



**Where Needs Meet AGAPE Love**

September, 2017

## CHARITY HOME TOUR AROUND THE CORNER!

### 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 — September 28  
Tuesday—October 10  
Thursday—October 26

Agape's Charity Home Tour Committee is very excited and ready to see how God is going to use us in this annual event at SML. Through our participation in hosting a home, we have the privilege of sharing the ministry of the Agape Center with the community and the visitors to the Lake during the weekend of October 6-7-8.

We do still need help from our Agape volunteers inside the home and in the parking. There are a surprising number of folks who **always** volunteer but are traveling during that time, making it necessary for others to get involved. Agape will not be open that weekend, so:

Would you consider volunteering if you have not signed up?

Would you consider a second shift during the weekend?

Would you invite a friend to work with you on your shift?

Would you consider being available in case of last minute cancellations?

The numbers and needs are constantly changing; please contact our volunteer coordinators to see where you can serve: Carol Moyer ([carolmoyer1960@gmail.com](mailto:carolmoyer1960@gmail.com) or 540-538-6230); Linda Leedy ([lindarleedy@outlook.com](mailto:lindarleedy@outlook.com); or 540-263-0255).

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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

**October 6-8 — Charity Home Tour**—Contact Carol Moyer or Linda Leedy (above)

**October 9—December 4— Getting Ahead program**

**October 21—Run for the Children—8:30 am—Agape** (See Page 3)

**October 28—Ride For Hope—10:30 am—Radford Baptist Church** (See Page 8)

**October 26 —Thanksgiving—Feed a Family of Four** (See Page 9)

## Gospel Bracelet Leads Client to Jesus

Angela Jaramillo recently returned from Guatemala where she and her team members used the Gospel bracelet to share the message of Jesus with the Guatemalans. (See story on page 6)

Now back home, Angela was committed to use her Gospel bracelet in her mentoring role at Agape. She had just finished mentoring Erica Hancock when she remembered that she had not shared the bracelet message with her. Erica was already shopping for her birthday gift in the Gift Shop when Angela caught up with her. Angela told Erica how she had used this bracelet to share the message of the Gospel in Guatemala recently, and asked Erica if she would like to hear it. Erica was very interested as Angela explained: "The first bead is yellow, representing the streets of gold in heaven, a place where there can be no sin. The second bead is black, representing the sin that each of us has. The red bead represents the blood that Jesus shed when He died for our sins, and the white bead represents the cleansing of our hearts that occurs when we accept Jesus as our Savior. When a person admits they are a sinner, believes that Jesus died to take the punishment for that sin, and then chooses to receive Jesus as their Savior, He forgives sins. The green bead represents growing in new life as a child of God."



**Angela Jaramillo and her new sister in Christ, Erica Hancock.**

Angela asked Erica if she would like to receive Jesus as her Savior and offered to lead her in a prayer of repentance.

Erica accepted Jesus in the Gift Shop as her two daughters watched. She said, "I am excited to have someone explain to me how to be a Christian. I had not understood this before."

Erica was interested in finding a church and recalled that an invitation had recently arrived in her mail, regarding a new church near her home in Union Hall. Carol Moyer, Member Church Liaison, was working in the Pantry and came out to help connect Erica and her girls to the church, which was recently 'planted' in Union Hall by Franklin Heights Baptist Church. So now Erica and her girls are on their way to growing as Christians!



**The Gospel Bracelet (left), also known as the Salvation Bracelet, originated as the Wordless Book, a book with pages the colors of gold, black, red, white, and green. It was invented in 1866 by famous London Baptist preacher, Charles Spurgeon. Several hundred orphans were the first to be introduced to the Wordless Book, and since then, the books and bracelets have been used around the world to share in the simple, understandable way how much God loves us and has provided a way to be a part of His family.**

### By the Numbers Served. . .

**August, 2017**  
Families 824  
Individuals 2842

**August, 2016**  
Families 813  
Individuals 2683

### Welcome New Volunteers

Dave Hampton — Pantry  
Christine Martin — Data  
Rick Reece — Furniture  
Deborah Senga — Data-Reception  
Laci Walker - Pantry

### September 2017 Volume 9 Issue 9

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

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## Two Complete Bible Study

Clients Judy Jones and Melanie Overstreet celebrated completion of their first Agape Bible Study, "The Uniqueness of Jesus" at the Homestead Creamery. Iris Mills, Mentor, was instrumental in both of their lives, recently leading Judy to receive Jesus and encouraging Melanie to commit to a Bible study.

They did the weekly study with Karen Baker, and are ready to embark on their next one, "Journey Through the Old Testament", which begins September 20 and meets at Agape Member Church Cross-Pointe. New participants are always welcome; contact Karen Baker at [karenbaker015@gmail.com](mailto:karenbaker015@gmail.com).



From left, Bible study leader Karen Baker, Judy Jones, Melanie Overstreet, and Mentor Iris Mills.



## Grant Provides New Smile

Agape Client Patricia Kone was so excited to show off her new smile! She lamented, "I lost my smile when I lost my teeth." With multiple dental issues, Patricia has gone through three years of jaw surgery, braces, extractions, and infections to rehabilitate her smile. "I cried so hard when they were pulling my teeth, and the harder they pulled, the more I cried," she said. "But when I heard that my request for financial assistance for my dentures was approved, I cried tears of happiness. I am sure I was the happiest person in the world when I was approved." Agape has received funding from foundations and individuals, and based on the client's county, we are able to help some clients with unusual physical issues. And that assistance gave one client a very happy smile.

## Churches Challenged to Run for the Children

Agape's Sixteen Member Churches are encouraged to participate in the Agape Run for the Children 5K on October 21. All proceeds from the event will be used to purchase 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 in several categories for runners. Santa and Mrs Claus will be cheering the participants, along with their elves. Participants can register on line at [www.agapecentersml.org](http://www.agapecentersml.org) or on line at <https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Moneta/AgapeRunForTheChildren5K> or at the event itself (Registration opens 8:00 AM – October 21). Cost of the run/walk is \$30/person, using the online registration, or \$35/person at the time/location of the race.

Representatives are available to come to your church to speak about the event or to sign-up participants at any service between now and the event. Volunteers are also needed on event day, October 21. Please contact Randy Quay to volunteer or for more information at 540/759-0975.



SATURDAY, 21 OCTOBER 2017 @9AM

# RUN FOR THE CHILDREN 5K

AGAPE CENTER IN MONETA, VA

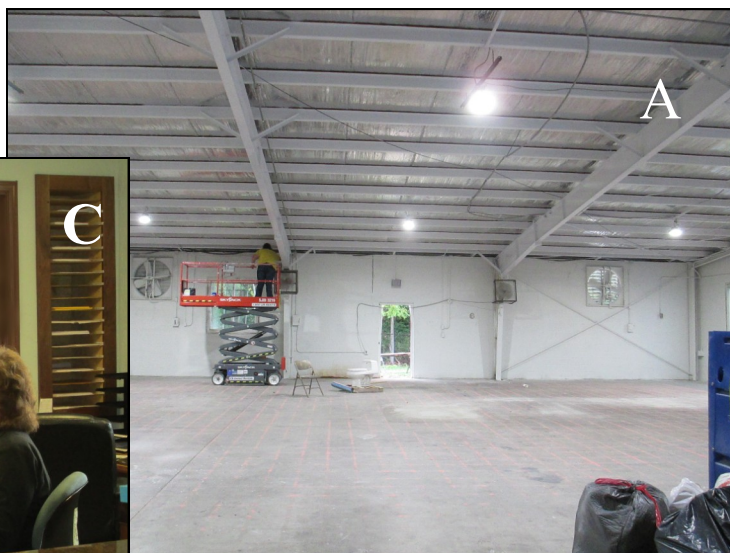


## Agape's Warehouse Ready to Fill



God has provided the funds to continue the renovation of the space formerly occupied by the Furniture Department. After installing new LED lighting, and painting the entire space white, adding a couple new doors and creating a new restroom, the space is now ready for shelving. [A] God provided steel shelving, [B] which will be used by Linens, Household, Books, Toiletries and Receiving. Jeff Mangold is overseeing this project, and is very pleased with the progress being made.

Volunteers have completed the front office renovations [C] with the Scheduling office relocated to the area by the Gift Shop. [D] The USDA cubicles have been relocated to the former conference room [E], and Data has relocated the file room. Future plans include additional mentor offices and relocation of the telephone office.





## Dave Wolf Accepts New Position as Assistant Pantry Director

Dave Wolf has made a positive impact on the face of Agape, as designer and administrator of Agape's website and Face book presence. He is also trained to administer the USDA-client interaction, but his true love is the Pantry. He says, "No matter who is scheduled to work in the pantry, each day is a harmonious effort, providing food for each client and family who come to Agape. The supervisors are great, and everybody works together as a cohesive team."

Dave feels he has a specific role in providing optional items for our male clients based on his own tastes in food. "If I like something, then I assume another man, especially one living alone, would enjoy it so I add that to the cart; if I don't like it, then I tend to assume other men wouldn't like it either. I imagine myself at the other end of the line, receiving the food. Since I don't bake, I assume other men wouldn't use baking products!" he says with a smile.

Dave has been promoted to the new position of Assistant Director for the Pantry. He will be assisting Pantry Director, Judy Harper, in all aspects of Pantry management, including the interaction with Feeding America, and other organizations who provide groceries and other products for the Pantry. Judy says, "I am so blessed to have Dave Wolf assisting

me in leading the Pantry. He has agreed to help however we need him as his job schedule allows. His first major task was helping to coordinate and move the food stored in the old Furniture Department into the pantry. He has such a heart for the Pantry and a sharp mind for details! He noticed unused space, addressed safety concerns and made great suggestions for improvements. He and the Arthur family worked so hard helping to get the food sorted and moved!"

When he and his wife Susan, also an Agape volunteer, first moved to the SML area in 2014, they heard about Agape through Radford Baptist Church. They both are involved with the SML Lions Club, she as secretary, and he with the school vision program for students. He also enjoys providing tax services for seniors and low-income people in the area through the Lions Club. He said, "We love living here; it is so different from vacationing here. I am grateful we are here because Susan really thrives here. It is a joy to see her anticipate each new day at the Lake."



**Dave Wolf has added new responsibilities to his duties at Agape as Assistant Director of the Pantry. He also maintains Agape's website and Face book page, as well as working in the USDA Department.**

### School Supplies provided for over 800 Agape students

Thanks to Monica Berger and Iris Mills for coordinating another successful year, providing over 800 students with the supplies they need to start the year well.

**Kindergarten —85  
Elementary —341  
Middle/High School—385**

## Mission Trip Puts Faith Into Action for Two Agape Mentors

Debbie Cocrane and Angela Jaramillo recently went on their first foreign mission trip; they travelled to Guatemala with about 45 others from nine churches in Virginia and Louisiana. Debbie is from EastLake Community Church and Angela is from Blue Ridge Community Church. They both volunteer as Agape Mentors; Debbie also is a Floor Supervisor and Angela also works as a runner.

Debbie says, "I had always wanted to go to share the good news with people who didn't know it. When this trip was announced, I was available and I wanted to be obedient to Jesus' command to tell others about His love." When Angela found out Debbie was going, "I immediately knew this was the opportunity I had been praying for 8 years. It was in my heart to have this experience because of the joy I have through Jesus, especially whenever I serve others. My sister, Louisa, also went; it was her first mission trip as well."

Debbie continued, "Initially, I didn't know what we would be doing, so I just had to trust that God would provide the work I was to do. As it turned out, there were three nurses, so we decided to provide medical clinics with a local doctor. I had face-



**Angela Jaramillo (left) and Debbie Cocrane (right) with Dr Natareno, a local physician who in addition to his medical clinic, makes visits to villages to provide care to his people.**



**Debbie Cocrane, far left, in a home visit.**

to-face contact with everyone who came to the clinic and it was very humbling to see their appreciation for our help. The primary complaints were intestinal parasites, which we were able to provide medicine that would be effective for one year."

Angela, originally from Columbia, provided interpreter services for two of the clinics. She also spent time with the abuelitos – grandparents. A local ministry offers a daily program for grandparents, which includes a nutritious breakfast, Bible study, worship and socializa-

tion. Angela took photos of each abuelito with her phone. She says, "That was a highlight for them. They were so excited to see their photos."

The team brought about 500 pairs of shoes and Angela was part of the distribution team, bringing the shoes to a local school, washing the children's feet and giving them a pair of shoes that fit them. Debbie was able to do home visits and to pray blessings on the families and their homes.

The team used handmade Gospel bracelets to explain the message of Jesus throughout their week in Guatemala. That has given both of them boldness and renewed energy to share this message wherever they are. Debbie has been able to distribute and explain the Gospel message with several of her Agape clients, and their children. She said, "I didn't realize the boldness I got from this mission." Angela travelled to Europe after her mission, and was able to share the message of the Gospel with several people due to wearing her bracelet. Angela concluded, "What I got from the trip is how faithful God is. I wake up early each day to spend time with God. On this trip, He kept waking me earlier each day so I could spend more time with Him before my day started. I especially asked God to keep me healthy so I could fully serve each day, and to keep me alert to all that He has for me. Every day I was healthy; I was full of joy; I was strong; I had peace knowing that His word will not return void. I felt the intentionality of each day, and I came home with the same expectation: that God will make me alert each day to His presence and His direction for me."



**Angela Jaramillo (center rear in white top) helped distribute over 500 pairs of shoes to school children.**



## Family Christmas Baskets Planned

In an effort to give quality and useful gifts for our Agape clients, Christmas basket preparation is in full swing. This year, a 'basket' for each family will provide a new towel (the most requested household item we get), along with other needed items, such as shampoo.

Children's baskets will be based on the age/sex of the child. The Angel Tree gifts tags provided to churches will solicit one item for a child of a specific age and sex, valued at \$30.

We are recruiting teens who can work as Christmas Runners during the holidays between November 21 and December 21. These Christmas Runners will keep the Gift shop stocked and search for specific items during the hours Agape is open.

For more information or to sign-up your group, contact Karen Jones at 540/296-0609.

### How you can help with Baskets:

- ◆ Purchase new bath towels at Walmart for the family baskets.
- ◆ Purchase toys for children valued at \$30.
- ◆ Purchase gift cards for Walmart that volunteers will use to shop for toys and towels.
- ◆ Bring a group of friends to put the baskets together. (To schedule a time, contact Eileen at 540/352-0844)
- ◆ Invite friends and teens to help in the Gift Shop from November 21-December 21. Contact Karen Jones (540/296-0609) to schedule.

### From The Agape Book Shelf

*I Grew Up Little*  
Patsy Clairmont



Diane Davis  
Agape Book Reviewer

Patsy Clairmont was born in Detroit in 1945. Her father was a milkman, her mom a homemaker. Patsy took after her mom and was only five feet tall. During her childhood, her mom had bouts of depression. Patsy was later diagnosed with a form of agoraphobia.

Patsy and Les were married when she was only seventeen and Les, eighteen. Les was sent to Kentucky to finish training and for assignment by the US Army to Germany.

Upon the birth of their son, Patsy's behavior became frenzied. Her depression and lack of interest in life continued to grow. She was enrolled in Recovery, Inc by her doctor for treatment. This laid the groundwork for her recovery.

Patsy found her way back to the Lord, as she learned to face her fears through her faith and by God's grace. She prayed and searched the scriptures and through God's grace, learned to accept the good things God had planned for her.

She became a book reviewer for Christian books, and ultimately, the Lord turned that into a full-time speaking and writing ministry. Her experience shows how the Lord uses the broken and unlikely in many situations. Thank God for that!

This was a beautiful story showing that our precious Lord can and will use us no matter how broken we are if we will just look to Him for our strength. DD

## GAP Needs Volunteers

The Getting Ahead Program (GAP) will be starting on October 9, meeting on Mondays and Wednesday until December 4. The co-facilitators, Jan Hogle and Mark Plumb, have identified 17 strong candidates who have applied and qualified for the next session. Dorothy Harper, a GAP graduate, will also be a part of the facilitation team.

**Volunteers are needed for childcare and for food.** There are three children of GAP participants who need to be loved and cared for during the program. We especially need people on Wednesdays, and on Mondays as back-ups. Please contact childcare coordinator, Debbie Cocrane to help: 703/599-3854

Brunch is served at each session, and has sparked a lot of conversation, camaraderie, and bonding between the participants. This is an essential element of the program. We need volunteers who would bring the food to the new kitchen in the Meeting Center by 8:15 am and be done by 9:30 am. To help with this, please contact Linda Leedy at [540-263-0255](tel:540-263-0255) or [lindarleedy@outlook.com](mailto:lindarleedy@outlook.com).

### CMA Ride for Hope to Benefit Agape

The SML Christian Motorcycle Association will again be sponsoring a Ride for Hope to benefit Agape. The event is co-sponsored with Radford Baptist Church, and will take place on Saturday, October 28. Kick Stands Up at 11:30 am. Last year, over \$1500 was raised for Agape clients with over 100 bikers participating.

For more info, contact Steve LeMay at [540-721-1969](tel:540-721-1969), or Pastor Karl Hofheinz at [karl@radfordbaptist.com](mailto:karl@radfordbaptist.com).

**RIDE FOR HOPE**  
THE ANSWER IS... JESUS  
2017

Sponsored by Radford Baptist Church Moneta VA

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 28 REGISTER 10:30AM-11:15AM**

1293 Radford Church Rd., Moneta VA KSU 11:30 AM

**\$20.00 SUGGESTED DONATION PER BIKE**

**PROCEEDS TO HELP AGAPE CENTER OF MONETA**

60 mile ESCORTED ride with no stops. Arrive back at destination for LUNCH and a message of HOPE

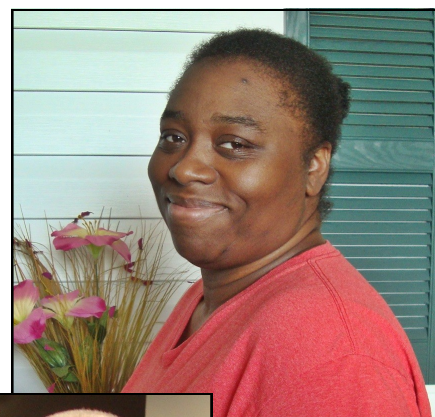
Jesus saith to him, I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh to the father but by me. John 14:6

In case of RAIN check facebook page CMA Smith Mountain Lake

For more info email [oldpartsofconstructioncycle.com](mailto:oldpartsofconstructioncycle.com) [karl@radfordbaptist.com](mailto:karl@radfordbaptist.com) 540-721-1969

**FREE LUNCH PROVIDED AFTER RIDE**

**FIRST 100 TO REGISTER RECEIVE EVENT PIN**



The GAP Facilitation Team—From Top: Dorothy Harper Mark Plumb Jan Hogle



# 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 of four 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

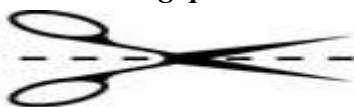
Or

Donate on-line at:

[www.agapecentersml@aol.org](mailto:www.agapecentersml@aol.org)

If you have any questions, please call:

*The Agape Center* - 540-296-0609



***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**

**[www.agapecentersml.org](http://www.agapecentersml.org)**