



Where Needs Meet AGAPE Love

July, 2019

Agape Center Lynchburg News

AGAPE MEMBER CHURCHES

Bedrock Church—Franklin County

Bedrock Community Church

Covenant Fellowship

Franklin Heights at Rocky Mount
- Cross Pointe & Union Hall

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



The Agape Center Lynchburg
has published its first newsletter! *You can subscribe
(or read on-line) at
www.agapelyh.org/contact.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

October 11-13—Charity Home Tour — Sign-up in break room or Sue's office.

Mom and Daughter Credit God With Their Recoveries From Drugs

Treva's Story

Even after becoming ensnared in a sex-trafficking ring, engaging in prostitution, and experiencing several near-death accidents with drugs that were contaminated and a suicide attempt, Treva Doss was still undeterred from using drugs. The eleven-year slide into more dangerous drugs and riskier behaviors separated her from her daughter finally brought her to the Roanoke Rescue Mission. There, out of hundred people in line for dinner, she met the man who had found her in a ditch and got her to the hospital. She finally acknowledged that God was saving her life. She says, "I realized that He saw me as worthwhile and that He had a purpose for me."

"I had started this drug habit with pain pills when I was twenty three years old, and my daughter was two. I was ashamed of myself and didn't want to keep dropping in and out of my daughter's life. The weekend of her sixth birthday party I disappeared from her life for another year as I felt I couldn't continue to ruin her life as well. I convinced myself she was better off without me. It wasn't until she was 9 or 10 that she learned my problem was drugs, and had nothing to do with her.

"It was at this point that I realized God was pursuing me. I admitted that God didn't hate me; that it was God who was saving my life; and that He saw my life was worth saving; and that He had a purpose for me. I wasn't clean, but God gave me a sign that I was worth saving. The first thing I said, 'God you are good! Thank you for loving me'."



Treva Doss, left, has been drug-free for sixteen months. Her mother, Sandra Beard, has been drug-free for eighteen months. Treva has been an Agape client for nearly one year; her mom, Sandra, has been a client for nearly six months.

Treva says, "They really care about me at Agape. The volunteers do wonderful work. I appreciate the warm and inviting prayers."

See RECOVERIES, 3

By the Numbers . . .

June 2019
Families 796
Individuals 2754

June 2018
Families 788
Individuals 2703

July 2019 Volume 11 Issue 7

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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Welcome New Volunteers

Gloria Bishop – Clothing , Pantry
Savanna Carter — USDA , Store, Pantry
Rachelle Carlson — USDA , Runner, Mentor
Nadia Cooper – Clothing
Jenna Dellis – Clothing
Laura Dellis – Clothing
Jason Dickerson – Furniture
Catherine 'Cat' Dill - Pantry, Furniture
David Koger – Pantry , Store/Stock, Mentor
Barbara Koger – Runner, Organizer
Keith Lindsay – Furniture
Timmy Massey II – Furniture
Brayden Merrick – Furniture, Pantry
Mia Rose Perry - Store
Lisa Salem Scott – USDA , Pantry
Keira Smith – Clothing
William 'Lee' Statome – Furniture, Pantry
Connie Weaver – Clothing, Gift Baskets
Nathan Weaver – Furniture, Pantry

Recoveries: Family is Moving Forward, Together, With God

FROM 3

Sandra's Story

Sandra Beard has seen her family in a cycle of pills, drugs, and hazardous behaviors. Her own addictive lifestyle began with oxycontin for pain. After she and her husband separated, she moved to Alaska. Without any accountability and virtually no one even knowing where she was, she ended up on the streets, homeless and addicted.

She said, "I didn't want to bring this lifestyle back to my family in Virginia, so I was determined to get clean before returning home. I was able to get clean for three months, during a stint in a women's shelter. I returned to Virginia clean, but it didn't take long for the drugs to find me here. Eventually I went through a treatment program and have now been drug-free for 18 months."

She continued, "It was Easter Sunday, 2018, when I decided to return to church. During the past year I got my driver's license back, a reliable vehicle, and I have place to live. A year ago I had two suitcases and the clothes on my back.

"This has taken a toll on our family. I grieve for my family and my grandkids. It is only by the hand of God that I'm alive—that I'm not killed; dead; or in prison for the

things I have done. I know God has stopped me from the need for drugs. I know God has healed me and is healing and restoring my family.

"I have one daughter in prison for drug offenses; Treva is now drug-free; and my youngest daughter is also now drug-free."

Forward Together, With God

Treva said, "I have now begun my relationship with God even though I know I didn't deserve Him and I wasn't worthy. Now I understand that I am important to him. I was involved with church when I was a child, but satan told me I wasn't worthy to be a Christian. Once I started doing drugs, I knew I wasn't the Treva He created, so I never even considered going 'back to God.' I didn't think God would even listen to me.

"We are both recovering addicts. I will be recovering the rest of my life. I know I have been saved for a reason, though I don't know exactly what that is. I want to be ready to take advantage of this opportunity."

Sandra concludes, "I feel God has given me one last chance and want to take advantage of it."



Carol Morgan, our Tuesday Gift Shop clerk, proudly displays our holiday tree, all decked out for Independence Day!

The Letter

One of our clients, Mary gives us a letter every time she comes in. She shares her gratitude towards God for all of us. She prays everyday for the Agape Center Lynchburg. Coming to the center is the highlight of her month. She feels loved by God when she comes to her appointment every month.

Tabitha North,
Executive Director
Agape Lynchburg

A LETTER FROM A SPECIAL CLIENT TO AGAPE.... "GOD BLESS EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR US. GOD MUST HAVE SENT YOU TO US." YOUR FRIEND IN JESUS, MARY

*...the things you
...my Bible says
...and some
...nature
...is my life!
...get each month
...I don't
...I don't use. I thank
...of you all of you.
...9 years ago with
...I kept him here with me
...and
...the tone. She lost
...into dinner
...of the brain he was missing
...9 months before he
...passed away and it had ended
...being here not here with me
...to help I had a 16 yr old son
...and he was*

Two GA Classes Unite for Reunion



Front row - from Class #5: Sheila Flood, Tamika Felix, Mary Jane Poor;

Back row - from Class #4: Judy Jones, Lois Murphy-Brown.

In June, two Getting Ahead classes joined together to encourage each other, share life stories and reassess progress toward getting ahead. Though challenges and difficulties remain, all were positive about their life situations and especially their faith and trust in God despite hard times.

Tamika Felix had written a poem about her life in her GA class which began in October of 2018. Now, eight months later, she shared another poem reflecting her victory over depression.

DEPRESSION

by Tamika Felix, October 2018

*Days go by when I think that I'm good.
But then I realize that I'm depressed.
I'll lose 3 lbs., then gain 5 back;
and become depressed again.
I look in the mirror and stare at my chipped tooth and
hate my smile;
and I become depressed again.
Then I look at my hair, and even though it's growing back,
it's depressing to remember why I was baldheaded in the
first place. (She had cancer)
So day by day, I think I'm good, but all in all I realized
after looking in the mirror, I'm depressed.*

A JOURNEY AHEAD FROM DEPRESSION

by Tamika Felix, June 21, 2019

*My days are busy; no longer are the nights long.
Sleep comes easy after the sun has set and gone.
No longer do I pace, trying to still my racing thoughts.
My days are busy, too busy to let idle thoughts race.
Depression still tries to come in, but I fight my way out.
Busy, busy, busy is my only way out.*

Donations Help Fund Groceries and Gifts



Ride for Hope, co-sponsored by Radford Baptist Church and the SML Christian Motorcycle Association, recently raised over \$800 for Christmas gifts for children of Agape clients. Above left, Judy Harper, Pantry Director, and her husband, Gordy, participated in the Ride for Hope.



Kroger Westlake recently presented \$500 to Agape's Executive Director, Sue Lipscomb, to celebrate their Grand Re-Opening. As a part of the occasion, Kroger employees were asked to vote on their favorite local charity, and the top four vote-getters, including Agape, were selected. Thank you, Kroger! The funds will be used for groceries for clients.

Joyous Junque, at Resurrection Catholic Church, netted over \$100,000 for local charities. Each charity that provided assistance to set-up and tear-down the massive sale that occurs every June received a portion of the proceeds. Agape was awarded \$1600, which will be used for groceries for clients.



**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 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!**

From The Agape Book Shelf

One True Thing

By Anna Quindlen



Diane Davis
Agape Book Reviewer

Katherine Gulden had terminal cancer. She had surgery, chemotherapy, and was now on morphine for her pain. Her daughter, Ellen, gave up her apartment and job in the city to become her mother's caregiver.

As Katherine's pain became unbearable and her body became weaker, she begged her daughter to please help her end her suffering. As Ellen passed her mother's bedroom door one night, she heard her mom say to her father, "Please." Later, Ellen saw her dad feeding her mother rice pudding. Upon returning to her mother's bedside later, Katherine was dead.

After an investigation, Ellen was placed under arrest. The autopsy showed high amounts of morphine sulfate in Katherine's blood. Ellen was later released from jail due to insufficient evidence.

Later, when talking with her father, he said he understood why Ellen had helped her mother end her life, but that he just couldn't do it. She answered, "I did not do it!" Each of them had believed the other had fed Katherine the morphine.

Perhaps Katherine had overdosed on her own; maybe the morphine drip had malfunctioned; or just maybe the Lord had simply taken Katherine home. *One True Thing* is that life does not go on.

Every human being is appointed to die once, and then to face God's judgment. Hebrews 9:27 (TPT)

WHY I SERVE ...

"As a pastor's wife, working at Agape is 'stress relief' for me. Meeting with clients and volunteers is so enjoyable, and the unity in spirit among the volunteers is so refreshing."



Cora Arthur, Moneta
USDA
Volunteer since 2015

Volunteers in Training!

A second generation of volunteers are in training: from left, Jace Mills, age 6; Matthew Mills, age 3, sons of Ashley Mills, Gift Baskets; Maddie Kidd, age 4, granddaughter of Kay Brown, Gift Baskets; and Rose Bell, age 3, granddaughter of Eileen Hawkins, Director of Gifts.

