

Where Needs Meet AGAPE Love

July-August 2018

AGAPE MEMBER CHURCHES

Bedrock Community Church
Bedrock Church-Franklin County
Covenant Fellowship
CrossPointe/Franklin Heights
Baptist 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

PRAYER FOR AGAPE

Please join as you are able in prayer for the Agape ministry, clients, and volunteers! Join the Agape Prayer Team in the Meeting Center at

8:45 to 9:45 am

Tuesday — August 14

Thursday — August 28

Tuesday — September 11

Thursday — September 27

The 2018 Charity Home Tour is just around the corner, and the Agape team has already been busy, raising over \$10,000 so far! It will be held the weekend of October 5-7. The Agape Dream Team, which is coordinating every aspect of the tour for our assigned home, includes: Jan Hogle, Chief Hostess; Judy Harper and Betty Anne Allen, Co-Hostesses; Carol Moyer, Traffic Captain; Scott Moyer, Traffic Co-captain, Ronnie Gordon, co-captain-docking; Kris McKenzie, Sponsorship Lead; Tarri Novellino and Phyllis Johnson, Sponsorship; Bonnie Fiori, Poster Distribution; Susan English and Debbie Hyde, Recruitment.

Carolyn Gordon, Team Leader, says, "Tour weekend will bring several new and exciting changes, including a new method of touring various homes. Jan Hogle has prepared an entertaining and informative brochure of the Agape home that will be distributed at the entrance for museum-style viewing. We anticipate this new approach will make the tour more enjoyable for the visitors.

As a recipient of the funds, Agape is responsible to staff one home with volunteers for the entire event! We need your support to make this a successful weekend.

"The fundraiser touches approximately 1500 people each year, and raises over \$20,000 in funding for Agape. This is a very unique opportunity to let the light of Jesus shine through each of us as we serve in our community!"



**Carolyn Gordon,
Agape Team Leader**

See **CHARITY HOME TOUR, 8**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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

August—Renew your Kroger Card designating Agape as your charity! See Kroger, 7

September 21—Help the Store/Clothing change-over to winter collection—starting at 7:30 am! No Experience Needed!

October 5 -7 — Charity Home Tour-See CHARITY HOME TOUR, 8

October 27 — Agape 5K/10K—Smith Mountain Lake State Park, See AGAPE RUN, 8

God Abundantly Provides . . .

Karen Fusaro, recently named Manager of the Gift Basket Department, has been volunteering at Agape since 2014. She says, "I didn't choose Agape; Agape chose me!" She had done volunteer work in New York serving with Meals on Wheels, her church's religious classes, preschool, and other activities. After a tour of the entire Agape Center, she asked, "Where is the help most needed?" It turned out to be her hidden passion—making gift baskets for clients. She says, "I get so much more from this work than I give. This is my local family since I moved from New York." She replaced Kim Gauthier, who has moved further from Agape and cannot commute any longer. Karen continues, "It is not about me, but about the Lord. He doesn't usually give me a choice—it's more like a command."

Karen recently described several 'Goose Bump Moments' when God answered the needs before her eyes, and before she even had a chance to pray about them!

"We were getting low on hand soap for the Christmas baskets, so I decided to go to Food Lion during my lunch break, since the soap was on sale. I was just about to leave when Eileen (Hawkins, Co-Director of the Gift Shop) came over with an envelope she had just received. It was a gift card for Food Lion! I couldn't believe it! Later that day, I noticed that our supply of oatmeal packets for the Christmas Baskets was exhausted. I no sooner turned around, and fifty boxes of ten packets each, arrived on the Gift



Karen Fusaro, Manager of the Gift Basket Department, tells her 'goose bump stories', Miracles, in her department. She proudly shows off the great organization of items and work space in their recently remodeled and enlarged space!

ITEMS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS BASKETS

- ♦ Christmas ornaments—new or in good condition
- ♦ Tissue Paper—Any color, including white
- ♦ Cocoa/Hot Chocolate (individual packets)
- ♦ Oatmeal (individual packets)
- ♦ Popcorn (individual packets)
- ♦ 3" jar candles
- ♦ Small hand soap
- ♦ Small dish detergent
- ♦ Kitchen towels/matching pot holders
- ♦ Candy Canes

Please bring the items to the Gift Factory counter.

Factory counter! And then finally, I was thinking (on this same day) we needed to get the word out that we needed tissue paper. Again, before I could even tell someone of the need, a volunteer from another department came over, wondering if we could use tissue paper because she had a grocery cart full! You can't make these things up when the needs are provided so specifically. These provisions give me goose bumps every time I tell the story!"

Karen concluded, "Each basket is made with a lot of love, and that is what keeps me motivated. I am so passionate about what we do and how important it is to provide something really nice for our clients, who need a bit of sunshine every day. I envision them having a cup of cocoa on Christmas morning and starting the day with a smile on their faces."

By the Numbers Served . . .

June 2018

Families 788
Individuals 2703

June 2017

Families 822
Individuals 2775

July 2018

Families 797
Individuals 2750

July 2017

Families 788
Individuals 2653

Welcome New Volunteers!

Sue Crim — Reception, Telephone
Michael Domino — Furniture, Pantry
Tracy Dunn—Reception, Mentor
Howard Janney — Pantry
Abigail McLaughlin — Toy Factory
Sharese Saunders — Pantry
Madison Williams — Pantry, Clothing
Lucia Willis — Clothing, Runner

July-August 2018 Volume 10 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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. . . Again and Again!

'Roanoke Valley Gives' Provided Funds; Local Farmers Keep Agape Stocked!



The new refrigeration unit can store more produce, and allows easier access, with the no-barrier entry and an extra large door, for pallets of produce! Beckner's Farm and the Booker T. Washington garden have supplied an abundance of produce during the summer months!



Judy Harper, Pantry Director, is delighted with the new refrigeration unit (left) and freezer (right), which allow for more efficient storage and easier access.

In March, 2018 Agape participated for the first time in the Roanoke Valley Gives campaign, which raised \$21,220 for Agape. Not only did Agape reach its goal of \$15,000, but since we came in first place among 47 non-profits in the small charity category, Agape received an additional \$5000 incentive prize! The money was used to purchase a new walk-in/roll-in refrigeration unit to more efficiently store produce. The additional funds allowed Agape to also upgrade the freezer, so a side-by-side unit was installed to complement the refrigeration unit.

Judy Harper, Pantry Director, says, "We are so excited to have the new walk-in/roll-in refrigeration unit in the Pantry. Our food bank, Feeding America Southwest Virginia (FASWVA), has started their produce initiative providing agencies like Agape with pallets of produce at no cost. Gary Ellis and his crew are able to easily roll the many pounds of fruit and vegetables from FASWVA right into the refrigerator. Also this larger unit allows us to keep fresh the generous donations we are receiving from Beckner's Farm and the Booker T. Washington garden during the summer months. Our clients are excited to receive this high quality abundance of produce and some are even canning tomatoes this week!

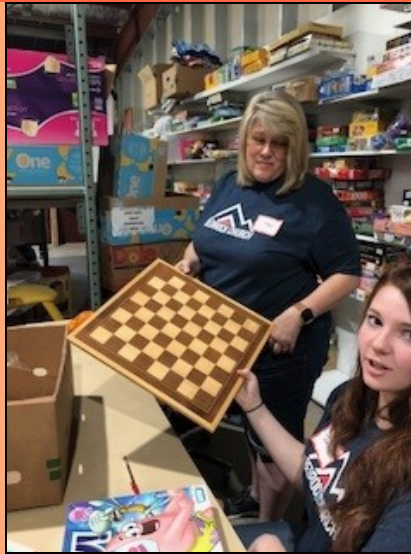
Thank you to all of our Agape supporters who donated to the Roanoke Valley Gives campaign, making this improvement possible.

And thanks to Beckner's Farm and the Booker T. Washington gardens for the abundance of produce this summer.

Guest Workers Help Agape!



Ron Aimonetti, Agape Volunteer, with his grandkids helping in the Pantry recently. Ian (far left) lives in Roanoke, while Jessica and Andrew hail from Oregon.



Member Church Bedrock-Franklin County had several people helping Agape. Above are Tiffany and Jordan Kennedy; top right: Holly and Ross Zabloski; right are Emily Engengeng and Tameia Mitchell.



Below: Brandy and Stephen Burrill's Life Group from Bedrock-Bedford helped at Agape. Left photo, from left: Stephen Burrill and Brent Dooley. Right photo: Julie Milliniks in blue top.



Eileen Hawkins, Gift Shop Co-Director, says, "The Bedrock groups were incredible. Their willing attitudes truly glorified our Lord. They vacuumed, swept, sorted toys, organized toys and toy parts, and carried loads up the stairs to our new storage loft. And after all that, they asked what else they could do to help! We were so blessed by their help."

Agape Volunteers Serve in Nicaragua

Kim and Keith Mitchell, from Huddleston Community Church, have volunteered at Agape since 2015, beginning in the Pantry. As needs arose in other departments, Kim now works in Data, and Keith in Furniture.

Since 2004, they have devoted one week every year to serving the people of



Keith and Kim Mitchell are devoted to the bringing the Gospel to the people of Nicaragua.

Lynchburg, Bedford, South Carolina and Alabama, painting houses, ministering to women and children, visiting schools, delivering donated school supplies, telling Bible story skits and activities and serving in the medical clinic. Each member of the team also shared their own testimonies on the radio, which were broadcast to several countries of Central America.

Somotillo, Nicaragua, the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Kim says, "We do this in response to what Christ has already done for us: we want everyone to know they can have a personal relationship with God through Christ and have eternal life with Him."

Kim continued, "We take His promise seriously from Acts 1:8, asking the Holy Spirit to show us where God is working, so we can join Him. We see His answer in our community, in our church, at Agape, while serving Samaritan's Purse in Disaster Ministry, and serving with Because We Care in Nicaragua."

Keith and Kim traveled to Nicaragua in June where they joined 17 others from



Keith says, "The most impacting part of the trip for me was feeding chicken stew in the villages. I helped the men cook a stew of chicken, rice and vegetables in a large kettle over an open fire while others engaged in activities with the villagers. When the interpreter announced the stew was ready, villagers lined up, holding bowls and other containers to get a hot nutritious meal."



Kim (center) concluded, "As part of a Ladies' Conference I shared words of encouragement, using God's Word to explain how Christ understands our hurts and gives us hope to persevere with joy. At the end of the service, there was an outpouring of the Holy Spirit as ladies from two different language groups prayed with one another. The pastor's wife, who had been praying for missionaries to come and share God's Word, declared that God had sent us with a message specifically suited for their time of need! There is joy unspeakable in knowing you are in the center of God's will!"

SERVANTS OF AGAPE BEYOND

Janet Sellers has served at Agape for over twelve years. Mentoring is her passion, but she has also served as Co-Director of the Gift Shop with Eileen Hawkins since 2013.

Her other passion is Bible Study Fellowship (BSF), a ministry she joined in 1997, shortly after losing both parents. She says, "I had been a believer since I was a little girl and had served Christ within my home church for my entire life as a pianist for 30 years, children's choir, youth leader and Sunday School teacher. But it was when I began BSF that I fell in love with God's Word. I've been a Facilitator/Group Leader in BSF for the past 13 years and shepherding the precious ladies



Janet Sellers' love of Jesus compels her to share Him with others—through Agape and through Bible Study Fellowship.

that God gifts me each and every year gives me more joy than I could have ever hoped. With each year I continue to learn more and more about my Lord and how He must be first place in my life no matter the situation or circumstance that life presents. Being given the opportunity to point others to Christ, whether at Agape or through BSF is a blessing like no other in my life."

Janet continued, "BSF began in the 1950's and its mission is still the same . . . to bring people throughout the world to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. BSF welcomes all men, women and children and I would urge any and all to check out their website bsfinternational.org to find a location where they, too, can become involved in learning about God's Word and developing a more intimate relationship with Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior of their life."

From The Agape Book Shelf



Diane Davis
Agape
Book Reviewer

Before We Were Yours
By
Lisa Wingate

Rill Foss and her four younger siblings live on a shanty boat with their parents, Briny and Queenie. They are poor, but live off the river. Queenie is in labor and she and her husband leave to go to the hospital.

Strangers come to the boat and take the children, saying they will take them to their parents. Instead, they end up at a Tennessee Children's Home Society Orphanage. Here they face terrible conditions and abuses, are separated by adoption and never see their parents again.

It turns out that Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based organization, kidnapped poor children and sold them to wealthy families all over the country.

Years later, Rill, who is now named May, meets Judy. They are both old and in a nursing home. They later learn that they are really sisters! When their mother gave birth at the hospital, she and her husband were told their baby died. Instead, the baby had been stolen and taken to the Memphis adoption agency. When they went home, their children were gone and they couldn't find them.

Based on a real-life scandal, this book takes us to the depths of human cruelty but brings us up into the light. Only by the hand of God could May and Judy have had such a wonderful reunion.

Editor's Note: Diane Davis is continuing to receive chemo treatments. Please keep her and her husband Dave in your prayers.

Sign up to help host our Agape home during the Charity Home Tour.

Sign-up sheets are located in the break room, the Book Department, the Gift Shop and Sue's office.

See page 8

Getting Ahead This Fall

The next Getting Ahead (GA) class will be held October 15-December 12 at the Agape Center. Recruitment for participants will run through September 6. Flyers are at the front desk and in each mentor room. Completed applications will be left at the front desk. We again are looking for 12 people.

An added feature is the Resource Book Shelf, selected by our Book Department specifically to assist clients in the GA Program meet their goals. A special thanks to Bonnie Fiori for taking this initiative to help our clients!

DO YOU HAVE A KROGER CARD?

Then now is the time to be sure that you have indicated your charity for 2018-2019. Each August, Kroger deletes all charity preferences, and if you don't re-sign up, your dollars spent won't count toward Agape's charitable gift from Kroger each month.

No Kroger Card?

Then now is the time to sign-up. It costs you nothing and a portion of every dollar you spend will be donated to Agape each month. Go on the Kroger website and indicate The Agape Center—Moneta as your designated charity. Agape receives a portion of every dollar you spend at Kroger each month—no cost to you, and we don't even know who you are!



Ladies from the Women's Missionary Union of Radford Baptist Church recently collected towels and potholders for the Agape Christmas baskets. From left: Deb Nebel, Marie Poortje, Jan Johnston, Carol Moyer, and Phyllis Witt.

Thank you to all who have donated items for the Christmas Baskets. Your gifts of love will surely brighten a family's Christmas!

The Gift Basket Team

The Lynchburg Agape Center has now found a building and will begin transforming a warehouse into a space to serve clients in their area.

A December opening is planned.

Thanks be to God for His provision in His timing.

Agape's Third Annual Run Slated for October 27



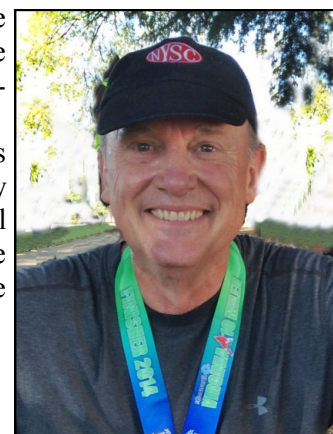
The Agape Center will hold its third annual run/walk event to raise funds for 1300 Christmas gifts for area children on Saturday, October 27. The run will include both a 5K and 10K course at the Smith Mountain Lake State Park. The walk route will share with the 5K course. Onsite registration opens at 8 am and the run starts at 9 am.

Randy Quay, race director, says, "There will be something for everyone who attends the event, even if you are not a seasoned runner. We will even have a special visitor from the North Pole to greet all who attend. Please join us for a morning of fun, friendship, and physical activity, and help make a child's Christmas special this year."

The cost of the event is \$30 per participant or \$35 on the day of the event. Participants can preregister at <https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Moneta/AgapeRunForTheChildren> or by going to the Agape Center website (www.agapecentersml.org). This event will be open to all ages, and is a great location for all who participate, even if you don't want to run/walk the course. All proceeds will go toward the purchase of Christmas gifts for children of Agape clients.

Volunteers are invited to help organize the run and to work the day of the event. For more information or to help, contact Randy Quay by email at AgapeRunForTheChildren@gmail.com.

Randy Quay,
Chair of the Agape Run



THE AGAPE CENTER needs you! SML Charity Home Tour 2018

The Agape Center is again participating in the Smith Mountain Lake Charity Home Tour (CHT). This is a fantastic fund-raiser for Agape and it is lots of fun! Over \$20,000 is raised for the Agape Center each year and as a recipient charity, we are responsible to staff one display home during the entire weekend. Please consider volunteering for at least one time slot during the tour. It is an opportunity to serve our community and meet new people as we support the Agape Center. Training, food, and fun are provided for all volunteers throughout the weekend!

There are morning and afternoon shifts on Friday and Saturday, and an afternoon shift on Sunday. You can choose to serve inside the home or to help with parking of cars or boats.

DATES: Friday, October 5; Saturday, October 6; Sunday, October 7
LOCATION: Cruise home, Deerpath Subdivision, Hardy
NEEDED: Your preferred day and time to serve; any changes in your contact info (email or phone)

Sign-up sheets are located in the break room, the Book Department, the Gift Shop and Sue's office, or for more information contact one of the CHT Volunteer Coordinators for the Agape Center:



Charity Home Tour Volunteer Coordinators
Susan English (left) and Debbie Hyde.

Susan English
susan531@gmail.com
(832) 633-9864

Debbie Hyde
deborahhyde@exede.net
(304) 904-7580