



Where Needs Meet AGAPE Love

October 2018

Agape-Lynchburg Coming Soon



AGAPE MEMBER CHURCHES

Bedrock Church—Franklin County
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 — October 25
Tuesday—November 13
Thursday—November 29

The Agape Center—Lynchburg is coming alive! Early on a September Saturday morning, nearly twenty people were praying over each of the rooms in the building that has been secured for the Center. Tabitha North, Executive Director, “I knew this was our building the moment I saw it. It is a little over 6,000 square feet with a two-bay garage attached. It is a building that doesn't need much changing so we can move in soon. We are waiting on the occupancy permit from Lynchburg City; we will begin the process with the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank as well as soon as we get the permit.”

She continued, “We have two Member Churches who are already providing financially and with volunteers. Their names are Church of the Good Shepherd and Calvary Baptist Church. We have established our Leadership Team, and have additional volunteers who are willing to work wherever needed. Our goal is to open before the New Year.”

Tabitha emphasized, “This is His ministry 100%. If it was up to the human side of me it would have never happened. I am excited to have a chance to see God minister to the community.

See AGAPE-LYNCHBURG, 7

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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

October 25 — Thanksgiving Dinners distribution begins—Feed a Family of Four. See page 6

October 27 — Agape 5K/10K—Smith Mountain Lake State Park. To Volunteer or for more info, contact AgapeRunForTheChildren@gmail.com. See page 6

November 28 — Christmas Gift distribution begins.

Bob Winters Named EastLake's Executive Pastor

Bob Winters is an intentional person. "My wife and I had agreed that if I could retire at fifty-five, it would be so we could devote ourselves more fully to the Lord's work. He allowed us that privilege, and we moved to Smith Mountain Lake, immediately getting involved at Agape," where both Bob and his wife Lynn serve as Mentors, with Bob recently being named to the Agape Board. "We also started attending EastLake Community Church, serving on the Prayer Team, ushering, and I serve on the Mission Team." Together they have been on several mission trips.

But Bob continued to feel God's urging in his life. "I felt I had something more to give. God gave me the talents and the opportunities to develop skills in the business world that would be of benefit for His Kingdom," he continued. "I was in executive leadership with a large pharmaceutical company, managing employees, coaching, strategizing, implementing, and multi-tasking on a daily basis. No doubt the Lord provided these experiences so I could apply them to His work on earth."

God made His plan known as Bob was recently called to serve as Executive Pastor of EastLake Community Church. His main responsibilities in this newly-created position are day-to-day operations; development of written procedures for staff, finances and facilities; overseeing the new building project; and special projects. "It is this last item, 'special projects', that is the most intimidating!" he noted.

Bob continued, "The church has operated the same way since it was 'planted' with sixty-five people from Parkway House of Prayer in Roanoke over twelve years ago. We have not transitioned our operations to the current level of 650 people, which puts an immense amount of responsibility for everything church related on Pastor Troy Keaton. This will only be compounded as we continue to grow. So, my ultimate goal is to alleviate the day-to-day responsibilities, allowing Pastor Troy to spend more time in prayer, study, preparation, and to pursue the things God has for him to do."

He concluded, "The greatest privilege I have in this position is carrying my Bible into my workplace every day and knowing it contains our standard operating procedures."



Agape Mentor, Bob Winters, is Executive Pastor at EastLake Community Church.

By the Numbers Served. . .

September, 2018

Families 778
Individuals 2642

September, 2017

Families 797
Individuals 2789

Welcome New Volunteers

Becky Coalesta—Toys, Books
Natasha Delp—Clothing
Dawn Gallogly—E-bay
Shawn Giese—Furniture
Ann Layne—Clothing
Harry Martin—Data, USDA
Kim Moisa—Clothing
Bonnie Morgan—Baskets
Susan Newton—Store
Lu Payne—Reception
Linda Pyle—Data, Reception, USDA, Telephone
Katia Robertson—Runner, Store
Grant Sandidge—Furniture Pick-up
Suzanne Scott—Data Assistant
Sally Stob—Store, Clothing
Jordon Vanderhart—Pantry
Sue Williams—Data, Reception

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Deepening the Partnership

Member Churches Meet with Agape Leadership

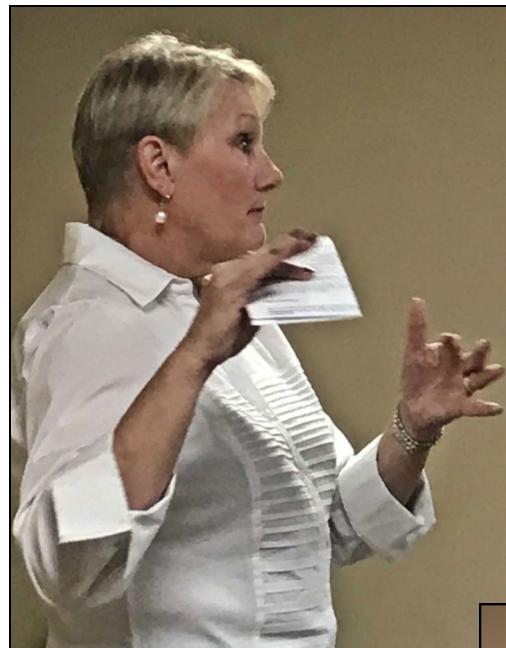


There was standing room only for nearly fifty people as twelve of the seventeen Member Churches of the Agape Center met in September to share information on Agape and discuss opportunities to further serve the needs of our community in Jesus' name. "God Stories" were shared by several Agape representatives. Judy Harper, Pantry Director, described how God continues to miraculously provide precisely the foods needed, when they are needed. Iris Mills, Mentor, Jan Hogle, GA Coordinator, and Karen Baker, Newsletter Editor, told the story of one client's journey from salvation, to Getting Ahead, to Bible Study, and now her involvement as an Agape volunteer and church member.

Finally, Neal Massey from Lynchburg, presented a faith-based program to address poverty in our community. Recognizing that the rate of poverty is high in our two counties of Bedford and Franklin, where more than 30% of the population lack access to basic goods and services, from food and electricity to education and participation in the economy. Open Table was established to address such needs. According to Neal Massey, "We see the poor as people with the potential to transform their lives. Using the model of the Open Table, we seek to provide a platform for connections to be made and relationships to be built that transcend social, economic, racial and generational barriers. The program would seek Christian volunteers either through Agape or through individual churches to work with clients, referred from Agape, to address these issues. For more information, go to www.community-connected.org.



Tabitha North, Lynchburg Agape Executive Director, reported on the journey to the current building and the renovation and training taking place for their opening this fall.



Leslie Burzynski, Clothing Director, shared how specific sizes and clothing items were available when clients needed them.



Carol Moyer, Member Church Liaison, demonstrated how these heavy books will be replaced by a computer program to streamline church referrals.



Dick At Lee left the Coast Guard when he retired after twenty seven years of service; but the Coast Guard has never left him! He serves our SML community in many ways, as Agape's in-house IT specialist and Director of Furniture; as worship leader with the Community Bible Study; and as adult Sunday School leader in his church, Bethlehem Methodist. However, the heart of his service is manifested through his involvements which allow him to use his skills and expertise from his years on the Coast Guard.

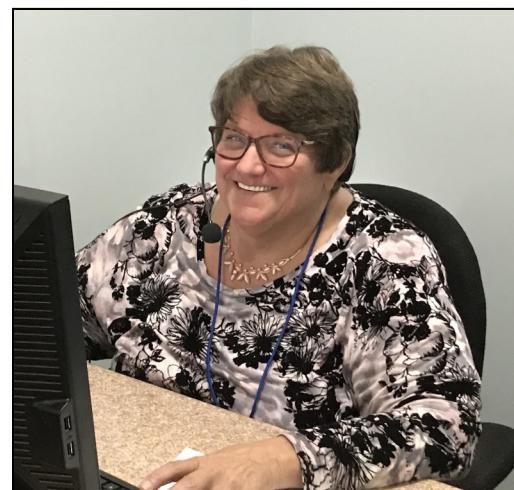
Dick is part of the Coast Guard Auxiliary of Smith Mountain Lake, an organization of volunteers, most of who have never served in the military. They provide boating safety education; vessel safety inspections; Coast Guard inspections of large vessels such as the Virginia Dare; patrol Smith Mountain Lake for boating safety, search and rescue, boater assistance; and environmental protection. He is continuing to increase his skills by taking classes for certification, and serving on-call for the safety needs on the lake.

Dick also serves as a volunteer tour guide for the D Day Memorial. For the past three years, he volunteers two to three times per month, with his favorite tours for veterans and school groups. He says, "Most of the landing craft that went into the shores of Normandy, France, on D Day in June of 1944, were crewed by Coast Guard because they have the expertise in small craft. They took a flotilla of sixty boats from the East Coast of the US, across the Atlanta on freighters to England and did rescues on the assault landing beaches of Normandy. Four hundred soldiers were rescued on the first day of the operation, with 4000 troops rescued during operations along the coast through December, 1944. I love doing the tours because of the sacrifice of those 4413 who died on one day to turn the war around. It is an amazing event and I am part of making sure that story is not lost."

Dick concludes, "When I see Jesus in heaven, I don't want to tell him I've been sitting on my couch, watching TV for the remainder of my life. I want to greet him knowing my life is completed by my service to others."



Telephone Office Open for Business



The Telephone Office has been moved to former Mentor Room #8, and is now more accessible to mentors as they receive client requests for more information. The Agape on-line Community Resource Directory (CRD), completed recently by Ron Cordell and Dick At Lee, provides information on virtually every resource in Bedford and Franklin Counties. At the touch of the computer key, the operator can identify and print out the resources requested by clients, and this is then added to their grocery carts for pick-up.

Linda Pyle, an Agape volunteer since August, was so excited to use the CRD for the first time. A client was leaving an abusive relationship and looking for housing in the area. She actually called Agape for help, and Linda was able to find an apartment complex that provided her specific needs. "I was thrilled at her relief when I gave her the information she was seeking, in less than three minutes."

Linda volunteers every day Agape is open, in Reception, Telephone, Data, and USDA. She says, "I love Agape and the camaraderie among the volunteers. I am really excited about the new effort to encourage volunteers to pray for one another on a regular basis, and this has allowed me to meet new people and get to know them quickly."

Linda concludes, "I enjoy the Reception position the best, since it allows more interaction with clients. They come to me after mentoring, and often still have tears in their eyes from feeling loved, feeling listened to, and being prayed for. So I get some of the overflow of their blessing!"

See RENOVATION, 5

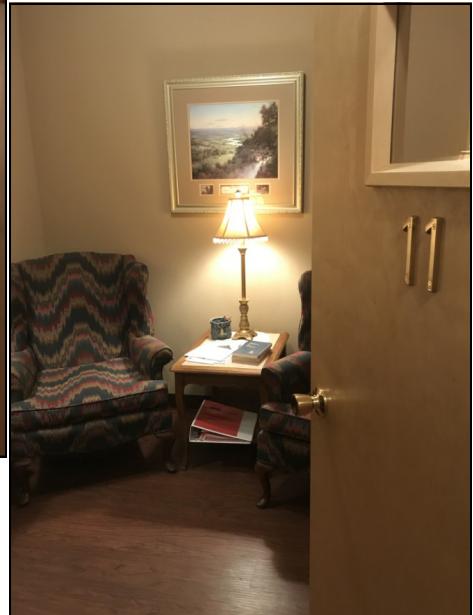
Renovation completed at Agape Center

FROM 4



The new mentor rooms are one of the last projects for the year-long renovation at the Agape Center. Once the construction was completed, the rooms were decorated with donated furnishings. Sheila Saunders, Housewares Manager, saved items over the past several months; Ellen Beck and Debbie Cochrane selected furniture, rugs, pictures, lamps and other furnishings for each of the rooms, and with their husbands, Pete Beck and Rick Cochrane, arranged each room for maximum comfort and appeal for our clients.

From top left: The vision of three new Mentor Rooms begins to take shape. Top right: Back Row: Debbie and Rick Cochrane, and Pete and Ellen Beck decorated the new Mentor Rooms with donated items.



From The Agape Book Shelf

Though None Go With Me

Diane Davis
Agape Book
Reviewer



At the age of thirteen, Elizabeth LeRoz dedicated her life to Christ. She had lost her mother at her birth, and was raised by her father and her Aunt Agatha.

Elizabeth grew up and married Will Bishop. They had three children. They survived the Great Depression, wars, problems with their children and financial troubles. Eventually, Will began to suffer from dementia. He spent his final days in a nursing home while Elizabeth went on with her life.

Elizabeth outlived her husband and all three of her children. She survived a house fire, rescued a child from drowning, saw her son put in prison and suffered many heartaches.

Yet, in spite of all this, she still stood as an older woman and proclaimed, "and yet I am here to tell you that God is faithful. He is sovereign. He knows best."

Run For The Children

5K Run/Walk and 10K Run



Smith Mountain Lake State Park

Volunteer NOW or sign-up to run/walk,
or for more info, contact
AgapeRunForTheChildren@gmail.com

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:
Agapecentersml.org

If you have any questions, please call:
The Agape Center - 540-296-0609

Dinner for Thanksgiving 2018 \$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

Agape-Lynchburg: Volunteers Prayer Over New Center

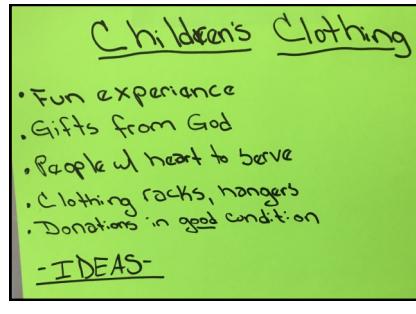
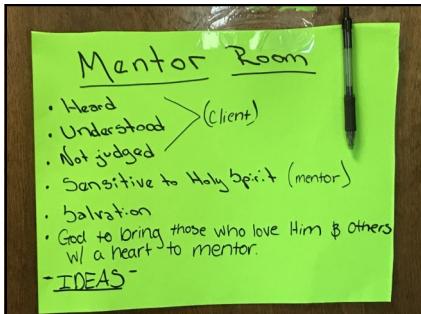
FROM 1

Tabitha continued, "It reminds me of scripture when the sick, broken, poor, thieves, cheaters, adulterers, prostitutes, demon-possessed, lost and hungry people came to Him for miracles. They came for the miracle but encountered a God who walks with them and loves them. I was many of those things myself and I am a testimony of His miracles. I can't wait to see Jesus feed, clothe, provide, bless, and reveal Himself to those who enter Agape. He has done this work through us to reach those who need Him."

She concluded, "Thanks to Agape in Moneta we are able to even do this! It is all because of our God and their willingness to shepherd us and support as long as needed."



Above Clockwise: The new building side view/pantry. Prayers Mary Craig and Sharon Naylor; Prayer Dave Kountz ; Prayer Josiah Sullivan. Posters were in each room, designating their purpose and prayer suggestions.



Prayer Warriors for the Agape-Lynchburg—From left, Back Row: Rick Lee, Pete Sullivan, Rick Hughes, Tom Chafin. Middle row: Mary Craig, Brian North, Tracy Sullivan. Front row: Robin Maddox, Tabitha North, Debbie Kountz, Ann Chafin.