



## Where Needs Meet AGAPE Love

March 2017

### BY THE NUMBERS SERVED

#### February 2017

824 Families  
2682 Individuals

#### February 2016

790 Families  
2682 Individuals

### WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS

Veda Alexander—Clerk, Pantry  
Edie Ballagh—Clerk, Pantry  
Joan Batwinas—Clerk  
Kaye Hale—Reception  
Michaelynn Hanson—Store, Telephone  
Linda Keltz—USDA  
Cory McClung—where needed  
Karen Regan—Clerk, Clothing  
Courtney Taylor—Clothing  
Sally Wickstrum—Pantry  
Allen Young—Toy Factory, Electronics



## AGAPE LOVE

This rendition of Jesus with His nail-pierced hand and outstretched arm was the highlight of the Agape Volunteer Banquet held on March 17, 2017. Jason DeLong, a local Christian artist, painted this, upside down, during the talent show. When he finished, he turned the painting right-side up to a standing ovation! This will be placed in the waiting area following the remodeling.

Over 200 people enjoyed delicious food prepared as part of the Agape catering ministry of Sue Frase, entertaining talent by Agape volunteers, and moving testimonies from Agape clients and volunteers. For more views from the evening, check out pages five and six.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**Thursday, March 23; Tuesday, March 28;**—Join the Prayer Team from 8:45–9:45 am (See page 6)

**March**—Two New Bible Studies for Agape Clients/Volunteers.

**May 20**—Agape Annual Golf Tournament at Mariners Landing. Contact Bob Winter to volunteer or to register a team to play. (See page 7)

**October 6, 7, 8**—Charity Home Tour

## Same Sex Attraction Presentation Helps Mentors' Understanding



**Mitchell and Michelle Ramaker**

Over twenty mentors and floor supervisors attended a special educational presentation by Michelle Ramaker to increase awareness and understanding of same sex attraction (SSA). Michelle is a part of the Celebrate Recovery ministry and struggled for years with same sex attraction. Agape mentors are not counselors so the purpose was to increase our ability to listen with understanding to those dealing with same sex attraction. Jan Hogle, Mentor Administrator and organizer of the program, said, "Agape mentors are trusted and safe people, following the leading of the Holy Spirit, as we come alongside our clients to listen to, love on and pray for them, desiring, as our mission statement says, to draw them closer to Christ."

Michelle says, "I grew up in a strong Christian home. I had a very good understanding of my beliefs. Even with that foundation, when I was 15 I found myself in a relationship with a married woman who was older than I. After the relationship ended, my life was in unfamiliar ground, and I continued to struggle for the next several years. During that time, I got married and began having children, still while battling same sex attraction. Finally, after ten years of questioning God and wondering why this happened to me, I began to understand, through God's guidance, how and why a Christian battles this. I am now trying to help others understand same sex attraction. This is a calling that God has clearly placed on my life, and one that I will faithfully carry out."

Michelle described the difference between the inclination toward SSA and the choice to act on it. She described that even as a solid Christian, she was on a journey based on self-deception resulting in sin that was destructive in many ways. She believes the key to her victory over SSA was her faith and the faith of others who loved her unconditionally. She described her victory over SSA as similar to victory over any other sin or addiction.

## Moneta Lions Club Offers Vision and Hearing Screening for Agape Clients and Volunteers



The Moneta Lions Club provides vision and hearing screening for Agape clients and volunteers twice a year. In March, the Lions volunteers provided 70 tests. Bert Bowers, the club's chair of vision screening, explains the results to Agape client Matthew Kidd.

## Agape Now Accepting Cars and Large Items

Agape is now accepting donation of cars, boats, RVs and other large items. These items will be cleaned, serviced, and listed for sale. One hundred percent of the proceeds will go to the food budget of Agape. Donors will receive a receipt that can be used for tax purposes.



**Jeff Mangold with a recent car donation.**

Jeff Mangold is the Director of Acquisitions for Agape, and is leading this new effort. To make a donation, contact the Agape center at 540/296-0609 and leave a message with the details of your donation, along with your name and contact info. Jeff will contact the donors to work out the details of pick-up.



## Geology Background Serves Agape Well!

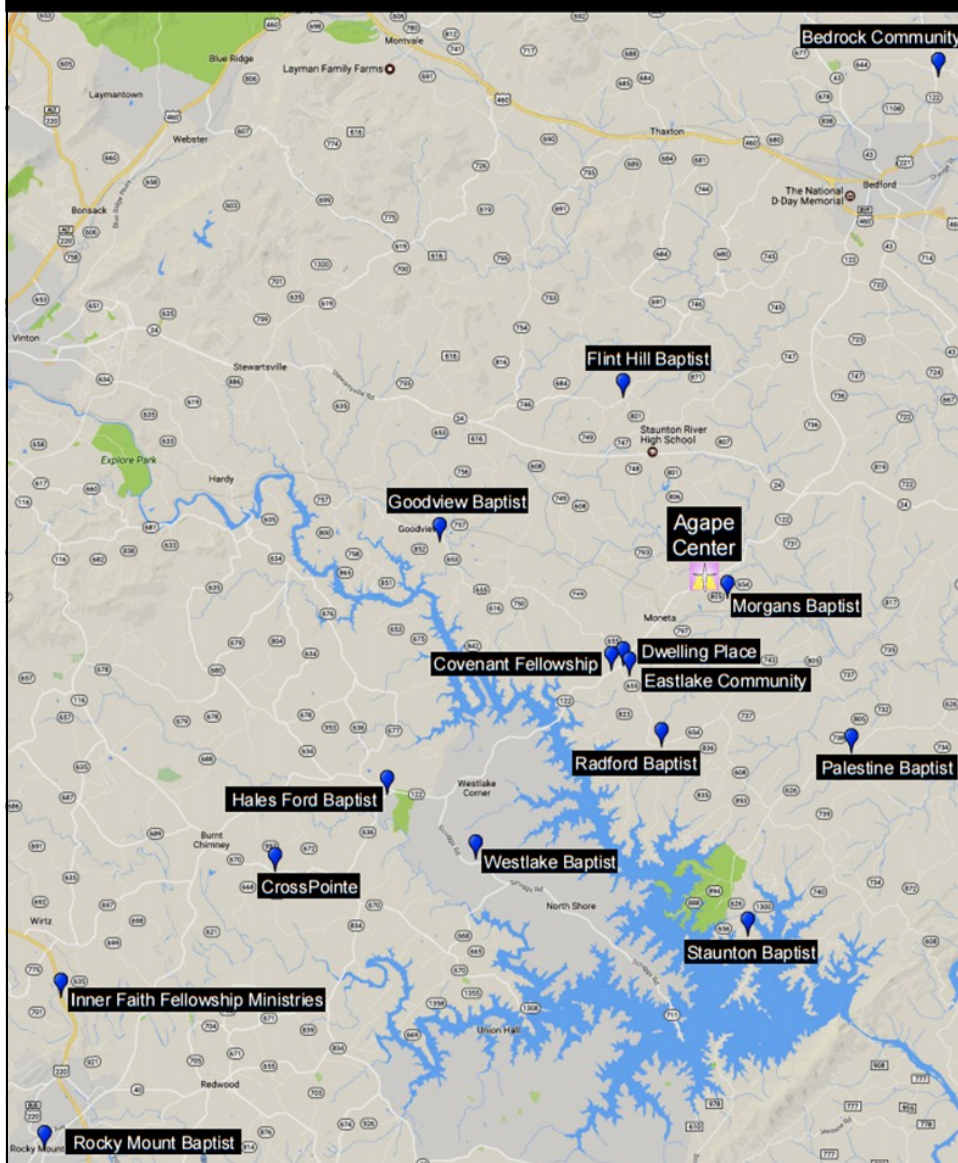
One of the blessings of Agape is the variety of talents and skills that God brings together to make this a professional, cohesive ministry that operates better than private industry!

When Jeff Turner graduated with a degree in geology, he couldn't have imagined where such a specialty would lead. He initially worked creating maps for the Department of Defense. While working for the government he earned his masters degree in Geodesy, and entered the field of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Through the years he worked for the Government, private industry, and eventually formed numerous companies tackling challenging projects as diverse as developing a children's educational CD-ROM for the Smithsonian Institution to providing technical 3D maps around the world.



Agape mentor Jeff Turner used his skills in map-making to create the Member Church map (below left). Jeff and his wife Beth have been mentors at Agape almost two years.

### Agape Center - Member Churches



In 2009, when his son Taylor turned 17, they traveled throughout the fifty states in fifty consecutive days, fishing at the most historic fishing spots (streams, rivers, lakes) in each state, raising nearly \$10,000 for various Christian ministries. The funds were raised by friends, family, and well-wishers by each person gifting a nickel for every fish they caught – which eventually totaled 956 fish. Besides researching the best fishing hole for each state, they were challenged with mapping a nationwide route that could be achieved in 50 days. Notable sponsors for this event included ESPN, Wrangler, and Chick-Fil-A.

Recently, the Member Church Guide, used by mentors to refer clients to Agape's Member Churches, was being updated, and Jeff asked Carol Moyer, the Member Church Liaison, if consideration had been given to creating a map showing the locations of the Member Churches. Within a few hours, Jeff had created the map shown, a great resource for easily identifying locations of each of Agape's churches.



## Three for One!

When Karen Doyle saw an opportunity to volunteer at Agape, a ministry close to her home, she was thrilled. She is always looking for ways to serve our Lord, and already does this 365 days a week as she and her husband, Matt, care for two intellectually disabled (ID) women in their home, Marta Clifton and Betty Crigger. Finding activities and projects in the community is an ongoing search.

In-home care giving is a family tradition, as Karen's sister, sister-in-law and nieces have also provided care for ID patients through Wall Residences of Floyd, Virginia. Karen and Matt have been doing this since Karen retired from 25 years of service to the US Postal Service five years ago. Marta, who is also physically disabled, has been with the Doyles five years and Betty has been with them for about six months.

Matt, who works full time with the US Postal Service, is a big part of the care giving, and their daughter, Emily, recently moved

back home to be a part of the care giving team. This has been particularly helpful with Marta's physical disabilities.

In addition to working in clothing at Agape every week, Karen and Emily take the ladies to the library to get books,

they go to Bingo events, the YMCA to work out, and one of their favorite activities is going to the SPCA and petting the cats. Having Emily take the ladies out for an afternoon allows Karen the time to complete the required paperwork. There are also some churches that provide monthly programs for ID, and at home they do many crafts, including sending hand-stamped cards to people who are sick or need encouragement. enjoys creating interesting projects for the ladies, including visiting friends, painting bird houses, watching movies, and visiting the gravesite of Betty's mother. Marta and Betty are avid travelers, and especially enjoy going to Matt's hunting cabin where they relax by the fire, ride 4-wheelers and fish. They also get involved in church activities at the Doyle's church, EastLake Community Church, and at Betty's church in Roanoke. Karen says, "They are part of the family and we take them everywhere with us." The Doyles are truly an example of serving Jesus through serving others, 24/7.



**Marta (left) and Karen hang donated clothing for the store.**



**Emily (right) and Betty work in the Linen Department, sorting recent donations for Agape clients.**





Kaye Hale worked for over 25 years serving inner city children in Roanoke, and then was struck with immense physical attacks on her body. God rescued her life, and she became an Agape client to help through this difficulty. Now she volunteers as an Agape receptionist. She gave a powerful account of God's mercy and grace throughout her months-long ordeal. (Her story was also in the Agape Newsletter of March, 2016.)



Professional Saxophonist and Agape volunteer, Randy Quay, and retired physician-turned-full-time keyboardist Ken Jones, provided elegant rock and sacred dinner music throughout the evening.



Jessica Gardner, aka God's Prodigal Daughter, gave a heartrending testimony of God's grace, healing, and deliverance in her life. She has been an Agape volunteer for two years and is still recovering from a life-threatening car accident, but through that event, she returned to the lover of her soul, Jesus Christ.



Agape Mentor Administrator Jan Hogle gave a hilarious retelling of the story of Cinderella. . . You had to be there!



Pastor Grant Harbridge, Staunton Baptist Church, provided a moving vocal and trumpet rendition of "I Keep Falling in Love with Him".



Rose Day, right, wife of Agape volunteer Jim Day, reconnected (for the first time in several years) with Agape volunteer Karen Doyle, who was the first person to befriend her when she moved to the area ten years ago.



Agape volunteer Jason Arthur, Pastor of Morgans Baptist Church, gave closing remarks of encouragement to the volunteers.

## *Highlights from the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet—2017*



## Meet the Organizers of the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet

Those who organized, recruited, practiced, and prepared for the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet are also regular Agape volunteers . . . taking on responsibilities for the banquet in addition to their regular volunteer duties.

Sue Frase is a full-time school administrator during the school year, but mentors during her summer break. However, her true love is cooking, and she sees every opportunity to cook and serve food as her ministry. Agape is privileged to have Sue available for special events even during the school year!



Sue Frase sees cooking as her ministry to the Lord.

Karen Jones' primary role is Assistant Director to Sue Lipscomb, and also serves as a mentor, USDA clerk, and helps wherever needed. But being tapped for the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet for the second year was a special assignment which Karen relished. Her committee included: Kay Preston, Sue Frase, and Ginny Harris. Others who were instrumental were sisters Bonnie Bates, Betty Dellis and Barbara Mullins who coordinated with the host church, Palestine Baptist; Don Frase who assisted with the catering; Brenda Shumaker who decorated gift baskets for the top performers; Karen and Emily Doyle, Betty Crigger, and Marta Clifton who made the candy table decorations; Palestine youth served the food and Palestine tech team; and musicians Ken Jones and Randy Quay. Ken Jones also served as the master of ceremonies. Rick Cocrane, solicited sponsors for the event so no Agape funds were used. Sponsors included F & S Building Innovations, Phyllis Johnson RE/MAX, Gifts Ahoy!, Webster Marina, Eagles Roost Camp Ground, Raymond Sellers, Carol and Robbie Hallock, Walker Construction, and Christiansburg Professional Park.

Once the committee determined the theme of a talent show, Karen (below right) dusted off her tap shoes, got husband Ken on the keyboards, and recruited Randy Quay to lend his saxophone talent for a performance of "In the Mood".

### From The Agape Book Shelf

#### *Finding Grace*



Diane had moved to Marble Cove with her dog Rocky. She had lost her husband and her children were grown. She met her new neighbors, Shelly and Dan and their children Aiden who was three and Emma who was eight months.

They became friends quickly visiting often. After finding out that Dan was working only part-time, she hired him to help do repairs to her little cabin.

On day, Dan brought home a puppy for his son, Aiden, Which Aiden named Prize. Shelly was now working and complained about another job for herself. She wanted to take the puppy away but changed her mind

when her son fell out of the tree he had been trying to climb; Prize barked until she came outside and found him. She had Diane care for Emma while she went to the hospital with Aiden. Diane gave her the scripture, "Be of good courage and He shall strengthen your heart, all of you who hope in the Lord," from the twenty-first Psalm.

When Aiden was home and healing, Shelling accepted Prize as one of her family. After all, Prize may have saved her son's life.



Karen Jones, Assistant Director of Agape, entertained with her tap dancing skills.

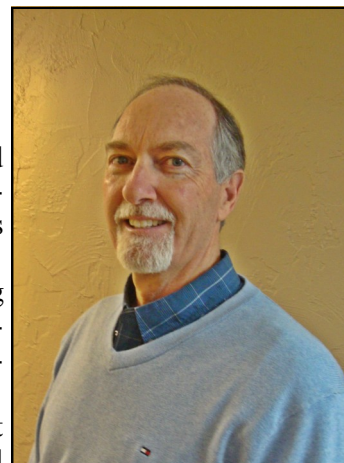
## 13th ANNUAL AGAPE OPEN The Choice is Yours: Sign up to Play or to Volunteer

We don't want to leave anyone out, so if you play golf, get three of your friends, and register your team to play! Otherwise, we need many volunteers to help with various activities throughout the tournament—NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED! This event provides substantial support to the Agape budget, so it is a very important endeavor.

The 13th Annual Agape Open will be held on Saturday, May 20 at Mariners Landing Golf & Country Club. Enjoy a complete program of special events, 18 holes of golf, including cart, an opportunity to win great prizes, and an awards lunch 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. 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.



**Bob Winters is chairing the 2017 Agape Open. He also serves as a Mentor.**

### Donation Needs

**Pantry:** Canned Goods

**Book Department:** Study Bibles, Large Print Bibles

### Volunteers Needed

**Linens**—Sort, bundle and shelve donated linens. This position is not on a schedule, so you can work according to your convenience. Contact Sue

**Pantry**—Unload, sort, and record incoming food for about one hour at 1 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and 10:30 am on the second and fourth Saturdays. Contact Judy Harper at 813/748-8411 or [jhinval16@gmail.com](mailto:jhinval16@gmail.com).

**Furniture Pick-up**—CDL NOT Required! If you can work a day a week, or a day a month, please contact Jeff Mangold at [jeff@wastestreaminc.com](mailto:jeff@wastestreaminc.com) or phone:

**E-Bay Coordinator**—This position is responsible to list and sell donations that are available for sale, so the money received can be used to buy food for clients. Contact Sue Lipscomb at [agapecentersml@aol.com](mailto:agapecentersml@aol.com).

### Prayer Invitational: Additional Day Added in March

All volunteers are invited to join the Agape Prayer Team for prayer on **Thursday, March 23** or **Tuesday, March 28** during 8:45–9:45 am in the Conference Room. Feel free to slip in quietly and join in any amount of time for the Agape departments, clients and volunteers. The first few minutes will be sharing concerns from each department. The balance of our time will be for praying and agreeing together.

For personal requests, feel free to email: [reedmarion22@gmail.com](mailto:reedmarion22@gmail.com). Be assured it will stay confidential.

### March 2017 Volume 8 Issue 3

*The Agape Newsletter* is a monthly publication produced by The Agape Center for volunteers, member churches, and other interested individuals and organizations.

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

### Member Churches

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