



## Where Needs Meet Love

## February, 2016

### By the Numbers . . .

January, 2016

858 Families

2829 Individuals

January, 2015

804 Families

2608 Individuals

### Welcome New Volunteers

**Pastor Jason Arthur**—Transportation/  
Mentor

**Keith Bickel** - Electronics

**Kimberly Grace** – Reception/Runner

**Beth Johnston** - Runner

**Bobby Johnston** - Pantry/Furniture

**Linda Radgosky** -Pantry/Store/Phones

**Ben Smith** – Pantry/Firewood

**Beth Turner** - Store/Mentor

**Jeff Turner** - Pantry/Mentor

### RESCHEDULED

### RESCHEDULED

All-Volunteer Training has been RESCHEDULED

Monday March 21

Eastlake Community Church

9-12 noon

Every volunteer from every department is encouraged to plan now to attend this half-day training to learn what God is doing in this ministry, to be encouraged, updated, and to participate in a feedback session to make The Agape Center better. More info will be sent soon.

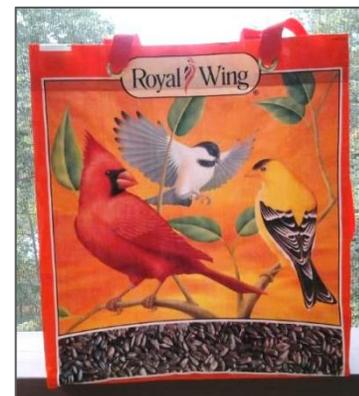
### Mark Your Calendar. . .

**January 25-February 15, 2016** – Agape Volunteers are invited to participate in a class "What Every Church Member Should Know About Poverty." Sponsored by Bedford Christian Ministries, the free classes will be held at the Bedford Community College from evenings from 6:00 to 8:00. Contact [grdsimpkins@gmail.com](mailto:grdsimpkins@gmail.com) for more info.

**JANUARY 25-APRIL 25, 2016**—Agape Volunteers are invited to participate in the LifeLine Caregiver Training program at Blue Ridge Community Church on Monday evenings from 6:30-9:30. For more information contact Jan Hogle at [tofinishstrong@gmail.com](mailto:tofinishstrong@gmail.com).

### Recycle and Support Agape

Brenda East, Agape Library Volunteer, has found a unique way to recycle those 25 pound bags that pet food, bird seed, etc come in by creating handy, waterproof tote bags. They are \$12 each and a portion of the cost is donated to Agape. If you would like to purchase one, check with Bonnie Fiori in the Book Department. If you would like to donate these big bags, you may leave them on the Book Donation table in the clothing area.



Happy Valentine's Day to  
all the couples who are  
*Responding to God's  
Voice*  
by volunteering at  
Agape, starting  
on  
page 3.

## GOD STORIES

### Woodworking Linked Client With Mentor and THE Master Carpenter

Reuben Penantel, Jr has done construction, and specifically carpentry, all his life, and now, at 93 years old, he continues to craft birdhouses, doll houses, jewelry boxes and various other wood projects with the accuracy of his early years. He was in construction all of his adult life, after serving in World War II from 1940-1945. He was in the US Army and spent all of his overseas time in the Aleutian Islands, which were occupied by the Japanese. He jokes that it was known as “‘God’s country’, because He is the only one who knew where it was!”

Reuben was married in 1939, and only saw his wife on a few occasions during the 5 years he served in the war. His wife died five years ago. He has two sons, five grandchildren and several great grandchildren. He continues to live on his own, and to drive his truck.

Reuben was born in Rhode Island, but at age 3, “my mother gave me up and I was raised by my grandparents in Massachusetts.” He was raised a Catholic, but hasn’t followed much of any faith, except for when he accompanies his grandson and family to Westlake Baptist Church.

Reuben is antique collector, especially Ball and Mason blue jars, some dating back to 1858. Many of his jars have dates, and range from small ‘jam’ size to half-gallons. He notes that the most sought-after ones are quarts stamped with the number 13 on the bottom. The legend among bootleggers was that if you put the

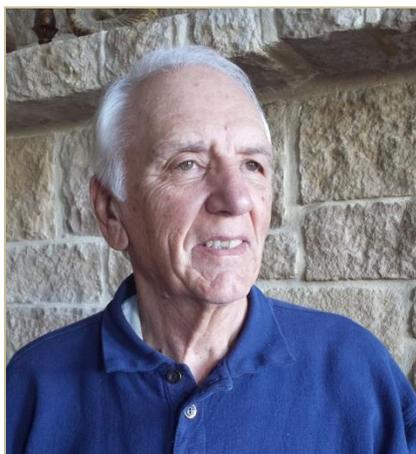
moonshine in a jar with the number 13, you would have bad luck. Now those #13 jars sell for about \$40 each.



**Reuben Panantel with his  
Mason and Bell blue jars.**

have the blessing of the harvest. In this case, the seed of the Gospel was planted into Reuben at a young age, there were many waterings, including Agape mentor Don Frase. Then in December, Reuben met with a new mentor, Ron Aimonetti, who volunteers at Agape on his visits to this area from Texas. And this time, the message penetrated Reuben’s heart. He was ready to receive Jesus.

After hearing about Reuben’s current wood projects, Ron asked him, “If you were to die today, do you know where you would go?” Reuben replied, “I don’t know.” Ron asked, “Would you like to know?” Reuben said he would. So Ron told him what the Bible says about knowing our eternal destiny, from Romans 10:9-10, 13:



**Ron Aimonetti, Mentor.**

Reuben began coming to Agape about a year ago, and connected with mentor, Don Frase, also a woodworker and hobby carpenter. Don gave Reuben left over wood scraps from various projects around the building, and Reuben fashioned them into useful items. He really likes “talking with Don, as Don listens to me and makes me feel comfortable. I feel really free talking with him.”

Linked by their love for working with wood to the Master Carpenter, Reuben listened intently over the months as Don shared Jesus with him. As so often happens, one person plants the seed, others water, and another may



**Reuben's Mentor, Don Frase.**

*<sup>9</sup> If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. <sup>13</sup> For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”*

Ron asked Reuben, would you like to do that. Reuben said, “Yes I would!” So Ron and Reuben prayed together as Reuben asked Jesus to be His Lord. After they finished, Ron asked Reuben if he believed what he had prayed, and Reuben agreed that he did indeed!

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S VOICE**



Ruth (Telephones) and Ted Bernau (Pantry).



Carol (Pantry) and Scott (Mentor) Moyer.



Bill (Loading) and Laura (Pantry) Flight.



Lonnie (Transportation Team Leader, Pantry) and Betty Ann (Pantry) Allen.



Doug (Firewood) and Brenda Gay (Special Schumaker)

**SPECIAL Valentine Blessings to:**

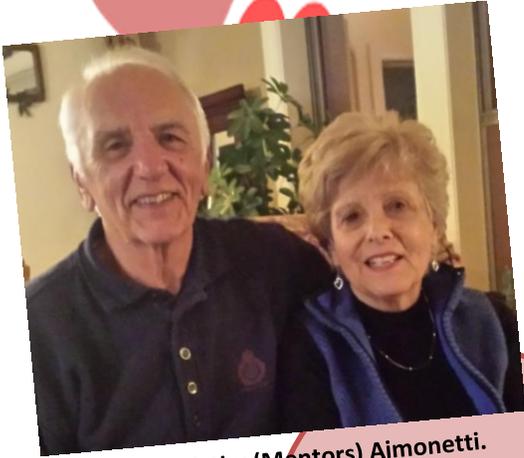
Paul (Mentor) and Debbie (Reception) Hyde

Mary Beth (Clerk) and Rob (Pantry) Winney



Debbie (Floor Supervisor) and Bill (Mentor) Griggs.

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S VOICE**



**Ron and Kathy (Mentors) Aimonetti.**



**Tom (Pantry) and Patti (Mentor) Galifano**

*SPECIAL Valentine Blessings to:*  
*Carol (Clerk) and Gene (Pantry) Suggs*  
*Jim (Pantry) and Sherry (Mentor) Revell*



**Kris (Store Manager) and Mac (Mentor) McKenzie.**



**Rick (Special Events, Pantry) and Deb (Mentor) Cocrane.**



**Sue (Pantry) and Ron (Furniture) Murphy.**

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S VOICE



Agie (Reception) and Tom (Pantry) Stubbs



Cyndi (Mentor, Floor Supervisor) and Bill (Mentor) Horvath.

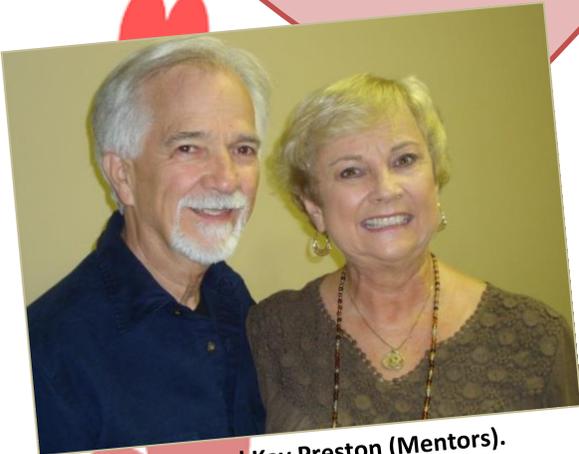
## SPECIAL Valentine Blessings to:

Bobby (Pantry/Furniture) and  
Beth (Runner) Johnston

Phyllis (Clerk) and Gene (Runner)  
Willis



Debbie (Reception/Data) and Bob (Pantry) Vreeland.



Glenn and Kay Preston (Mentors).



Verne (Pantry) and Karen (Newsletter) Baker.



Rex (Pantry) and Rose (Housewares) Goodnight.

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S VOICE



Leo (Furniture) and Alicia (Data) VanVliet.

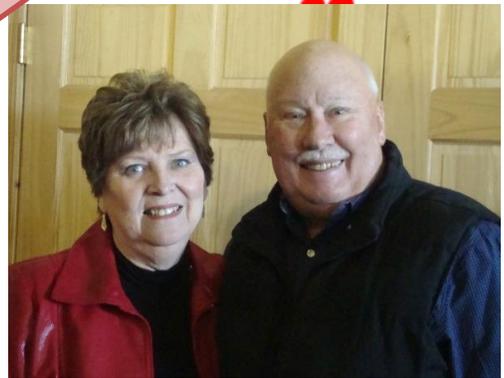


Susan (Data, Reception) and Dave (Pantry, Web Manager) Wolf.

*SPECIAL Valentine Blessings*  
to:  
Beth and Tony (Pantry) Maye  
Joyce (Data) and Clyde (Furniture) Moore



Edith (Reception) and Dennis (Electronics) Guza.



Carol (Mentor) and Robbie (Transportation, Pantry) Hallock.



Diane and Dave Davis (Clothing).



Karen (Mentor, Phones) and Ken Jones (Special Events).

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S VOICE



Sue (Special Events) and Don (Mentor, Board Treasurer) Frase.



Edith (Reception) and Dennis (Electronics) Guza.



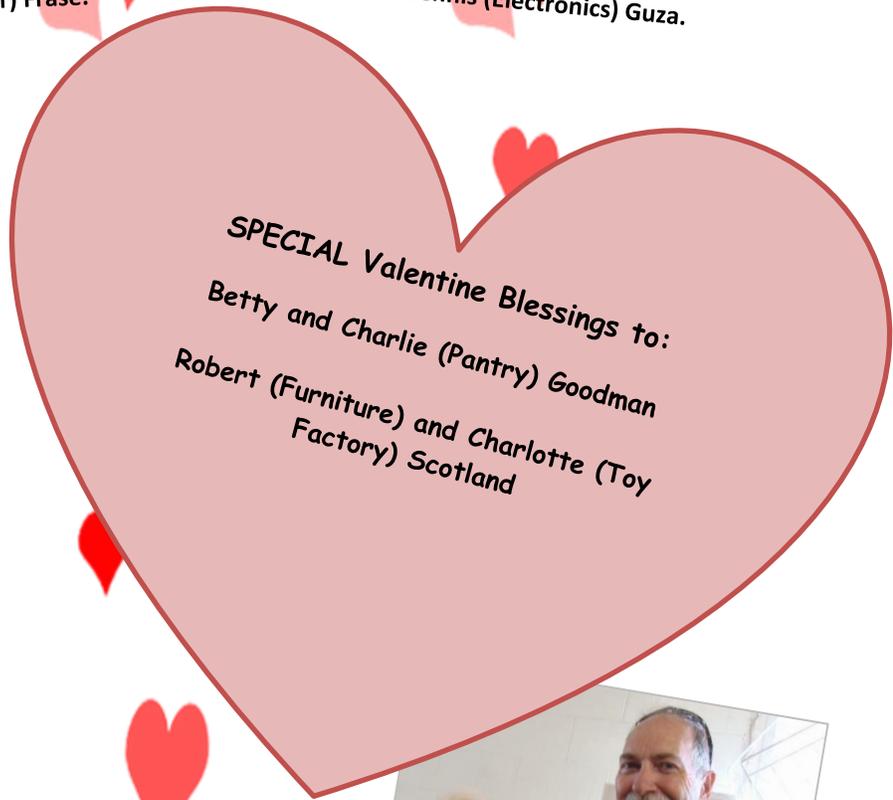
Doreen (Data Manager) and Jack (Mentor) Balzarini.



Charlie (Data) and Marti (Mentor) Anderson.



Gini (Mentor) and Bob (Furniture) Lohmeyer.



Lynn and Bob (Mentors) Winters.

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S VOICE



Carol and Ken (Mentors) Swain.



Pete (Special Projects) and Ellen (Mentor) Beck.



Joanie (Telephones) and Will McCullors (IT).



Tom (Pantry) and Becky (Clerk) Stephens.



Maver and Denise France (Special Events).

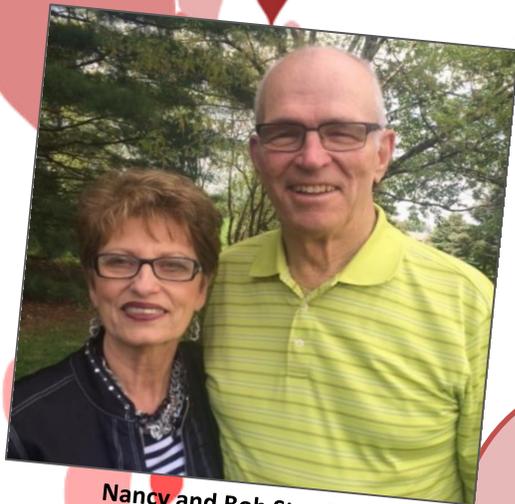


Sue and Gary Rogers (Mentors).



*SPECIAL Valentine Blessings to:*  
Ann (Clothing) and Roger (Transportation) Walker  
Susan (Clerk) and Charles (Furniture) Locke  
Beth (Clothing) and Jeff (Pantry) Turner

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S VOICE



Nancy and Bob Stouffer (Mentors).



Gary (Intake) and Moira (Reception Manager) Bell.

SPECIAL Valentine Blessings to:  
Doug (Mentor) and Mary Jane (Clerk) Lowe  
Roger (Maintenance) and Becky (Data) Blackman



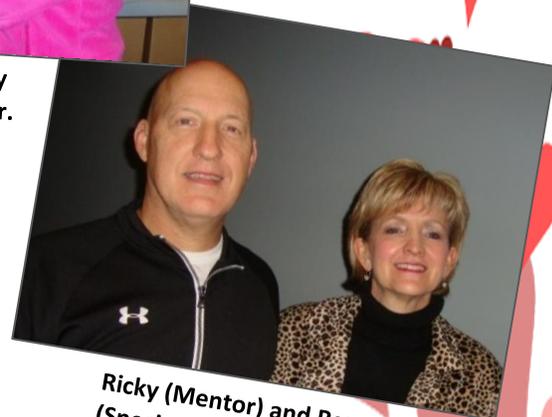
Jack (Facilities Manager) and Sue (Executive Director) Lipscomb.



Gordy (Pantry) and Judy (Pantry Manager) Harper.



Ed (Transportation) and Mattie (Gift Shop) Young.



Ricky (Mentor) and Renee (Special Projects) Thomas.

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S VOICE BASKET LADIES HONORED



The "Basket Ladies" of The Agape Center were honored with a lovely dinner and fellowship for their year-round work to select choice donated items, fill and wrap over 3000 baskets with Christmas gifts for clients and their families. Back row from left: Bonnie Fiori, Kris McKenzie, Janet Sellers, Russetta Wright. Middle row from left: Sue Lipscomb, Sheila Saunders, Eileen Hawkins, Karen Fusaro, Barbara Mullins, Kim Gauthier, Becky Weaver, Carol Brown. Seated from left: Marti Anderson, Marilyn Bresset, Gladys Hoover, Carol Francis, Diana Adams, and Jean Witt. (Not pictured: Becky Blankenship)

*Dear Agape Volunteers,*

*We want to thank you for all of your love and support and especially your time that you take to help run the center so that my family and others have the opportunity to be blessed. We are blessed in so many ways by the center. You all bless us spiritually with the mentors talking and praying with us. You all bless us physically with food and clothes, and you all bless us emotionally by making us feel special and loved. You never judge us for where we are in our life and the mistakes we may have made or bad choices. You allowed my family to have gifts under the tree at Christmas, and not just for the children but for me and my husband to give to each other. Thank you for all that you all do! One day I pray that I will be able to give back and serve others at the center or in a similar way. God bless each and every one of you!*

*The Orr Family*

**February, 2016**

**Volume 7      Issue 2**

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

Executive Director      Sue Lipscomb  
[tweedleva@aol.com](mailto:tweedleva@aol.com)

Newsletter Editor      Karen Baker  
[karenbaker02@hotmail.com](mailto:karenbaker02@hotmail.com)

### **Sponsoring Churches**

Bedrock Community Church  
Covenant Fellowship  
Dwelling Place  
EastLake Community Church  
Flint Hill Baptist Church  
Franklin Heights Baptist/CrossPointe  
Goodview Baptist Church  
Morgan's Baptist Church  
Palestine Baptist Church  
Radford Baptist Church  
Rocky Mount Baptist Church  
Staunton Baptist Church