

Where Needs Meet AGAPE Love

June 2018

AGAPE MEMBER CHURCHES

Bedrock Community Church
Bedrock Church-Franklin County
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 the Agape ministry, clients, and volunteers! Join the Agape Prayer Team in the Meeting Center at

8:45 to 9:45 am
Thursday — June 28
Tuesday — July 10
Thursday — July 26

Sue Lipscomb Named Citizen of the Year!



President of the Moneta Ruritans, Holly Smith (left) recently presented Agape Executive Director, Sue Lipscomb, with the club's Citizen of the Year Award. Holly explained, "Each year, the Ruritan Club selects a man and a woman as Citizens of the Year, recognizing their volunteer work within the community. Sue's dedication to the community began with her involvement in originating the Charity Home Tour, and is now recognized for 14 years as the head of Agape, the area's largest volunteer organization at Smith Mountain Lake with over 300 volunteers."

Congratulations, Sue!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Pray for Agape — Join the Prayer Team in the Meeting Center to pray for the day at Agape.

October 5-7 — Charity Home Tour

October 27 — Agape 5K/10K—Smith Mountain Lake State Park

AGAPE OPEN TOPS \$23,000 IN FUNDS RAISED!



First Place Team winners: Craig Rogers, Cassidy Chambers, Otis Chambers, Joey Phillips. Cassidy Chambers was also the Longest Drive Winner (Women).

The week long rain showers stopped just in time for the 14th Annual Agape Open on May 21st at The Westlake. All 92 slots were filled and over 100 joined in the dinner to celebrate the event. Over \$23,000 was raised for The Agape Center in Moneta. Nine Tournament Sponsors led with contributions totaling \$9100. These included Carl Grove (Edward Jones); David James Homes-LakeWatch; Distribution Specialists, Inc.; Eastlake Community Church; Gifts Ahoy, Bridgewater Sportswear, and Fun N Games Arcade; Integrity Financial Planning, Inc.; Shumaker Industries; Bob and Lynn Winters; and Phyllis & Casey Johnson (Re/Max Lakefront Realty). Seven Gold Sponsors, 22 Hole Sponsors, 16 Program Sponsors, and 35 Friends of Agape rounded out the supporting companies, organizations, and individuals.

The Agape Open was organized by a team chaired by Bob Winters, with team members: Bob Stouffer, Phyllis Johnson, Carol Moyer, Teresa Mc Cain, Kellie Wisotzkey, Lynn Winters.

First Place Team Winners: Craig Rogers, Cassidy Chambers, Otis Chambers, and Joey Phillips; Second Place Team Winners: Matthew Allen, Sam Allen, James Allen, and Tommy Allen; Third Place Team Winners: Mike Kordich, Mike Salony, Wayne Adams, Chester Yaun; Longest Drive, (Men) Mike Salony; (Women) Cassidy Chambers; Closest to the Pin, (Men) Will Childress; (Women) Jessie Pierce. **See Page 9 for full listing of sponsors of the Agape Open — and be sure to patronize these local businesses who have supported this ministry!**



Jessie Pierce, Winner Closest to the Pin (Women).

Responding to God's Voice

May 2018

Families 749
Individuals 2558

May 2017

Families 785
Individuals 2595

Welcome New Volunteers!

Jasmin Bowman—Clothing
Fred Brigeman—Pantry, USDA
Kaylee Stanley — Clothing, Toys

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

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Agape's Mission: To *Turn or Return* Individuals to a Relationship with Jesus—One Woman's Journey

When Judy Jones entered the Agape Center in May, 2017, she was at one of the lowest points in her life. She had no job, no income, chronic pain, no friends, and estranged children. She had been coming to Agape for about six months, but on that day she was particularly down.

Judy says, "I really had no emotion, yet I felt desperate. I was always in pain; I was discouraged. Iris Mills (her Agape mentor) was always encouraging me and telling me God has a plan for my life. She had talked to me before about inviting Jesus into my life, but I had not been ready. This time, I said 'yes', and I repented of my sins and asked Jesus to become Lord of my life. Immediately, I felt lighter, like I had a burden lifted from my shoulders. I felt good; I felt excited unlike my usual self, like perhaps there was hope for something better than where I was. Everyone at Agape was hugging me and telling me they were proud and happy for me."

Her mentor, Iris Mills, recalls, "Judy seemed particularly desperate that day. She always had a good attitude and a very kind demeanor. She kept telling me she was mentally ill, but what I saw was a lonely woman. I could see more good in her than she was able to see in herself. Over the months I had met with her, I had invited her to ask Jesus into her life as He was a friend who would never leave her. She had always declined. But on that particular day, she said, 'I would like to have Christ in my heart.' I told her she now belonged to him and He would always be with her. She was very matter of fact and showed no emotion, but she believed that He was who He says He was and would do what He said He would do. She seemed to get lighter during our discussion, and at the end I saw her beautiful smile for the first time."

Iris then referred Judy to begin a Bible study. Judy says, "I had no understanding of God, the Bible, or church. I grew up with alcoholic parents and domestic violence in my home and I had been continually told I was unwanted; I had never encountered a church or Christian people." Once she started the Bible study, she never missed a class and was an active learner. She absorbed everything from God's Word, began memorizing God's Word, even memorizing the books of the Bible so she could navigate her special study Bible (from the Agape Book Department). She says, "I now understand and believe what Iris originally told me: that I am a child of



Judy Jones (center) with Agape Bible study leader Karen Baker (left) and her Agape Mentor, Iris Mills, (right).

the King! I have been learning that Jesus is my friend. Since I've been saved, been studying the Bible, I am remembering and understanding things much better. My focus has improved dramatically. I've grown out of the victim mentality."

Slowly, in spite of her continuing chronic pain, she began to open up to other things. She crocheted borders for over 30 blankets for Agape children's Christmas baskets in the fall. She also crocheted blanket borders for Iraqi refugees in Jordan. She began volunteering at Agape, designing centerpieces and floral arrangements from donated silk flowers.

Journey: Getting Ahead Program Gave Tools for Life

FROM 3

Judy was interviewed and accepted to participate in the Getting Ahead program. She said, “I was a little apprehensive because of the homework and tests. But I soon lost my anxiety because I was meeting friends. I enjoyed the Getting Ahead classes because each meeting opened with prayer and a reminder of how much God cared for us. And it turned out to be fun. I learned a lot of things I didn’t know about poverty and felt it was worth my time. I never missed a class. I even participated in the Healing Strides Equine Assisted Learning in Boones Mill. She says, “I was afraid of going, afraid of the horses so I stood back, away from them. When we went into the arena I was really afraid. I felt like the horses were avoiding me, but afterward, I realized the horses were respecting my boundaries and sensed my fear. I had expressed to the other participants that I wanted a horse to love me. I said I would know the horse loved me if he put his head on my shoulder. I had hardly gotten the words out when the horse came up behind me and put his head on my shoulder. It was like God heard my inner plea. But, I was so surprised and a little frightened. Then I realized this was exactly what I had asked for. I was very happy. It was the horse I liked and the overall experience was very good.”

At the Getting Ahead Graduation, Judy got in front of the audience and shared her experience with the audience – something she thought she could never do. She said, “I have friends now, people who care for me. I have confidence, speaking to you all. I could not have done this without God. I have been making plans for my life. I feel like I am stronger; I feel confidence and courage. I love my Bible study and never want to miss it. I will continue to volunteer at Agape, designing centerpieces and floral arrangements. And I plan to go to church.”

Judy still has financial challenges. She still has chronic pain. So what is different? Judy says, “The overall difference is that I went to the Getting Ahead class. This provided the information and resources to help me get ahead. I wasn’t even thinking about what I could do to make changes in my life, but now I have the tools to go forward. And of course, now I have God leading me, preparing me for the challenges and successes ahead.”

Though there are many Agape volunteers involved in Judy’s journey, the mission of the organization, to turn or return individuals to a relationship with Jesus Christ, has been the focus of Judy’s journey by each person who has cheered her along the way.



Right Column:
Judy Jones at her
Getting Ahead
Graduation.
**Left: Mark and Lin
Plumb, co-facilitators
for the Getting
Ahead Program,
celebrate Judy's
graduation.**

Agape's Community Resource Data Base Goes Live July!

Keeping up with all the helping agencies in our service area, Franklin and Bedford Counties, is challenging for our clients as well as for Agape. There are nearly one hundred agencies and organizations attempting to serve the needs of the community, but up until now, there has been no centralized listing of their names, let alone their services. As the Getting Ahead Program (GAP) has matured at Agape, Jan Hogle, Founder and primary Facilitator, saw the need for Agape to have the helping agencies more accessible to our clients, and also to our volunteers. She recruited two volunteers, Dick At Lee (who wears several hats at Agape from Furniture Director to spread-sheet guru) and Ron Cordell. Dick agreed to put together the data base and make it accessible for our clients.



Dick At Lee has developed the computerized data base which will be used by Agape to connect clients to resources in the community. This is the first computerized collection of this crucial information in the area, developed at Agape!



Ron Cordell is also a man wearing many hats! When he was approached by Jan Hogle to be Agape's Liaison with community resources, he thought that sounded interesting, and he's been visiting and connecting with these agencies for the past several months, to make sure our information is correct and current.

Ron Cordell agreed to take on the role of Agape's Community Resource Liaison. As such, Ron maintains personal connection with every agency in the two counties that offer some type of assistance. He also represents Agape on the Bedford Area Resource Council's (BARC) poverty subcommittee which targets help to those below the poverty line. Ron says, "I've never done anything quite like this before, but I do find it interesting to see how many organizations are trying to fill the needs of the community."

The computerized Community Resource Data Base is now complete, and will be available for mentors to assist their clients in accessing resources starting in July. Mentors will work with the client to identify needed services and complete a form, which will be given to the telephone operator. The operator will input the required info into the computer, and specific services that might be applicable for the client will be printed out and delivered to the client with their pantry order. The client will then have the information on who to contact for their specific needs. This is the only, up-to-date data base with this information available within our area, and was developed specifically for use by Agape clients.

FOOD DRIVE ANOTHER SUCCESS—RAISING 1000 POUNDS OF FOOD FOR AGAPE!



Twenty five volunteers from Agape helped with the Annual Postal Food Drive at the Cave Spring Post Office, qualifying Agape to receive 1000 pounds of food from the food bank, Feeding America Southwest Virginia.

Budget Class Offered to Agape Clients

You might say that Ron Cordell is a guy who loves numbers! He has both an Accounting degree and a Masters in Business Administration—two degrees that helped propel him in his career in the military and then in the private sector. But all along, Ron had an interest in what the Bible had to say about money—in fact, it is the topic most talked about in the entire Bible! He has taught Sunday School classes, small groups, and personal/couple financial counseling through his church in northern Virginia, and now at his church in Moneta, EastLake Community Church. He has offered a budget class as part of the Getting Ahead program at Agape, and more recently offered a class for clients who had expressed an interest in gaining control of their finances, budgeting, planning for retirement, saving money, getting out of debt, cutting expenses and using credit cards.

During the first session, Ron emphasized the “importance of telling your money where to go at the beginning of the month, rather than wondering where it went at the end of the month—that is called planning!” He also stressed the importance of having an accountability partner, to help develop the discipline of sticking with the plan. He explained that roughly 30% of the budget will need to be used for housing and related utility expenses; 15% for transportation (including maintenance and insurance); 15% for food, and then building in all expenses throughout the budgeting cycle. If you are interested in taking this class in the future, please contact Ron at 703/615-0244 or rcordell110@gmail.com.



Ron Cordell (right) is currently teaching leading four individuals through Biblical Financial Principles, including (clockwise) Sentonia Wright, Mercedes Jones, Linda Pyle and Judy Jones.

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Joyce Nunn has been volunteering at Agape for 13 years, since she and her husband moved to Smith Mountain Lake from New Jersey. She's found her niche in Clothing, where she can be found every Monday morning, sorting the mountains of donated clothing. But Joyce also takes Agape home with her to a different job—one which touches all volunteers: sending Birthday cards to each Agape volunteer for the past five years. She says, "This job has grown so much, with the increased volunteers, additional services and departments, and in the past couple of years, the additional cards sent to



volunteers who are ill, hospitalized or lose a loved one." Joyce's labor of love, connecting with volunteers through cards, is coming to a close. Health issues are forcing her to slow down.

If you want to be an encouragement to Joyce, send her a card of thanks for the years of service she's given to Agape...and Beyond!



Help Publicize the Charity Home Tour NOW!

Charity Home Tour posters and brochures are now available in the Book Department. Please take a few posters and brochures to local businesses anywhere between Roanoke and Lynchburg or beyond!! (After all, this is a destination event!)

Help get the word out so that the CHT is able to continue its financial support of Agape and other helping agencies in our SML area.

Cleaning Team Needs Help

Would you be willing to give 1/2 day a month to clean a portion of our facilities? Several volunteers are joining the Cleaning Team, making the work more manageable. Please contact Sue Lipscomb if you can help keep God's facilities clean for our clients and volunteers.



From The Agape Book Shelf

The Bush is Still Burning

By Lloyd John Ogilvie

Diane Davis
Agape Book Reviewer

Before Abraham was, I am. John 8:58

All of us have felt rejected, misunderstood or overwhelmed with life. We face health problems, marital problems, money problems and family problems. When trouble comes, what can we do? Some blame God and turn from Him. Yet, the Lord can turn our struggles into stepping stones. If we cry out to Him, He is there. If we open our hearts for His healing, He is there. He is still the Great I Am!

Our Lord is still the One true God who healed the sick, made the blind to see and brought the dead back to life. He is the same Jesus who died on a cross for our sins, rose again, went to heaven and will return again. If we believe and accept Him for who He is, call out to Him in our times of trouble, and surrender our lives into His loving care, He can and will lead us through our times of trouble.

No, things here on earth are not easy. Sin changed God's perfect world into what we have today. Our Lord loves us and when the time comes, He will take His own unto Himself and we will forever be with Him. Struggles of life and sin will be no more.

Yes, the bush is still burning and our Lord is still the Great I Am. (Exodus 53:14)

Note: In the face of my recent health crisis, this book really helped me to remember the promises of my Lord. I know He has brought me through the fire and will carry me out on the other side. No matter what, I will be with Jesus. Praise God! DD

Editor's Note: Diane Davis is continuing to recover from surgery and is now in chemo treatments. Please keep her and her husband Dave in your prayers.

THE LIBRARY IS OPEN!
Just a reminder that
volunteers are invited to borrow
books from the Library, and to select
specific books to give to clients.
Bonnie Fiori
Book Department



The Gift Department is seeking donations of new, matching kitchen towels and potholders for the adult Christmas Baskets. If you see a sale, think of the gift baskets, or make a donation and we'll do the shopping for you!

THANK A SPONSOR!

With nearly 100 individual and business sponsors, Agape enjoyed the best year yet in our Golf Tournament. We appreciate the support of our community, and the hard work of the Golf Committee in soliciting these supporters . . . So now it is up to us to frequent these business, and express our appreciation for their support of this vital ministry in our community. Tell them thank you!

GOLD SPONSORS

Bedrock Community Church
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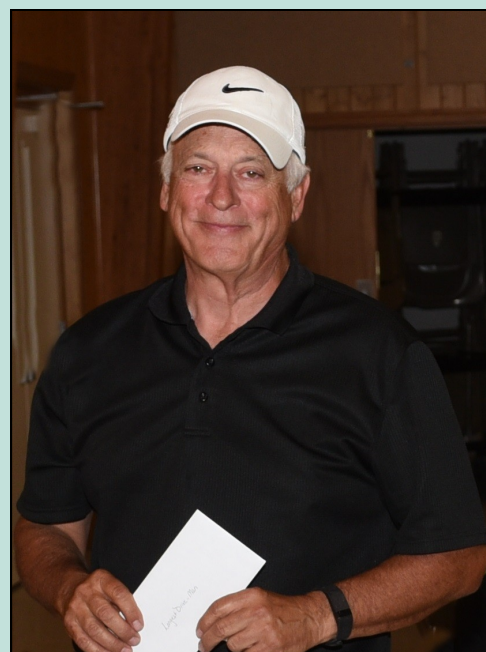
Ashley Plantation Country Club
Bedford Country Club
Blue Hills Golf Club
Hanging Rock Golf Club
Ivy Hill Golf Club
Mariners Landing Golf & Country Club
The Waterfront
The Westlake
The Willows Golf Club
Advance Auto Parts
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Berglund of Bedford
Bojangles
Bridgewater Sportswear
Coca-Cola
David James Homes-Lakewatch
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Eric Cline-Eric & Co. Premier Salon
Express Jet Car Wash
The General Store at SML
Gifts Ahoy
Harvester Performance Center
Liberty University
Pepsi Cola Bottling Co.
Phyllis & Casy Johnson—Re/Max Lakefront
Scotts Automotive
Simmons Insurance
Tom Lusk-Atlantic Bay Mortgage
Tom Ulbrich-Wells Fargo
Vinny's Italian Grill & Pizzeria
Virginia Tech
Vitalize Church
W L Mechanical Corp.
Webster Marine Center
Western Va. Water Authority

SPECIAL THANKS

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO Sue Frase for the meal, Bojangles for the tea, the golfers that played in the Agape Tournament, the Agape volunteers, and to God for the blessings we have received to make this tournament a success!

HOLE SPONSORS

Agape Pantry Volunteers
Agape Volunteers
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Eagle's Roost Campground
Environmental Options, Inc.
Franklin Welding & Equipment Co. Inc.
Halesford Harbour Marine & RV
Liberty Glass & Mirror
Moneta Farm & Home Center
SML Hearing Center
Steve Wisotzkey-Re/Max Lakefront Realty
Uttermost
Vitalize Church
Walker Construction, Inc.
Westlake Auto



Mike Salony won the Longest Drive in the Men's division.



Wil Childress won Closest to the Pin in the Men's division.

PROGRAM SPONSORS

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