

Where Needs Meet AGAPE Love

April, 2019

### AGAPE MEMBER CHURCHES

Bedrock Church—Franklin  
County

Bedrock Community Church

Covenant Fellowship

CrossPointe/Franklin Heights  
Church

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

### Agape 15th Annual Golf Tourney Coming Soon



**Golf Committee from left, Bob Stouffer, Lynn Winters; Bob Winters, Chair; Teresa McCain; Carol Moyer; Betty Anne Allen; Kelly Wisotzkey. Not pictured are Becky Blackman and Phyllis Johnson.**

The Golf Committee is busy seeking golfers, prizes, and sponsors for the 15th Annual Golf Tournament on May 18 at 1 pm. This is the largest individual fund-raiser for Agape, and is always a sell-out. Get your tickets now at the Agape website. Sign up as a Hole Sponsor, or join the Agape Volunteers as a Hole Sponsor. Prizes and dinner will follow with a message from Board Chair, Jim Day, and emceed by Dick At Lee.

See **GOLF 5**

### Volunteer Banquet A HUGE Hit

Emily Donnelly-Back, co-founder of Agape in 2004, returned for the keynote address at the 15th Anniversary Volunteer Banquet. At the end of her powerful testimony of God's faithfulness in her life, she signed to the Bebo Norman classic, "I Will Lift My Eyes". For more details and photos, see pages 7-9.



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

May 18—Agape Golf Tournament—Register at [www.agapecentersml.org](http://www.agapecentersml.org)

See **GOLF TOURNAMENT, 5**

## "My Primary Doctor was God!"

A year ago, Rachel Mooneyham had ninety percent of her cardiac arteries blocked. She said, "The doctors didn't know how I even survived, and I told them it was because of God. They were going to try some additional stents, but ultimately the doctor said the only option was open heart surgery. I wasn't too excited about that option, but took it to God in prayer."

After praying about it, she continued, "God told me to go ahead. I had peace about it going into surgery, and when I was in recovery, I remembered everything and recognized everyone. In fact, the only pain pill I took was so I could sleep, due to all the commotion in my room!"

"That was the moment that I truly understood I could entrust myself to Him. I had walked with Jesus since I was a child, but I've been the caregiver for everyone – my parents, my husband, his parents, and now, I was the one needing care. And I received that from Jesus! The nurses wondered why I didn't need pain pills, and I was able to tell them, 'God's got this one!'"

I was baptized with my mom when I was nine, and looking back, I realize I couldn't have made it without Him. He's my rock. When my husband died in March, 2016, God was there with me."

Rachel concluded, "I've been coming to Agape since 2014, and find this to be such a caring group of people. The items I receive from Agape are always nice, but the mentoring is the most important thing I get at Agape. I would come for the mentoring even if there was nothing else to receive here."



Rachel Mooneyham's confidence in God has proven true over and over throughout her life.

### Welcome New Volunteers

**Jodie Brunstetter** — TBD  
**Rebecca Golden** — Where needed  
**Susan Golden** — Christmas Baskets  
**Barbara Hoeker** — Pantry, Mentor  
**Debbie Jenkins** — USDA-Reception, Phones  
**Trish Jensen** — Clothing  
**Justin Jolliff** — Bikes-Mechanic  
**Robin Lowe** — USDA-Where needed  
**Dave Miedema** — Furniture, Pantry  
**Dana Murphy** — Runner, Clerk, Pantry

### By the Numbers . . .

**March 2019**  
 Families 755  
 Individuals 2553

**March 2018**  
 Families 795  
 Individuals 2618

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## Community Garden Planted with Produce for Agape Clients

Five families from a CrossPointe Church Connect Group, are planting a garden with potatoes, red and yellow onions, romaine lettuce, cabbage and broccoli for Agape clients. Addison Hancock says, "We were looking for a way to reach out to neighbors and the community garden is a way to do so as families. There will be a spring crop, and later a summer crop will be planted. The families will rotate harvesting responsibility and bring the produce to Agape each week as it ripens. Below right: Cooper Hancock, 3 years old, shows off his favorite, red onions.



Mike Lavois is preparing trenches and Copper is putting black dirt in the trenches for potatoes.

Levi Lavois, 4 years old, says, "I'm a real good worker," as he works on weeds.





## SML Lions Donate to Agape Linen Shower

During the Centennial Anniversary of the Lions Club, the SML Lions donated at least one hundred items to a different charity every month. They gave over twenty trash-bags full of linens to Agape, which included over two hundred linen items, such as bath towels, wash cloths, hand towels, sheets, blankets, place mats, and aprons.



**Mandy Martin, Sunshine Chair for the Smith Mountain Lake Lions Club.**

Mandy Martin is the Sunshine Coordinator for the SML Lions and says, “For our centennial projects, we donated a minimum of one hundred items to several organizations in the Lake area. We are thrilled to be a part of helping Agape, as Agape serves the community.”



## Youth are Always Appreciated

Alexis Figuero, 11 years old, (left) comes with her grandmother, Suzanne Connors, to volunteer every Thursday. Lydia Arthur, 17 years old, comes with her parents, Pastor Jason and Cora Arthur, every Thursday as well, and both girls have become regular staff in the Pantry.

## SHOP FOR YOURSELF; LET KROGER AND AMAZON GIVE TO AGAPE

### WHY I SERVE ...



“I like serving others, so the interaction with the clients is rewarding. I also enjoy my colleagues in the Pantry. I have worked in other food pantries and I appreciate how Agape is organized and the unity of the volunteers. I drive 45 minutes each way to volunteer and it is the highlight of my week.”

**Sam Skillman, Lynch Station  
Pantry  
Volunteer since 2016**

Just sign up on your Kroger card, and a portion of all your purchases will be donated to Agape.

Same thing with Amazon—Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and register for Agape Moneta/SML, and a portion of all your purchases will be donated to Agape.

**No Muss; No Fuss;**



## Roanoke Valley Gives Campaign Nets \$12K for Forklift



Roanoke Valley Gives (RVG) is an annual 24-hour on-line fundraiser run by the Community Foundation serving western Virginia. Over 150 charities (including the Agape Center) throughout the Roanoke Valley participate in the Give Big Day campaign each year. Last year, the Agape Center purchased a new refrigeration unit with the donations collected.

Rick Cocrane, Coordinator of the Agape Campaign, said, "This year, the Agape Center collected an amazing \$11,810 that went toward the purchase of a forklift. This forklift was badly needed to increase our warehouse space. We can no longer expand horizontally so must begin storing goods high on shelves. The forklift will also prevent injuries from our volunteers lifting heavy objects."

In this year's Give Big campaign on March 13, Agape had seven additional donors (55) compared to last year and finished 8th of 48 charities in the medium sized category and 19th overall (out of 150 Roanoke Valley charities).

Rick concluded, "This is an impressive showing for our second year in the RVG campaign. Due to the success we've had over the last two years, the RVG Give Big Day event will become Agape's annual individual fundraising event. We appreciate the donations that our supporters made to Agape through the Roanoke Valley Gives campaign and look forward to doing it again next March."

Rick Cocrane, above, coordinated the Agape RVG Campaign. Right: Mike Burzynski, Transportation Director, shows off the new forklift which will provide more efficient use of space in the warehouse areas.



**The Westlake**

**360 Chestnut Creek Dr  
Hardy, VA 24101  
540/721-3845**

**Saturday May 18**

**Sign-in 12 noon  
Tee-off 1 pm**

**18 holes – cart included**

**Cost – \$65/player or \$260/team**

**Awards Dinner @ Halesford Baptist Church  
immediately after tournament**

**Register/pay online @ [agapecentersml.org](http://agapecentersml.org)  
OR mail to: The Agape Center—Box 573,  
Moneta, VA 24121**

## Christmas Basket Needs!



Yes! Agape is gearing up for the annual Christmas Gift Baskets for our clients, and your help is needed.

If you can provide any of these items during the next several months, we will repurpose them into beautiful Christmas gifts for our clients!

- ♦ Toilet Paper tubes
- ♦ Paper towel tubes
- ♦ Scrabble Tiles
- ♦ Organza Jewelry bags (5x7"-white)
- ♦ Ribbon (any color)





# FOR THE AGAPE FOUNDATION

Mandy Martin has been working at Agape for two years in the Gift Basket Department, and during the



Christmas season, as a clerk in the Gift Shop. She says, "I love Agape, as it is the most worthwhile, spiritual group I've ever been involved with. I just love coming here, and I especially love designing baskets for our clients."

Mandy also gives to the community through her involvement with the Smith Mountain Lake Lions Club, where she has served for the past four years, currently as the Sunshine Chairperson. In this role, she keeps in touch with the Lions members and their spouses, often providing cheer from her own, hand-made personalized greeting cards.

She is proud to be a part of the largest service organization in the world, located in 75 countries. The local chapter reads to children as part of the library program; provides scholarships to fourteen Franklin County students each year, and continues to mentor them through their college career; provides vision checks to every student in Franklin County; and recycles eyeglasses to third world countries. As a part of this global effort, local Lions check the strength of the eyeglasses; purify and clean them; bag them according to lens strength, and then they are shipped to countries where they will be put to good use..

Mandy says, "It is the service aspect of the Lions which drew me to them. They have become like family to me. When I was in a severe car accident a couple of years ago, they brought food, cards, and cheer to me while I recovered."

The SML Lions are always looking to expand their membership. For more information, please call Mandy at 540/721-1416 or email [mandym-cooks@embarqmail.com](mailto:mandym-cooks@embarqmail.com)



## From The Agape Book Shelf

*The Foundling*  
By Paul Joseph Fronczak  
and Alex Tresniowski

Diane Davis  
Agape Book Reviewer

In 1964 a woman disguised as a nurse entered a hospital in Chicago and kidnapped a baby boy named Paul Fronczak. Two years, later, a child was found abandoned and was returned to the Fronczak family.

In 2012, Paul took a DNA test and found he wasn't the kidnapped boy. This began the search of his life to find out who he really is.

Paul began tracing his roots from birth to adulthood and finally found evidence that he actually had a twin sister named Jill. His name was really Jack Rosenthal. His father had abandoned the family. The mother and children disappeared soon after and no one in the family knew what had happened to them. Evidently, Marie, the mother, had abandoned Jack and then disappeared along with Jill, his twin sister.

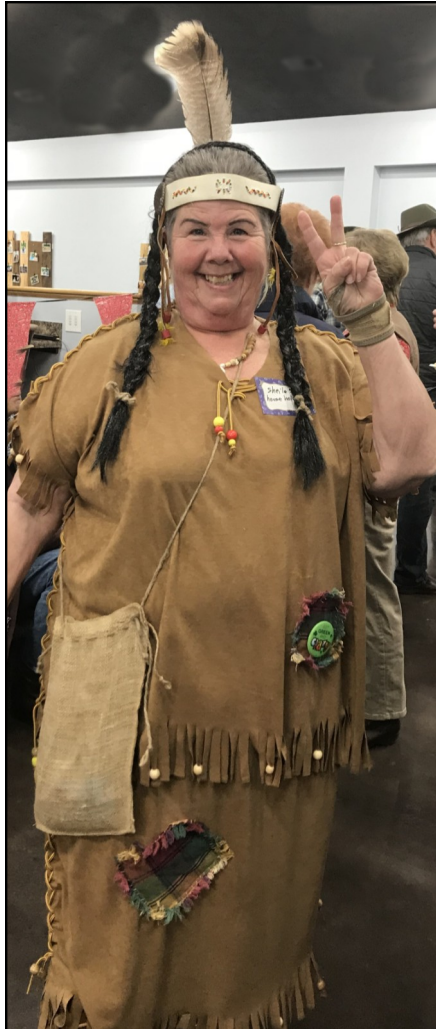
Jack Rosenthal was his true identity but legally he is still Paul Joseph Fronczak. He says, "I wish peace, love and safety for Jill, wherever she is and for the real Paul. I wish it for everyone who wakes up one day and finds that they are lost."

A gripping story of a man's struggles to find out who he really is; one who is still praying he will one day know the facts of his own life.



## Agape Celebrates Fifteen Years of God's Faithfulness!

The Agape volunteers celebrated God's faithfulness at the recent banquet held at Halesford Baptist Church. Judy Caldwell, Client, Volunteer, and Getting Ahead Graduate, praised God for four months of water in her home after two years without, for a recent van which replaced her broken vehicle; and for the Getting Ahead program which helped her put God at the front of her life, rather than at the end. Agape's in-house comedian, Dick at Lee, helped us understand how Cowboys functioned as the IT folks in the Wild West, and Sue Frase provided the delicious meal. The keynote speaker was Emily Donnelly-Back, co-founder of Agape in 2004, and now a volunteer and client. She spoke on how Agape love has become The Living Word in her life, and closed with a signed version of "I Will Lift My Eyes," sung by Bebo Norman.



Clockwise from top left: Sheila Saunders; Karen Jones and Grace Cooper; Host Pastor Melvin Harris; Patti and Tom Galafano; Debbie Griggs and Jan Johnston.





## I Will Lift My Eyes . . .



Emily Donnelly-Back worships using sign-language to the song, "I Will Lift My Eyes", written and sung by Bebo Norman.



Dick At Lee, Furniture and IT Director for Agape, premiered his comedy routine at the banquet, including the cowboy version of a computer specialist.

### Cowboy Computer Specialist

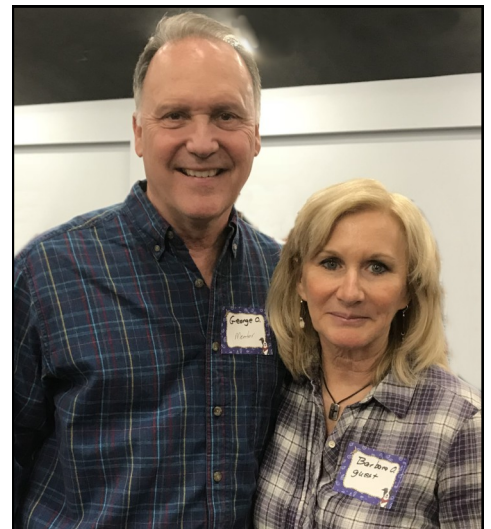
- ◆ **Log On:** Making a wood stove hot
- ◆ **Log Off:** Too much wood on fire
- ◆ **Monitor:** Keep'n an eye on the wood stove
- ◆ **Down Load:** Gittin the farwood off'n the truck
- ◆ **Floppy Disk:** Whatcha git from tryin to tote too much farwood
- ◆ **Hard Drive:** Gitten home in the winter time
- ◆ **Windows:** Whut to shut when its cold outside
- ◆ **Screen:** Whut to shut when its black fly season
- ◆ **Chip:** Munchies fer the TV
- ◆ **Micro Chip:** Whut's in the bottom of the munchie bag
- ◆ **Modem:** Whatcha do to the hay fields
- ◆ **Lap Top:** Whar the kitty sleeps
- ◆ **Keyboard:** Whar you hang the dang truck keys
- ◆ **Software:** Dem dang plastic forks and knives
- ◆ **Mouse:** What eats the grain in the barn
- ◆ **Mouse Pad:** That's hippie talk fer where the mouse lives
- ◆ **Enter:** Notherner talk fer "C'Mon in y'all"
- ◆ **Reboot:** Whut you have to do right before bedtime, when you have to go to the outhouse



Sue Lipscomb, Executive Director, shared that during the past 15 years since Agape opened, we have mentored 74,017 clients, which represents at least 228,846 individuals fed, clothed and supported by our donors. We currently have 346 active volunteers from 49 different churches.



## Volunteer Banquet March 16, 2019



Above — Clockwise: Sue Frase; Bonnie Fiori; Glenn Peterson; George and Barbara Oliver; Suzanne Connors and granddaughter, Alexis Figueroa.

Below — Banquet Team from left: Karen Fusaro, Agie Stubbs, Maggie Gray, Karen Jones and Leslie Burzynski. Not pictured: Doris Smith, Kay Preston, Linda Leedy, Bill & Veda Parker, and Dick At Lee.

