

Where Needs Meet AGAPE Love

June, 2019

Summer Students Help Agape

AGAPE MEMBER CHURCHES

Bedrock Church—Franklin
County

Bedrock Community Church

Covenant Fellowship

CrossPointe/Franklin Heights
Church

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



Twelve summer students from Staunton River High School served Agape as part of their Leadership Through Service Program. Above from left: Michelle Kist; Aubriana Coe(9th grade); Shannon Thomas; Kayla Li (10th grade); and Denise Li (12th grade). Michelle Kist, Spanish teacher, and Shannon Thomas, English teacher, are the program's co-sponsors.

See **STUDENTS**, 7

Agape Board Elects New Officers



Agape's new Executive Committee of the Board,
from left: Don Frase, Treasurer; Bob Winters, Vice President;
Jim Day, President; and Carol Moyer, Secretary.

See **BOARD**, 4

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

October 11-13—Charity Home Tour — More info coming!

God Is My Most Effective 'Nerve' Pill

"I was having so much trouble breathing, I couldn't even say where to go—the doctor's office or the emergency department (ED). I thought I was dying, but at the same time, I felt God's hands on my shoulders. He was saying, 'I can let you go, or I can help you.' I couldn't speak, for lack of oxygen, but in my mind, I was crying out for help."

Brenda Divers, an Agape client since 2013, says, "I owe Him; I owe Him my life. Even though I had been saved for many years, in that moment, I truly understood that **He Had Me!**"

She later told her daughter-in-law, who had taken her to the hospital, that God was in the car with them. "I was talking to Him. I saw the back of His head, with His arms on my shoulders in the visor mirror. She didn't believe me, and insisted that I had been conversing with her the entire trip to the ED. Then she challenged me to look inside the car. There were no mirrors on either of the car's visors! But yet, I know I saw Him and heard His voice.

"I returned home a few days later after being hospitalized, and my son saw the half-carton of cigarettes on the counter. I had said I didn't need to smoke anymore, so he took the carton. I have not had a single cigarette in my mouth or in my hand since June, 2018. I don't need them anymore. God completely took away my desire. Only God could do this; I'd been smoking for 51 years, since I was 17 years old!"

Brenda concluded, "I used to tell people that cigarettes were the best nerve pill I'd ever had. Now my nerve pill is God! I read my Bible every day, even when I don't understand it. I know this is a miracle that only God could do in my life, and I am very thankful."



Welcome New Volunteers

Julie Arthur — Clothing, Pantry
Zachariah Bryant — Furniture Pick-up
Pat Fox — Clothing
Clarence Justice — Pantry
Shelly Kist — Toys
Ginger WV Tice — Clothing, Linen
Chris Wells — Furniture Pick-up

By the Numbers . . .

May 2019
 Families 778
 Individuals 2674

May 2018
 Families 749
 Individuals 2558

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AGAPE OPEN TOPS \$21,000 IN FUNDS RAISED!

The 15th Annual Agape Open held on May 18 at The Westlake raised over \$21,000 for the Agape Center in Moneta. Nine Tournament Sponsors led with contributions totaling \$10,000. Bob Winters, chair of the event, said, "The Agape Open Team is so humbled by the generosity of so many businesses and individuals here at the lake, both from a volunteer perspective as well as financially. The success of the 15th Annual Agape Open will contribute significantly to the daily operations providing food, clothing, mentoring and needed essentials to those in need. May God continue to bless this wonderful ministry."

Tournament sponsors included Carl Grove (Edward Jones); Distribution Specialists, Inc.; Eastlake Community Church; Gifts Ahoy, Bridgewater Sportswear, and Fun N Games Arcade; Integrity Financial Planning, Inc.; Radon Medical Imaging; Shumaker Industries; Bob and Lynn Winters; Bruce and Darby Smith; and Phyllis & Casey Johnson (Re/Max Lakefront Realty). Five Gold Sponsors, 20 Hole Sponsors, 20 Program Sponsors, and 36 Friends of Agape rounded out the supporting companies, organizations, and individuals. Sue Frase provided a delicious dinner for the tournament award ceremony.

First Place Team Winners: Roy Cummings, Joey Phillips, and Drew Phillips; Second Place Team Winners: Fred McCain, Jeff Thomas, and Brent Jenkins; Third Place Team Winners: Roger Walker, Chris Hays, and Norman Barker; Longest Drive, (Men) Donny Williamson; (Women) Jesse Pierce; Closest to the Pin, (Men) John Williamson; (Women) Carolyn Gordon.



First Place Team members from left: Roy Cummings, Drew Phillips, and Joey Phillips.



"I love coming to Agape because everyone here is so nice. We have felt so welcome, and I wanted to give back for all the help our family has received," Matthew Puckett said. When he came for his monthly appointment and saw a sign for help needed in the Furniture Department, he asked his Mentor, Gene Suggs about it. That day, he signed up, and one week later he was on the job!



Walmart recently ran a food drive throughout their stores for Feeding America's America Fight Hunger Spark Change Campaign. The Bonsack Walmart provided this large bin of pre-made sacks of groceries for Agape. Judy Harper, Pantry Director, said, "What a huge blessing for our clients!"

WHY I SERVE ...



I volunteer because it makes a difference and I always get the opportunity to use Scripture to present Jesus to everyone I speak with. I have seen the difference in people's lives in that process.

Scott Moyer, Moneta
Mentor
Volunteer since 2011



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!

Agape Board Installs New Members, Elects New Officers



The Board of Directors recently installed new officers and new members, as other members' terms were completed. Board Members from left, top row: Marti Anderson, Carol Moyer, Sue Lipscomb, Karen Jones; front row: Bob Winters, Jim Day, Bill Griggs, and Don Frase. Not pictured: Gene Suggs and newest Members, Mike Burzynski and Ron Cordell. All of the Board Members also serve as volunteers in various capacities throughout the organization as well. Much appreciation is expressed to outgoing Board members, Carl Grove, past President, and Bill Parker.

Agape and Our Community



A group from Palestine Baptist Church assisted Agape in the Clothing, Pantry, and Data Departments. From left: Sarah Maslen, 11th grade; Rave Smith, 10th grade; Kelly Miller, Johnny Huddleston, Pam Morris, Julie Arthur and Laura Dellis.



Agape's Executive Director, Sue Lipscomb, and Karen Jones, Assistant Director, met with the SML Kiwanis Club at the Dairy Queen to discuss Agape!

Current Store and Basket Needs

The Agape Store is in need of
**MEN'S ITEMS AND
MEN'S CLOTHING!**

Additionally, the Gift Department is in need of garden items, beach items and gift items in general for birthday baskets.



FOR AGAPE LOVE

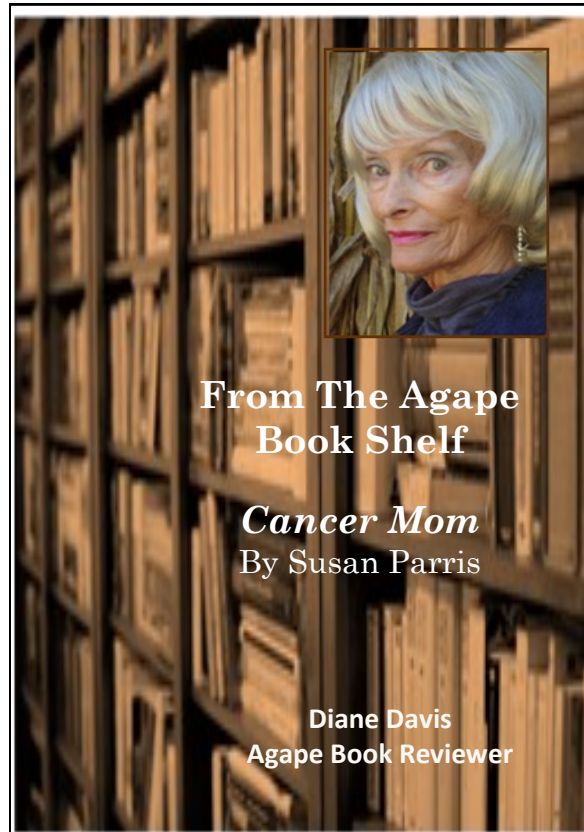
Jan Hogle, an Agape Mentor, Trainer, and Coordinator of the Getting Ahead Program, doesn't just pour herself out for our Agape clients, but annually has travelled to the Czech Republic to share her love of Jesus. In May, Jan was a part of a six-member team sent by International Messengers to conduct an English as a second language "camp" for adults in picturesque Malenovice, Czech Republic. She was responsible for creating and conducting morning workshops, including one on generations called "Mind the Generation Gap". (She gave a "dry run" of this workshop to Agape volunteers several months ago which really helped a lot.) She also taught English, Bible reading and conversation classes each day.



Jan Hogle (third from left) with the International Messengers Team.

What's the connection with Agape love? Jan explains, "Just as we show unconditional "agape" love to our clients here in Moneta, Virginia, so our Czech team determined and prayed to do the same for our 17 students. We went where they were – physically and spiritually – rather than preaching our position. We listened intently and had such rich deep conversations and interactions with these precious men and women. The amazing thing about this kind of active listening is that it opens the door for them to want to listen to us.

One example Jan told was of a young man who asked her how long she had been married. His question was really a cry for help as he was having marriage problems. He asked Jan how she and her husband had made it to over 50 years of marriage. She was able to respond that "God was and is the glue of our marriage. Later, a teammate followed up with a 3-hour conversation during which she listened and then shared a little of her own marital story, describing how Jesus had been the essential healing power for her and her husband!"



From The Agape Book Shelf

Cancer Mom
By Susan Parris

Diane Davis
Agape Book Reviewer

Susan Parris is thirty-four years old. She has two small children and works in a bank as marketing director. Her husband, Stan, is a pastor.

Suddenly and without warning, Susan finds a small lump in her breast. After her mammogram with ultrasound and biopsy, Susan is diagnosed with breast cancer. So begins the surgery, chemo, and illness that comes with it. Susan asked the same questions that all of us ask when we are given such a diagnosis: What did I do wrong? Why did this happen to me? What do I do now?

Susan is a Christian and has a beautiful relationship with Christ. She also has a large number of friends that are Christians and they all prayed for her to win this battle. They knew that God is in control of all the seasons of our lives.

Susan hopes to pay it forward to others faced with illnesses. She can now actually use her own personal experiences as she witnesses to others that are lost and hurting. Susan thanks God that she can proudly say, "I am a cancer survivor."

Editor's Note: Stan Parris is the Senior Pastor at Franklin Heights Baptist Church.

STUDENTS: Staunton River High School Students Serve

From 1

Twelve students from Staunton River High School spent their first week of summer vacation serving their local community through a camp program, Leadership through Service. The Twenty-First Century program is a federally-funded three-year grant, which affords students the opportunity to explore service in their local community. Michelle Kist, co-sponsor of the program, said, "This program is designed to specifically offer students extra-curricular service activities they might not otherwise be involved in. Each day throughout the week, the students worked at a different local non-profit, learning about the agency's mission, the needs being addressed and the people being served. The majority of the students had no idea of the needs in our community, nor the organizations who provided services."

At Agape, the students worked in the Toy Department and in the Clothing Department. They were amazed at the mountain of clothing donations, and especially enjoyed cleaning, repairing, and organizing the toys for Christmas gifts for area children.

The program is open to all students, from rising freshmen to rising seniors. The program not only benefits the students with a broader sense of their community, but helps with job opportunities and scholarship options in the future. Kist, a Spanish teacher, and Shannon Thomas, an English teacher, volunteered to sponsor the program and felt it was very worthwhile. Kist concluded, "The students felt very welcomed and appreciated by the Agape volunteers, and that made them feel like their time was well-spent. This is the first year the program was offered, and based on the feedback from the students, we are considering the possibility of a year-round program. We definitely hope to do it again."



Top from left: Haylea Burrows (10th grade);
Michaiah Everett (12th grade).

Center from left: Gracie Cox (11th grade);
Rose Palmer (9th grade).

Below from left: Kirsten Freeman (11th grade),
Joseph Everett (10th grade).



Tenth graders from left: Sydney Thomas, Megan Vess, Emma Gray.

