



Where Needs Meet AGAPE Love October, 2019

Angel Trees are Coming

AGAPE MEMBER CHURCHES

Bedrock Church—Franklin County

Bedrock Community Church

Covenant Fellowship

Franklin Heights Church—Rocky
Mount, CrossPointe, & 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



Christmas trees decorated with Agape Angels will be on display beginning November 3. Agape volunteers can select a gift tag from the Agape seasonal tree in the Gift Shop. Several area businesses and nineteen local churches will also feature the gift tags in order to provide over 1700 gifts to children of Agape clients.

See **SHADOW VOLUNTEERS**, 6

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Now through November 30—Feed a Family of Four for \$25
(See page 3)

October 31-November 1—Agape closed for parking lot upgrades

October 21, 28; November 4—Nutrition Class

November 3—Angel Trees Start — (See page 6)

November 11, 18; December 2—Finance/Budgeting Class

Renewing Relationship with Jesus was Anniversary Gift!

One year ago in September, 2018, David Johnson started coming to Agape, and on his one year Agape anniversary month, he returned to his relationship with Jesus Christ. David says, "There have been big changes in my life, not the least of which is my engagement to Dorothy! He had been living in Greensboro, NC and returned to this area in 2016. I knew I needed to be in a relationship with God. He had been preparing my heart and my mind, and I knew the time was at hand." He met with Mentor, Ron Aimonetti, and they talked about many things, including how God provided even dish soap (see story on page 3).

Ron says, "I asked David if he knew where he'd spend eternity, and he said he needed to know for sure, since he hadn't been going to church since he returned to Virginia. David wanted to return to a solid relationship with God, and so we prayed that God would take control of his life."

David says, "I knew I needed to make a change in my life. God had been nudging me, and I was finally ready to listen and act! The story of the detergent really touched me, in that God knows even the smallest needs before we even ask; He bears our burdens for us."



David Johnson, with his fiancé, Dorothy. He says, "When God sends you the perfect match you have to act." And clearly Dorothy agrees! They plan to marry in July, 2020.

By the Numbers Served . . .

September 2019

Families 788
Individuals 2614

September 2018

Families 778
Individuals 2642

Welcome New Volunteers!

Peggy Funk — Pantry
Autumn Gierman — Runner
Lynda Howell — First Impressions, Runner
Patti Irvin — Pantry
Robert Irvin — Furniture
Jeanie McQuain — Reception, Phones
Rolan McQuain — Food Pick-up
Celena Meador — Clothing
Emily Newman — As Needed
Stasia Newman — Toys
Vicky Newman — As Needed

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Dish Detergent Shows God's Care in All Things!

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

Dinner for Thanksgiving \$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



Ron Aimonetti, Mentor, left and Tarri Novellino, Runner, right, were in tune with the Holy Spirit's leading, which resulted in many people throughout Agape hearing about how God provided dish soap, just when it was most needed!

Recently Ron Aimonetti mentored a man who had one need: dish detergent. Ron told him we don't normally carry dish detergent. However, Ron says, "This client continued to reference his need, his **only** need, for dish detergent. Finally, I thought, I'll check with the Runner, Tarri Novellino, to see if she might be able to find a bottle of detergent."

Tarri says, "We don't usually carry dish soap, but when I came in that morning, a bottle was sitting on my counter. We normally put it in the Volunteer Break Room, but I felt the Holy Spirit tell me, 'Leave it here', so I just set it out of the way. When Ron came back asking about dish soap, I had exactly what his client needed!"

Ron and Tarri, as well as the client, were thrilled



at how God provided this need. However, Ron took it a step further, as it provided a live story for several more of his clients throughout the day demonstrating how God provides even the littlest things in our lives! And then the story made the rounds through the volunteers on duty that day, encouraging all who were reminded of the great God we serve who meets every need we have.

Guest Workers Help Agape Throughout Fall Season

Mineral Springs Christian School



Moneta Boy Scout Troop #130

Four members of the Moneta Boy Scout Troop #130 helped in Pantry.

From left: Stephanie Davis, Peter Ohlerich, Trey Dillon, Braden McCulley, and Scott McCully.



Over a dozen Middle Schoolers and teachers came to Agape to help in the Clothing, Pantry, Gift Baskets and Toy Departments.

Pictured from left, top row: Briana Robertson, 8th grade; Emma Gray, 8th grade; Olivia Brown, 7th grade; Zach Smith, 6th grade; Isabella Minter, 7th grade; Miriam Pritt, 8th grade; Anna Gault, 7th grade; Jaedyn Abrams, 8th grade; Billy Smith, Brandi Brown, Josh Wilson; Blake Allen-Pagans. Middle row: Gabriel Wilson, 6th grade; Caleb Schultz, 6th grade; Samuel Stone, 6th grade; Chase Stevens, 8th grade. Front row kneeling: Abby Pritt, 7th grade; Laura Williams; and Parker Nichols, 7th grade.

Smith Mountain Lake Christian Academy



Nearly twenty students from Smith Mountain Lake Academy arrived early in the morning, beginning with prayer, and then assigned to help in Agape's Pantry, Gift Basket, Toy and Clothing Departments. Several additional students worked outdoors with the Maintenance and Firewood Departments.

Nick Cominsky received an invitation reading, "You are invited to a dinner with Jesus of Nazareth." He thought it was a joke, but decided to honor the invitation and see what happened.

He was surprised when the man at the restaurant introduced himself as Jesus. Both men ordered food, ate and talked. Jesus told Nick all about His life, death and resurrection and about His time spend here on earth, and about His Father God and the Holy Spirit.

Jesus told Nick that by accepting these truths of the Bible and accepting Jesus as his Savior, Nick would have a home in heaven. As Nick and Jesus talked, Nick began to understand what Jesus was telling him. This was something that Nick had never understood before.

As the two parted, Nick went home to his wife and daughter a new and different man. Jesus had written on one of Nick's business cards, Revelation 3:20. When Nick looked this verse up in the Bible, he recognized it as a quote from Jesus: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and will eat with him, and he with me."

From The Agape Book Shelf

Dining with a Perfect Stranger

By David Gregory



Diane Davis
Agape Book Reviewer

WHY I SERVE ...



Benda Beisser, Bedford County
Store Scheduler
Volunteer since 2016

Agape is such a special place. Many organizations give things, but Agape provides the spiritual component in people's lives and that makes Agape different and special. I've done several jobs at Agape, but I truly enjoy meeting clients and interacting with them in the Store.



Tarri Novellino putting the fall tree blanket out. She is quilting blankets to go with the tree for each season of the year from fabric and notions donated to Agape. Thank you Tarri!

Shadow Volunteers: Angel Tree Project

Angel Helpers Come out of the Woodwork Each October!



Part of the Angel Tree Team recently prepared over 1700 Angel tags to be hung on over 25 trees displayed throughout the community. From left, Deb Cochrane, Ginger Delong, Linda Matthew, Denise France; seated, Bonnie Wilson.

Once a year, a team of volunteers come out to organize the Angel Trees, which create opportunities for the community to provide one nice gift for each of the children of Agape clients. Denise France, who is also the Office Manager for EastLake Community Church, has lead this team for over ten years. She said, “When we started this in 2009, there were 103 children. Now in 2019, we are anticipating 1704 children will be served by this ministry. Angel tags are created, printed, and labeled with the sex, age range, and gift suggestions. Unwrapped gifts worth \$30, along with the Angel tag, can be returned to the same place the tree is displayed—the church, business, or Agape.”

To accommodate those who don't like to shop or perhaps find it difficult for various reasons, a donation for \$30/gift can be made, and skilled, enthusiastic volunteers will do the shopping for you! Just select the Angel tag with the sex/age you prefer, attach a check for \$30/tag payable to Agape, and leave it with the business, church or Agape.

Information is available at all nineteen church locations who are Member Churches of Agape: Bedrock Church—Franklin County; Bedrock Community Church; Covenant Fellowship; Franklin Heights Church—Rocky Mount, CrossPointe, & 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; and Westlake Baptist Church.