



Where Needs Meet AGAPE Love

February, 2019

YOU ARE INVITED!

**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

Join in the 14 day
AGAPE
Valentine Challenge
Colossians 1:9-12

See Page 4

**AGAPE VOLUNTEER
CELEBRATION BANQUET**

★ *March 16, 2019* ★

Appetizers at 5:30 pm

Dinner at 6:00 pm

Halesford Baptist Church

**WEAR YOUR BEST COWBOY
ATTIRE FOR THIS WESTERN ROUNDUP**

Please RSVP
(540) 296-0609

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

February 14-28 — AGAPE Valentine Challenge, See VALENTINE CHALLENGE, 4

March 5—Lynchburg-Agape Opens! More details to follow

March 13—Roanoke Valley Gives — See page 2

March 16 — Agape Volunteer Banquet — Halesford Baptist Church —See Above

May 18 — Agape Golf Tournament—See page 6

Get on Board for a Forklift

On March 13, 2019, Agape will participate for its second year in the Roanoke Valley Gives (RVG) fundraiser. Our goal this year is to raise funds for a forklift, which will make a major impact in the efficiency, safety and accessibility of our 14,000 square foot warehouse space. According to Mike Burzynski, Transportation Director for Agape, "This forklift, which is for inside use only, will at least double our capacity to store items in the Pantry, Warehouse and Furniture Departments by going vertical, rather than using more floor space. By expanding our storage capacity, and improving our retrieval ability, Agape will be able to provide more items to service more client needs." Sue Lipscomb, Executive Director, noted, "Over eighty percent of our volunteers are retired, so safety is a huge concern, and this forklift will enable more storage, easier retrieval, and improved safety."

There is one month to go until the RVG Give Big Day: Wednesday, March 13 from 12am to 12 midnight. Please consider going on-line to make your donation to Agape. This is Agape's largest fundraiser for individual donors.

Simply go to the Agape website (agapecentersml.org) and click on the **Roanoke Valley Gives** button. Complete the donor information requested, including your credit card number. If you would like to donate



Mike Burzynski (left), Transportation Director and Jack Lipscomb, Facilities Director, have selected the specific forklift and will oversee the volunteer training and operation of the forklift.

early, you can! Be sure the very last item is dated **March 13, 2019**, which is when your card will be charged; anything donated other than on that date will not count toward our goal (though we will still receive the donation).

All organizations participating in this event are included in several incentive contests throughout the day, so it is important that as much money be donated through this method as possible. For example, checks received by Agape directly will not be included in the incentives; only those which are made via this website dated March 13, 2019.

If you are uncomfortable or unable to use a computer, you may come to the Agape office between 12 noon and 4 pm on Wednesday, March 13, and someone will assist you in making your contribution!



*An initiative of the Community Foundation
Serving Western Virginia*

Welcome New Volunteers

David Back — Pantry, Furniture Pick-up
Harold Bryant — Pantry
Karen Proshia — Clerk, Clothing

By the Numbers . . .

January 2019
Families 837
Individuals 2961

January 2018
Families 844
Individuals 2917

February 2019 Volume 11 Issue 2

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:

Executive Director—Sue Lipscomb
agapecentersml@aol.com
Newsletter Editor—Karen Baker
karenbaker015@gmail.com

Published by The Agape Center
1159 Promised Land Road (PO Box 573),
Moneta, VA 24121 (Phone: 540/296-0609)
www.agapecentersml.org

I Come to Agape for The Word and for the Mentoring

Shana Flood awoke with flashing lights all around her. She didn't realize at first that she had been in a disastrous car accident, but she definitely realizes that it was God who was with her on that fateful day one week before Christmas, 2018.

She had dropped her six year old son off before heading home, and that act not only saved her son's life, but was her first proof of God's presence. He was not even in the car when it crossed over to the opposing lanes on Highway 460, then hit a guard rail, hit an oncoming car head-on, and then landed on the side of the road. She wasn't conscious, her car was totaled, and her license suspended. She was only months away from paying off the car when she lost it.

She said, "The second evidence of God's presence was that I survived crossing the lanes on 460; the third when I hit the guard rail, and the fourth, when I careened into an oncoming car and the other driver was not hurt. We both should have been killed."

Shana ended up with a few scratches and bruises, but is still being tested for the diagnosis which caused her to have a seizure and black out that afternoon. She says, "At first I was depressed. I lost my car, I lost my job, and I have no one to rely on for transportation." However, her trust in God continues to grow.

Shana has been coming to Agape since 2013, and says emphatically, "I don't come for the food or the clothes; I come for the mentoring. Without the Lord and the encouragement and prayers of my mentors, I would not be here today. My relationship with God over the years has become stronger. I look at some of my early prayer requests, and see how God has answered them! I often don't see them answered the way I thought, but He's always there for me. It is blessing to have the help of Agape, but I really come here for The Word and the Mentors."

Shana has been released to return to her job as a CNA at an assisted care facility in Bedford, continuing to heal from the trauma of the accident, and train her son to be a follower of God. And she's trusting God for an answer to her need for transportation to her job and to her son's school.



Shana Flood is praising God for safety during a recent car accident that totaled her car.

SHOP FOR YOURSELF; LET KROGER AND AMAZON GIVE TO AGAPE

Just sign up on your Kroger card, and a portion of all your purchases will be donated to Agape.

Same thing with Amazon—Go to smile.amazon.com and register for the Agape Moneta/SML, and a portion of all your purchases will be donated to Agape.



No Muss; No Fuss;
nothing else for you to do!
Just Do it Today!



Miracle Baby on His Way!

Hope and Dana LaMonde are expecting their miracle baby boy in April, but they say it's taken them twenty-four years to get to this point! They were childhood sweethearts, growing up in Roanoke, but then Dana moved to Rocky Mount and they went their separate ways. Hope had stomach cancer when she was sixteen, and due to the scar tissue, she was told she'd never have children. Though she'd had stepchildren in previous marriages, she never experienced childbirth herself.

Dana served in the US Army, but when he returned home, things had changed in his life. He has been homeless on three different occasions, and last year, miraculously recovered from death's door, due to a septic infection. Dana says, "God brought me through everything so that Hope and I could reconnect."

About the same time, Hope returned to the area from

Iowa, after caring for her mother until her death, and also losing her brother, both in 2018. She was in the process of divorce, when she became a widow herself when her husband was killed.

They both say, "God brought us back together after twenty-four years!" They married and Dana felt strongly

that they would have children, even though Hope had never been able to get pregnant. Hope says, "I lived over a thousand miles away, and only God could have brought us together. We are having a miracle child, my first, and I'm thirty-nine years old!" They have returned to their faith in God, and plan to raise their son to follow God.



Hope and Dana LaMonde are excitedly expecting their first child in April, 2019.

Join the Agape
14 Day
VALENTINE
CHALLENGE

Beginning Valentine's Day,
February 14
through February 28

Join the
Agape Challenge

Pray Colossians 1:9-12
for your fellow volunteers,
by name if possible! Use the
schedule each day we are open
to name those working!
Let's see what God will do in
our midst!

From The Agape Book Shelf



Waiting for Morning
By Karen Kingsbury

Diane Davis
Agape Book Reviewer

Hannah and Tom Ryan had two teenaged daughters named Alicia and Jenny. They were Christians and supposed to have a wonderful life. However, Brian Wesley entered the scene and their lives would never be the same.

Brian decided to get drunk and drive. He ran a red light and smashed his pick-up into Tom's Explorer, killing Tom and Alicia, leaving Jenny barely alive.

Jenny survived and she and her mom tried to learn to live without her sister and father. Hannah blamed God and turned from her faith. She joined MADD, Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, and went on a rampage against Brian Wesley. She wanted revenge for her family.

In time, Brian was convicted and given fifty years in the state penitentiary.

Time passed and Hannah and Jenny struggled. Finally, Sgt. John Miller sent Hannah a letter. He had worked the accident scene the day her husband and daughter were killed. In this letter, he told her that the last words her husband said were, "Tell the girls and Hannah I love them and tell Hannah to forgive."

It seemed impossible at first, but after reaching out to God and her Christian friends, Hannah had to see Brian Wesley. She visited him, prayed for him, and she forgave him. Then, and only then, did Hannah receive the peace and comfort she had been needing. A tragic story with a glorious ending.

Help Agape Purchase a Forklift! Donate on Wednesday, March 13



**ROANOKE
VALLEY
GIVES**

03.13.19

*An initiative of the Community Foundation
Serving Western Virginia*

WHY I SERVE ...

"I wouldn't work this hard for pay, but I will volunteer for the Lord because it is so fulfilling. I really like serving the clients with my friends in the Pantry."

Charlie Goodman,
Bedford County
Pantry
Volunteer since 2013

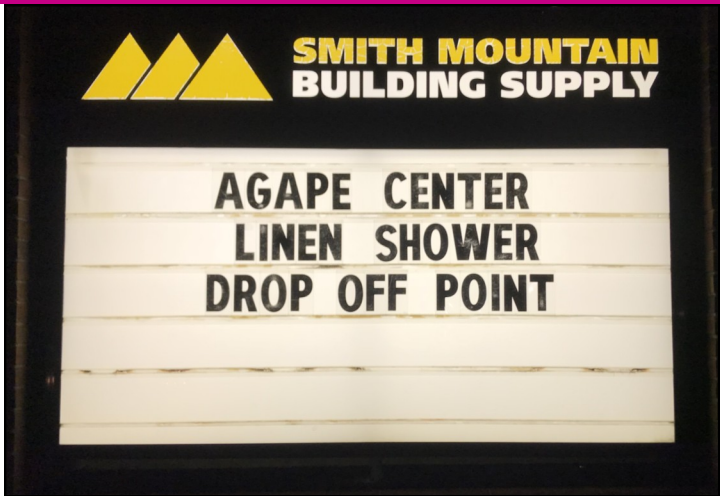


Agape Holds Third Annual Linen Shower

The most needed items that Agape provides for clients are linens – towels, washcloths, and sheets of all sizes. For the third year, Agape is hosting a two-month Linen Shower, encouraging donations of new or gently used items that can be passed on to those in our community who have great needs.

This year, before it was even publicly announced, a friend of Agape who owns a women's clothing store in Roanoke, J & J's, began promoting this event in the store. By mid-January, several loads of donated linens had arrived at Agape. Several volunteers, who are away for the winter months, have shipped boxes of new towels. And several people have dropped off items at Smith Mountain Building Supply, which is one of the drop-off points!

You too can help provide necessities in our community. Collect in your neighborhood, school, church, etc, and drop off at Smith Mountain Building Supply on Booker T Washington; at EastLake Community Church on Hendricks Store Road and Highway 122; or at Agape, 1159 Promised Land Road in Moneta.



Above: Smith Mountain Building Supply is one of the drop off points for the Agape Linen Shower!



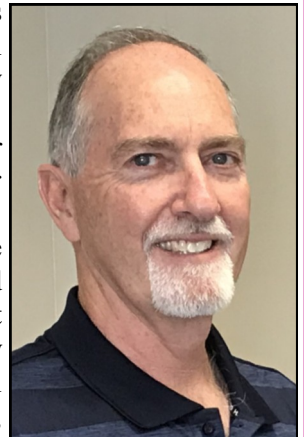
Festival of Trees Brings Donation to Agape

The Tenth Annual Festival of Trees at the Bedford Welcome Center netted over \$200 in votes/dollars from visitors who stopped by the Welcome Center. Businesses decorated twenty eight trees, which were dedicated to local charities. Over 3500 visitors to the Welcome Center voted on their favorites, paying \$1 per ballot! Agape's tree was decorated by the Bedford Wine Trail; a total of over \$5000 was raised for the charities represented.

15th Annual Golf Tournament Set

The 15th Annual Agape Golf Tournament is set for Saturday, May 18, 2019. The team is led by Bob Winters and includes Bob Stouffer, Phyllis Johnson, Teresa McCain, Lynn Winters, Carol Moyer, Kelly Wisotzkey, and Betty Ann Allen. It is the top fund-raising event for Agape, having raised over \$23,000 in 2018.

The event will be held at The Westlake and registration and more details are available at www.agapecentersml.org. Enjoy a complete program of special events, 18 holes of golf (w/cart), an opportunity to win great prizes, and an awards dinner at Halesford Baptist Church immediately after the tournament catered by Sue Frase. Volunteer to help or register to play and participate in this event.



Bob Winters is leading Agape's 15th Annual Golf Open.

STORY ABOUT AGAPE

Dave Wolf serves Agape as the web-site developer and as the Assistant Director of the Pantry. He also finds time to serve our community's lower income, elderly taxpayers, providing free tax-preparation services for the past four years.

As a volunteer of the AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) Foundation Tax-Aide program, Dave became an IRS certified tax preparer and local coordinator. Dave, along with other coordinators, tax preparers, and client facilitators, provide tax preparation services at Westlake, Boones Mill, and Rocky Mount. The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program also operates sites in Roanoke, Lynchburg, and Bedford. Dave's primary focus is coordinating the Rocky Mount site and managing the computers used for tax preparation and e-filing.

Dave says, "I really enjoy serving others, and I've learned to rely on the talents and skills that God has given me and match them with needs people have. Often people find the income tax instructions and forms intimidating. I find it very rewarding to help them, and see their anxiety reduced. When they leave, they are assured that their tax returns are completed properly." On average it takes about an hour to complete a tax return. The Franklin County sites (Rocky Mount, Boones Mill, and Westlake) completed over six hundred tax returns last tax season.

Dave continued, "We can complete most types of returns but those for certain businesses, including farms, are outside the scope of our service. We also answer questions on tax preparation for those taxpayers who want to complete their own returns."



Dave Wolf serves our community by providing income tax preparation assistance to elderly and low income taxpayers.

Free Tax Preparation Assistance

Free Income Tax assistance is available through the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). Tax-Aide is a free income tax preparation and electronic filing service provided to older and low-income taxpayers. The service is provided in Bedford, Westlake, Rocky Mount, and Boones Mill as follows:

February 1 – April 14 in Rocky Mount - at the Essig Recreation Center at 295 Technology Drive near the YMCA. Call (540) 483-9238, Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 pm to schedule Thursday and Friday appointments.

February 4 - April 11 at the Bedford Public Library, North Bridge Street. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30am - 12:30pm.

February 5 – April 16 at the Westlake Library at Westlake Towne Center. Tuesdays only, at the Westlake Library, Westlake Towne Center. No appointment required, but you can schedule an appointment in person at the library on Tuesdays during the tax season from 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm.

February 20, March 13, and April 10 at Boones Mill Baptist Church, 10 Whispering Creek Road. Beginning Jan 21, call (540) 334-5404, Monday-Friday, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm to schedule Wednesday appointments.

Third Annual Linen Shower



**The Agape Center needs
your help with linens for our clients.**

Gently used or New Linens

Towels—Wash cloths—Sheets

Dates: Jan – Feb'19

DROP OFF at Agape Center

Tues-Thurs 10-4

Sat. 9-12

**Agape Center, Inc.
1159 Promised Land Road
Moneta, VA 24121
540-296-0609**

Agapecentersml.org



**OR DROP OFF AT
Smith Mountain Building Supply
13080 Booker T Washington Hwy
Hardy, VA**