



# THE AGAPIAN

April 2013 — Agape Church of the Brethren

## Down in Georgia

During our most recent trip to Georgia, I had opportunity to talk with a formerly homeless man at a Homeless Shelter in Atlanta. He knows me and recognizes me whenever I'm there. He likes my hat and always tells me that if I get tired of it, he'll be glad to take it off my hands.

As it works out, he's not homeless anymore. He recently landed a job as a dump truck driver. Yes, he was qualified for that; which testifies to the fact that homeless can be just one bad break away for many people. He is very grateful for his new job. He talked to me about it with obvious joy.

But he said an interesting thing as we talked. He intends to keep coming to the shelter on Sundays, even though he's not homeless anymore, because he values the fellowship he finds there. That struck me. While some would hope they would never have to return to such a setting, he is choosing to return to it, on purpose, for the spiritual and personal nurture he finds

## VBS Planning Committee

The Nurture Commission will be meeting soon to make plans for our **2013 VBS** to be held on **Mondays/Tuesdays June 17/18 and 24/25**. We have ideas for a theme and need many, many people to make this another successful outreach ministry for the church. If you would like to participate in the planning, contact Becky M, Joan S, or Deb W. so we can schedule a date to meet and get the ball rolling.



there.

They had a band in at the shelter for a little gospel sing-along the Sunday evening I was there. It was a delight to watch. The band was great, but the joyful response of the homeless to the band was just as enjoyable to observe. They sang along, they clapped their hands, and stomped their feet. They shouted out encouragement, and one fellow even got up and danced around.

It was good fellowship! I could see why the man with the new job intends to keep coming back for it, even though he's homeless no more. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is joy, whether it's in a glorious cathedral or a humble shelter for the homeless; and we all need it, because, as Nehemiah told the Israelites "the joy of the Lord is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10/NIV).

**Think about it!**

**-Pastor Jeff**

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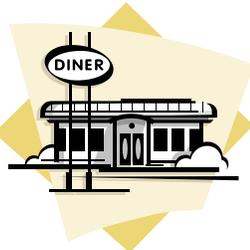
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## Agape Juniors

Agape Juniors will meet on

**April 26** at the **Chrome Plated Diner** located at 3434 N. Anthony Blvd. Please sign up in the narthex so reservations can be made. Steve Cormany suggested this location, so he's the guy to answer your questions about the restaurant. Don't miss the fun and fellowship!



## Byron Bingo Collection



Women's Fellowship will be assisting with **bingo at Byron Health Center on Mon., April 8**, at approx. **1:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed!**

\* Pudding cups, juice, and small gifts (especially for men) will be needed. (No soap or candles, please.)

There will be a box in the narthex for collecting these items. Contact Sharon Bender if you have questions.

## Camp Mack Fun!

Thanks to Peg Robison for coordinating the registration for our summer campers. **We are happy to announce that 7 children and youth are planning to participate**, and Agape is glad to contribute 1/2 of their camping fee up to \$100 each. Peg will be featuring our campers on the bulletin board in the hallway, so watch for that as June approaches!



## Nurture Group on a Mission!

The Service/Mission Nurture Group will meet **Fri., April 5 at Ziano's** to make plans for rescheduling the Camp Mack Work Day (postponed due to weather) and hosting the **Free Garage Sale in May**. See the note about the free garage sale on this same page for more info.

## Shipshewana Dinner & Concert

Ten Agapians plan to travel to Shipshe on **Fri., April 19** for dinner and a concert by the Taylors, a brother/sister gospel quartet. We will meet at **5:00** for dinner followed by the concert at **7:00**. Tickets have been reserved, but if anyone wants to join the group contact Becky Morris.

## Coming in May: Free Garage Sale

For the third year, the Service/Mission Nurture group will sponsor the Free Garage Sale. **We're asking for everyone's help to collect items for the garage sale and to set up and "man" the hours of the sale.** We will be collecting items you no longer need (**clothing, kitchen, appliances, decorations, books, sports equipment, linens, furniture, etc.**) and sharing with those in our community who need them.

*This has been a highly profitable event for the past two years, and the benefit of helping others and providing items they can use was our original focus, but the bonuses include the joy we saw on the faces of those who came and the money donated for the food bank. We hope this third time around will continue to be a blessing for the community and us.*

Look in the bulletin for info about when to start bringing things in and where they should go.

## Women's Movie Night!

Join us at Diana Spurgeon's house for a fun night of munchies and a movie on **Fri., April 12, 6:30 pm**.

The movie starts around 7 pm: Bring your favorite snack and come over! Contact Diana or Kara if you have questions.



## COOK'S CORNER

By: Joyce Musser

Sandy and Gerry Charvat have been having fun hanging out together for 33 years. Sandy owns an insurance office that services mainly car collectors in 37 states. Gerry is retired, but still restores cars in his old hot rod shop which is close to Sandy's office. Their family all lives in Fort Wayne and includes daughters, Carolyn and Chris; two grandkids, David and Mattie; and two great grandkids, Damion and Aaron. Before joining the Agape family, Sandy attended Pleasant Hill Church where her father was a pastor.

Three words Sandy would use to describe herself are happy, energetic, and motivated. A favorite way to spend her limited free time is to travel to car shows and auctions, and searching for antiques with Gerry. Sandy's hidden talents include playing the piano, organ, clarinet, and Hawaiian guitar. She says she is kind of rusty and needs to practice.

Sandy learned to cook from her mother, Ora Pepple. (Yes, she is a member of that Pepple clan!) When asked which food she cannot live without, she quickly answered ice cream of any flavor! Gerry is a good helper when it comes to cooking and in fact is an expert fixing BBQ ribs! Sandy and Gerry's winning entry in the 2013 Annual Agape Soup-off was a fairly new recipe called "Jamie's Tortilla Chicken Soup." Her family often has three special requests including *Hoska*, a Bohemian bread, beef and noodles, and southern style pork chops.

Marriage advice from Sandy includes keeping the lines of communication open and being willing to take the

### "Jamie's Tortellini Chicken Soup" from Sandy Charvat

5 & 1/4 cups chicken broth

1 can diced tomatoes

salt & pepper (to taste)

water (approx. 1 cup)

cooked whole chicken (debone & remove skin after cooking)

10 oz. chopped fresh spinach (or can use frozen spinach)

garlic powder (to taste)

package of tortellini (Sandy uses sausage)

1. Bring all to a boil. Place lid over pan and simmer for approx. 10 min or until tortellini are tender.

2. Add spinach and simmer for another 5-10 minutes. Serve.

time to talk with each other. Even though the Charvats spend most of their time together, that is their choice. Sandy would still like to learn how to knit, although she's left-handed, which makes knitting a difficult task to learn. She is looking forward to retirement, but not in the near future as she enjoys working with her daughter, Carolyn, in the office and always enjoys talking with people from all over the U.S.A.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN NEED YOUR HELP!

What a joy to have from 4 to 11 children participating in our Sunday School class each week! At this time, we have one lead teacher planning the lesson and one assistant helping with making copies and other needs depending on the size of the group. If you feel a calling to help, whether it's by sharing your time in either role or just sitting in to see what's happening, contact Becky Morris immediately.

# Agape Youth News Brief

Thank you, to all of you that stayed for Potato Bar luncheon on March 24. I heard many positive comments about the lunch. Big potatoes, lots of toppings, and all the good fixin's. Thanks to all that contributed by making, baking, serving, and cleaning. Many hands make big jobs seem so simple. We may have to do this type of lunch another time!

We want to also thank everyone that took part of our spring jellybean sales. We hope you are enjoying your jellybeans.

Between the two fundraisers we were able to be more than \$400.00 closer to our goal. Way to go church family! The youth thank you so very much for supporting them in their endeavors.

We will continue to collect money towards our National Youth Conference (NYC) goal. This money will come from luncheons after church, aluminum recycling (bring in aluminum cans and ink cartridges – we can get a great price for them), and from those buying pop in the kitchen refrigerator. Additionally, don't forget about buying Scrips...what an easy way to help the youth fund and truly not pay any more than you would be spending anyway in any of the many, many businesses or restaurants. If you have a few odd jobs you think the youth group could handle...please let Rick Flickinger know about them.

The discussion topics for the months of March and April will be selected by Bradley Imhoff and Abbie Hopkins. They are: Failure, Gossip, Accepting Others, Grandmas & Grandpas, Violent Video Games, Facing Hard Questions, and Self Esteem. What GREAT topics! On March 24, we had a combination meeting of the two generations, youth and their grandparents. What wonderful wisdom the grandparents shared. I know the youth appreciated their participation. We had fun.

Several individuals have asked about our Rada knife sales. We are willing to place another order as long as we meet the minimum that we must include in an order. If you are interested in any of the Rada items, knives, kitchen utensils, soups, dips, sauces, candles, etc., and if you have an interest in ordering additional items, please let Rick Flickinger know and we can get an order together.

**Thank you so much for supporting the youth group.**

**All jumbo jelly beans come in \$5.00 bags – pick up an order form at Agape!**

**Jumbo Jelly Beans Available Flavors:** huckleberry, strawberry, root beer, black licorice, red licorice, cinnamon, cherry, pineapple, orange, chocolate covered cherry, lemon, lime, grape, blueberry, assorted fruit, cotton candy, assorted spice(wintergreen, peppermint, spearmint, anise, cinnamon, saffras), jelly stones (looks like polished rocks), (cinnamon, cherry, wintergreen, pineapple, citrus, licorice)

**Jelly Tarts Available Flavors:** lemon, grapefruit, pina colada, margarita, wild berry, grape, green, apple, orange, & assorted fruit tarts

**Some dates to keep on your calendar are:**

**April 7:** Baptism (Joel Brenneman)

**April 9:** Youth Group meets Tuesdays, starting this day.

**April 14:** Youth Sunday (This will be different - expect the unexpected!)

**May 5:** Council Meeting with lunch by the Youth

# APRIL 2013

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b> 2:30-5:30 Tutoring 4:30-7 Piano Lessons 6:30 Aerobics	<b>2</b> 12 Agape Seniors 4:30-7:30 Tutoring 6:30-7:30 Scouts	<b>3</b> 2:30-5:30 Tutoring 6 Executive Mtg 6:45-7:15 Piano Lessons 7:30 Choir	<b>4</b> 4:30-7:30 Tutoring 6:30 B4G 6:30 Aerobics	<b>5</b> 7 Men's Breakfast* 6:30 Service NG*	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 2:30-5:30 Tutoring 4:30-7 Piano Lessons 6:30 Aerobics	<b>9</b> 4:30-7:30 Tutoring 6:28 Agape Youth 6:30-7:30 Scouts 6:30 Crafty NG*	<b>10</b> 2:30-5:30 Tutoring 6:45-7:15 Piano Lessons 7:30 Choir	<b>11</b> 4:30-7:30 Tutoring 6:30 B4G 6:30 Aerobics	<b>12</b> 6:30 Women's Movie Night* 6-9 Scouts Derby Set-up	<b>13</b> 12-4 Scouts Derby
<b>14</b> Youth Sunday!	<b>15</b> 2:30-5:30 Tutoring 4:30-7 Piano Lessons 6:30 Aerobics	<b>16</b> 12 Agape Seniors 4:30-7:30 Tutoring 6:30-7:30 Scouts	<b>17</b> 2:30-5:30 Tutoring 6 Board Mtg 6:45-7:15 Piano Lessons 7:30 Choir	<b>18</b> 4:30-7:30 Tutoring 6:30 B4G 6:30 Aerobics	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 2:30-5:30 Tutoring 4:30-7 Piano Lessons 6:30 Aerobics	<b>23</b> 12 Agape Seniors 4:30-7:30 Tutoring 6:30-7:30 Scouts	<b>24</b> 10 Daytime NG 2:30-5:30 Tutoring 6:45-7:15 Piano Lessons 7:30 Choir	<b>25</b> 4:30-7:30 Tutoring 6:30 B4G 6:30 Aerobics	<b>26</b> 6:30 Agape Juniors*	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 1 pm Spurgeons FH	<b>29</b> 2:30-5:30 Tutoring 4:30-7 Piano Lessons 6:30 Aerobics	<b>30</b> 12 Agape Seniors 4:30-7:30 Tutoring				

\* Denotes an event held outside the church. Contact the person in charge of that event for details.

# April Birthdays

- 1 Melissa Wagner
- 5 Christine Scroggs
- 9 Robb Robison
- 13 Joyce Musser
- 19 Mike Cavins
- 19 Martha McComas
- 22 Maxine Cavins
- 23 Jerrica Kart
- 24 Darwin Sievers (in memory)
- 25 Rene Kart
- 27 Elizabeth Spurgeon
- 30 Wendy Imhoff



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# April Anniversaries

- 1 Gordon & Ethel Klopfenstein
- 10 Bob & Yvonne Hunt



# Miscellaneous Church News

## Quick Notes about Church Groups:

- \* Sunday School is right before Worship Service, at 9 am. Right now there are three groups meeting, including a new group for those in their **20s, 30s, and 40s**, tentatively called **Sophomores**. Discussion topics are decided each Sunday morning: Join in on the conversation in the overflow room.
- \* Agape Youth meets at **6:28 pm** on **Tuesdays** now, starting **April 9**.
- \* Nurture Groups are still meeting: See the sign-up board to get involved!

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- \* Don't forget to check out our website at [agapechurchfw.org](http://agapechurchfw.org)!
- \* The 2013 Church Directory is here & delivered in church mailboxes! Leave a note in the church office or send an email if you would like one.

## More Volunteer Opportunities:

- \* Wendy Imhoff needs volunteers to work in the **nursery** and Becky Morris needs volunteers to lead **children's church**. These are both easy ways you can give your time and bless others at Agape.
- \* The **Camp Mack Volunteer day** was postponed due to inclement weather, but look in bulletins for a rescheduled date in April or May. Contact Peg Robison if you would like more information.



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*Sent to our friends at:*



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

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## Agape Seniors

- \* The next Agape Seniors meeting is on **Tuesday, April 2 at 12:00 noon.**

## *Love Fund Report*

The Love Fund, which is managed by Pastor Jeff and the deacons, was established as a quick monetary resource available for those who need assistance for food, shelter, utilities, transportation, or other situations deemed worthy. **Through the years we have helped hundreds of people through our association with the Community Harvest Food Bank where we supply a \$19 voucher and they choose 100 pounds of food.** We have also established a **Walmart gift card system** for helping those who need fuel, groceries, or supplies at **\$25 per family. Additional needs** are granted upon a decision by the pastor and deacons when a **larger amount is needed for rent, utilities, transportation,** etc. A limit of **\$100 per family per year** was established so that we could help as many different people as possible.

Our income is through **donations**, through both offering designations and the Quarter Bank. Since the beginning of 2013, we emptied the Quarter Bank for a total of \$129.44. We have helped 3 families at the Community Harvest Food Bank for a total expenditure of \$57. We have a balance of \$853.43 in our account. **Thanks to those who contribute to this fund.**