

# THE AGAPIAN

July/August 2013 — Agape Church of the Brethren

Special VBS Issue!

## The Important Place of Retreat

A person I knew in Pennsylvania, when reflecting on the pace of life, would often say: "It used to go too slow, but now it goes too fast." It certainly can seem that way, especially in our electronic era when we can never get away from our phones. The pace can seem frantic. When the pace gets too fast for me, I sometimes find myself asking "Now where was it in the Bible that Jesus said something about coming apart to rest?" I heard a minister once quip that Jesus said we should come apart and rest, because if we don't we'll just plain come apart.

I soon found that Jesus made this famous statement in Mark 6:31. The disciples had recently returned from being sent out to preach repentance and to drive out evil spirits. They were trying to report back to Jesus, but there were so many people interrupting them that they couldn't get it done. So Jesus said to them, "Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while." (Mark 6:31/KJV).

It's comforting to know that in our efforts to be Christ's disciples, along with denying ourselves and taking up our crosses daily, periods of rest are also called for. That was as good news to me as learning when I was young that the school day would include recesses, as well as class periods. The trouble is that as we get older we begin to think that recesses are not for us anymore. After all, didn't they take them out of the school day about the time we got into high school?

The schools perhaps had good reasons for taking recess out of our school day at a certain level, but as far as I know, God has never seen fit to mark it off the schedule of our lives. That's a deletion we're responsible for ourselves. The place of regular and consistent periods of rest in our lives is firmly established in the plan of God, and it is clearly specified in the fourth commandment, "the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord Your God. On it you shall not do any work" (Exodus 20:10/NIV). This provision stems from the very beginning of creation, "For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day," (Exodus 20:11).

It is in our best interests to obey all the commandments and this one no less than the others. One of the reoccurring phenomenon of our time is something called "burn out" with the key word being "out" (out of energy, out of motivation, out of strength, out of enthusiasm for whatever it was that burnt us out). Regular periods of rest can do wonders toward preventing such undesirable outcomes. So don't be afraid to occasionally put the world on hold and come apart to rest...before you just come apart yourself.

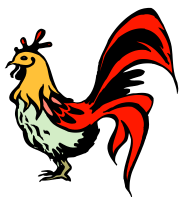
*Think about it!*

*-Pastor Jeff*



Agape Juniors	2
Friends of Timbercrest Auction	2
Ice Cream Social	2
Camp Mack Corner Notes	2
Help the Food Bank	2
Cook's Corner	3
VBS: Opening & Activities	4
VBS: Adult Presentations, Closing, and Observations	5
July Birthdays/Anniversaries	6
August Birthdays/Anniversaries	7
Senior Moments	8
How to Contribute	8

## 4-H Chicken Dinner



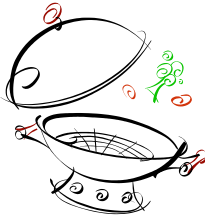
For the 19<sup>th</sup> year, the Agape Church Board served **High's BBQ chicken** at the 4-H Fair on **Thursday, July 25 from 5 p.m. to approximately 9 p.m.** We sold all the chicken, and a big thank you to everyone that volunteered their time to do this event another year.

Visit Agape online at  
[www.agapechurchfw.org](http://www.agapechurchfw.org)



## Agape Juniors

The Agape Juniors went to Putt-Putt and Arby's on July 9. Join the Agape Juniors on **August 9 at 6:30** at **Flat Top Grill** in Jefferson Pointe. Flat Top Grill is a create-your-own stir-fry restaurant featuring fresh ingredients, house made sauces for a fun, fresh and interactive dining experience. **Sign up in the narthex to assist with reservations.** Cost will range from \$8.00 to \$14.00 depending on your entrée choice. Meatless options and no MSG at the Grill.



## Auction for Friends of Timbercrest

The Friends of Timbercrest annual fall fellowship benefit auction is on **Sat. Oct. 12.**, with pie and ice cream served at **2 p.m.** The auction begins at 3 p.m., and there will be two fun auctioneers for entertainment. **Friends of Timbercrest has raised over \$12,000 towards the current \$30,000 project of installing automatic doors to make the manor more accessible for residents and visitors with electric carts, walkers, and wheelchairs.** A humorous video was made about it, visit website at [www.timbercrest.org](http://www.timbercrest.org).

## HELP THE FOOD BANK

Food Bank is in need of the following items:

**Cereal, saltine crackers, hamburger helpers, dish soap, bar soap, evaporated milk, toilet paper, shampoo, chicken and dumplings, beef stew, dried beans, rice, canned fruit, tuna, and mac and cheese.**

When you shop, remember to purchase some of these needed items for the food bank. It would be greatly appreciated!

## Camp Mack Corner: Highlights



Camp Mack needs **support staff volunteers** and **camp counselors** - visit the website (<http://www.campmack.org>) for more information and for an application.

- \* Grand Camp is from July 17-19 this month
- \* Labor Day Family Camp registration is due July 15
- \* Camp Mack's Sycamore Golf Outing in North Manchester is August 18. If you want to play or sponsor, visit [www.campmack.org](http://www.campmack.org).

If you'd like the **full version of Camp Mack Corner**, ask Kendra M.!

## Annual Ice Cream Social!

**Potluck dinner, homemade ice cream, and a time of welcoming new members**—what a way to celebrate summer with your Agape family! On **August 17** at 4:30 pm we'll meet in the pavilion (weather permitting) at for a social time - bring games or just visit. We'll have bubbles and the playground for the kids! At 5:00 we will eat hot dogs and whatever side dishes you bring and top it off with homemade ice cream. Following the meal we'll recognize new members and friends who have become a part of our fellowship during the past year, so plan for a fun time and join us! Watch the bulletins for details. *Sponsored by the Agape Nurture Commission and Deacons.*



# COOK'S CORNER

By: Joyce Musser

Lauren Kiracofe DePena Hale comes from a long line of strong women. Her Church of the Brethren values come from her mother, Karen, and from grandmother Rachel (deceased). Lauren's father died when she was 15, and Karen packed up Lauren and her sister, Morgan, and moved from Florida back to New Haven, Ind., to be closer to the Kiracofe extended family. Lauren earned a degree in human services from IPFW. Lauren and her husband, David, were married Sept. 23, 2006, and they live in Avilla. David makes travel trailers in Topeka. Their children are Derek James (almost 6), Grace McKenzie (4), and Colton Joseph (2). The Hale family also includes two dogs named Riley and Maddie. Lauren's sister, Morgan, is a new nanny for their baby cousin based in London, England.

The job Lauren feels called to do is to be a doula helping pregnant mothers. She also helps teach breast feeding and helps with other questions too. She tries to help the dads to be more helpful to the new moms. Childbirth is a miraculous experience and Lauren tries to make it easier on the young families. She has a group of young mother friends that are in the same season of life, supporting each other as they "grow" their children.

Learning to cook was an activity she enjoyed doing with her mom and her earliest memories include making chocolate chip cookies. She also remembers receiving a kid's cook book and a set of measuring spoons that she stills uses today. Her most used tools would be her mixer and crock pot while her least used is a rolling pin. The family's most frequently requested meal is nachos or tacos as each member can make it they way they want. The favorite restaurant of David and Lauren is Cebolla's. Special interests of Lauren include photography and spending time with the horses at her mother's home.

Lauren feels the most challenging part of being a mother is not holding herself up to too high of expectations. As she says, "I'm still learning." The most rewarding part is watching the children grow and learn new things. (Lauren homeschools year round.) Her parenting style is being flexible. The whole family loves to work together to grow their own food. They plant and care for their garden, pick blueberries, and care for their fruit trees.

Welcome to the Hale family! The Agape family is happy they chose to worship here as they were searching for a church with the same beliefs with which Lauren was raised.

While we try to teach our children all about life,  
our children teach us what life is all about.

Dear Lord, thank You for this gift of food  
you've placed upon our table.

And help us all to do Your work in any way  
we're able. Amen.

## Recipe from the Shipes

<b>Oven Ham Sammies</b>	1/2 c butter, melted
<b>From Lynn &amp; Sara Shipe</b>	2 tsp onion flakes
16 oz thin sliced deli ham	1 tsp poppy seeds
12 slices Swiss cheese	1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
1 pkg. (12 ct) Hawaiian rolls	1/2 tsp ground mustard

Put ham and cheese in between sliced rolls. Mix all other ingredients and spoon over sandwiches. Let set overnight, or several hours. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes before serving.

# VBS 2013: In the Beginning, God Created PLANTS!

## Another Wonderful Year

A big thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Vacation Bible School. Whether you were a major part of the planning, leading, and working on the 4 nights with children or you just showed up one night to enjoy the adult group presentation—you were blessed by being there. Here's a summary of various aspects of the experience whether you were part of it or not!

### **Opening -**

**Singing time** - Under the leadership of Becky F and Connie C, we sang a bunch of fun songs. They ranged from old time camp-type songs (*Do Lord, Father Abraham, Deep and Wide*) to songs about plants (*Roots, You are the Vine*) and the ever popular participation song, *The Green Grass Grows All Around*. I'm sure I'm not the only one who had those songs floating in my head all day or night long!

**Bible Verses** - Isaiah 11:1, Luke 12:27, Galatians 5:22-23, and Acts 5:30 (you look them up)  
**Skit** - Joe (Jim W) and John (Dave S) led us through 4 hilarious evenings of trying to make money by instantly growing apples (on a maple tree?) and learning some Bible truths in the process.

**Offerings** - Our two projects, Hoosier ReLeaf and ACRES Land Trust will benefit from a total of \$365 collected during the week. Both groups are active in our area in protecting and planting trees and preserving natural land areas. Thanks to Gene W for being our money counter.

### **Activities for the kids -**

**Groups** - 25 boys and girls from ages 2 through 10 joined the Daisies, Tulips, and Sunflowers groups led by Kara M, Joanna E, and Vicki W. They were assisted primarily by Bradley I, Maura F, Wendy I, and Dave H.

**Story time** - Joan S led the stories focusing on the theme of the night

**Crafts** - Sara S, Mary E, and Deb W led the children in making flower pots, flower puzzles, lilies, framed posters, and cross and bead necklaces. They were assisted by Lexi D and Judy C. Thanks, too, to Chuck M who provided much of the craft materials.

**Mural** - Rick and Becky F planned and organized this massive addition to the fellowship hall. The 3-D depiction with four panels showing the four themes was designed by Rick and Kyle M and each evening the children added ALL the details. Nick F and other youth helped cut, paste, and staple. Be sure to check it out!

**Food bank activity** - Judy C led the children in sorting and discussing the foods and products collected for the food bank. They also got a "tasting time" to try some different kinds of fruits and vegetables.

**Snacks** - No VBS is complete without a yummy snack time. Diana S, Ann P, and Kayla F prepared and served it all. Joyce M provided the snacks for the adult group.

# VBS 2013: In the Beginning, God Created PLANTS!

## Another Wonderful Year

### **Adult Presentations -**

Monday - Michelle Scott shared her experiences with maple syrup production. A video showing them in the woods collecting sap and turning it into syrup was shown along with explanation of the process of their business near Wawaka.

Tuesday - Mark Ringenberg shared his love of growing things and many ideas and questions were fielded about ways to make plants and trees grow better. He is co-founder of Hoosier ReLeaf, one of the beneficiaries of our offerings for the week.

Monday - Rita Erne, food planner at the Cedars, brought a terrific salad and shared about nutrition. There were lots of questions for her and everyone ended the evening more knowledgeable about what should be eaten to stay healthy.

Tuesday - Jason Kissel, executive director of ACRES Land Trust, shared his LOVE of trees from a very early age and how that has affected his whole life and career path. He had an interesting analogy of trees and God in our lives - ask somebody who was there! ACRES will also benefit from half of the offerings collected this week.

### **Closing -**

We gathered each evening for the last 10 minutes for more singing, sharing the offering and attendance totals, putting the flowers in the cross representing \$10 for each flower, and a closing prayer by Pastor Jeff.

### **Observations -**

\*We had a total of 61 people participating, 25 boys and girls, and 48 adults/youth. Perfect attendance was attained by 12 boys and girls and 29 adults who committed their time and energy to being there EVERY night!

\*We had a great amount of donated money for expenses, and once we settle up with all the bills, I'll report how perhaps we won't even have to dip into the budget. What a generous group of people - both time and money!!

\*Our offerings were amazing, and I'm always thrilled that we dip deep when there's a cause to support.

\*Volunteers who helped with the children were faithful and committed to being there on time and doing whatever it took. Youth AND adults who took that responsibility made each night go well for all the children - and they not only had fun, but appreciated it!

\*Thanks to Dean M for taking pictures - check them out in the narthex and there will be more on the website soon. Thanks to Doug W and Tania F for A/V room help and if I missed somebody who helped, let me know!

\*I have directed VBS for many years, and even though this year got a late start in planning, I think everything fell into place so beautifully that it went better than some other years when we started in March! Everyone who said they would be there to do something, was there, and did it! We can be proud of the witness Agape makes in the community - for our size we are a mighty group! We touched the lives of many people, we learned new information, we shared Bible verses and truths that we'll carry on forever. We had fun, we learned Jesus teachings, we worshiped God, and we did it simply, peacefully, and together. That's the Brethren Way, and I thank you for whatever your part was in making it happen!

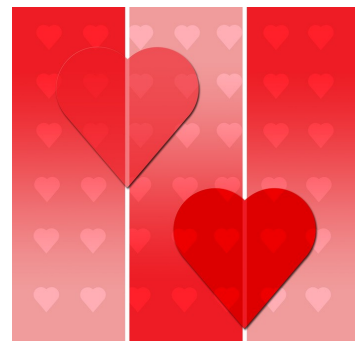
# July Birthdays

1	Peter Klopfenstein	26	Becky Imhoff
3	Anne Wetzal	27	Bob Hunt
4	Joan Sievers	28	Anita Gross
7	Vera Wertman	30	Charlotte Schafer
7	Becky Flickinger		
7	Joan Brenneman		
8	Martha Jane Rust		
9	Irene Kite		
15	Quinten Scroggs		
20	T.J. Musser		
24	Andy Shipe		
26	Keilynn McCoy		



# July Anniversaries

5	Robert & Kristina Musser
6	Mike & Maxine Cavins
17	Ron & Diana Spurgeon
21	Doug & Vicki Welch
29	Jack & Beth Green





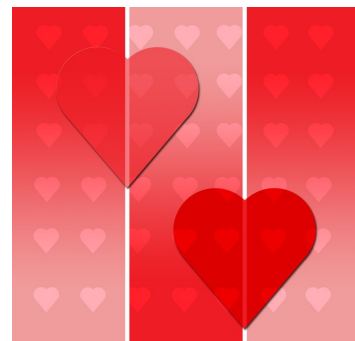
# August Birthdays

1	Debi Goss-Race	22	Jim Wetzel
2	Hannah McComas	26	Sandy Charvat
2	Joel Brenneman	27	Dan Klopfenstein
5	Peg Robison	27	Dean Musser
6	Bert Eriks	29	Rhianna Wertman
6	Isabelle Wisner	29	John Stoy
10	Ethan Unman	30	Nick Fox
10	Bob Barkley	30	Becky Morris
16	Kara Morris	30	Dale Anderson
16	Marilu Brunson	31	Nik Flickinger
19	Ronwald Spurgeon		
22	Cathy Gilbert		



# August Anniversaries

1	Jeff & Connie Copp
10	Dale & Shirley Anderson
13	Bert & Betty Eriks
18	Dominic & Jill Jack
22	Dave & Lynn Shipe





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**Sent to our friends at:**



**Continuing the Word of Jesus—Peacefully. Simply. Together.**

## Senior Moments

Help! The Agape Senior Moments need an **infusion** of some younger seniors! No we aren't suffering from **confusion!** The present membership is suffering from under the **delusion** that we still have the physical strength we had when we were younger, but we have reluctantly come to the **conclusion** that we need some help! If you are a younger senior, would you be the **solution** we are seeking, and come join us? What our friend, Juanita Warner, started many years ago, we would like to keep going.



**Join us at Agape, the first Tuesday of every month at noon.**

## **Want to Contribute to the *Agapian*?**

If you have information or content you'd like featured in the *Agapian*, please submit it to Kendra M. by the **third Sunday** of the month **prior** to your event's date. For example, if you have a September event you'd like featured in the September *Agapain*, please submit it to Kendra by August 18. For her contact information, see the church directory!