



Where Needs Meet AGAPE Love

November, 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 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

#### 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**  
**Tuesday—November 13**  
**Thursday—November 29**  
**Tuesday—December 11**



The Lord has continued to provide, as the City of Lynchburg has granted approval for the Agape Center to be in the building located at 3026 Carroll Ave., Lynchburg, VA 24501. Through the unanticipated initiative of the owner of the building, the space for Agape has greatly expanded, allowing for the city's approval, and the expanded space will allow the Furniture Department to be housed in this same location! Renovation is underway, and plans are to open the first week in January, 2019.

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**November –December Prayer for Agape — Join the Prayer Team** in the Meeting Center to pray for the day at Agape.

**November 19 — Hang Day in Clothing.** Please come and help hang clothing donations starting at 9 am.

**November 22 – Happy Thanksgiving! Agape Closed**

**November 27—December 20 — Christmas Store Open**

## Housewares Department Dedicated to Nancy Smith

Sheila Saunders, Housewares Manager, was proud to display her long-time desire to dedicate the relocated, renovated Housewares Department to the memory of Nancy Smith. Nancy worked in Housewares from 2013 until her death October 23, 2015. She was one of the quiet people at Agape, not desiring to be in the limelight, and usually working when Agape was not open, sorting, cleaning, and stocking each donated item with care.

Nancy first came to Agape when her church, Flint Hill Baptist Church, held a mission week, where people could serve at a local mission. Nancy said, “When I entered Agape, I felt something different. After I left, God continued to tug at my heart about Agape, but I wasn’t sure where I would serve. The next week, Sheila Saunders, her best friend, called and told me the current volunteer in Housewares was leaving and would I work with her. This confirmed that God was the One leading me to Agape. I am always excited to be here and come as often as I am able.”

Shortly after that interview in June, 2015, Nancy was diagnosed with cancer and died soon after. Sheila says, “Honoring Nancy’s memory will be an encouragement to everyone who passes—of Nancy’s quiet, dedication to Agape, and more importantly, her desire to serve others, striving always to be God’s hands and feet in our community, always to bring glory to His Name.”

**Nancy Smith, in 2013, came to Agape at the call of God, and was excited to be here every time she walked in the door. She is celebrating her third year with Jesus.**



Housewares Department volunteers, Lacy Cundiff (left) and Sheila Saunders, (right), are excited about the new sign dedicating the Housewares Department to Nancy Smith.



### By the Numbers . . .

**October 2018**  
Families 838  
Individuals 2853

**October 2017**  
Families 844  
Individuals 2892

### Welcome New Volunteers

**Sophia Anderson** — Toy Department  
**Linda Atkins** — USDA  
**Dave Hampton** — Pantry  
**Rick Hoar** — Pantry Driver  
**Connie Hodges** — Clothing  
**Julian Meadors** — Furniture, Pick-up  
**Allen Payne** — Pantry, USDA  
**Elizabeth Penantel** — Clothing  
**Luke Reed** — Furniture, Pick-up, Pantry, USDA  
**Jeffrey Suggs** — Pantry & Transportation  
**Kelly Tyree** — Shopper  
**Madison Yench**a — Toy Department

### November 2018 Volume 10 Issue 10

*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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## Donations Keep Agape in Business!



Above: Sue Lipscomb, Agape’s Executive Director, and Judy Harper, Pantry director, accept the donation of \$17,550 from the Charity Home Tour from Sandra Morse, Executive Director of the Charity Home Tour Board.

Below: Carolyn Gordon (right), Agape’s Charity Home Tour Director with Mark and Lisa Cruise, home owners of the tour home that Agape hosted with over 100 volunteers.



Jan Hogle, center, received \$2000 for Agape’s Getting Ahead program from the Smith Mountain lake Rotary Club. Pictured from left: Shirley Sorrentino, Foundation treasurer and John Stafford, Club President. The Rotary has been a strong supporter of Agape’s Getting Ahead program since it was first introduced in 2016. The fifth class is in session through December, 2018. Jan says, “The reports from GA grads are heartwarming, with many testimonies on how the class changed their lives!”



Agape received \$738 for third quarter from Kroger Plus purchases of our volunteers and friends in the community. Anyone can sign-up with their Kroger Card to have a percentage of their purchases donated to a charity of choice. IT IS VERY SIMPLE—just log on to your Kroger account, go to Community Rewards at the bottom of your screen, type in the search line “Agape”, and scroll down to The Agape Center Corporation WG315 in Moneta, Va. Select this charity, and a percentages of every dollar you spend will go to Agape every quarter. This must be renewed every August, so either sign-up, or renew, and you can be a part of helping Agape painlessly!

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Verne Baker has lived his entire life in service to others. After serving in executive positions in healthcare for nearly forty years, he retired looking for different ways to serve. In addition to serving in the Agape Pantry since 2015, he has served veterans through the Association of the US Army, coordinating programs honoring Vietnam Era veterans.

In October, Verne served as a guardian on the first Honor Flight of by the newly-minted Central and SW Virginia Honor Flight, from Bedford, VA. Honor Flights are organized throughout the country, bringing veterans to Washington, DC to visit the memorials of the various wars where America has sent soldiers. Usually traveling over a long weekend, flights and bus loads arrive in our nation's capital, often escorted on the journey by motorcyclists of the Rolling Thunder, visiting the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery, the Women's Military Museum, and the monuments honoring our soldiers in World War II (including Iwo Jima), Korea and Vietnam. Each veteran is escorted by a volunteer guardian who is responsible to provide a pleasant and safe experience. Verne, who served with the US Army during the Vietnam War, was assigned to Dan Villarian, (below left) a Marine serving in

World War II, Korea and the Arab-Israeli War for a total of twelve years. There were twelve veterans on this first trip with six of them being WWII veterans. Two of the Guardians were relatives of veterans on the trip since relatives or friends may serve as guardians for veterans.



Verne says, "It was sobering to see the respect shown to the veterans as we traveled through the monuments. That's what makes the Honor Flight such a tremendous opportunity so that we can express our gratitude to them in a meaningful way. Everywhere the group went, we were greeted by 'thank you'. We were served meals by the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars who also went out of their way to make everyone feel honored, as well as sharing stories from their respective services. When we entered the hotel in the DC area, there were many people awaiting our arrival — veterans, Boys Scouts, Girl Scouts and hotel guests who joined in showing appreciation to our deserving veterans. It was a privilege for me to be with Dan and the other veterans to have a small part in thanking them for their service."

The next Honor Flight from Bedford will be in April, 2019. To volunteer as a guardian, to register a veteran for the Honor Flight, or to donate to sponsor a veteran, go to [www.cswvirginiahonorflight.org](http://www.cswvirginiahonorflight.org).

### Agape Receives 1000 Thermal Tote Bags



Robbie Hallock displays one of the thermal insulated zipper bags donated for the Thanksgiving Dinners that Agape will provide to over 1000 clients. The Southeast Dairy Association provided the thermal tote bags.



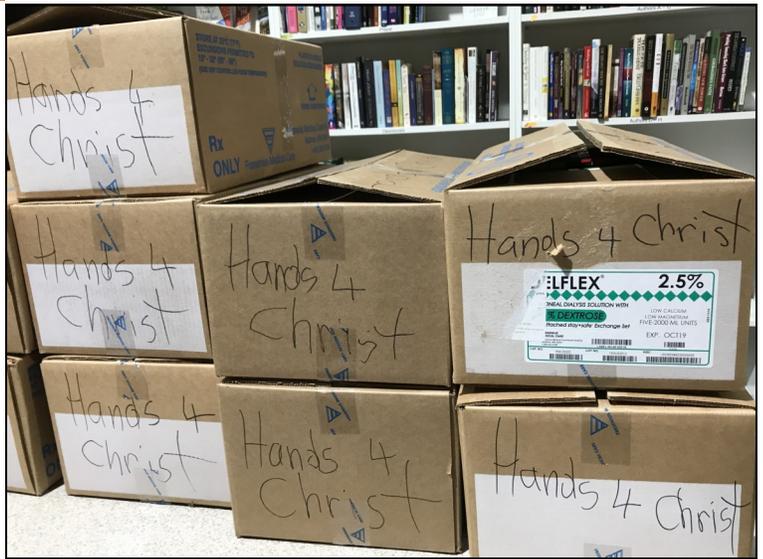
## Recycle Your Christian Books And Printed Materials

Nothing at Agape goes to waste! If food has spoiled or expired, it is donated to a local organization, Agape Pigs, which then donates pork products back to Agape for clients!

If there are house wares, or clothing items, that our clients cannot use, these are given to the local Goodwill.

And if there are Christian books or materials that Agape cannot use, they are given to Hands for Christ International. This organization, located in Roanoke, recycles God's Word and equips God's people! Hands for Christ is an interdenominational, evangelical, Christian mission outreach that provides used tapes, videos, and printed materials to libraries in churches, prisons and Bible schools where they will be used and reused by a multitude of people. Pastors and others who are travelling internationally take these materials with them and deliver to the receiving organization in ministries in third world, English-speaking countries.

Book Department Manager, Bonnie Fiori, sends six to eight boxes of materials to this organization every month! She says, "They truly appreciate older Bibles and hymnals. This is a really good way to recycle your used Bibles, Christian books, CDs and DVDs, hymnals, Spanish materials, devotionals,



sermon preparation materials, counseling, curriculum, and reference books, and children's materials."

Neither Agape or Hands for Christ can use monthly (dated) materials, encyclopedias or Sunday School/Vacation Bible School items. You can donate these items directly to the Rescue Mission in Roanoke.

Bonnie concludes: "My passion as I serve in the Book Department is to see the amazing resources that Agape has been blessed with and to get these into the hands of those, whether clients or volunteers, to be used by God for purposes such as saving knowledge of Christ, spiritual growth, emotional comfort and encouragement, mentoring helps, educational and pleasure reading. I get goose bumps when I hear about how a special book has helped a Mentor minister to a hurting client! I love the folks at Agape and love to help finding reading materials for them. I am also very grateful for the many volunteers who have been helping me stock the store for the clients, sort and shelf books, review incoming books, checking media, and transporting boxes of book to other places. God bless you all!"

Volunteers are encouraged to browse the Book Department, and borrow items for personal edification; just return them to the Book Drop located under the first table or pass them along to a friend who needs them.



Bonnie Fiori, Book Department Director. Above right: Boxes of materials ready to be delivered to Hands for Christ and around the world!

If you want to donate books and printed materials directly, drop off at Hands for Christ, 5720 Williamson Road, Suite 111, Roanoke, VA 24012. See their website at [www.handsforchrist.org](http://www.handsforchrist.org).

From The Agape Book Shelf

*In This Together*  
By Ann Romney



Diane Davis  
Agape Book  
Reviewer

Mitt and Ann Romney met in their late teens, married and had five sons. She became a stay-at-home mom while Mitt pursued his political career.

Ann began having health issues, and was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. She was not even fifty years old. She was totally devastated.

As treatments began, their lives changed drastically. Being unable to even help herself, Ann had to learn to let go of her pride and ask others for help. She says that this was hard for her as she had always been a caregiver.

Eventually she got better with the newest drugs and treatments available. As Ann improved, she became involved in different agencies to help MS patients.

Ann Romney, the former First Lady of Massachusetts and ambassador of the Ann Romney Center for Neurologic Diseases at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston says that her faith in Jesus Christ and the love, prayers and support given her throughout her illness are the things that have given her hope for the future.

She says, "In sharing my story, I want to give others hope, as I've been given: hope for this journey."

Odie Costaneda and Mike Burzynski recently picked up over thirty mattresses from the Comfort Inn in Rocky Mount, along with pillows and promises of more to come! When asked why he attached the additional mattresses on the back of the truck, Mike replied, "We leave no mattresses behind!"



Students from Smith Mountain Lake Christian Academy helped at Agape for two days in October. Teams of the students cut wood; worked outside on the Agape property, trimming and weed eating; helped load turkeys in the Pantry; worked in the Store; sorted and hung Clothing; and brought Christmas decorations out of storage.

Sheila Saunders, Housewares Manager, recently repeated an encouraging conversation with a donor! He was bringing items from his mother's home after she had passed away. He said he thought of Agape, because it sounded like a place his mother would like to have her stuff donated to; however, he didn't know anything about Agape or what went on here! So Sheila shared with him our mission and our approach to helping people both physically and spiritually. He was thrilled, saying, "This is

## One Family – Three Winners at Agape Run

The Bowman family from Callaway felt they were the biggest winners in Agape's Third Annual Run as they joined dozens of walkers and runners to help raise over \$5000 for Christmas gifts for area children. They learned of the event from a flyer in the community. Their daughter, Julianne, had recently joined her middle school cross country team, and the family was looking for a race they could all participate in. As it turned out, all three runners from the Bowman family were in the top three winners in their categories. Dad Kevin had run in the past, but son, Jonah had never run! Mom, Celena and youngest daughter, Kendall, 7, were the family's cheerleaders. Kevin Bowman said, "The race was very well organized, the kids enjoyed Santa and Mrs Claus, and the Lake provided a gorgeous venue on a beautiful autumn morning. We felt it was a very worthwhile cause and enjoyed the day as a family."



**The Bowmans, from left: Celena, Joshua, Kendall, Kevin, and Julianne.**

Winners of the Men's Division 10K were: Sheldon Cash, Bedford; Benjamin Brabbin, Moneta; and Mike Palmer. Winners for the Men's Division 5K were: Kevin Bowman, Callaway; Jonah Bowman, 10 yr, Callaway; Troy Keaton, Hardy. Winners for the Women's 5K were: Julianne Bowman, 13, Callaway; Dana Fanning, Moneta; and Jessica Walker, Goodview.

Sponsors for the event included: Edward Jones - Carl M. Grove, Centra, Virginia Furniture Market, LMC - Safety Barricade Corp., Paterson Brothers Paving, SML Hearing Center, Radon Medical Imaging, Webster Marine, Purple Dog Promotions, Haywood's Jewelers, Moneta Farm and Home Center, Capps, American National Bank and Trust, Boats at SML, Inc, and T/A Parrot Cove Boat Rentals.

Race Director Randy Quay said, "Despite the inclement weather forecast, we had an absolutely beautiful day at the Smith Mountain Lake State Park. There couldn't have been a more perfect day to take a

5K/10K run through one of the most beautiful locations on the Lake. I want to thank all those who volunteered and/or sponsored the event. I want to also thank those who participated in the event. It takes a committed group of people to invest in our local community. All funds will go directly to the Agape Center's client's children to ensure they will have a blessed Christmas."

**Sixth and Seventh Graders from Christian Heritage Academy in Rocky Mount filled hundreds of thermal totes with Thanksgiving Dinners for Agape clients.**

