group; Lake & Land Realty (Carol Brundage); Moneta Dentistry - Vishal Sha, DMD, PLLC; Patterson Brothers Paving; Phil Hager Insurance Agency; Radon Medical - LLC; Realtor at Wainwright & Company Realtors (Edna Jamieson); Seven Oaks Landscapes-Hardscapes Inc.; Traveling Therapy/Elizabeth Doucette L.M.; Virginia Furniture Market; and Webster Marine Center.

Over twenty raffle prizes were provided by local businesses.



Santa and Mrs Claus (Mike and Dawn Gologby) were on hand to cheer participants and to help event co-chairs, Randy and Robin Quay.

Welcome New Volunteers

Suzanne Abesoombie – Clerk
 Nathan Camper – Transportation
 Susan Dorr – Gift Baskets
 Danielle Dowell – Clothing, Gift Baskets
 Loretta Fortune – Pantry, Telephone
 Mary Jane Gardner – Pantry
 Sylvia Grayham – USDA – Data
 Judy Jones – Floral Arrangements, Baskets
 Sandy Kilpatrick – Clerk – Runner
 Linda King – Clothing
 Kelly Martin – Stocker, Clerk
 Mandy Martin – Gift Baskets
 Jennifer Nix – USDA, Runner
 Marie Poortje – Gift Baskets
 Peg Stewart – USDA, Receptionist
 Linda Turner – Gift Baskets
 Sandy Weston – Clerk, Christmas Store

By the Numbers Served. . .

October, 2017
 Families 844
 Individuals 2892

November, 2016
 Families 855
 Individuals 2787

November 2017 Volume 9 Issue 11

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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NO LONGER CONFUSED

Groups Pour In to Help with Gift Baskets, Thanksgiving Dinners, and More

As autumn began, the departments especially involved in Thanksgiving and Christmas were anxious to see how God would provide. They knew that many hands would be needed to provide Thanksgiving Dinners to about 1000 client families, and then comes Christmas. The goal was to provide Christmas gift baskets for every client home, plus about 1300 Christmas baskets for the children of Agape clients.

Judy Harper, Pantry Director says, "The saying 'Many hands make light work' came to life here this past month! The students from Smith Mountain Lake Christian Academy (SMLCA), Christian Heritage Academy (CHA) and Moneta Elementary School put together hundreds of Thanksgiving bags. What a blessing these groups and others have been during this busy time in the Pantry!

God continues to provide volunteers when we most need them!" Soon the schedule was filling as church groups, schools, groups of children, and friends provided the necessary extra hands to make this season special for so many.



Charlotte Wood will graduate from the Getting Ahead Program for Agape clients in December.

Over time, Agape client Charlotte Wood came to realize that she was seeking security and love from men rather than from God. After suffering physical and emotional abuse in her marriage, God spoke to her heart and gave her the strength to take her children and leave, for all of their safety. She said, "I would wake up in the middle of the night with all of these things that I didn't want to face weighing on my mind, so I started to write about them." As she continued to seek God and began to attend church and Bible study, these poems became like prayers.

Now, Charlotte is happy to share God with others, as well as her poems, in the hope that they will come to know Him as the only true source of love and security.

Kim Gauthier (left) with 7th graders from Christian Heritage Academy in Rocky Mount.

Rex (far right) and Rose Goodnight brought their Connect Group from Crossings Christian Church in Roanoke to help with Christmas baskets.



CONFUSION

By Charlotte Wood

When you're walking through life's highway,
And your spirit's feeling low,
Just lift your eyes to Jesus;
He'll tell you where to go.

Most of us can't understand
Or simply know the reason;
Maybe it's the life we live,
Or maybe it's the season;
Maybe it's the friends we keep,
Maybe that's the reason.

Maybe it's our illness,
Or maybe it's our view of things.
Maybe we don't listen.
Maybe it's that we don't stop
To count our daily blessings.

Maybe it's that book we left
Collecting dust upon a shelf;
Maybe we should dust it off
And learn about ourselves.

Maybe we should get a look
At every day beginnings.
Maybe God will warm our hearts.
Maybe He will give us hope
And we will stop pretending.

Maybe we will learn our strengths
And know our every weakness.
Maybe we will understand
His love is like a peaking;
Maybe we will lighten up,
Accept our mere existence.

Maybe He will give us passion,
A burning love, a desire.
Maybe He will set our souls
On Crimson, Christian fire!

Maybe there's no maybe to it.
We should get down on our knees
And let God's power do it!

God Continues to Provide Physical Amenities for Agape Center

As the vision of Agape comes into fruition, God continues to provide manpower, finances, volunteers and health and strength to complete the task He's given to the Agape leadership. Under the leadership of Jeff Mangold, the facilities are being upgraded and renovated, with many of the projects soon to be completed. The outside refurbishing will be completed by Thanksgiving; this project includes gutter replacement, cinderblock and joint repair (top left), painting the whole building (right) and installing awnings. The storage shed foundation (below left) is complete, trusses are ordered and building construction should be completed by Christmas.



Blankets for Agape Touching Hearts–Second Open House

Volunteers have been coming from far and near to help make 1500 blankets as Christmas gifts for Agape children. Over fifty volunteers from as far as Big Island, Concord, Northern Virginia, and Vinton have been busy crocheting borders on fleece blankets. An open house to distribute materials, provide free crochet lessons, or drop-off completed blankets will be held on **Saturday, November 11 from 9 am until noon** at Dwelling Place SML, located at 1019 Hendricks Store Road, Moneta. (under the laundromat – enter at the rear of the building)

“The great thing about this project is that no matter the circumstances in a child’s home, these blankets provide a new, personal, warm blanket representing God’s love to each child. Many of our volunteers are praying over each blanket as they crochet them,” says project organizer, Donna Cosmato.

Volunteers range in age from Thelma Meador at eighty-eight years old to Becca Daniel at nine years old. Becca is in fourth grade and learned to crochet almost a year ago, when she received her first crochet kit for Christmas. Her mother, Shana Daniel, has been teaching her and is very proud of her ability now to create blankets for other children. Shana says, “Most volunteers are surprised to see they don’t have to poke holes in the fleece. They just start crocheting; the blanket stitch on the edge of the fleece blankets makes it easy to connect the yarn to the fleece.” She first heard about the project through her church, Radford Baptist.

To volunteer, to donate, to pick up materials, or for more information, contact Donna Cosmato at 540/589-9531 or dcosmato@gmail.com.



Thelma Meador, 88, is an Agape volunteer in the Gift Shop. She is one of the oldest using her crocheting skills to create blankets for Agape children.



Becca and her mom, Shana Daniel of Moneta, enjoy crocheting together.



Carol Francis, one of the Agape volunteers who will create children’s Christmas baskets with toys and blankets.

Local Students Give Agape a BIG Hand

Agape was swarming with students during October. They were helping in virtually every department. About thirty students and faculty from Smith Mountain Lake Christian Academy (SMLCA) worked in almost all of the departments at Agape. According to LeAndra Willis, SMLCA's High School English Teacher, "Service is a big part of what we are teaching students, so this project is an extension of our mission to serve God and our community and to share His love. The students served in a total of six locations throughout the area." Moneta Elementary's 21st Century After School program brought about twenty 4th and 5th graders to pack Thanksgiving grocery bags and clean and repair toys for the Christmas baskets. Heritage Christian Academy from Rocky Mount also helped in many departments.

See **STUDENTS**, 7



Moneta Elementary School 21st Century After School Program 4th and 5th graders packed dozens of Thanksgiving grocery bags which will accompany turkeys for every Agape client's Thanksgiving dinner.

Right, the toy team cleaned and repaired toys for the Agape children's Christmas baskets .



Smith Mountain Lake Christian Academy seventh grader Jaxson Hill, (left) carried shelving supports for the new shelving units so that (right) 7th graders Romie Muse, Evan Inman, and 8th grader, Eli Phillips, could drill and pound the struts into place.

Several students also chopped wood for Agape's firewood Department.



Students Become God's Hands At Agape

FROM 6



7th graders from Heritage Christian Academy in Lynchburg provided help in all departments.



Students from Heritage Christian Academy, Rocky Mount (above) and Smith Mountain Lake Christian Academy, Moneta (below) provided invaluable help in not only preparing Thanksgiving bags and Christmas baskets, but helping decorate the Agape Center and providing help throughout all departments.

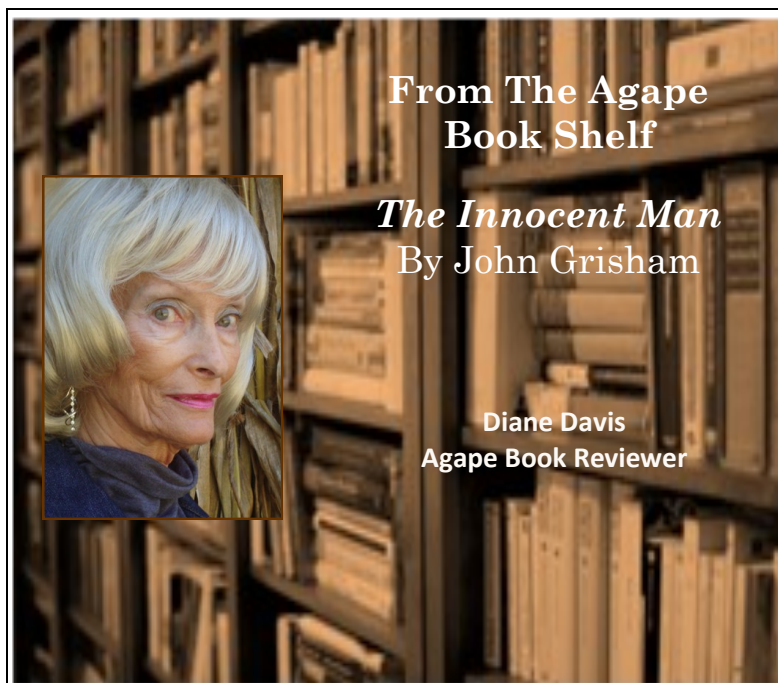


Below left, the clothing team of Michael Johnson, Erin Murphy and Makayla Vaught helped annihilate the clothing pile affectionately known as Mt Praisemore, because we are thankful for the donors who give a tremendous amount of clothing for Agape clients. Center, the toy team of Michelle Senga, Sydney Tucker and Megan Johnson washed and put together many toys to look like new for the Agape client's Christmas baskets.



Below right, Quintana Peak puts finishing touches on the Gift Shop's Christmas tree.





Ron Williams was a troubled young man. He had big dreams of being the next Mickey Mantle. However, injuries insured that he would never make it to the big leagues.

Ron had a reputation of drinking, drugs, and being out of control. One night, a cocktail waitress was murdered. The trail of events led to Ron. He was arrested, tried, and sentenced to death.

He spent eleven years on death row and was diagnosed as having a form of mental illness. He was given drugs to control his symptoms. Throughout all this time, he maintained his innocence of the crime.

Eventually the new world of DNA appeared and the new testing methods proved his innocence. The DNA did not match! He was released from prison.

Ron's life was not a happy one. He had stated, "If I had it to do over again, I wouldn't be here." However, when diagnosed with cirrhosis of the liver and faced his upcoming death, he accepted Christ and prayed the Lord would take him home right now. He had no fear of death, but welcomed it. He looked forward to spending eternity in heaven.

After five years of freedom, He was finally free.

This is a true story. John Grisham consulted with Ron's sisters, and suddenly had this book on his hands! DD

FEED A FAMILY of Four FOR THANKSGIVING

*Give Thanks by Helping Other
Families Enjoy a Nice Meal!*

There are over 1000 families from Bedford and Franklin Counties who will have a holiday dinner for Thanksgiving because we care about them! The Agape Center not only helps with food but they help with clothing, toys, furniture & appliances. Each family is assigned a mentor to talk with them concerning their physical, emotional and spiritual needs and God's love for them. Help make a difference and sponsor a family for Thanksgiving.

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

With God all Things are possible!
Matthew 19:26

Please make checks payable to:
The Agape Center

PO Box 573, Moneta, Va. 24121

Or

Donate on-line at:

www.agapecentersmk@aol.org

If you have any questions, please call:

The Agape Center — 540-298-0609

Dinner for Thanksgiving 2017

\$25.00 per Family of Four

Each Thanksgiving Dinner includes Turkey, Green Beans, Corn, Potatoes and Stuffing

I would like to sponsor _____ families.

Total amount \$ _____

The Agape Center - PO Box 573

1159 Promised Land Road, Moneta, VA 24121