



Where Needs Meet Love

June, 2016

Agape 12th Annual Open Set for September 10

The Agape Center's 12th Annual Open will be held at Mariners Landing Golf & Country Club on Saturday, September 10. Enjoy a complete program of special events, 18 holes of golf, including cart, an opportunity to win great prizes, and an awards lunch immediately following the tournament.

Registration is \$65/person or \$260/foursome. Prizes will be awarded for three lowest team scores, longest drive (both men and women), and closest to the pin (men and women).

Tournament Sponsorships are available for \$1000+; Gold Sponsor for \$500 - \$999; Hole Sponsor for \$200 - \$499; and Program Sponsor for \$100 - \$199.

Additional details and registration forms are online at www.agapecentersml.org or mail registration check (memo Agape Open) to The Agape Center, PO Box 573, Moneta, VA 24121. For more information, contact Bob Winters at 484-888-1856 or bob.lynn.winters@gmail.com.



Agape Angel Flight Walk-A-Thon



Saturday, July 2nd, 2016

Moneta Park ~ Rucker Road

8:30 AM-11:00 AM All Ages Welcome

Registration fee: **Bring a Toy/Books** valued at \$30 or make a donation/pledges of \$30.00 or more.

Register today at www.agapecentersml.org

To volunteer, contact karenjones540239@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendar. . .

Angel Flight Walk-a-Thon

Saturday, July 2nd ~ 8:30-11 am ... Moneta Park Sign up to WALK at

<http://www.agapecentersml.org>

or to VOLUNTEER, contact Karen Jones at drkjones01@aol.com

Agape's 12th Annual Golf Tournament

Saturday, September 10— 8 am Mariner's Landing —

Register at www.agapecenterSML.org or contact:

Bob Winters at bob.lynn.winters@gmail.com

484/888-1856

SML Charity Home Tour

October 7-9 —Call to volunteer now!

Carol Moyer: carolmoyer1960@gmail.com 540-538-6230 (phone or text) OR

Patti Galofaro: galo_lis@yahoo.com 201-572-3723

RESPONDING TO GOD'S VOICE

Volunteer/Client Has Fun Working at Agape

A year ago Glenn Johnson was in great pain. As he was preparing to unload a delivery, with one foot on the Agape loading dock, and one on the truck, the truck rolled forward, causing him to do the splits horizontally! His torn muscles and bruises put him in a leg brace from hip to ankle taking over two months to heal. But he couldn't wait to get back on the job, usually working three to four times per week, unloading the truck, loading carts for clients, and any other projects that need a helping hand.



Glenn Johnson is just happy to get around so he can help others.

Glenn worked for over 30 years with the power company, plus in a few other jobs. However, an accident forced him to retire early. Most recently, he has been picking strawberries for the past 13 years for JD Scott, a local strawberry farmer known for 'Strawberry Festival' every May.

His neighbors and fellow volunteers, Laura and Bill Flight,

introduced him to Agape. He started as a client, but soon began to volunteer as well. Bill says, "The help I get from Agape fills the gaps that my retirement income doesn't provide."

He really likes his work here, saying, "If you can't have fun on the job, I don't want to be here." But he's been having fun for the past two years. Glenn attends Peck's Baptist Church in Bedford County, and also has been active with the Huddleston Ruritans. One of their major projects also assists Agape clients, as they donate money and deer for Hunters for the Hungry.

No Limitations in Christ Jesus!

Joe Brewer nearly died two years ago when he suffered an ischemic stroke at 35 years old. After months of rehabilitation, he still has short-term memory loss, numbness and paralysis in his body, but he is able to get around with the help of his wife, Chasiti. In fact, if he and Chasiti had not been texting at the time of the stroke, Joe said, "I wouldn't have lived. She is the one who noticed I had abruptly stopped texting and contacted 911."

He had been a hard worker at Cardinal Glass in Vinton and enjoyed operating the forklift. But that is now in his past life. In spite of reassurances that they would hold his job, there came a point a few days before Christmas, 2014, when they informed him that they needed to replace him. That created a low point for him. Without insurance and the ability to pay his bills, he sold any possessions he could in order to pay for the electricity, rent, and basic needs. He was told that the wait to have a decision on disability income is at least two years.

Chasiti said, "We weren't married at the time of the stroke, but as soon as he got out of the hospital, he tried to get on one knee and present me with an engagement ring. I was totally surprised, but instantly said yes, I would." They married in October, 2015, almost a year after his stroke, with his uncle officiating the wedding. Joe explained, "Prior to the wedding, my uncle spent time with us, describing God's plan and purpose for marriage. That was news for both of us. We made a commitment to start our marriage out for the right reasons."



Joe and Chasiti know that together with Jesus they can overcome all obstacles.

In the spring of 2016, Joe and Chasiti came to Agape for the first time at the suggestion of a neighbor. Jeff Turner was assigned as their mentor, and there was an immediate bond between the three of them. Jeff quickly assessed the situation as they explained their circumstances, and recognized that prior to his stroke, Joe was a very active man, providing for his family, but now he must depend on his wife for many of his basic needs.

Jeff asked, "Is there anything that you are afraid of?"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S VOICE

Without hesitation, Joe replied, "Not knowing where I'm going when I die."

Jeff began to talk about Revelations 3:20, where Jesus stands at the door and knocks. Jeff continued, "I described a painting where Jesus is standing next to an ivy-covered door - knocking. The one unique thing about this door is that there is no door handle. I asked Joe to imagine Jesus standing on the other side of the door - knocking, knocking, knocking. I asked him how long Jesus would stand outside before he came in." Jeff told Joe, "Jesus would never come in. He would never force His way into your life. He won't open that door - because He can't. There is no door knob on His side. Only Joe can open that door."

Joe remembered memorizing



that verse as a young boy, as he attended various churches and children's programs during his life. But now he saw things differently as he continued, "I feel very lucky that I am sitting here. I believe God spared my life for a reason, and that is why I made the decision to fully turn my life over to him. In return to Him for saving my life, I felt like I owed him my life."



Jeff Turner was Joe and Chasiti's mentor on their first visit-the visit that invited them to return to their faith in Jesus.

that we are both comfortable with."

Chasiti said, "We have been to a lot of places getting help with bills, food, clothing, and mostly these have been good experiences with friendly people. However, coming to Agape was over and beyond being caring and helpful. Jeff immediately connected with us. Having mentors who can get to know you, listen to you and not judge you, offering help or suggestions but not preaching or condemning you, finding out where you stand with God and offering to help if you are willing to accept His invitation really made the difference for us. God gives man choices to accept or reject, a choice of making a decision."

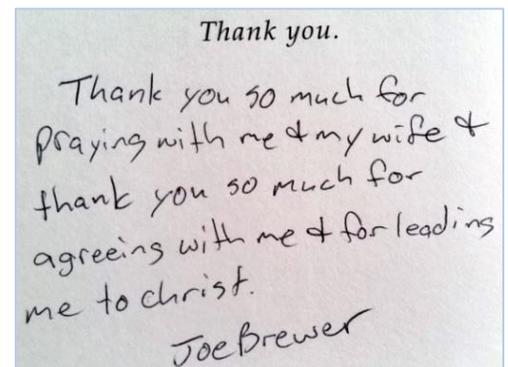
Joe says, "Jeff made it an open invitation. He prayed with us. I could feel the sense of something tugging at my heart, and I think Jeff noticed that. He admitted that he was at that point in his own life when he went astray, and then had that wake-up call. As Jeff described seeing himself reaching for that door, it hit me pretty strong. When Jeff was talking about God knocking at the door, I could literally feel it at my heart, and I realized that He would keep knocking until I answered. God has ways of getting our attention through the power of conviction. We all have a conscience. I've been through this before, and God can put the power of conviction on you so strongly, you will drop to your knees."

Chasiti noted, "I know we still have a long road of recovery and learning to walk with Jesus. I know with Him, together we will make it."

Jeff concluded, "After Joe and Chasiti left, I received the attached note! This was absolutely one of the highlights of my Christian walk - as God allowed me to be a part of something miraculous!"

Jeff continued, "At the end of our time, I began to pray for Joe and Chasiti. I asked Joe to close his eyes and if he could - reach out and open that door - and let Jesus in. That was the turning point in Joe's life. The Spirit of God was present. Joe was trembling, crying, and smiling - and proud of it. So, we kept on praying - thanking God for His forgiveness, and asking God to give him the strength to lead his family, to lead them in the spiritual dimension of life, where there are no limitations in Christ Jesus."

Chasiti accepted Jesus years ago, and this opportunity for a fresh start is exciting. Joe said, "My life is truly turned around this time. I've been sober for 8 years. We are looking for a church



RESPONDING TO GOD'S VOICE

Church Partners Provide Great Ideas for Agape



Representatives of five of the thirteen Agape Partner Churches met recently to exchange ideas on how to better connect Agape clients with local churches. Jan Hogle, Mentor Administrator and Agape Trainer, facilitated the meeting, which produced some amazing ideas. Some of the suggestions are already a part of the Strategic Planning Process, and others will specifically enhance our opportunity help our clients turn or return to a relationship with Jesus. The churches also received their cartons and flyers for the Christmas in July campaign, including the Angel Flight Walk-A-Thon.

Pictured above clockwise: Co-Pastors Frank and Angela Toney, and Minister Rita Leftwich, from Inner Faith Fellowship Ministries, Denise France, EastLake Community Church, and Marti Anderson, from Covenant Fellowship. Below, from left, Carol Moyer, from Radford Baptist Church, and Debbie and Pastor Bill Griggs from Dwelling Place Christian Fellowship.



Sue Frase spends her days with kids, as Principal of Parkway Christian Academy. But her off-duty passion is cooking, so whenever she is asked to provide food for an Agape event, she is delighted that "God is still using me." She recently provided the brunch for the Church Partnership meeting, which included her famous cinnamon rolls.

By the Numbers Served . . .

May, 2016
810 Families
2595 Individuals

May, 2015
723 Families
2301 Individuals



Marion Reed, Mentor, recently celebrated her birthday with the Tuesday volunteers with a cake made by her good friend, Mentor, Grace Cooper.



RESPONDING TO GOD'S VOICE

Welcome New Volunteers

- Carter Blankenship** – Pantry
- Don Hortman** – Maintenance, Transportation
- Patrick Northrup** – Furniture
- Peggy White** – Baskets
- Tim Wilkerson** – Maintenance



Volunteer Stephanie Childress assists her son, Faelan, 8, as he builds a lego toy for a boy whose leg will be amputated.



On a recent Saturday, the Pantry announced that there was no produce for the day. So, Agape volunteers did what Agape volunteers do -- they prayed that God would provide. Shortly thereafter, the truck arrived, overflowing with fresh produce for our clients.

The load pictured above arrived the following week when Beckner Farms provided over 200 pounds of fresh produce! God always provides!



Mentor Ginny Harris recently brought her grandchildren, who were visiting from Washington, DC. Kate Mason, 11, wrapped Christmas baskets, and Will Mason, 14, loaded clients' groceries.

June 2016

Volume 7

Issue 6

The Agape Newsletter is a monthly publication produced by The Agape Center for volunteers, sponsoring churches, and other interested individuals and organizations. Comments may be sent to:

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Sponsoring Churches

Bedrock Community Church

Inner-Faith Fellowship Ministries

Covenant Fellowship

Morgans Baptist Church

Dwelling Place Christian Fellowship

Palestine Baptist Church

EastLake Community Church

Flint Hill Baptist Church

Franklin Heights Baptist/CrossPointe

Radford Baptist Church

Goodview Baptist Church

Rocky Mount Baptist Church

Staunton Baptist Church