



THE AGAPIAN



October 2014 — Agape Church of the Brethren

Todd and Andi Hammond

Let me introduce you to Todd and Andi Hammond, our new pastor and his wife. We are thrilled to have them join us the first of October.

Todd and Andi have been married for 30 years and are the proud parents of 3 children. They met at Manchester College where they graduated in 1984 and married one week later.

Melissa the eldest, who is 24, has a Master's Degree in English with an emphasis in Children's Literature. She lives in Madison, Wisconsin where she works for Epic Software, and is a budding author having written a children's book entitled Banana Pancakes.

Matthew, 22, who graduated from Manchester University with a degree in English is working for the South Bend library system. He recently married Katelyn Carothers, from Phoenix AZ. They are living in Mishawaka, IN where Katelyn is starting on her PhD at the Notre Dame School of Medicine.

Murray is 19 and has just begun his second year at Manchester University. He is interested in Social Work, and Peace Studies. His Campus job is the Campus Chaplain's Assistant.

We do hope to see all three children around once in a while.

Pastor Todd grew up near Dayton, Ohio and went to Trotwood –Madison High School. From there he went to Manchester College, then on to Bethany Theological Seminar for a Master of Divinity degree.

Andi grew up in Michigan City, IN. They both have one sister. Todd's parents are deceased but Andi's folks still live in their original home.

Pastor Todd has had a busy ministry since leaving Bethany. He has served churches in California, Virginia and Ohio. His most recent, the last nine years, has been doing various bi-vocational ministries during which time he supported his ministry with teaching building trades at a vocational school and operating a home inspection company. He is a man of many trades, but is most looking forward to a full time traditional pastoral setting.

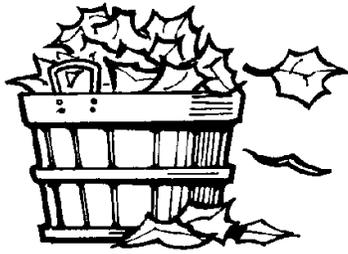
As you can guess Todd's hobbies are as varied as his professions have been. He enjoys woodworking, furniture restoration and construction. He is an avid long distance runner and does triathlons. He has completed the Iron Man Triathlon competition. Wow! Andi enjoys quilting, cross-stitch and other crafts. We may see her in the choir as she enjoys singing. Todd's favorite food varies with his mood.

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October



Trade for Chocolate

The Baby's Closet is holding their community-wide baby shower. They will accept new clothing, teething rings, rattlers, comb/brush sets, nail clippers, baby shampoo, onesies, spoons, etc. BUT take your donation to DeBrand's on Auburn Road on October 18 and trade for a piece of chocolate. How good is that? Circle the date and enjoy your treat.

Agape Juniors

On October 3 we will go to the Carmike Theater to see the film, *The Song*. Following the movie we will find our way to Culver's for our after-movie debriefing and treat. Agape Juniors and friends are encouraged to attend.

The Song is a "must see" movie inspired by the Song of Solomon. The story follows aspiring singer and songwriter, Jed King, who is struggling to break free from the shadow of his famous father. When Jed meets Rose, they quickly fall in love, get married and Jed writes her "The Song," which becomes a huge hit. Stardom finds Jed, as does a world of temptation and idolatry, causing his life and marriage to suffer. Filmed on location in Nashville and Kentucky, *The Song* was produced by the Christian production company, City On A Hill Productions.



(Continued from page 1)

Both he and Andi enjoy sushi. (Do I have the restaurant for them!) He prefers contemporary Christian Music and soft jazz.

Todd has begun to formulate some visions he has for AGAPE.

1) Working with the talented members of the congregation to create a vibrant, inviting and God honoring worship service. 2) Creating avenues of inclusion (programs, activities, and special events) to bring visitors and newcomers to Agape to experience what our congregation has to offer. 3) Create an environment of hospitality and welcome that invites visitors to return and become a part of the Agape family. 4) Take the love of Christ into our part of the world - being in mission to our community - inviting our neighbors to share in the work of Christ in the world as partners.

This rather inconclusive introduction to Pastor Todd should make you feel excited to meet him. I believe that we have chosen well and will have a grand future together. Be sure to come to Agape on Oct. 5 to meet Pastor Todd.

Respectfully written by Becky Flickinger

VITAL MINISTRY JOURNEY - JOIN THE TRIP!

Plans are underway for a two-fold revitalization for Agape. Our hope is that this 6-week Bible based study will lead to sharing of ideas, dreams, goals, and plans to answer the question, "What does God want Agape to do?" We scheduled this event during the Sunday morning time from 9:00 - 9:50, and it will take the place of regular Sunday School classes for the youth and adults. Our second hope is that those who haven't been to SS for a while will come to be a part of this sharing/learning time each week.

We will begin in the sanctuary with a short opening, and then move to assigned groups around the church building. Leaders will be meeting to prepare on Saturday, October 11, and while we will each follow the format of the "Vital Ministry Journey" booklet and program, the results will be determined by the conversations, study of the scripture, and ideas of YOU.

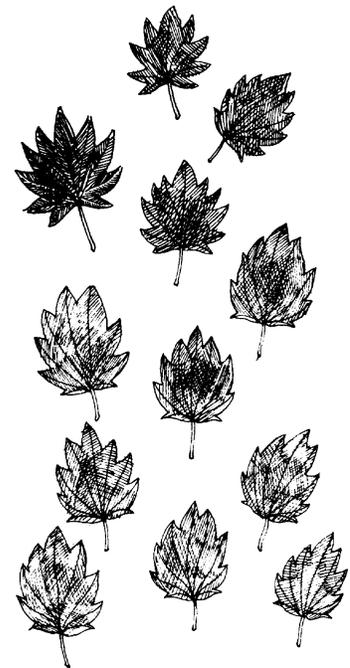
We encourage EVERYONE to sign up (even if your schedule doesn't allow 100% attendance for the 6 weeks) so that you can be assigned a group and participate as much as possible. We begin on October 19 for 5 consecutive weeks, "turkey day" November 23 will have a different format during the SS hour, and this phase of "Vital Ministry Journey " will conclude on Sunday, November 30.

The outcome of this program fully depends on the input of those who choose to participate. To make changes and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, we need to listen to God and each other. Our prayer is that by working together and sharing as we are led, God will make clear the direction He wants Agape to go. Please be a part of it - your thoughts are needed, and by being there, relationships with other Agapians will grow.

STAR GAZING 101

VBS in June was a fun time to learn about God's creation as we followed our theme, "In the Beginning, God Created. . . . the Heavens." Our speaker for the adults on the first night was Chris Highlen from the Fort Wayne Astronomical Society. He did a wonderful presentation, and offered to share their facility with us for a night of "looking at the night sky" sometime during the summer/fall months. WHAT HAPPENED TO SUMMER? I think everyone is asking that question, but it's not too late.

Contact has been made with Chris, and we're planning on Friday, October 24 to travel to New Haven and spend an evening star/planet/moon gazing. Details are coming for scheduling a time to eat out or grab a snack before or after. As soon as we finalize the plans, we will let you know. This will be a fun event for all ages, so watch for an announcement and in the meantime, "Keep Looking UP!"



The **WITNESS COMMISSION** is emphasizing these four Church of the Brethren ministries below for financial support for the month of October and November. If you would like to make a donation to any of these ministries, please attach a note to your check with the amount and ministry of your choice.



Thank you for helping these important outreach ministries.

Bethany:

Founded in 1905, Bethany Theological Seminary is the graduate school and academy for theological education for the [Church of the Brethren](#).

Manchester University:

Manchester University is one of six colleges across the nation grounded in the values and traditions of the [Church of the Brethren](#). Manchester maintains an important relationship with the church, a Christian denomination recognized as a historic peace church, and one that actively lives out faith in reconciliation, service, simple living, community, and love as taught and modeled by Jesus Christ.

Timbercrest:

Timbercrest Senior Living Community is located on 104 sprawling acres in North Manchester, Indiana. Its rural setting is secure and peaceful, and only a forty minute drive from Fort Wayne, Indiana. Timbercrest is a faith based, mission driven, not-for-profit organization. As such, it relies on gifts from individuals, businesses, and Churches of the Brethren for support in carrying out its ministry.

Camp Mack:

Camp Alexander Mack is a Christian Camp, Retreat and Conference Center located on 200+ acres on the eastern shore of Lake Waubee in Northern Indiana. The facility is a ministry of the Indiana Camp Board and affiliated with the Northern Indiana and South/Central Indiana districts of the Church of the Brethren. Since its beginnings in 1925 the camp has served as a place of leadership development and faith formation for the children, youth and adults who have come through its arches.

MEP - the Ministry Excellence Project

The Ministry Excellence Project aims to remove some of the economic barriers that cause stress on pastors.

MEP is a partnership of Indiana's CoB districts to assist installed pastors with grants for health and dental needs, educational debt, financial planning, pastor appreciation, retirement funding and more.

If you care to contribute, designate MEP on your check or envelope in the offering.

OCTOBER 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Todd's first day 12 pm Senior Moments 3:30-4:30 pm CZL 6 pm Exec Brd Mtg 7:30 pm Choir	2 6:30 pm B4G 6:30 pm Aerob-ex	3 8 am Men's Breakfast* Bradley Imhoff	4 Dan Klopfenstein & Judy Frederick
5 Love Feast following worship 6:30 pm Youth Group	6 4-7 pm piano lessons 6:30 pm Aerob-ex	7 6:30 pm Scouts Bette Scribner	8 7:30 pm Choir	9 6:30 pm B4G 6:30 pm Aerob-ex David Hale Kyle Morris	10	11 Becky Shipe Gordon Klopfenstein
12 6:30 pm Youth Group	13 4-7 pm piano lessons 6:30 pm Aerob-ex Lois Riddle Columbus Day	14 6:30 pm Scouts 6:30 pm Crafty NG*	15 6:00 pm Board Meeting 7:30 pm Choir	16 6:30 pm B4G 6:30 pm Aerob-ex	17 Charlotte Wertman	18 Coffeehouse
19 6:30 pm Youth Group Tim Shipe	20 4-7 pm piano lessons 6:30 pm Aerob-ex	21 6:30 pm Scouts	22 10 am Daytime NG 7:30 pm Choir	23 6:30 pm B4G 6:30 pm Aerob-ex	24	25
26 6:30 pm Youth Group	27 6-7 pm piano lessons 6:30 pm Aerob-ex	28 6:30 pm Scouts	29 7:30 pm Choir	30 6:30 pm B4G 6:30 pm Aerob-ex Justin Cook Rick Wagner	31 Halloween	

* Denotes an event held outside the church. Contact the person in charge of that event for details. Red = Anniversary Blue = Birthday



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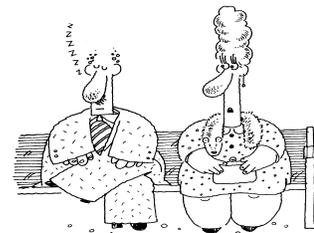
Sent to our friends at:



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

Senior Moments

The next Senior Moments meeting is on **Wednesday, November 5th at 12:00 noon**. Bring a covered dish to share!



DISTRICT WORK DAY



The second annual Northern Indiana District Work Day will be held, Saturday, October 18 at Camp Mack. Work projects for all ages will be available, both indoors and outdoors (weather pending). Each congregation in our district is encouraged to send at least five people. Meet at the John Kline Center, Gather/Coffee 8 am. 8:30 am Devotions. Lunch provided. Questions: contact Dennis Beckner, 260-248-9678.