



THE AGAPIAN



June/July 2012 — Agape Church of the Brethren



A Letter to Neighbors

When we think about reaching out in our community to

newcomers who might be influenced for Christ it is sometimes hard to know where to start. What do you say? How do you verbalize what we're all about in our church? What do we uniquely have to offer that might be of interest to them? One day I jotted down a few notes about what Church of the Brethren congregations might emphasize in such an exchange. It's in the form of a letter to neighbors. I share it with you as a conversation starter.

Dear Neighbor,

Are you tired of pat answers and the emptiness of contemporary life in the mainstream? Do the priorities of our culture and the violence of our time trouble you? In the Church of the

Brethren we are trying to discern a different way of living in the midst of the complexities of life in the 21st century. That different way of living is marked by such things as love, even for enemies; generosity, even for those unable to repay us; and a concern to "do to others as (we) would have them do to (us)," (Luke 6:31 /NRSV).

This "different way of living" has been defined for us by Jesus. He taught it, He lived it, He called those who would follow Him into the Kingdom of God to live it too. In the Church of the Brethren we endeavor to respond to this call from Jesus for disciples to follow Him in this blessed way of life. We are aware of how imperfect our discipleship is, but we trust God's grace, and we keep pressing on toward the kingdom anyway. All who hunger similarly for the Kingdom of God are invited to join us. There's room in the Kingdom for all who seek, for all who knock, for all who ask (Matthew 7:7).

Peace to you, in Christ Jesus!

-Pastor Jeff

Thank You!



Many, many thanks to all of you who gave your time to help every Monday and Thursday morning in May! You have been a blessing to many who stopped by for food and support.

The following were the May volunteers: Becky Morris, Chuck Morris, Ann Wagner, Dick Wagner, Peg Robison, Martha Jane Rust, Sharon Bender, Judy Cormany, Tonia Fox, Darwin Sievers,

Martha Stuver, and Becky Flickinger

Again in August we will supply the volunteers for the food bank. Plan to join those who already know the power and satisfaction of serving others.

Remember that the need is never ending, and your food donations are greatly appreciated.

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ALSO INSIDE:

June & July Monthly Calendars, Birthdays, & Anniversaries



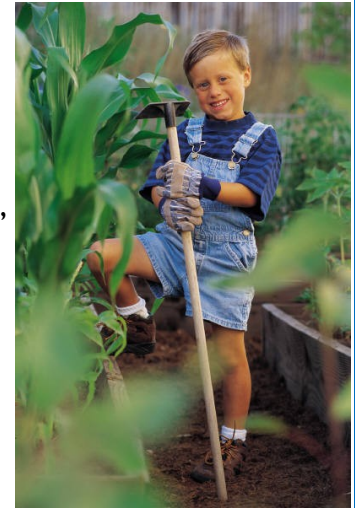
Vacation Bible School!

VBS—Here it comes! Help make our Agape "Garden" Grow!

"In the Beginning, God Created. . . PLANTS" of all kinds, and we will all be learning about the many plants (big and small) that are found both in the Bible and in the world around us! This is an evening VBS

for children, youth, and adults, and we have a variety of activities, speakers, songs, stories, and snacks to help EVERYONE learn more about the concept of PLANTS and how we benefit from them both today and in Bible times.

How can you help? Glad you asked! First, put **Mondays/ Tuesdays, June 18/19 and 25/26, 6:30—8:30 P.M.** each evening on YOUR calendar so you won't miss it! Then, **look around and see** if you can find children to invite—neighbors, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, friends, and family—ages 3 through grade 5 are welcome to join in the fun. Youth (grades 6+) and adults may be workers and/or attend the speaker session each evening—we have a variety of amazing people to share with YOU!!



Prepare the way! Here are the people we need to help make this VBS a success:

- * Decorators: We plan to make **3 rooms** and the **stage area** look like gardens! **Would you be willing** to help make that happen?
- * Group Leaders: We need **3 adults** (and a **helper or two for each group**) to take responsibility for a group of children and lead them through the evening's activities.
- * Snacks: We need a **coordinator** to plan and purchase and a **couple people each night** to prepare/serve the snacks.
- * Activities: We're planning 3 activities each night for children to rotate through and have some nights/sessions covered, **but we need more!** These range from craft-type activities, games, demonstrations, or even "PLANTING THINGS!" to reinforce the lesson for the evening.
- * Money \$\$: We're operating on a limited budget, so we may be asking for donations of food or money—**help if you can!**

What's next? There's a sign-up sheet on the announcement board. **Find at least one way you can assist**, and share your time and talent with Agape! We'll be sharing more details as we get closer to June 19, so **watch the bulletins.**

Questions? Ask Becky M., Joan S., or Rick or Becky F., and **we'll find a place for you!**

One Great Hour Of Sharing Offering

June 17, 2012

The witness commission is informing you of the opportunity to participate in an offering for the One Great Hour of Sharing. This is giving beyond your weekly Agape offering.



Exactly what is this offering?

One Great Hour of Sharing is an offering that makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time. Today, projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. While specific allocations differ in each denomination, all use their One Great Hour of Sharing funds to make possible disaster relief, refugee assistance, development aid, and more.

Some of the specific allocations for our denomination are:

- * Well-digging for clean safe water
- * Brethren Volunteer Service
- * Disaster relief
- * Postwar resettlement
- * Microfinance and economic development loans

Contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing make a difference in the lives of people.

Church World Service, a division of the National Council of Churches, with overseas partner churches and church councils are often the first on the scene following a disaster of natural or human origin. Local church leaders identify the needs of their people. Priorities are set to bring long-term solutions that will improve the quality of life for individuals and communities around the world. One Great Hour of Sharing, nearly 50 years old, continues to respond to needs equally critical as when it was first created.

**Please, give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing on June 17.
Find out more at www.onegreathourofsharing.org.**

Village at Winona Sleepover

Peg Robison is inviting the gals to join in on the fun **June 1 & 2!** It all starts with a sleepover on Friday, guests arriving anytime after lunch, **1 or 2 p.m.** On



Saturday we'll go to the Village at Winona 13th Annual Arts Fair (open 10 a.m.-6 p.m.). We'd love to have you spend the night, but if you show up on Saturday, that's fine too! Hope to see you there!

- * If you spend the night, bring clothes, a bathing suit, toiletries, and your favorite pillow—Peg will have bed linens.
- * Don't worry about bringing food (unless you want specific snacks). Peg will treat us to breakfast, and for lunch and dinner we can order pizza or eat in the village.
- * Guys (and dog companions) may show up on Saturday around noon for the Arts Fair, but before that, it's girls only!
- * Please R.S.V.P. to Kara Morris by phone or email. Questions? Ask Kara or Kendra Morris.

Kimmell House Daytrip



Ladies, on **Saturday, July 14, 11:30 a.m.**, we will meet at the Kimmell House for lunch. Mark your calendars and sign up early if you would like to join us—this will give everyone

plenty of time to organize rides.

- * **Please sign up by Sunday, July 8** so that Kara Morris can call in our reservation one week prior to the trip. The sign up sheet will be posted on the white board.
- * There will be two choices for lunch: You can order off the lunch menu (prices vary) or order a tea tray (\$11.95). Lunch menu orders will be a longer wait than tea tray orders because tea trays will be prepared in advance. The restaurant will add gratuity to our bills because we constitute a "large party." Detailed menu options will be under the sign up sheet.
- * If you have questions, please ask Kara.

Agape Juniors

- * On **June 11** we're off to Putt Putt for a round of miniature golf at **6:30**. Then either to Arby's or Glenbrook's Apple Glen Food Court for supper, snacks, or just fellowship. The first 10 people who sign up can play for just \$2.00 per person! I know it is tempting, but remember that Agape Junior events are open to adults only.
- * On **July 21** at **6:00** we have been invited to Gerry and Sandy Charvat's home for ribs on the grill. Everyone bring a side dish (salad, vegetables, dessert) to share. Table service and beverages will be provided.



Sign up for these events in the narthex.

Nurture Groups Wrap Up!

Service/Mission, Daytime, and Serendipity Nurture Groups wrapped up their monthly meetings by eating out at the final gathering in May.

The Service/Mission Group has worked with several projects as well as meeting monthly. All three groups have enjoyed meeting throughout the year with a focus on fellowship, devotions, discussion, and food. At least 45 people were

involved in these groups throughout the year, and we hope to regroup and continue in the fall.



The Crafty Nurture Group will continue meeting through the summer with various projects planned.

COOK'S CORNER

By: Joyce Musser

On Volunteerism

"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do it with the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God." (1 Peter 4:10–11)

Ann Pepple is a welcome face at Franke Park Elementary School where she worked 12 years in special education. She has spent an additional 6 years volunteering every Monday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in a second grade class. Her teacher is retiring this year so Ann has also decided to retire. A special memory is of Tickles, the turtle. Each class has an animal. Tickles had to be fed by an eye dropper. After 28 years, it is still there in her classroom. Ann's favorite meal is steak with sweet potato at Logan's Steakhouse.

Beth and Jack Green are both volunteers at the Gene Stratton Porter restored home. They give tours and serve at the special Christmas open house. Beth assists with special tea parties. Jack serves as an outdoor guide and helps with the wild game cookout. Jack also walks dogs weekly at the Humane Shelter. Both Jack and Beth help with the library book sales three times a year and also help in the church food bank. Switta Thai is a favorite restaurant of the Greens where they often enjoy the Rama chicken and broccoli served in a peanut sauce over a bed of rice.

Marilu Brunson spends every Monday reading five local newspapers to the blind for the downtown library. Twice a month she also reads poetry. Her time and effort is appreciated by over 3,500 disabled and blind folks. The radio station offers programming 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Other volunteers also read a wide variety of magazines. Marilu's constant buddy is Jada, a rescue poodle. Jada enjoys

spending time in the car and gets treats from the bank and at McDonald's. Other hobbies of Marilu are playing the accordion, going to Curves, and water aerobics class. Her favorite restaurant is Cracker Barrel where all ages can order off the children's menu. Marilu always orders shrimp and carrots.

Becky Morris gives her time to third graders at the Embassy Theater. They tour the whole building, starting in the old Hotel Lobby. This is a study field trip where the kids answer questions on the history of the building while learning about community volunteers that saved this most beautiful building. After traipsing through the whole building, the kids participate in a skit on the stage area and hear the organ being played. Becky enjoys a meal of steak and sweet potatoes at the Texas Roadhouse.

Darwin Sievers also volunteers at the Embassy. He gets to play that gigantic organ! One song he always plays is "Bicycle Built for Two," and he also demonstrates a wide variety of sound effects. Darwin enjoys a special meal of roast beef dinner at the Essenhaus in Middlebury.

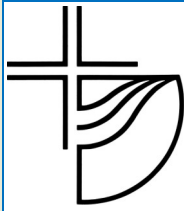
Vicki Welch gives her free time teaching swimming lessons to disabled children from Turnstone. Ages vary from 3 years old through teens. The program is run by a physical therapist to teach skills, socialization, fun, and physical strength. The kids "compete" against themselves and receive ribbons at the end of the sessions when they have a big party with firemen and a radio deejay. Vicki prefers the grilled fish, steamed veggies, and gluten free bread at Biaggi's.

The above volunteers all know their efforts are appreciated. As they willingly give their time, they touch the lives of many souls.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00 on Sunday morning —where are you? Here's what's happening at Agape Sunday School. **Charlotte** is leading the right-side adult class studying the book *Calm, My Anxious Heart...* by Linda Dillow. On the left-side,

Darwin and **Chuck** are coleading the study of a DVD/Book, *Muslims, Christians, and Jesus* by Carl Medearis. **Vicki, Joan S.**, and others are sharing the responsibility for the children, and **Joyce** will lead the children during the summer months. **Becky M.** is teaching the youth class. Just look at what you're missing if you're not there—an educational opportunity to share and learn with Christian friends! **Join us!**



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:

- * Joan Brenneman and Sharon Bender will host the Agape Seniors meeting on **June 5 at noon**. Meat and drinks will be provided—bring a dish to share! Jerry Brenneman will speak after the meal.
- * On **Tuesday, July 3**, at **8:00 a.m.**, Agape Seniors will be meeting at Cosmo's for breakfast, and then they will be heading to the Associated Churches Food Bank Warehouse on 602 E. Wayne St., in Fort Wayne to help sort food. Contact Ann Pepple for details!



Deacon Love Fund Report: 3/11/12—5/20/12

Beginning balance – \$1701.89
Expenditures – Community Harvest
Food Bank - \$38 (2 families assisted)
Fuel/travel assistance - \$65
Income – Quarter Bank - \$129.10
Ending Balance - \$1727.99



A Poem for Thought

I went out to find a friend,
But could not find one there.
I went out to be a friend,
And friends were everywhere.
-From the Good News's Daily Encounter
Devotional Series (<http://www.actsweb.org/daily.php?id=988>)

June 2012

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 WF Village at Winona Retreat	2 WF Village at Winona Retreat
3 Bread & Cup Service	4 4:30 Tutoring 5:30 Piano 6:30 Aerobics	5 12:00 Agape Seniors 5:00 Tutoring 6:28 Youth 6:30 Scouts	6 4:30 Tutoring 6:00 Executive Meeting	7 5:00 Tutoring 6:30 Aerobics 7:00 Bound 4 Glory	8	9
10	11 4:30 Tutoring 5:30 Piano 6:30 Aerobics	12 6:30 Crafty NG* 5:00 Tutoring 6:28 Youth 6:30 Scouts	13 4:30 Tutoring	14 5:00 Tutoring 6:30 Aerobics 7:00 Bound 4 Glory	15	16
17 <i>Father's Day</i>	18 6:30-8:30 VBS!	19 6:30-8:30 VBS!	20 4:30 Tutoring 6:00 Church Board	21 5:00 Tutoring 6:30 Aerobics 7:00 Bound 4 Glory	22	23
24	25 6:30-8:30 VBS!	26 6:30-8:30 VBS!	27 4:30 Tutoring	28 5:00 Tutoring 6:30 Aerobics 7:00 Bound 4 Glory	29	30

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Birthdays

- 4 Dale Warner
- 5 Robert Musser
- 10 Shirley Anderson
- 11 Mary Ebert
- 11 Ryan Spurgeon
- 14 Mark Welch
- 19 Dough Welch
- 22 Sarah Spurgeon
- 23 Janis Burroughs
- 24 Yvonne Hunt
- 24 Gene Wort
- 27 Terron McCoy
- 28 Maura Furry
- 30 Betty Eriks

Anniversaries

- 1 Al & Anna Glick
- 4 Ray & Becky Imhoff
- 4 Dale & Jody Warner
- 7 Roger & Mary Hauptert
- 16 Chuck & Becky Morris
- 21 Gerry & Sandy Charvat
- 21 Randee & Peg Robison
- 25 Rob & Melissa Robison

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 4:30 Tutoring 5:30 Piano 6:30 Aerobics	3 8:00 a.m. Agape Seniors* 5:00 Tutoring 6:28 Youth 6:30 Scouts	4 4:30 Tutoring	5 5:00 Tutoring 6:30 Aerobics 7:00 Bound 4 Glory	6	7
8 Deacon's Meeting (Shipes Hosting) 1-4:00 Pepple Wedding Shower	9 4:30 Tutoring 5:30 Piano 6:30 Aerobics	10 6:30 Crafty NG* 5:00 Tutoring 6:28 Youth 6:30 Scouts	11 4:30 Tutoring	12 5:00 Tutoring 6:30 Aerobics 7:00 Bound 4 Glory	13	14 11:30 WF Kimmell House Lunch
15	16 4:30 Tutoring 5:30 Piano 6:30 Aerobics	17 5:00 Tutoring 6:28 Youth 6:30 Scouts	18 4:30 Tutoring 6:00 Church Board	19 5:00 Tutoring 6:30 Aerobics 7:00 Bound 4 Glory	20	21
22	23 4:30 Tutoring 5:30 Piano 6:30 Aerobics	24 5:00 Tutoring 6:28 Youth 6:30 Scouts	25 4:30 Tutoring	26 4-H Agape Chicken BBQ* 5:00 Tutoring 6:30 Aerobics 7:00 Bound 4 Glory	27	28
29 <i>Bring a Friend Sunday</i>	30 4:30 Tutoring 5:30 Piano 6:30 Aerobics	31 5:00 Tutoring 6:28 Youth 6:30 Scouts				

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July 2012

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Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

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

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