



Where Needs Meet AGAPE Love

October 2017

REGISTER NOW For Agape's 5K

AGAPE MEMBER CHURCHES

Bedrock Community Church
Covenant Fellowship
CrossPointe/Franklin Heights Baptist Church
Dwelling Place Christian Fellowship
EastLake Community Church
Flint Hills 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 Agape ministry, clients, volunteers! Join the Agape Prayer Team in the Meeting Center at

8:45 to 9:45 am
Thursday — October 26
Tuesday—November 14

Help Santa and Mrs Claus prepare for Christmas for Agape's 1500 children under 17! Register to run, or walk, in Agape's Run for the Children 5 K on October 21. All proceeds from the event will be used to purchase new Christmas gifts for children of Agape clients.

Participants can be walkers or runners of any age. The 5K will start at the Agape Center at 1159 Promised Land Road, Moneta, VA 24121. Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners for both men and women. Other prizes will be awarded to those who register and are present at the event. Santa and Mrs Claus will be cheering the participants, along with their elves. If you plan to participate, register online at www.agapecentersml.org or <https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Moneta/AgapeRunForTheChildren5K>. Cost to register online is \$30 plus a \$2 registration fee. Registration at the event is \$35; the Registration Desk opens 8:00 AM – 8:45 am on Saturday, October 21.

Volunteers are also needed on event day, October 21. Please contact Randy Quay to volunteer or for more information at 540/759-0975 or email: agaperunforthechildren5k@gmail.com.



Agape volunteer Mike Gologby and his wife Dawn are Claus professionals.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

October-November Prayer for Agape — Join the Prayer Team in the Meeting Center to pray for the day at Agape.

October 21 — Run for the Children 5K—8:30 am at Agape.

October 24 — Thanksgiving Dinners distribution begins.

October 28 — Ride For Hope—10:30 am—Radford Baptist Church.

October 26 — Thanksgiving—Feed a Family of Four. (See Page 6)

November 28 — Christmas Gift distribution begins.

In God's Timing

Stephanie (Agape Clothing Coordinator) and Robert Childress weren't supposed to have any children; but don't tell that to nine-year old Fallon, a frequent volunteer throughout Agape as he comes to help his mom. For the past nine years, the Childresses have been praying for a little brother for Fallon, and in September, God provided, once again. When the doctor tried to take credit for Colton Mattis, Stephanie promptly reminded him that God had answered their prayers.

Fallon has been praying for a brother. He didn't want a sister because 'girls tell all our secrets.' So he prayed, and when Stephanie found out she was pregnant, she teased Colton, telling him he would have a little baby sister. "Then I told him, 'No, really, you will have a baby brother.' He was so excited, jumping up and down, anxious to tell his friends, and the look on his face was pure joy."

Stephanie continued, "It was very depressing, not being able to have another child so that Fallon could have a sibling, perhaps someday be an uncle." Stephanie has now healed from a C-section delivery, with strict warnings from her doctor not to have another child. But as Stephanie has said, "It is entirely up to God."



Stephanie and Colton Mattis Childress

Welcome New Volunteers

Brandi Bayer—USDA, Clerk, Data
 Tammy Byrd—USDA
 Nathan Camper—Pantry
 Odair Costaneda—Furniture and Pick-up
 Danielle Dowell—Clothing
 Loretta Fortune—Pantry, Telephone
 Connie Fulmer—Runner
 Sylvia Grayham—Telephone, USDA
 Joshua Huneycutt—Furniture, Maintenance, Pantry
 Jennifer Johnson—Baskets, Toy Factory
 Cindy Kalenian—Clerk
 Jennifer Nix—USDA, Runner
 Tarri Novellino—Clerk, Runner
 Bonnie Quarles—Baskets, Toy Factory
 Rick Reece—Furniture
 Deborah Senga—Scheduling
 Charity Smith—Data
 Michael Walters—Furniture, Repairs
 Becky Walters—USDA, Telephone
 Lee Wright—Pick-up

By the Numbers Served . . .

September, 2017
 Families 797
 Individuals 2789

September, 2016
 Families 837
 Individuals 2772

October 2017 Volume 9 Issue 10

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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www.agapecentersml.org

Winter Styles are In

Karen Doyle Steps Up

Karen Doyle, right, began volunteering in Clothing in Jan, 2017. She is unique in this role, as she brings her daughter, Emily, and two intellectually disabled women that her family cares for to help in Clothing. Now, she has accepted the role of Coordinator of Clothing, as Stephanie Childress leaves to take care of her new baby boy.

Karen says, "When Sue approached me about taking over in the Clothing Department for Stephanie, I was unsure whether I should take on this role. Stephanie worked several hours a day, 6 days a week and I knew I would not be able to dedicate as much time as she did. I prayed about it and later told Sue that I would do my best to take on this role and try to make the Department run smoothly. Thanks to the wonderful volunteers in the Clothing Department we have been able to provide clothes and shoes to our clients. All of the hard work we put in is worth it when I see the smiles on the clients faces as they fill their baskets with much needed clothing for their family. I was very nervous about switching the store over from summer to fall as I knew this was a huge endeavor. The Clothing volunteers, as well as volunteers from other departments, plus ten ladies from Piney Forest Seventh Day Adventist Church (near Danville) showed up to help out and within a few hours, the job was completed. Thank you to all who helped."



Every spring and fall, Agape volunteers switch out the clothing for the change in season. As this process develops, it may look like a tornado hit; but patiently, one section at a time, volunteers tear down, and then replace the items so Agape clients have fresh, seasonal choices of apparel.

Brenda Beisser, right, works on the seasonal change of inventory. Below left, the store in transition to winter clothing.



Turn your Christmas Shopping into Cash for Agape

Sign up now, or re-register, at **Kroger.com** to have a portion of all your purchases donated to Agape. Kroger does all the work and it costs you nothing. This renewal must be made every August.

For Amazon, register by logging on to **<https://smile.amazon.com>**. They will send a portion of your spending to Agape and it costs you nothing.

These are two simple, yet important ways to keep contributions coming to help feed those in need within our community.

Calling All Crocheters! Create Cozy Christmas Covers for Kids

Volunteers are needed to make over 1300 blankets for Agape kids! Donna Cosmato, an Agape volunteer, came up with the idea of providing every child a blanket in their Christmas basket from Agape. She is recruiting volunteers to help in the crocheting, organizing the materials, and has solicited donations to fund the project. Most of the yarn is donated to Agape, but the fleece blankets must be purchased.

"Creating Cozy Christmas Covers for Kids" provides colorful crocheted borders on blankets to be included in a Christmas basket for each of the children of Agape clients. Yarn and blankets are provided – you just do the work. If you are unable to crochet, help is needed to sort and weigh yarn, fold fleece, and make packets for those who will crochet the borders.

Donna Cosmato, says, "We especially need yarn donations, including partial skeins. All financial donations will be used to purchase supplies that are not donated. Some corporate financial sponsors to date include Rocky Mount Walmart, Bonsack Walmart, and the Radford Baptist Church Women's Missionary Union. The project has also been funded by generous community citizens. Over fifteen volunteers from area churches and the community are already hard at work creating these unique Christmas gifts, but there is always room for more."

Donna and her 85 year-old mother, Kate Schubert, of Carmel, Indiana, have been making various crocheted items for Agape clients for several years. Kate says, "I'm glad I got to be here for this project! I came to this area for medical care, and while I'm rehabilitating, I get to crochet with my daughter and wonderful women-friends, and women I've just met. I'm just thankful that I can do something useful. I get pleasure doing it for God and for the kids who will receive the blankets."

The volunteers are praying over each blanket, for the child who will re-

(Continued – Blankets page 5)



The process starts with the kit (left) —a fleece blanket, matching yarn for the border, a crochet hook, and instructions, all packaged into a tote bag. Next, one of our volunteers, in this case Kate Schumaker (center), crochets a border around the blanket. Then, the blanket (right) is matched with age/sex-appropriate toys, puzzles, or stuffed animals, wrapped in a cellophane bag, tied with a big bow, and is ready for distribution.

Creating Cozy Christmas Covers for Kids—A New Tradition for Agape Kids



Ladies working on borders—from left, Ronny Webb, from northern Virginia, Kate Schubert, from Indiana, Nancy Frazier, and Donna Cosmato, enjoying a morning of creating cozy Christmas covers for kids!

(Blankets—continued from page 4)

ceive that blanket, and for that child's family.

Ronny Webb, from northern Virginia, is visiting her best friend in Moneta. "I heard about this from Nancy (Frazier) and wanted to be a part of it. Growing up in Norway, I learned to knit and crochet as a young girl; now I have the chance to provide a real need for children." She plans to take supplies back to her home, finish them off, and come back for more. "My husband loves to have me visit my friends, so now I have an added purpose in coming here!"

To volunteer, pick up materials, or for more information, contact Donna Cosmato at 540/589-9531 or email dcosmato@gmail.com. Blanket sponsors can donate \$10 for 4 blankets; \$25 for 10 blankets. Donations can be made payable to Dwelling Place Christian Fellowship and mailed to Margaret McGarrahan, 3056 Feldspar Road, Bedford, VA 24523. All donations are tax deductible.



Agape Volunteer Gives in Many Ways

Glenn Johnson (left) is an affable fellow who finds many ways to contribute to the operation of Agape—from unloading groceries to keeping the intake area cleared. He is usually seen on days Agape is not open.

Outside of Agape, Glenn has been involved in the Huddleston Ruritans for over thirty years, serving as president for many of those years. As the group is dwindling, Glenn still serves as vice president and recently participated in one of his favorites, a long tradition of supplying students at Huddleston Elementary School with learning tools. Each fall, the third graders receive a dictionary and the fifth graders receive a thesaurus from the Ruritans. In the spring, each fifth grader is presented a Bible, or a holy book from their respective faith.

A big part of the blessing of serving at Agape is the diversity of people who work here, those who have contributed to the community for years in often invisible and unacknowledged ways. Thanks to Glenn for the role model he is to all of us!

From The Agape Book Shelf

The Color of Light By Emilie Richards



Diane Davis
Agape Book Reviewer

Analiese Wagner was minister of the Church of the Covenant. One cold night she found a family parked on the church property. They had also set up a tent in which to spend the night. The husband's name was Herman Fowler, the wife was Belle, and their children Douglas and Shiloh. The mom was very sick.

Analiese told them it was too cold for them to be outside and they could stay in the old parish house which was used for storage. They moved in side and began cleaning the place.

Analiese left and began thinking about the situation and what could be done for the family. Her problems were just the beginning. Upon presentation to the church council, the president was not supportive. She then took it by one of the church members and they finally decided the family could stay with some conditions. It was not to be permanent and the

Upon presentation to the church council, the president was not supportive. She then took it by one of the church ...and they finally decided the family could stay with some conditions. It was not to be a permanent and the children must go to school. Belle would have medical care for pneumonia and Herman was to find a job. children must go to school. Belle would have medical care for pneumonia and Herman was to find a job.

Analiese and Isahah Colburn, who had been her mentor and a Catholic priest, fell in love, were married and soon were expecting a child. He became a part of the ministry of the church.

The parish house was fixed up and became a homeless shelter. As Analiese looked up at a rose-stained glass window in the sanctuary, she said, "Sunlight is a reminder that God is the source of everything".

And the King shall answer and say unto them, "Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as you have done it until one of the least of these, my brethren, you have done it unto me." Matthew 25:40

FEED A FAMILY of Four FOR THANKSGIVING

*Give Thanks by Helping Other
Families Enjoy a Nice Meal!*

There are over 1000 families from Bedford and Franklin Counties who will have a holiday dinner for Thanksgiving because we care about them! The Agape Center not only helps with food but they help with clothing, toys, furniture & appliances. Each family is assigned a mentor to talk with them concerning their physical, emotional and spiritual needs and God's love for them. Help make a difference and sponsor a family for Thanksgiving.

**TOGETHER WE CAN
MAKE A DIFFERENCE**
With God all Things are possible!
Matthew 19:26

Please make checks payable to:
The Agape Center

PO Box 573, Moneta, Va. 24121

Or

Donate on-line at:

www.agapecentersmk@aol.org

If you have any questions, please call:

The Agape Center — 540-298-0808

Dinner for Thanksgiving 2017

\$25.00 per Family of Four

Each Thanksgiving Dinner includes Turkey, Green Beans, Corn, Potatoes and Stuffing

I would like to sponsor _____ families.

Total amount \$ _____

The Agape Center - PO Box 573

1159 Promised Land Road, Moneta, VA 24121