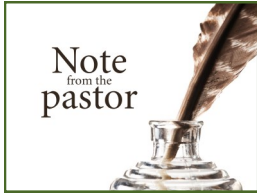




# THE AGAPIAN



May 2012 — Agape Church of the Brethren



## The Mark of a Disciple

We sometimes have a tendency in the church to complicate

what it means to be a disciple of Jesus with formulas of salvation and many long lists of dos and don'ts. The Pharisees did the same thing in their day—coming up with lists of what was permissible and what was not permissible for the child of God. The mindset is still around. Phariseeism did not disappear at the end of the 1st century A.D. It's too deeply planted in the human genome for that.

So there is always a need for ways of cutting through the complexities in faith and life. Jesus did that dramatically in His ministry. He reduced the question of being one of His disciples to one factor: love. "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. All men will know that you are my disciples; if you love one another" (John 13:34-35/NIV). The tell-tale sign of the Christians' discipleship is the love they demonstrate toward one another.

And this injunction for Jesus' disciples to love one another is just part of the broader injunction to love, period. We're to love one another, we're to love God, and we're to love our neighbor (Matthew 22:37-39); believe it or not, we're even to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44). That means that there's no one whom we're not to love. If we are called to love our enemies, we're called to love everyone. Jesus made the focus of our Christian lives

very clear. "All men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another" (John 13:35/NIV).

What is love? That's the natural question. What is this "love" by which we are to be known as Christians? It's important to remember that it's not just a warm feeling or a kindly pleasant manner toward people. Those things are nice, but they are not the extent of what love is. Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan to illustrate what love looks like (Luke 10).

It's to be noted that in that story the Samaritan did more than simply feel sorry for the man who fell among thieves or smile at him pleasantly. He acted to help the man. He took care of him. He put himself out for the man. That's where the essence of love is found. When we put ourselves out for others, that's when we demonstrate love. That's when we follow, however imperfectly, the steps of our Savior, who put Himself out, for love of us. He offered Himself, for us on the cross. Pretty dramatic!

So with that in mind, we can ask ourselves, "What are we all about in the church, as disciples of Jesus?" Proper worship service manners? No! A certain style of dress? No! Having ready answers to all questions theological? No! What we're about is loving, as Jesus loved. That's what we're all about. As the apostle Paul put it, "...if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:2b/NIV). That's pretty much the point. **Think about it!**

**-Pastor Jeff**

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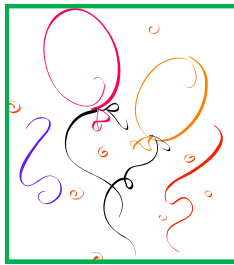
- Special Sunday School & Agape Youth Insert
- Birthdays & Anniversaries
- May Calendar



## Bags, Baskets, and Balloons!

Ladies, you won't want to miss this event—**May 19, 2:00–4:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. A

fun afternoon for young and mature alike is planned. Please bring your friends and family—this is a good opportunity to introduce others to Agape! Tickets are available now from Sharon Bender or Ann Pepple. There will be lots of surprises in addition to the food, fellowship, and fun!



## Wanted: Willing Workers

The Stewards request that we all work together to keep the Agape grounds beautiful. They have designated **May 1–15** as “outside work weeks,” and jobs are posted in the narthex. Select one or more and complete it at your convenience during that time. You will need to provide your own equipment and supplies. If you see a job you think needs attention and it's not on a sticky note, feel free to go ahead and complete it. Visitors and regulars have often commented on how attractive our building and garden setting is. **Let's do our best to keep up that appearance! Your involvement is appreciated.**



## Free Garage Sale!



Clean those closets and sort those clothes! **The FREE Garage Sale will**

**be here soon on May 24 & 25** (sponsored by the Service/Mission Nurture Group).

Help others and help yourself! **Start bringing items to the church on May 9. Set-up will begin Tuesday, May 22**—we hope to have lots of “stuff,” lots of people helping, and even more people “shopping!” Watch to see how YOU can help!

## Agape Juniors

\* The Juniors will meet at **6:30 on May 21** at the Switta Thai Restaurant next to the Cracker Barrel on Washington Center Road. This is one of the Green's favorite restaurants.



\* On **June 18** 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!

**Sign up for either or both of these in the narthex.**

There are more exciting events for July and August. More on those later!

## Opportunity to Serve!



Neighborhood  
Food Network

Are you interested in helping others? Do you mind giving a little of your time to those less

fortunate than yourself? We would love your help at the North Christian Church, 5201 Camden Drive, across from the Wal-Mart plaza on Coldwater Road. **Agape supplies workers for the Food Bank every Monday and Thursday in May and August. We need about 4 or 5 people each day working from 9:00-11:45 a.m.** This job is not hard—it's fun and it's refreshing! Come and join the others that have experienced this wonderful way of giving to others. You can sign up to help on the clipboard or at the white board at church. Thanks so much for your spirit to help in God's Kingdom.

—Witness Commission, Ray Imhoff & Becky Flickinger

## COOK'S CORNER

By: Joyce Musser

Kendra Ann (Leonard) Morris is one very busy lady, but she appears to be handling her heavy load. She is a graduate of Wayne High School where she enjoyed being in the drama club. Her parents are Shelia, a high school guidance counselor, and Bill, a copy editor at the Journal Gazette. Brother Ben works for FedEx. Supportive husband is Kyle with Millie, the dog, at his side. Kyle works at Fox Products where they make oboes and bassoons. Kendra is in the master's school counseling program at IPFW where she also works as a publication assistant and is presently doing a practicum at an alternative school.

In her "free time," Kendra enjoys reading, doing art work, learning to play the guitar, and working on house projects with Kyle. She is also the #1 groupie for Kyle as he plays guitar and sings with his music partner at clubs. Three words her friends might use to describe Kendra by are thoughtful, silly, and energetic. Her favorite movies are *Sound of Music* and the new movie *The Muppets*.

Since Kendra and Kyle were married May 1, 2010, the question was asked of them to share any marriage advice. Kendra said, "It

is important to be nice to each other, to be considerate of one another: then there are less problems." When asked if they had received any special advice, Kendra said Uncle Dale Warner shared a lot, but she could not remember any of it!

When it comes to cooking, it is a shared job. Kyle usually makes soups or chili in the crock pot. Kendra enjoys making and eating Indian food like curry. It is her standby meal to make when friends come over. Kendra is addicted to Harvest Cheddar Sun Chips and dark chocolate. Raw veggies, kale, and yogurt will always be found in their fridge, but processed stuff like Velveeta will not be there. For a dream dinner party, Kendra would invite both sides of their families, including cousins and more. She would serve an Indian food feast.

It sounds like Kendra has the determination and fortitude it will take to keep this heavy schedule for another 18 months until she has earned her master's degree. The Agape family appreciates Kendra and Kyle sharing their musical talents and time with us. (If you want a copy of Kendra's recipe for curry, contact Joyce Musser.)

## Vacation Bible School



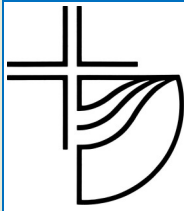
**Get ready—VBS is June 18/19 & 25/26, from 6:30-8:30!** "In the Beginning, God created . . . PLANTS!"

will feature planting, growing, tasting, smelling, decorating, observing, and working with PLANTS of all kinds! We'll cover the Bible's parables of the sower and mustard seed, the symbols of communion, and how spices were used in Bible times. We'll also plan hands-on activities teaching how important plants are in our lives. **Many workers will be needed to help with children's activities**, and the adult session will feature community speakers involved in the use of PLANTS!

**Say "YES" when asked to help!**

## Progressive Dinner

On May 5th, enjoy your evening out with Agape friends, and report back later! Names were in by April 22, and assignments for who is hosting, attending, and bringing what were made by April 29. **Thank you Wendy for organizing this event!**



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



*Celebrating 50 years  
of finding cures  
and saving children.*

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## **Thank You!**

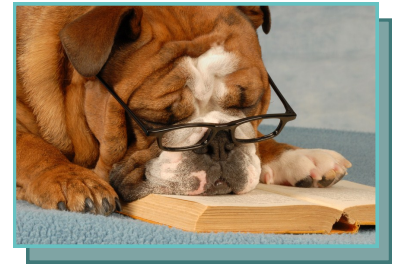
- \* Thanks to both Rick Flickinger's parents and Juanita Warner: They were great "savers." People in their families were willing to go through years of greeting cards and save the fronts to send to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital recycled card program. Two full boxes have been sent recently!
- \* As a reminder to everyone, card fronts from everything but Hallmark and Disney can be deposited in the bag in the narthex. St. Jude uses them to create new cards to sell to support their projects. This is an ongoing project of Women's Fellowship.
- \* And finally, we cannot express enough thanks to Anne Wetzel for her 16 months of being Agape's secretary/office manager. Though we are so happy and proud of her new position at ExactTarget in Indianapolis, we really miss her! It is taking a total of TEN volunteer Agapians to fill her shoes until we find someone to officially "replace" her—whew! If you'd like to keep in contact with Anne or send her your own "best wishes," her email address is [wetzela@live.com](mailto:wetzela@live.com).

## **Bearcreek Farms Trip**

The Agape Seniors head to Bearcreek Farms on May 5—remember that the bus leaves from Agape at 9:30 sharp!



# Sunday School & Agape Youth Updates



Agape Church of the Brethren—May 2012

## Sunday School

Two adult classes are offered each week at 9:00, and new topics are beginning for both soon. Both are in the Fellowship Hall. In the right side classroom, Beth is finishing a study of friendships, and Char will begin leading with a book called *Calm, My Anxious Heart*. In the left side classroom with shared leadership, Jack is discussing community service, and Darwin, Ron, and Chuck will begin a study of the DVD/book *Muslims, Christians, and Jesus*, which was suggested by Elmar when he led the group on Easter. The youth and children will be using the "Gather Round" curriculum through the spring quarter.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE "STARS"

Thanks to those who keep those attendance sheets in the classrooms each week, and CONGRATULATIONS to those who attended at least 10 of the 13 weeks in the January-March quarter: Becky M., Beth, Bradley, Chuck, Connie, Dan, Dave, Dean, Doug M., Hannah, Jack, Joyce, Maura, Ori, and Wendy. WAY TO GO!

Apologies to anyone who might have been missed: many were accounted for on multiple sheets, some were close, and one class left a whole month blank! If you've got a bone to pick, go after Becky M.!

## Agape Youth

The youth group is going very well. We started in August with 3 students., and we've had as many as 13. Since Christmas we have consistently had 7 or 8 meet together each Tuesday evening for games, scripture lessons, and fellowship.

We have studied topics such as: "Why are there different denominations?"; "What's God's purpose of me?"; "Givers and Takers"; "The truth about dating"; "Why did God give me acne?"; "Loneliness"; "Resisting temptation"; "The Old Testament, Jesus, and you!"; and many, many more. As you can see, we cover many interesting topics. Of course we try to play some very interesting games too! Ask a youth about them!

During the Christmas season we sold jumbo jelly beans. We served a chili & sandwich meal to the congregation, provided the meal for the March council meeting, and will be providing the meal for the May council meeting. We have had a couple service projects of raking leaves and cleaning the fence row around the church. We have also swept the picnic tables and the pavilion so it is ready to be used for activities, and we hope to do more of these types of jobs this summer. **If you have a few odd jobs you think the youth group could handle, please let Rick Flickinger know about them.**

The youth group has really been enjoying themselves and looks forward to continuing to dynamically grow. There is even "talk" about a "lock-in"—stay tuned!

### THANK YOU!

Huge thanks go out to Tania Fox for helping to organize the dinners! Another huge thanks goes to all the parents that have helped out in organizing cooking, cleaning, and control. Thanks to Darwin Sievers and Becky Flickinger for helping out with the youth group. It is such a blessing to have many people helping with this program.

# May 2012

Continuing the work of Jesus—Peacefully. Simply. Together

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 5:00 Tutoring 6:28 Youth 6:30 Scouts	2 4:30 Tutoring 7:30 Choir	3 5:00 Tutoring 6:30 Aerobics 7:00 Bound 4 Glory	4	5 9:30 *Seniors 10-12:30 Shipe recital 1-4:00 Pepple reserve, FH *Progressive Dinner
6 Council Meeting Youth Lunch 3:00 Wort Anniversary	7 4:30 Tutoring 5:30 Piano 6:30 Aerobics in Narthex	8 Elections, church all day 6:28 Youth 6:30 Scouts 6:30 *Crafty NG	9 4:30 Tutoring 7:30 Choir	10 5:00 Tutoring 6:30 Aerobics 7:00 Bound 4 Glory	11	12 9-1:00 Camp Mack Meeting, FH 11:00 Imhoff Baptisms
13 <i>Mother's Day</i>	14 4:30 Tutoring 5:30 Piano 6:30 Aerobics	15 5:00 Tutoring 6:28 Youth 6:30 Scouts	16 4:30 Tutoring 6:00 Board meeting 7:30 Choir	17 5:00 Tutoring 6:30 Aerobics 7:00 Bound 4 Glory	18 6:30 *Serendipity NG 6:30 *Service/Mission NG 9:00 WF Set-up	19 2-4:00 Bags, Baskets, and Balloons (WF)
20 Deacon Meeting, Rupps hosting	21 4:30 Tutoring 5:30 Piano 6:30 *Juniors 6:30 Aerobics	22 5:00 Tutoring 6:28 Youth 6:30 Scouts	23 10:00 Daytime NG 4:30 Tutoring 7:30 Choir	24 FREE Garage Sale 5:00 Tutoring 6:30 Aerobics in Narthex 7:00 Bound 4 Glory	25 FREE Garage Sale	26
27	28 4:30 Tutoring 5:30 Piano 6:30 Aerobics	29 5:00 Tutoring 6:28 Youth 6:30 Scouts	30 4:30 Tutoring 7:30 Choir	31 5:00 Tutoring 6:30 Aerobics 7:00 Bound 4 Glory		

## Agape Church of the Brethren

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\*Indicates that the event is not at the church. Ask the contact person or the church office for location and more details.





## May Birthdays:

1 Laura LeMay  
2 Kayla Fox  
6 Cameron Shipe  
11 Randee Robison  
12 Bill Barnhart  
14 Ronnie Roebel  
23 Hunter McCoy  
23 Lowell Black  
24 Rick Flickinger



## May Anniversaries:

1 Kyle & Kendra Morris  
2 Gene & Mary Jo Wort  
8 Duaine & Bette Scribner  
13 Tim & Christine Scroggs  
17 Jim & Deb Wetzel  
20 Lowell & Rose Black  
23 Joe & Charlotte Schafer  
27 Brian & Martha McComas  
31 Dick & Ann Wagner

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## NURTURE GROUP DETAILS:

- \* May 8—Crafty Nurture Group meets at Mary Ebert's home - bring your own projects and/or work on hats for newborns.
- \* May 11—Several members of groups are attending Northwood Middle School's Spaghetti Supper (fund raiser along with entertainment by show choir) with performances by Bradley Imhoff - see Wendy for information and tickets.
- \* May 18—Both Friday night groups are meeting: The Service/Mission Group will be at St. James Restaurant in Avilla (contact Becky Morris for reservations), and the Serendipity Group will be at Wu's Chinese Restaurant on Coldwater Rd. (see Peg Robison to reserve a spot).
- \* May 23—Daytime Nurture Group will meet at church and go out for lunch.

The crafty group will continue meeting through the summer, and if other groups are continuing, please let me know. Thanks to all who participated for a great year of food, fun, and fellowship through this program!

—Becky Morris, Nurture Commission