



Where Needs Meet Love

April, 2016

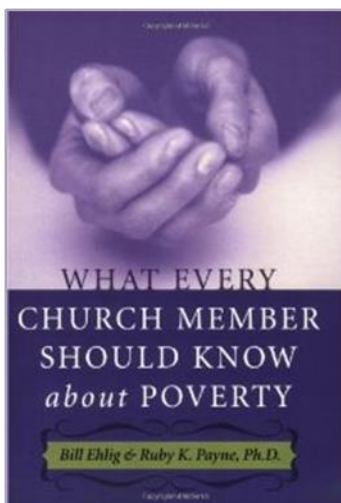
By the Numbers Served . . .

March, 2016
798 Families
2594 Individuals

March, 2015
700 Families
2299 Individuals

Welcome New Volunteers

Kalendra Arthur - Clothing, Intake
Kaleb Charlton - Furniture
Dwayne Charlton - Furniture, Food Transport
Michelle Childress - Clothing
Pastor Rock Chocklett - Furniture, Transport
Barry Corswandt - Pantry, Transport
Carolyn Corswandt - Pantry, Store Clerk, Books
Brenda Divers - Clothing
Cheryll Harless - Store Clerk
Dee Higgins - Prayer Team, Receptionist
Katlyn Lacy - Clothing
Florence Owens - Clothing
Alaina Thomas - Store Clerk, Children's Room.



This highly recommended workshop is coming to our area! "Every Agape Volunteer Should Attend!" See Page 2.

Christmas Coming to Agape in July!

The entire month of July will be focused on preparations for Christmas, 2016 at The Agape Center. Karen Jones is chairing the event, which will kick-off on July 2nd with an "Angel Flight Walk-a-thon" at the Moneta Park. Everyone is invited to walk, whether fast or slow, adult or child. Each registrant will be asked to bring new toys or books for children valued at least \$30, or to solicit sponsors who will contribute based on the distance walked, or to pay a \$30 registration/donation. Gifts of toys/books may be 'bundled' to reach the \$30 level.

Large containers will be placed in Agape's thirteen partner churches during July. Church members and community may drop off their unwrapped toy/book contributions at these locations, in addition to several businesses throughout the area. Contributions will also be solicited for Agape to purchase additional items needed to round out the Christmas store.

Karen explained, "We are moving our campaign to July to capitalize on the energy of the community during the summer months and avoid the last-minute rush that has occurred in past years. This will give us a head-start on our Christmas supply for the children and adults in each of the nearly 1000 clients' households. The ability to enter the Christmas season with the inventory in place, the gifts wrapped, and the store ready will greatly enhance the experience for the clients. Clients will have the opportunity to select gifts for their household based on their needs and desires." Registration forms will be available soon for walkers. To volunteer to help with the events, please contact Karen Jones at drkjones01@aol.com.



Committee members Denise France, Randy Quay, Karen Jones, Chair (seated), Eileen Hawkins, and Janet Sellers.

Mark Your Calendar. . .

Seminar -- Tuesdays May 3 - 24 ~ 6-8 pm - What Every Church Member Should Know *about* Poverty - See Page 2

POSTAL FOOD DRIVE - Saturday May 14th ~ 3-6 pm...See details page 2

Angel Flight Walk-a-Thon - Saturday, July 2nd - 8:30-11 am at Moneta Park

GOD Stories

We Need You!

The annual Postal Food Drive will be held on Saturday, May 14th from 3-6 pm. Each May The Agape Center participates by helping to sort the food items as they come in to the Post Office.

We have been assigned to the Cave Springs Post Office in Roanoke on May 14th from 3-6 pm. We will receive 50 lbs of free food for every volunteer who helps and we need 25 volunteers, including family, neighbors, and friends 14 years and older.

Each year Gary Ellis puts this together and we have a wonderful time – even when it rains.

If you want to be a part of this event, please let Sue Lipscomb know ASAP.



Recycling Agape boxes and using the funds to purchase groceries for clients!

Third Graders Serve at Agape!

Two third grade classes recently volunteered at Agape, separated canned and dry goods in the pantry, folded bags and worked with household goods. Dr Sue Frase, elementary principal at Parkway Christian Academy brings the third grade classes to Agape each year as part of their service to the community. The added motivation for the children is the home-made lunch Dr Frase prepares especially for them following their visit to The Agape Center.

Coming to Moneta in May Call to Reserve Your Space!

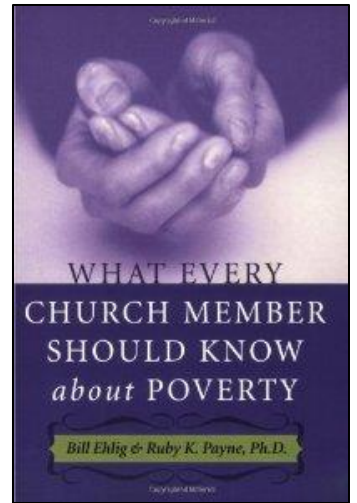
Have you ever wondered why clients who seem to have money for things we don't expect poor people to have, such as fancy phones, cigarettes, and tattoos? Now is the time to put your biases into perspective and learn the answers to the secrets of poverty.

“What Every Church Member Should Know about Poverty” is coming to our area. This 4 week workshop has been attended by several Agape volunteers and has received high acclaim. It is being hosted by Dwelling Place Christian Fellowship, located at the corner of Highway 122 and Hendricks Store Road, on Tuesdays from 6-8 pm beginning May 3rd.

Jan Hogle, Mentor Administrator, says, “If you are volunteering at Agape, and want to better understand our clients, this is a must-attend seminar. Each session will help us more deeply understand what it's like to live in generational poverty. Seeking to understand our clients' experiences is yet another way we can demonstrate Christ's love and compassion.”

Participants are encouraged to read *What Every Church Member Should Know about Poverty* (available at Amazon.com), which will be utilized as a study tool during this four week thematic course.

Space is limited so call now to attend. For more information or to register for this free class, contact Debbie Griggs at 540/297-6111 or debigriggs302@yahoo.com.



Two Third Grade classes visit The Agape Center with their Principal, Sue Frase.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S VOICE

Agape Client Benefits from Community Resources

Virginia Temples retired in 2010 from CB Pharmaceuticals in Lynchburg with full benefits, including health insurance. However, in 2015 she noticed that her premiums were no longer being deducted and discovered that the company had dropped medical coverage for retirees.

"I was left with the job of replacing that coverage. I felt lost and did not know where to start. But I know that God always understands our needs, and He started putting all the right people in my path. He started with my Agape mentor, Grace Cooper, who suggested Johnson Health Center in Bedford. They were able to help me with medical needs and suggesting the best insurance for me.

God is so in control that the new insurance is better and a lot less costly for me. God is so good!"



This prayer from Psalms 86:5 represents Virginia's thankfulness to God for His faithfulness.

Client Experiences Touch of God

Georgia Prunty has seen the power of God work in her life many times. She believes that seeing, hearing and feeling God's presence is a strong component of faith, and it is something that all believers can experience.

Cancer runs in her family, and both she and her two daughters have had cancer in various parts of their bodies. Several months ago, she was in a hurry to go to the hospital where her daughter was having diagnostic tests. As she

was hurrying to get some turnip greens scalded in hot water before she left, she stuck her arm into the water to push the greens down. She forgot that she had left the water to simmer, and was severely burned up to her elbow. She says, "My family wanted me to go to the Emergency Department, but I refused. I needed to get to my daughter, and further, I didn't have the co-pay for the hospital.



Georgia Prunty experiences God in many ways.

"When I was in the room with my daughter, the nurse who was taking care of her told me I really needed to go down to the Emergency Department, but again I refused. But I was in a lot of pain, and underneath I was earnestly praying to God. He told me to go the restroom outside my daughter's hospital room, and gave me a vision of what that restroom looked like. I went down the hall, and sure enough, there was the door He had directed me to go to. It was a spacious restroom, and I got down on my knees and prayed, God, please take the infection that was starting in my arm, and relieve my pain.

"I said, 'God, you have given me so much, and done so much in my life; but you haven't given me the gift of healing myself, removing this burning, this fire from my body. Since I cannot remove this fire, would you please take care of it?'"

"I washed my face to clean up the tears from my eyes, and went back to my daughter's room. I had avoided looking at my arm, but I immediately realized the pain was gone. As I lifted my arm to open her door, I saw my arm – HEALED. No scarring, no redness, and no pain. I saw my arm was completely clear, as if nothing had happened. I can't even explain the feeling I got when He showed me this healed arm."

RESPONDING TO GOD'S VOICE

Assistant Director Following God's Call

Karen Jones has already established her reputation as someone who gets things done! She has been volunteering since she and husband Ken moved to Smith Mountain Lake in spring of 2013.

They quickly found a place to worship at Eastlake Community Church, where Ken is a part of the music ministry. By the fall of 2014, Karen, who had volunteered in many different ministries within the church her entire life, was feeling called to minister in the community. That is when she discovered the Agape Center and found her place doing many different duties.

In introducing the new position of Assistant Director, Sue Lipscomb, Executive Director, explained Karen's unique preparation and calling for this role: "When she came to Agape, Karen wanted to volunteer in all the departments. She wanted to understand how the entire organization fits together. She has worked in the store, clothing, reception/phones, data, and as a mentor. In addition, she chaired the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet in October, and is currently chairing the Christmas in July Committee.

Karen described how she and her husband share time with the Lord each day, and the current study is discussing Revelations 3:8, and how God opens and shuts doors of opportunity. She and Ken

have been praying about her new role, and feel that God has indeed opened this door of opportunity and has invited her to walk through it. She says, "I want to be about the Father's business, and I have never being involved with, or even seen, any organization like Agape. It is a place where every volunteer feels called to their role and every volunteer is working together for the glory of God to be seen in this community.

I have been involved in church ministries all my life - children's, women's, church boards and committees. At Agape, it is clear that some are God's hands, touching clients with love, prayer, and physical goods; some are the ears, hearing the voice of God; some are the voice, intercessing and presenting the needs to the Lord and speaking love and compassion to clients and other volunteers; some are the heart of God, loving unconditionally. Everyone fulfills a purpose. This is the Body of Christ in action. This is truly the church as it was intended to be. When God opens a door, no man can shut it. I just want to be available to be used by God. When we moved from Christiansburg to Moneta, I knew that God had a plan, and this continues to unfold before me. I have felt in my heart since I came here, that this is where God wants me to be".



**Karen Jones, Agape Assistant Director, with
Sue Lipscomb, Executive Director.**

Rocky Mount Baptist Church Joins The Agape Center

Rocky Mount Baptist Church (RMBC) recently became a partner church with The Agape Center of Smith Mountain Lake. Fred Tudor, Church Administrator explained that all of the churches in the area are faced with people needing various types of assistance, food, clothing, or dealing with emergencies such house fires, threat of electricity termination or evictions from housing. He says, "RMBC is no exception; we were getting several calls each month from people needing various types of assistance, both from church members and non-church members. For many years, we handled those as best as we could, trying to determine actual needs, providing the appropriate level and frequency of assistance. However, we lack the

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RESPONDING TO GOD'S VOICE

type of staff who can provide the emotional and spiritual help that are really necessary. We want to provide a holistic response, but we recognized that we weren't doing that very well. We realized that The Agape Center was already in the business of providing this type of support to meet the entire range of needs represented, with the organization, the level and number of volunteers, and the leadership already in place. Becoming a church partner became a better option for us, allowing us to refer people to have their needs more appropriately met, and in particular, the spiritual dimension addressed."

Tudor continued, "One of the main attractions of Agape is the fact that each client is assigned a mentor and that mentor/client relationship is developed each month as the physical needs and spiritual needs of the client are addressed.

"Rocky Mount Baptist is extremely involved in outreach, looking beyond our church walls to meet the needs of the community. We recognize that the majority of Franklin County residents are not involved in any church. We do visitation every week; we have a lot of visitors, and we follow-up with each one. We also have a jail ministry, where a group of men provide a weekly Bible study for inmates who choose to attend. We have seen many decisions to follow Christ, and in fact, recently an inmate was baptized in our church. We also host a Thanksgiving dinner for the inmates and the guards who accompany them. We host a spring picnic at Sontag Recreation Park, and also a Harvest Festival in the fall. Both of these events are open to the public."



Mary Bond, Church Secretary, and Fred Tudor, Church Administrator at Rocky Mount Baptist Church. Mary is often the person making the referral to The Agape Center and she is confident in the services provided to her referrals.

Rocky Mount Baptist Church has grown by about 200 people in the past five years due to this attention to people. However, Tudor stressed, "I want to make it clear that we do not take credit for any of our success. We are simply servants trying to be obedient to God and it is all to His honor and glory that we do any of these projects and programs. We are so grateful for The Agape Center and thankful to all the volunteers that support this ministry. We look forward to our relationship in the future."

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The Agape Newsletter is a monthly publication produced by The Agape Center for volunteers, sponsoring churches, and other interested individuals and organizations.

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