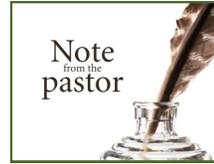


THE AGAPIAN

January/February 2013 — Agape Church of the Brethren

Thanks for a Constructive Evaluation Process!



You may recall that recently the congregation conducted a Pastoral Evaluation. Evaluation forms were made available to members and attendees at Agape. Twenty-seven forms were completed and returned. The District Office ultimately received those forms, and the forms were reviewed and tabulated there. Our District Executive then prepared a summary of the information gleaned from the forms and met with our Church Board on December 5 to review the findings.

The process worked extremely well. Responders were forthcoming on the evaluation forms, the summary prepared by the District Executive was comprehensive and helpful, and the Agape Church Board discussion of the results was open and substantive. The areas evaluated included Preaching, the Worship Service, Administration, Teaching/Equipping, Pastoral Care, Leadership, Evangelism, Personal Spiritual Development, and balancing Family with Pastoral Responsibilities.

The District Executive's summary characterization of the results was as follows: "Overall, the evaluation of Pastor Jeff Copp was very positive with the strongest scores coming in...relationship with the pastor, visitation—especially crisis care, and preaching." That statement, of course, was very affirming, and I am grateful to Agapians for those kind assessments. It has felt to me that we have been working together pretty

well, as pastor and congregation, and the evaluation seems to confirm that.

At the same time, there were questions raised in the evaluation that I want to take note of and learn from. These included, among others, concerns about the rapid rate at which I speak from the pulpit, some desire for more variety in the worship service, and a desire for more proactive leadership from me in certain areas, including conflict resolution, envisioning, and management of the worship service. These issues raised are understandable to me, and I am seeking to respond to them, as well as other issues mentioned.

For those who would like to see more of the details of the evaluation, the District Executive's full written summary is available and can be obtained from our Board Chair, Chuck Morris, who will be glad to provide copies of it to those asking. This summary includes not only the results pertaining specifically to the pastor but also pertaining to a section of the evaluation in which responders answered questions about attitudes in the church as a whole.

Let me say again that I am grateful for the constructive way in which this evaluation was conducted. A process like this can head off problems ahead of time, and it can help a pastor sharpen his or her ministry.

Thank you!!

-Pastor Jeff

Inside this issue:

Agape Juniors	2
Soup-Off!	2
Serving the Community	2
Nurture Groups	2
Sunday School	2
Directory Changes	2
Cook's Corner	3
Secret Gal Pal Program	3
Agape Youth News Brief	3
January Calendar	4
February Calendar	5
Agape Seniors	6
Women's Fellowship Mtg	6
Thank You!	6

Greeting Card Collection

We are once again saving the fronts of greeting cards; it is a huge help to patients at St. Jude's Children's Hospital. **A gift bag in the narthex is now available for you to deposit the fronts.** The patients and auxiliary will recycle them by making new cards and reselling them to support their projects. For more information about the program, the website is <http://www.stjudesranch.org/shop/recycled-card-program/>. (Remember: We cannot accept Disney or Hallmark cards due to licensing restrictions.)



See Also:

Church Board and Executive Board Special Insert.

Agape Juniors

Because Agape is holding the

Annual Soup-Off, the Agape Juniors **won't meet in January**, and they haven't yet determined plans for February. Watch the bulletins and the sign-up board for updates. If you have questions, contact Beth Green.

Annual Agape Soup-Off!

The 4th annual Soup-Off is **Sat., Jan. 19, at 5 p.m.** (organized by Gerry and Sandy Charvat). Sign-up on the announcement board to indicate your plans to make an either big pot of soup or a side dish to share.

- * If you're bringing soup, be creative and don't hesitate to "try" something new! Also make sure crackers/chips/extras that go with it are provided. Soups can be appetizers, main dishes, or desserts, and **be sure to include your recipe** so we can copy them for others to take home.
- * We will again hold a little competition you can **vote for your favorite soup**: Money will be collected at **\$1 per vote**, and it will all be donated to the food bank.

We're looking forward to seeing Pastor Jeff coming out of his office carrying his soup bowl—so don't forget yours—ready to taste each version of the **BEST SOUP EVER!**

Serving the Community

The Service/Mission Nurture Group will be cooking and serving breakfast at Hunteertown United Methodist Church's Third Place on **Saturday, Feb. 23rd**. The breakfast makin's are purchased by them, and we fix, serve, and clean up as we minister to those people who come to their food and clothing bank that morning. **We welcome any Agapians who would like to participate even if you're not part of our nurture group!** Contact Vicki Welch if you'd like to help cook, serve, or just sit and visit with someone.

Other nurture groups have planned events coming up (see the calendars on pgs. 4 and 5), and they'll be planning out more long-term events and dates soon.

Stay tuned with church bulletins and announcements in church for more updates!

Nurture Groups

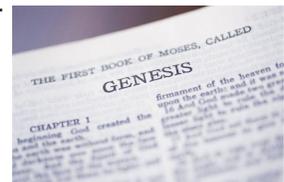
Groups continue to meet monthly as we move into the new year. We welcome additional people to join us and share the fun: Watch the calendar and bulletin for details.

- * The Crafty Group meets on Tuesday evenings at Mary Ebert's home.
- * The Daytime Group meets at a home or the church at 10:00 A.M. on the 4th Wednesday, and then goes out to eat lunch--Marilu Brunson is the contact person.
- * The Service/Mission Group meets on Friday nights—see the announcement board for dates/ places and **be sure to sign up if you plan to come**. We have two dates scheduled if we need it, but perhaps will only meet on one of them. If weather issues happen, then we know who to contact.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Thanks to those who commit to teaching weekly classes. That involves not just showing up at 9:00 but also preparing each of the lessons! We also thank those who continue to attend and show their appreciation of the work the teachers do to make it happen!

- * Children and Youth classes are studying the Gather 'ROUND material from Brethren Press—the topic is "Meet Jesus, Our Leader."
- * Adult classes are led by Beth and Char in a study of "Women in the Life of Jesus" by Jill Briscoe, and Chuck, Jack, and others sharing in leadership using the book, "Amish Peace" and information brought back from An-



Directory Changes

All directory-related changes—whether email addresses, phone numbers, or addresses—need to be submitted **ASAP to the church office** so we can update the church directory for the new year.

Email agapefort@frontier.com with "Directory Changes in the subject line" or **drop off** a hard copy of changes in the office.

COOK'S CORNER

By: Joyce Musser

Isn't it hard to believe that 2012 is a memory and we are now welcoming in 2013? Sometimes, January and February can bring on the winter blahs; however it is also a chance for new beginnings. The following tips were gleaned from several internet health-focused newsletters—we could all practice some small changes in our eating habits from this list to bring in a healthier new year.

1. Have a meal plan—it takes a little work, but you are less likely to make unhealthy choices. Have a strategy, keep a journal, or a food log—it may seem like a lot of work, but it will feel like less of a battle to lose weight or stay healthy if you know exactly what you are eating.
2. Eat at least 80% things that grow and no more than 20% that walk.
3. Stomach rumbling with hunger? Try drinking a glass of water first if you feel hungry—sometimes that is what you are really needing.
4. Never eat out of box, carton, or bag. Snacks should be no more than a fist full. Premeasure so chances of overeating are less. Also, for meals, measure your serving sizes. A deck of cards is considered a single serving of meat. (That fact should shock a few of the menfolk!)
5. Celebrate with a friend, but not always with food. Make a list of other ways you can get together with friends or family that don't include snacking.
6. Stay away from "fat free" packaged foods—you could be trading fats for huge amounts of sugar or sodium!
7. Eat eggs for breakfast. They are the new "perfect" food. If not in the mornings, eat them for dinner. Eggs are full of nutrients and should be part of a balanced diet.
8. Sauerkraut is a proven nutrition booster. Even use it to top off a pizza! Eating raw cabbage, especially purple kind, also gives extra power to boost cognitive and heart health.
9. Potatoes got a bad rap during the low-carb craze, but baked potatoes are full of nutrients, fiber, protein and especially potassium. Be careful when adding toppings!
10. Mushrooms fight plaque on arterial walls. Their mild flavor pairs well with a variety of dishes.
11. Red Peppers boost flavors and nutrition, also help lower cancer risks.
12. Did you know one tablespoon a day of vinegar helps manage your blood sugar and even speeds up weight loss? It also slows the passage of food through your stomach, keeping you fuller for longer. Pinch your nose and bottoms up!
13. Just because cheese has fat and calories does not mean it shouldn't be a part of a balanced diet. Experts believe the combination of protein and fat helps quash your appetite and satisfy cravings. Delicious news to all!
14. Weight loss does not always mean cutting down on food. In fact, adding more fruits and vegetables to your eating plan helps you stay full longer with less calories and more nutrition.

Healthy living is a seven-day-a-week effort. Taking off weekends is essentially missing twelve days a month. Making healthy choices every day takes effort, but with a little work you can make big changes in your lifestyle and health. May God bless your decisions and may 2013 be full of blessings for each of you!

Ladies Secret Gal Pal Program

Thanks to all who participated in the 2012 Women's Fellowship Secret Pal program. We had a fun revealing brunch on Dec. 15th and

decided to try something a little different for 2013. There will be **several totally separate Secret Pal times**, so you can participate for just one month rather than committing to the whole year. Since February is a "love" month, we'll do our first round then—look for a form in your mailbox in January and return it if you'd like to join the fun. See Becky Morris if you have questions.

Agape Youth News Brief

The Agape Youth

has been making a lot of progress during the holiday season toward reaching their goal for NYC. They have been selling Rada Cutlery and products, scrips, and jellybeans. In other news, they celebrated the new year with a lock in, and as always, if you have a few odd jobs you think the youth group could handle, please let Rick Flickinger know about them.

Look in future bulletins and the announcement board for exact updates with how much money the youth has raised toward their goal. As always, thanks for supporting the youth!

JANUARY 2013

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 4-5:00 Tutoring 7:30 Choir Judy Frederick Ella Kart	3 3-6:30 Tutoring 6:30 B4G; 6:30 Aero- bics	4 7:00 a.m. Men's Break- fast* 3-4:30 Tutoring	5
6 Board & Deacon Consecration	7 2:30-5:30 Tutoring 4:30 Piano 6:30 Aerobics	8 12:00 Agape Seniors 4:30-7:30 Tutoring 6:28 Youth 6:30 Crafty NG*; 6:30	9 4-5:00 Tutoring 7:30 Choir	10 3-6:30 Tutoring 6:30 B4G; 6:30 Aero- bics	11 6:30 Friday NG* 3-4:30 Tutoring	12
13 Bread & Cup Service Deacon Mtg. (Wetzels Host)	14 2:30-5:30 Tutoring 4:30 Piano 6:30 Aerobics	15 4:30-7:30 Tutoring 6:28 Youth 6:30 Scouts Ann Wagner	16 4-5:00 Tutoring; 6:00 Board Mtg.; 7:30 Choir Ann Pepple; Diana Spurgeon	17 3-6:30 Tutoring 6:30 B4G; 6:30 Aero- bics	18 6:30 Friday NG* 3-4:30 Tutoring	19 5:00 Soup-Off
20	21 2:30-5:30 Tutoring 4:30 Piano 6:30 Aerobics	22 4:30-7:30 Tutoring 6:28 Youth 6:30 Scouts	23 10:00 Daytime NG 4-5:00 Tutoring 7:30 Choir	24 3-6:30 Tutoring 6:30 B4G; 6:30 Aero- bics	25	26 Steve Cormany
27	28 2:30-5:30 Tutoring 4:30 Piano 6:30 Aerobics Josh Warner	29 4:30-7:30 Tutoring 6:28 Youth 6:30 Scouts Gerry Charvat	30 4-5:00 Tutoring 7:30 Choir	31 3-6:30 Tutoring 6:30 B4G; 6:30 Aero- bics		

FEBRUARY 2013

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 7:00 a.m. Men's Break-fast* 3-4:30 Tutoring Jeff Copp	2
3	4 2:30-5:30 Tutoring 4:30 Piano 6:30 Aerobics	5 12:00 Agape Seniors 4:30-7:30 Tutoring 6:28 Youth 6:30 Scouts	6 4-5:00 Tutoring 6:00 Exec. Meeting 7:30 Choir	7 3-6:30 Tutoring 6:30 B4G; 6:30 Aerobics	8 6:30 Friday NG* 3-4:30 Tutoring	9
10	11 2:30-5:30 Tutoring 4:30 Piano 6:30 Aerobics Rose Eastes	12 4:30-7:30 Tutoring 6:28 Youth 6:30 Crafty NG*; 6:30 Scouts Linda Rupp	13 4-5:00 Tutoring 7:30 Choir	14 3-6:30 Tutoring; 6:30 B4G; 6:30 Aerobics Orie Imhoff; Kelley Brenneman; Sara Sipe; Kristina Musser	15 6:30 Friday NG* 3-4:30 Tutoring	16
17	18 2:30-5:30 Tutoring 4:30 Piano 6:30 Aerobics	19 4:30-7:30 Tutoring 6:28 Youth 6:30 Scouts	20 4-5:00 Tutoring 7:30 Choir	21 3-6:30 Tutoring 6:30 B4G; 6:30 Aerobics	22	23
24	25 2:30-5:30 Tutoring 4:30 Piano 6:30 Aerobics	26 4:30-7:30 Tutoring ; 6:28 Youth; 6:30 Scouts AJ Rupp Steve & Judy Cormany	27 10:00 Daytime NG 4-5:00 Tutoring 7:30 Choir Derek Imhoff	28 3-6:30 Tutoring 6:30 B4G; 6:30 Aerobics		



Agape Church of the Brethren

11610 Lima Road

Fort Wayne, IN 46818

Phone: 260 489 6908

E-mail: agapefort@frontier.com

Sent to our friends at:



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

Agape Seniors

- * The next Agape Seniors meeting is on **Tuesday, Jan. 8th at 12:00 noon**. This meeting will hold the **election of new officers**, so they hope to see everyone in attendance. Bring a covered dish to share!
- * The February meeting is set for **Tuesday, Feb. 5th at 12:00 noon**, weather permitting, of course. Look in the bulletin for more information about this meeting!

Women's Fellowship Organizational Meeting

Kara Morris, president of Women's Fellowship, would like everyone to watch the bulletin for updates about the organizational meeting (which will be held near the beginning of the new year) and for other future events!

Let Kara know if you have questions.



Thank You!

A big **thank you** for all the many contributions that helped make the church so beautiful this year. A special thanks to Darwin Sievers for all the Nativities; Rose Black for donations and homemade ornaments; Linda Rupp for the window candles, floral swags, and lots of bows; Mary Ebert for the Advent banners; the Robison's for decorating the Altar tree; the Morris group for all their hard labor and help setting up decorations; Jim Wetzel and Rick Flickinger who follow direction well; and Joan Sievers for her willingness to do what was needed.

Many hands do make the work lighter and new ideas always make things more beautiful. God Bless you all named and unnamed—*Deb Wetzel, Altar Committee*