



Where Needs Meet AGAPE Love

January 2020

**AGAPE
MEMBER CHURCHES**

Bedrock Church –
Franklin County
Bedrock Community Church
Covenant Fellowship
Franklin Heights Church –
Rocky Mount, CrossPointe
and Union Hall
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

**One Day Can
Make a Difference**

**Roanoke Valley Gives Campaign
Set for March 18**

Roanoke Valley Gives (RVG) is an annual 24-hour online fundraiser run by the Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia. Over 150 charities throughout the Roanoke Valley, including the Agape Center, participate in the Give Big Day campaign each year. In 2018, the Agape Center purchased the walk-in refrigeration unit with the donations collected combined with RVG's incentive prizes. Last year, the \$12,000 collected went to the purchase of a forklift to expand our storage space vertically.



Due to the success we've had over the last two years, the RVG Give Big Day event has become Agape's annual individual fundraising event. The incentive prizes awarded by the Community Foundation adds to our individual contributions, making this event valuable in increasing services we can provide to our clients. We will have more details on incentive prizes in our February newsletter.

On Wednesday, March 18 of this year, the Agape Center will once again participate in RVG. Beginning at midnight and ending at 11:59 p.m., you can go online to make your annual donation to the Agape Center. There is an option for early giving if that's more convenient for you. Our goal this year is \$16,500, matching our 2018 total. Please mark your calendar for March 18 and tune into the February newsletter for more details. Lastly, thank you for your prayerful consideration for success in this fundraising event.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Annual Agape Linen Shower — January & February

Agape Bible Study – begins Wednesday, January 15
contact Jan Hogle (540) 814-0643 for information

Deep Clean Day – February 21

Roanoke Valley Gives – March 18

Agape's Parking Lot Expanded & Upgraded



Greater Lynchburg
Community Foundation

Through a generous donation by the Greater Lynchburg Community Trust, the Agape Center was able to complete expansion of the parking lot. The parking lot now provides black-top surface parking for clients and volunteers in a more organized way. Accessible parking spaces have been designated and lines have been added to make more efficient use of the space, as well as improved access to a future gravel surface lot. The loading dock has also been upgraded, allowing for easier access for the delivery of pallets of groceries for the Pantry.

Jack Lipscomb oversaw the project. Patterson Brothers, Inc. from Bedford was the asphalt company who did the work. Jack said, "With the continued growth at Agape, we needed to have a more controlled parking situation for a better flow to avoid random parking using every foot of the parking lot. Each time Agape is open, there are over a hundred individuals, including clients and volunteers, utilizing the parking lot. We are grateful for the support of the community and, in particular, the investment in Agape for this capital improvement by the Greater Lynchburg Community Trust."

Thank you, Greater Lynchburg Community Trust

John 17:26 I have made you known to them and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.

Welcome New Volunteers!

April Slocum-Reed – Baskets &
Gift Factory

Wayne Powers – Transportation

Suzanne Abercombi – Runner

By the Numbers...

December 2019

Families 852
Individuals 3,763

December 2018

Families 889
Individuals 3,301

January 2020 Volume 12 Issue 1

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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Time for a Clean Sweep



First Impressions Team: Carol Moyer, Deb Cocrane, Russetta Wright, Rose Goodnight, Lynda Howell
The team also includes Ginny Harris, Sheila Saunders, Ginger Decamp and Angela Azcarate

The First Impressions Department that launched last spring is doing a great job of maintaining the appearance of the Agape Center, but it's a lot of work. Hard work that could be made much easier if more people volunteered to be part of their team. The current team consists of nine people doing the vacuuming, dusting, mopping, and overall cleaning of all the public areas of our facilities. That's quite a job and yet the people who have volunteered their time find much satisfaction in serving the Lord in this way. Here are some of their comments when these team members were asked why they do it and what they would tell others:

Rose Goodnight: "Every job done for the Agape Center is important. And although everyone is busy, a good many of our volunteers could spare an hour or two every month or so to help. The schedule is flexible, the jobs are many, the time does not have to be long."

Rose also shared that while she appreciates every volunteer who helps, she especially wants to recognize **Lynda Howell**. Rose is sure that Lynda was an answer to prayer when she came on board a few months ago. She said Lynda "outshines" everyone when it comes to cleaning. Her 38 years' experience in fire restoration work

has given her an "eagle eye." Lynda notices something that might be a little unsightly or not as sanitary as it should be and she takes care of it immediately. "Lynda's a hard worker, a people pleaser, a giver and very much a servant of the Lord." And Lynda's response is, "It feels good when I go home knowing I have served the Lord." Lynda, who lost her husband last year, also added that volunteering in this way is helping her grieving process.

Russetta Wright added a unique insight: "My husband comes to help me. He is not a believer, but this experience is drawing him closer to the Lord. He is seeing others willingly serve the Lord by doing what needs to be done and I'm praying it moves him to accept Christ."

Carol Moyer, another team member, recently sent Rose an email stating, "It has to be everyone taking time to look at our place through a guest's eyes to care enough to do something."

Please do your part by keeping your area clean and please consider helping out an hour or two at your convenience. Just give Rose a call or send her an email: (913) 302-7256, rexandrose@gmail.com to schedule a time and a job. Let's work together to create that all important first impression.

**It's time to give the Agape Center
a good cleaning — Come on out
for our first "Deep Clean Night"**



Deep Clean Night
Friday, February 21
4:30-6:30 p.m.

God's Provision Continues ...



Members of the Leadership Team outside the Center's home: Vicki Doak, Clothing Director; Cheryl Turner, Co-Executive Director/Treasurer; Sue Frase, Executive Director; and Jeremy Seitz, IT Director. Other members of the team include Donna Cosamato, Housewares Director; Christina Haggerty, Library Director; Kathy Walker, Pantry Director; and Linda Thompson, Prayer Coordinator.

Vinton-Roanoke Agape Center Shaping Up

The Vinton-Roanoke Area Agape Center is making progress with an active steering committee in place, most of its leadership named and a location. The new center, located at 1568 Granby Street NE in Roanoke, will serve low-income individuals and families from Vinton, Blue Ridge, Montvale and two zip codes in Roanoke: 24012 and 24013.

The Executive Director, Dr. Sue Frase, said, "These areas do not currently have access to services we can provide so we are here to help fill in the gaps for these individuals and families. The Vinton-Roanoke Area Agape Center exists to reflect God's love by giving of ourselves and our resources as we submit to the leadership of the Holy Spirit to mentor and help individuals turn or return to a Christ-centered life." The Center's primary objective will always be to provide spiritual and emotional support and encouragement through mentoring and prayer.

The new Center, will begin operations in March and will be open Thursdays from noon to 6:00 p.m. and the second and fourth Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The Center is now accepting donations of clothing, furniture, housewares, non-perishable food and financial contributions. It is also seeking volunteers and churches to partner in this ministry. Sue estimates that 150 volunteers are needed.

For information on volunteering or making donations, contact susanf@agapevinton.org or cheryl@agapevinton.org.

Gearing Up!

Excited and ready to learn their tasks, Sallie Givens, Chris Martin and Richard Martin joined Cheryl Turner for training Saturday morning, January 4th. Sallie said she's bored at home, needs to get out of the house and loves to serve the Lord. Richard said of his first day of training, "Love it!"



Sally Givens, Chris Martin, Cheryl Turner, Richard Martin

Harry Martin teaching Sallie the ins & outs of USDA



Laura Flight & Richard stocking the pantry shelves

Chris learning about the processing of clients from Deb Cockrane and Linda Pyle



Bits & Pieces



From The Agape Book Shelf *Sandpebbles*

By Patricia Hickman

March Longfellow was a widow left with a son to raise when her husband died in a boating accident. She was a journalist for a newspaper in North Carolina. Colin Arnett was a pastor, who was left alone to raise his children when his wife died of cancer.

When March's father, also a pastor, decided to retire he contacted Colin. They had met at a conference and he was impressed with the young pastor. He felt that Colin was the man to replace him. When March learned about this she was unsure at first.

However, life does go on and March and Colin and their children grew close. Everyone wanted to be together as a family. Before this could happen, however, March and Colin had to let go of the past. They both knew that God knew best and that they had been brought together for a reason. They married and moved to Rocky Mount, where they could become a complete family.

As March thought of the sandpebbles on the beach, she said, "I considered the lonely sight of each one and how God used these small things to hold back life's tides."

The Author's Notes mentions that while writing Sandpebbles, Patricia Hickman's daughter Jessica was killed in a terrible car accident. During her pain and suffering, she discovered a deep understanding of the Suffering Savior, how to comfort others in pain, and a higher appreciation for the healing qualities of laughter.

WHY I SERVE ...



When we put God first,
all other things
fall into their proper place.

"For the first time in my life, I actually missed my work and couldn't wait to get back from Thanksgiving holiday to Agape. Volunteering at Agape allows me to serve people in my own community, and I'm so glad to be a part of this amazing ministry with so many like-minded servants of our Lord."

**Tracy Dunn, Goode VA
Mentor
Volunteer since 2018**



FREE TAX PREPARATION

Free income tax assistance is available through the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). TaxAide is a free income tax preparation and electronic filing system provided to older and low income taxpayers. The service is available locally as follows:

Rocky Mount: Feb 1 – April 15, Thursdays (11:00am-3:00pm) & Fridays (10:00am-2:00pm). Essig Recreation Center, 295 Technology Drive (near the YMCA). Call (540) 483-9238, Mon – Fri, 9:00am-3:00pm to schedule appointments.

Bedford: Feb 4 – April 14, Tuesdays & Thursdays (9:00am-12:30pm). Bedford Public Library, 321 North Bridge St. Doors open early for sign-up. Closed March 3rd.

Westlake: Feb 1 – April 15, Tuesdays only (1:00-6:00pm). Westlake Library. You can schedule an appointment at the library on the days the library is open. Walk-ins taken as schedule permits.

Boones Mill: Feb 19, March 18 & April 8 (Wednesdays, 1:00-5:00pm). Boones Mill Baptist Church, 10 Whispering Creek Road. Call (540) 334-5404, Mon-Fri (9:00am-4:30pm) to schedule an appointment.

Our Agape Santa's Spread The Word

Yes, Virginia, Santa Does Believe in Jesus

Agape Santa Michael (Gallogly) has been seeking ways to incorporate Christ and the true meaning of Christmas into his ministry to children and families. This past season he was led to include a family-size Bible in his Santa photos. Mike recently returned from a stint at the North Pole in Delaware and relayed a touching story of a young boy's reaction to seeing that large red family Holy Bible displayed on the Santa set.

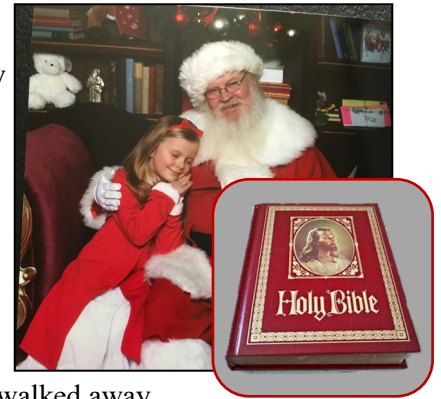
"I have been wanting to place more emphasis on Christ when meeting thousands of children and families over the Christmas holidays. Most of the time, the number of visitors does not allow Santa much time for asking questions about what the children believe about Christmas and the baby Jesus. I sought for a way to leave each visitor with a lasting testimonial, even if there was no opportunity for me to verbalize the true meaning of Christmas. Thinking about past seasons where Santa's chair was surrounded by bookcases containing antique classic books, it was evident to me that the most important book was missing.

"My search began for a Bible large enough to be visible in photos. My son, Neil Marsh, an Agape volunteer, located a donated large red family Holy Bible in the book department. This was exactly what I was searching for and I placed it on the bookcase behind my Santa chair, where it was easily visible over my shoulder. Even if it was not noticed at the time of the visit, it would be there and hopefully spotted when the photos were shared with family and friends. It was on the second day when a young boy about seven or eight was on my lap and I

asked what he would like for Christmas. He responded by pointing to the Bible and said, 'I want that big red Bible.' When I asked why he wanted it, he emphatically replied, 'I'll read it. I can read you know!' I then asked, 'If I give the Bible to you, will you promise to read it?' He promised and so I gave the Bible to him and watched as he cheerfully walked away

needing both hands to carry his new prized possession."

"To say I was shocked would be an understatement. Once again, God showed me that He is in control and, if I act in good faith and am obedient, He will produce results for His glory and honor. It never crossed my mind that someone would actually ask for that big old Bible from my bookshelf. I'm now seeking a replacement Bible, or maybe more than one, for next season. I also plan to talk with the children more and ask what Christmas is about and encourage them to talk about Jesus. I'll also ask them if they have a Bible of their own and, if not, I plan to get their name and address and ask Mrs. Claus to send one to them. I love talking with people about Jesus and finding many new brothers and sisters. You should see the looks on the young believers faces when I tell them I'm their brother. Talk about PRICELESS! I pray that one day I'll have the opportunity to say, **"Yes, Virginia, Santa does believe in Jesus."**



Santa Frank (Nikic) visited Vitalize Church's Live Nativity in WestLake a few days before Christmas and paid homage to the Baby Jesus and told how those gathered how Our Lord gave us the greatest gift of all.

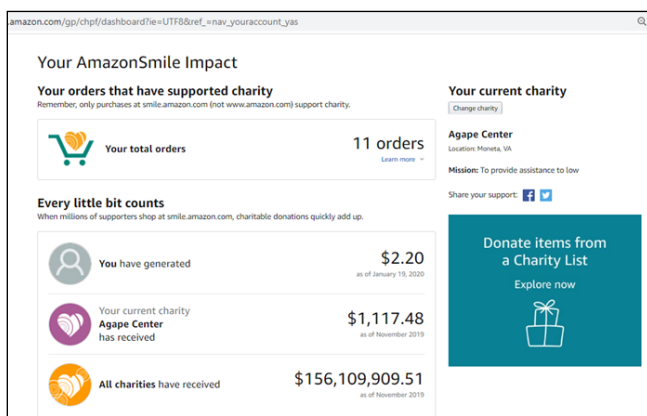
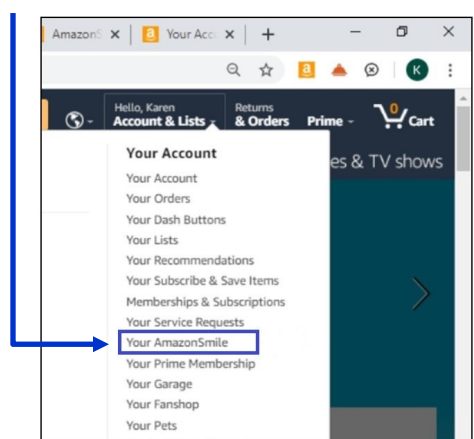


"He loves us this much!"

Did you know?

Amazon Smile Program When you shop at **Smile Amazon**, you can contribute to Agape each time you make a purchase. Keep in mind, though, that **you must order from smile.amazon.com** and not amazon.com. Also, when registering and searching for our Agape Center as your charity, you enter **Agape Moneta** as your selection in order to find it.

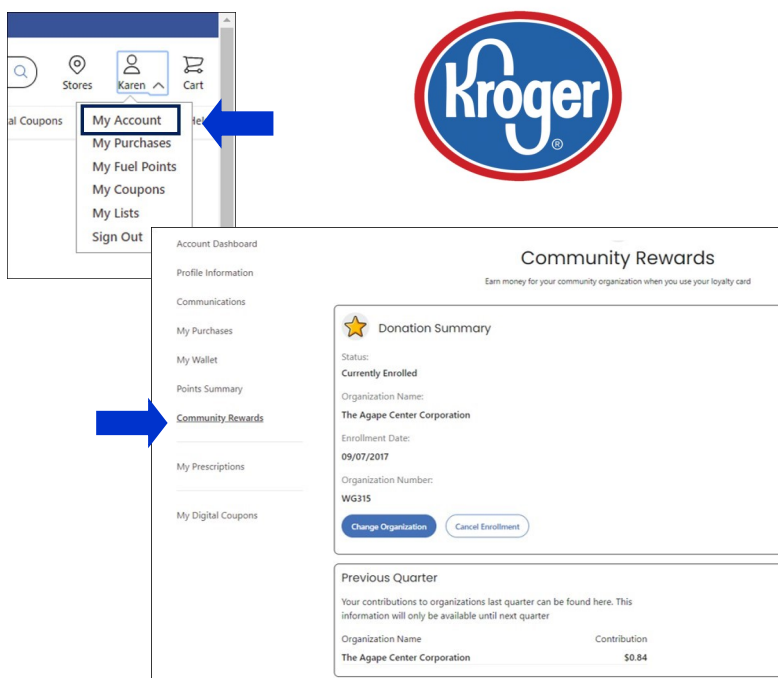
And I found out, that you can actually see the impact your purchases have made by signing onto smile.amazon.com and selecting **Amazon Smile** under **Your Account**. I think that's really neat!



Kroger Community Rewards works similar to Smile Amazon. You need to register and you do that by logging onto your Kroger account: [kroger.com](https://www.kroger.com)

Then click on **My Account** and when the list of Account features appears on the left side of the screen, click on **Community Rewards**.

You'll be able to verify that you are enrolled in the program, that the rewards you earn are going to the Agape Center Corporation and see how much your purchases are contributing to the Agape Center each quarter.



Time to Refresh Your Linen Closet

4th Annual Linen Shower



The Agape Center needs your help
with linens for our clients

Gently used or New Linens

Towels – Washcloths – Sheets

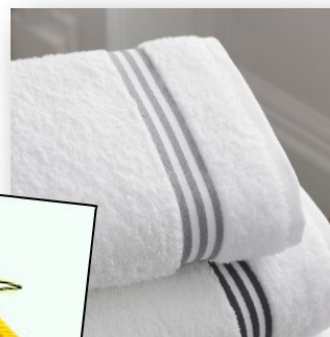
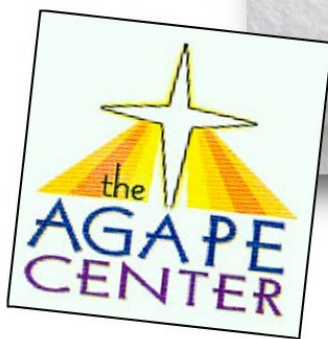
Date: Jan – Feb '20

Drop Off at Agape

Tues & Thurs 10-4
1st & 3rd Sat. 9-12

Agape Center, Inc.

1159 Promised Land Road
Moneta VA 24121



Donate online:

Agapecentersml.org

Cash Donations to purchase Linens

P.O. Box 573, Moneta VA 24121

Additional DROP-OFF Locations:

SM Building Supply

13080 Booker T. Washington Hwy., Hardy VA

EastLake Community Church

1118 Hendricks Store Rd., Moneta VA

LuLu's Closet

17980 Forest Rd., Forest VA