



Where Needs Meet AGAPE Love

June 2017

Time to Sign Up for the Charity Home Tour

BY THE NUMBERS SERVED

May 2017
785 Families
2595 Individuals

May 2016
810 Families
2595 Individuals

WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS

- John Booker**—Toy Factory, Clothing
- Julia Booker** – Toy Factory, Clothing
- Tanya Brunnelson**—Baskets
- Ted Cook**—Pantry
- Judy Crickenberger**—Linens
- Ashley Ferrell**—Pantry, Runner
- Jack Hall**—Toiletries, Toy Factory
- Ruby Hampton**—Clerk
- Angie Layman**—Clerk, Pantry
- Lynda McKenzie**—Baskets
- Alyssa Nickerson**—Toy Factory
- Cheryl Nickerson**—Baskets
- Frank Nikic**—Furniture, Transportation
- Karen Nikic**—Clerk, USDA
- Jim Perry**—Pantry, Transportation
- Trish Perry**—Clerk, Clothing
- Alexandra Westfield**—Runner, Baskets, Clerk

PRAYER FOR AGAPE

Please join as you are able in prayer for Agape ministry, clients, volunteers! Join the Agape Prayer Team in the Conference room at **8:45 to 9:45 am on the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Thursday** of each month.

Thursday — June 22
Tuesday — July 11
Thursday — July 22

Agape is again participating in the SML Charity Home Tour for 2017. This is a fantastic fund-raiser for Agape, plus it is lots of fun! We will be hosting the Cromwell home located on Burnt Chimney Road.

Please consider volunteering for at least one time slot during the tour. There are morning/afternoon shifts on Friday and Saturday, and afternoon on Sunday. You can choose inside the home or outside for parking cars or boats at the dock.

There are sign-up sheets in the break room, pantry, and office area at Agape. Please sign up early to secure the time you most prefer. Please write your name and email, plus home address and the times/days you will work on the sign-up sheet. You can select to work either inside (in Home) or outside (Traffic, including parking and/or dock). You can contact Carol at carol-moyer1960@gmail.com (540/538-6230) or Linda at lindarleedy@outlook.com (540/263-0255) to sign up or if you have questions.



Linda Leedy (left), Director of USDA, and Carol Moyer, Member Church Liaison, are recruiting Agape volunteers for the 2017 Charity Home Tour.

WE NEED EVERYONE'S HELP! PLEASE SIGN-UP NOW!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

June – July Prayer for Agape — Join the Prayer Team in the Conference Room to pray for the day at Agape.

July 12 –August 16 – 10 -11 am — Nutrition Class—For clients and volunteers (See page 2)

October 6-8 — Charity Home Tour

October 9—December 4– Getting Ahead program

October 21—Running for the Children—Agape's second annual run/walk for Children's Christmas gifts. (See page 6)

Nutrition Class Offers Practical Ideas for Stretching Food

Anna Marie Hackman is very excited about the nutrition class offered by Agape. This is a follow-up option for the graduates of the Getting Ahead Program (GAP). “I think it is so beneficial and helpful to me; I just wish everyone could take this class.”

Anna Marie graduated with the latest GAP class in March, but she had taken this class several years ago when she worked as a healthcare social worker. “Taking this class as an Agape client has opened my eyes to so many things. With the diversity of participants, I learned so much. The team leaders, Jan Hogle and Pam Sinex work so well together.

She continued, “I had also taken nutrition classes in the past, but this one was so practical. I am learning how to grow and use herbs to enhance flavors. The individualized training in this class has been very beneficial. Learning to have a balanced meal, with properly-sized portions, as well as getting recipes with ideas on substituting ingredients and meal planning has also been very useful to me. Since I live alone, lessons on stretching my food budget, but using everything I have, has been very enlightening. I am so thankful that Agape has provided this class and I’d love to see more clients take advantage of this opportunity.”

This 6-week class is being offered to clients and volunteers on Wednesdays from 11-12 noon from July 12–August 16. Flyers and sign-up at the Reception Desk.



Anna Marie is pleased with her book on using herbs in her cooking.

Responding to God’s Voice

Life Changes Lead to Agape

Mike Matrangola has been experiencing many changes since he and his wife, Mary, relocated to the lake area. Coming from Baltimore, Mike said, “I left my past life and my bad habits behind. Though I grew up Catholic, there were a lot of rough times and I wanted to make a change, so we moved here.”

One of the changes was getting involved in a local church. His wife, Mary, was going to EastLake Community Church, and Mike noticed a difference in her demeanor. She suffered a stroke a few years ago, but whenever she attended church, her attitude was so ‘happy.’ He decided to go in and see what was affecting her in such a positive way; he previously had been waiting for her in the car while she attended services. As a result of hearing the opportunity for a personal relationship with God, He accepted Jesus as his Savior and memorialized that decision with his baptism on April 23rd. He said, “I am thankful that I have finally



Mike (center) after his baptism by Pastor Troy Keaton (left) and Pastor Nathan Wetherald (right). (Photo courtesy Ken Webber)

realized the relationship I always wanted with God.”

The next big change was coming to Agape as a volunteer. He had retired from a national insurance company as an auto adjustor and special investigator for fraud. He has also served in the US Army, driving large vehicles, and for many years been an auto body man and mechanic. In addition, Mike plays in a rock band and repairs guitars. As he became a part of the SML community, he noticed that people were throwing away goods that could be repaired. Recognizing his interest and fulfillment in fixing things, he thought Agape might want to use his skills! So, he joined the Furniture Department, where he is driving large trucks, picking up furniture and repairing items that need his special touch.



I Need to Place my Dependence on God!

Client Tammy Kinsey was so excited when she finished with her mentor, Cyndi Horvath. She said, “Cyndi opened my eyes to truth in my relationship with my husband. We’ve only been married nine months, but I can see that my independence and self-reliance is not only causing problems in our relationship, but more importantly, in my relationship with God.”

Tammy continued, “I was raised to be independent, not to rely on anyone. That means I have pushed the Lord away, and I need to make decisions in our marriage together, not pushing my husband aside. I can’t wait to get home and share this insight with him. I really needed to be here today and to hear what Cyndi said.”

Tammy usually comes to Agape on Saturday, so she felt that God was instrumental in bringing her to Agape on Tuesday for this very specific purpose.

Responding to God’s Voice

Teresa McCain Named Director for Runners

Teresa McCain has been promoted to a newly created position as Director for the Runner Department. She has been with Agape for nearly two years, working in the Pantry and as a Runner. “I have really enjoyed working with all the people in the Pantry,” she says. “But the need was in the Runner Department, so I’m willing to serve wherever God leads.”

Teresa is originally from Texas, but has lived for many years in northern Virginia. She and her husband Fred moved to the lake area in 2015, and it didn’t take long for her to discover Agape. Her friend, Becky Blackman, recommended volunteering at Agape, and during Teresa’s visit with Sue Lipscomb, an incident happened that sealed the deal. She says, “While we were talking, a mentor came in with a note and a financial donation from a client. The noted expressed the client’s appreciation for all that



Teresa McCain is the new Director of the Runner Department.

Agape had done to help their family, and included a check. After observing this, I thought, this is more than a place that hands out items. It truly makes a difference in lives, and I want to be a part of that.” I had been praying for a place to serve, so this opportunity (at Agape) gave me a chance to be obedient.”

Teresa is active in the Celebrate Recovery program at her church, EastLake Community Church, and also has served on the Agape Open committee for the past three years.



Turnabout is fair play! Becky Blackman (right) recruited Teresa to Agape, and now Teresa recruited and is training Becky as a runner.

Serving Beyond Our Borders

Two of Agape's volunteers recently extended their service to our Lord beyond the boundaries of the US and traveled to Haiti to minister. Barbara Mullins and Pam Morris went with a group of ladies from Palestine Baptist Church where they fed hungry children nutritious meals and also nutrition for their souls from God's Word. "The thing that was so heart-breaking was the number of children around five or six years old who brought their infant siblings for food as well, while their moms were trying to find food or work to provide for their families," Barbara said.

She continued, "Though I have been to Haiti several times, it is always more of a blessing to me than what I can offer to the people there. I have taken as my purpose a message I heard from a pastor: 'If you are available, you should go.' God may not give a specific invitation to go to a specific place, but He has already told us to go in His Word. I have taken that message as my life's mandate; as long as I am able to go, I am already called to go."



Pam (center) celebrated her birthday with her Haitian friends and fellow missionaries.

Both Pam and Barbara are veteran short-term missionaries; Barbara has been on twelve mission trips in the past fifteen years, and Pam has been on five. When asked what impacted each of them the most, they cited the same thing. Barbara said, "The thing that impacted me the most on this trip was during our presentation of the gospel using the EvangeCube, a little deaf girl about seven years old was acting out the message. She put her fingers on the palms of her hands, as we talked about the nails going into Jesus palms; she put her hands on her head as if putting on the crown of thorns. She certainly knew this story, even though she couldn't hear us telling the message." Pam added, "To see how these little kids understand what Jesus did for them, and to see the facial expressions on this specific little deaf girl, how she expressed the fact of Jesus' pain for her, was striking. The missionary that runs the orphanage for the deaf children has made teaching them about Jesus the priority, and that was evidenced in everything we saw in that place."

Pam noted, "To see how the ministries have grown and how many people are being touched by Jesus because of those who have answered the call was so encouraging. This is the first time I've been on a trip that wasn't organized around specific tasks, but was more focused on building relationships and encouraging the missionaries who were there, and that was a huge blessing to me. We realized that we don't have to always be 'doing' something, but we were there to encourage and be encouraged."

As is often the case in going, Barbara discovered her real purpose for being on this trip once she was in Haiti. Barbara said, "One of the missionaries was a woman which grown children and as the only one on our team with grown children, we connected very quickly. I realized that God sent me specifically to encourage her."

In addition to her full-time job, Pam volunteers on her days off at Agape as a USDA clerk and as a telephone receptionist. Barbara volunteers in baskets year-round, where she creates beautiful gift baskets for client birthdays, newborns, and, of course, Christmas.



Pam (center) and Barbara (right) presented the gospel to about 30 children in the orphanage serving both hearing and deaf children.



Pam with her new friend, dressed in her John Deere tractor jumper!

Agape Open Tops \$21,000 in Funds Raised



The Bedrock Team were the First Place winners: from left: Richard Gifford, Caleb Olsen, Chris Dowd, John Dowd.

The 13th Annual Agape Open Golf Tournament was held May 20 at Mariner's Landing Golf and Country Club. Over \$21,000 was raised for The Agape Center in Moneta. First Place Team Winners: Chris Dowd, John Dowd, Richard Gifford, Caleb Olsen; Second Place Team Winners: Steve Carlstedt, Mike



Pat Hofheinz, who volunteers in Data, was the winner of the Longest Drive for women.

Jackson, Bob Ford, Larry Levinson; Third Place Team Winners: Bill Parker, Will Childress, Jesse Pierce, John Childress; Longest Drive, Men, Steve Carlstedt; Longest Drive, Women, Pat Hofheinz; Closest to the Pin, Rob Flint.

All 86 slots for golfers were filled and eight Tournament Sponsors led with contributions totaling \$8000. Friends of Agape rounded out the supporting companies, organizations, and individuals. Thanks to Sue Frase who catered the lunch. Bob Winters chaired the event for the second year and had a wonderful team to work with! Photos courtesy of Ken Webber. See page 6 for full listing of all sponsors for the Agape Open.

From The Agape Book Shelf

Wish You Well
David Baldacci



Diane Davis
Agape Book Reviewer

Louisa (Lou) Cardinal lives in New York City with her parents and her brother Oz. As Jack, Amanda, Lou and Oz Cardinal go on a family outing, tragedy strikes. To avoid hitting a man in the road, Jack swerved, lost control and the car went over a steep bank. Jack died instantly. Amanda was bleeding but alive. The family had to leave New York and go live with Jack's mother in Virginia.

Jack's mother, Louisa Mae, accepts her grandchildren and takes over the care of Amanda. Then Louisa Mae suffers a stroke and the courts try to take the children and her land away from her. Her friends on her mountain stand up for her. After Louisa Mae dies, her grandchildren bring their mother, Amanda, into the court room. They have been working with their mom and she has come out of her mentally depressed

state. Amanda stands in the courtroom, her children by her side. She is awarded the children and the land of Louisa Mae.

Amanda remarries, raises her children and remains on the mountain. Oz moves to New York and has a family there. Lou marries and raises her family on the land her grandmother left them. She wrote books as her father had done.

This mountain was her home and it was where she chose to live and to die. She says, "the view from here is very fine."

I loved this book. So sad, but really good, by a SML author! DD

Running for the Children

Agape's 5K Run/Walk will start at the Agape center, located 1159 Promised Land Road, Moneta, Virginia 24121 at 9 am Saturday, October 21. Registration will open at 8:00 am. This event will be open to all ages.

Both veteran runners, Randy and Robin Quay, right, are chairing the event. Randy has been working behind the scenes to establish the route, obtain the appropriate approvals, secure public safety officials, and determine the logistics of the event. Randy says, "There will be something for everyone who attends the event, even if you are not a seasoned runner. It will be a great run for those of you who plan to run the Virginia 10 miler the following weekend."

The cost of the event is \$30 per participant. Registrations on the day of the event will be \$35 per participant. Registrations may be made on-line by going to the Agape web-site (www.agapecentersml.org) or the Agape Center prior to or on the day of the race. Proceeds from the event will be used toward the purchase of approximately 3000 Christmas gifts for the children of our Agape clients.

Team members are needed to solicit sponsors and publicize the event within the churches and public spaces around the lake. Volunteers are needed to handle registration at the event and provide run packets, direct traffic, assist runners/walkers while on the course, etc. If you can help in any way, contact Randy either by e-mail (rmquay@gmail.com) or call 540-297-3251.



Robin and Randy finished the 2016 Grand Teton Half Marathon.

Trying to get rid of a large item?

Agape has recently begun accepting donations of vehicles, boats, RVs and other large items, such as forklifts, tractors, etc. Since the inception of this new service, nearly \$5000 has been raised to help Agape purchase groceries for needy clients in Bedford and Franklin Counties.

The donated items are cleaned, serviced, and listed for sale. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to the food budget of Agape. Donors will receive a receipt that can be used for tax purposes.

Jeff Mangold, Director of Acquisitions for Agape, is heading this new effort. Mangold, who has been in the recycling business for nearly thirty years says, "I have made a career of recycling and now I am thrilled to use those skills and networks to help feed people in my own community." To make a donation, contact the Agape center at 540/296-0609 and leave a message with the details of your donation, along with your name and contact info. Jeff will contact the donors to work out the details of pick-up.



Agape's Jeff Mangold will find a way to turn large items, such as forklifts, into cash for

Sign-up for Kroger and Amazon

Your purchases at Kroger and Amazon provide needed income for Agape. When you register your Kroger Card and your Amazon Smile Account, a portion of your spending will be donated to Agape at no expense to you! You must renew your designated charity with Kroger every year. If you need information on how to register with either Amazon or Kroger, please call Sue Lipscomb. This is a painless way to help Agape with needed funds for client services.

To register with Amazon, go to Amazon Smile and sign-up on behalf of Agape in Moneta, Virginia. A portion of all your purchases will be donated to Agape at no cost or inconvenience to you.

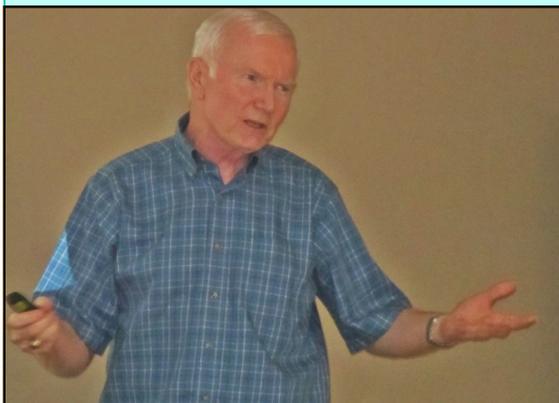
New All-Purpose Room Christened with Mentor Training

The first official meeting was held in the newly constructed All-Purpose Room in the Agape Annex when nearly forty mentors gathered for training. Jan Hogle, Mentor Administrator, said, "How appropriate that the christening of this room occur with Mentors, the core of the Agape operation." The training was held on Friday, June 2 and Saturday, June 3 when two different groups of mentors got a "Taste of the Getting Ahead Program" (GAP), were informed on the new Community Resource Data Base, and were updated on Agape's Member Church referral process.

Jan reported on the progress and accomplishments of the first graduating GAP class in terms of meeting the goals which they had set for themselves. This included three people getting a new job, a promotion, or more hours; three people attending the Agape Bible study; one person who began attending Celebrate Recovery; one who finished a bachelors degree and promptly enrolled in a graduate degree program; one attended the Agape Budget class; one now working to help others overcome addictions; one enrolled in AA degree program and used investigation skills learned in GAP to secure financial aid for her education; one who is now a weekly Agape volunteer; one meeting her physical fitness goals; one who is preparing to become a GAP facilitator for the fall class; one who is now enrolled in a class to learn sign language to be an interpreter for the deaf; and one who has been approved for a Habitat home. Two of these graduates also stepped far out of their comfort zones and spoke at a recent Rotary meeting to share their experience with an organization that helps fund the GAP program.



Clock-wise from top: Carol Moyer, Member Church Liaison, updated the mentors on the referral process to get clients involved in a local church; Jan Hogle, Pam Sinex, and Carol Moyer set up refreshments for training, including cinnamon rolls provided by Sue Frase; Jan Hogle provided an interactive learning experience as she put mentors in the role of GAP participants; Ron Cordell explained the process of creating a comprehensive Community Resource Data Base to assist mentors in making referrals for clients needing services.



Thanks to all the sponsors for the Agape Open-Over \$20,000 Raised

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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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