

THE AGAPIAN

August 2012 — Agape Church of the Brethren

The Mountain of the Lord's Temple

Where I was born in Miami County, Indiana there were absolutely no hills of any kind that could be seen where I lived. You could look in every direction, all points of the compass, and there would be no raised areas in sight, period. The land was literally as flat as a table top. It was great for farming, but monotonous to the eye. When I was nine years old my family moved to a farm in Whitley County, Indiana. The ground around this new farm in Whitley County was more uneven. There were raised areas that could actually be called hills. The new topography gave my brothers and I an opportunity to play a game that we had heretofore been unable to enjoy. It was called King on the Mountain.

Up one of the large hills near our new farm house, we were soon climbing like soldiers, trying to establish our preeminence on top, by throwing the others off the hill, and yelling out, "King on the Mountain." They would then assail us in turn, and there would soon be a new "King on the Mountain." It was great fun for young boys who finally had some raised ground to play on.

In Isaiah 2:1-5 (NIV) the prophet Isaiah envisioned a time when the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob would be the undisputed "King of the Mountain," occupying the preeminent spot in the geography of earth, and in the hopes and aspirations of earth's people. "In the last days," the prophet writes, "the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as chief among the mountains: it

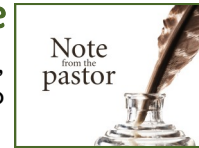
will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it."

It's a grand vision. The object of it, though, according to the prophet, is not like a child's game of one-up-man's-ship (King on the Mountain). Rather it is to be like a grand Sermon on the Mount, where the law will go forth "out from Zion," (vs. 3/NIV), "disputes" will be settled "for many peoples," (vs. 4/NIV) and war will be made obsolete. This envisioned undisputed, pre-eminence of Israel's God is seen by the prophet as spelling the end, at some point in the future, of war and strife on this earth. "Nations will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore" (Isaiah 2:4/NIV).

It is a vision that often times seems far from reality, in light of the persistence of violent conflict in our world. But to relinquish this vision would be disastrous. As the Scriptures indicate, "Where there is no vision, the people perish..." (Proverbs 29:18/KJV). God obviously gave this vision to the prophet, because He wanted His children to be guided and inspired by it. Imagine the debts into which a world without this vision might plunge! Dante's *Inferno* comes quickly to mind. However unlikely the vision of an end to war and violence on earth might seem, let's not give up on the vision. Let's keep before us the dream of the coming pre-eminence of the Mountain of the Lord, and with it the hope of "all nations" one day streaming to it (Isaiah 2:2/NIV).

Peace to you, in Christ Jesus!

-Pastor Jeff



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ALSO INSIDE:

-August Calendar
-Birthdays
& Anniversaries

Miss Bound 4 Glory?

You're in luck! **Bound 4 Glory** will be performing on the following dates:

- * **August 10, 7:00 PM** @Van Buren Popcorn Festival, in Van Buren, IN
- * **September 23, 6:00 PM** @Agape Church of the Brethren, in Ft. Wayne, IN (Benefit Concert for Camp Mack and other outreach)
- * **October 6, 11:30 AM** @Camp Mack Festival in Milford, IN
- * **November 10, 7:00PM** @United Church of Crawfordsville, in Crawfordsville, IA



Liz Curtis Higgs Event

Liz Curtis Higgs is coming to the Fort Wayne Marriott **September 14-15**. Higgs is a storyteller, humorist, and author whose unique style of teaching Biblical lessons will keep you on the edge of your seat. Ladies, save these dates on your calendar now. Higgs will be sharing her latest book, *The Girl's Still Got It*. Cost is \$65 and includes the Friday evening banquet, Saturday brunch, and three dynamic sessions. **See Beth** if you are interested in registering.

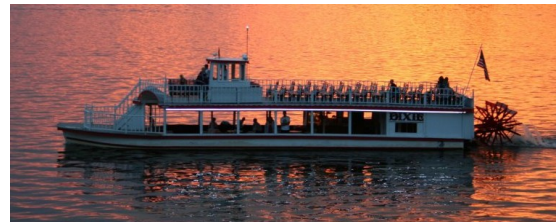


Agape Juniors

On **Sunday, Aug. 12** we'll enjoy a special lake outing—the fun begins at **3:15 p.m.**, and we'll meet at the North Webster town park. We will take the 3:30 Dixie Sternwheeler 90-minute ride for a cost of \$7.00 each. (Peg and Beth have fond memories of riding the Dixie during Methodist church camp in our youth.) Following that we will meet at Darwin and Joan Sievers' cottage on Barbee Lake for a Dogs and Brats cookout. Everyone bring a picnic dish of food to share.

North Webster is located on St. Rd. 13 approximately 8 miles north of US 30 or 14 miles south of St. Rd. 6. Turn east on Himes Street and left at the stop sign. Parking and the Dixie docks are at the town park next to the Lake View Pizza King.

Sign up for these events in the narthex.



You're Invited to the...

Agape Ice Cream

Social, Cruise-In,

& New Member Recognition

Who: You, family, friends, and everybody who wants to have a good time of fellowship, fun, and food!

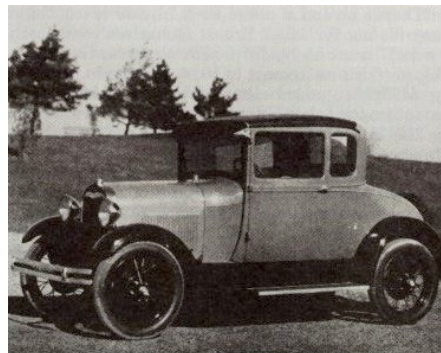
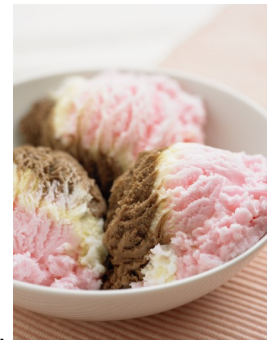
What: Bring your "classic" vehicles for display, bring your games to play, bring conversation to "say," bring some food on a tray, and bring your appetite after we pray! After the meal, we'll enjoy homemade ice cream for dessert and then recognize our new members since last August!

When: Sat., August 18, 4:00—Cruise-in, games, socializing. **5:00**—Carry-in meal (bring your favorite dishes!) followed by homemade ice cream. Following the meal, we'll have a time of sharing led by the deacons to get to know our new members.

Where: Agape pavilion where we'll picnic and enjoy our outdoor facility! (Weather permitting.)

Why: Because we need some FUN, FOOD, and FELLOWSHIP with our Agape Church friends!

JOIN US!



COOK'S CORNER

By: Joyce Musser

Rhonda Hughes hails from Monticello, IN. Born to Anna and Joe (deceased), she is of a third generation raised in the Church of the Brethren. Family is most important to Rhonda. Her brother, Jeff, has three children and sister, Chris, has one son. Both siblings live in the Lafayette area.

A Ball State University graduate in accounting, Rhonda is currently taking additional classes online in the area of healthcare administration. Having worked twenty-one years for Frontier, she moved to Fort Wayne from Bloomington, Illinois. A big fan of the Cubs and Colts, Rhonda describes herself as "friendly" and "competitive" (in many sports, including Putt Putt golf, and according to Char Schafer, Rhonda is a maniac driving go-carts!)

When asked what brings joy to your life, Rhonda quickly answered, "Spending time with

my four nephews and nieces! My dog, Lacy, and six cats also keep me grounded." Hobbies include quilting, painting, doing odd jobs, and building "stuff" around her house. Rhonda loves to go places on short trips and see new things. Black raspberry pie is her favorite dessert. Alaska and the Smokey Mountains are her most favorite vacation destinations. She hopes to return there again some day.

Still wants to learn: "Something new every day."

Looking forward to: "Retirement!!!"

Rhonda thinks the best thing about Fort Wayne is all the friendly people she has met at Agape, at work, and on her bowling league. Even though Rhonda favors the Cubs and Colts, she is heartily welcomed by both the Agape Hoosier and Boilermaker fans!

AUGUST SUNDAY SCHOOL

Although we are wrapping up summer, we still have the following classes being taught:

- * **Children ages 3 - grade 5** - Joyce Musser - they meet in the primary room with various topics.
- * **Youth grades 6-12** - Becky Morris - devotion/story/lesson followed by playing a favorite game (Bananagrams or Dutch Blitz anyone?)
- * **Adults in the left side room** - various leadership - Messenger magazine articles will be discussed
- * **Adults in the right side room** - Charlotte Schafer - wraps up her study of the book, *Calm, My Anxious Heart*.

Classes are open and everyone is welcome to join the discussion!

COME EARLY AND LEARN!



Highlights from Vacation Bible School!

From the Nurture Commission

Many people worked together and shared their talents so that God's blessing of "In the Beginning, God Created . . . PLANTS" could happen, and we are grateful for the opportunity. **First of all, a HUGE thank you to everyone who participated!** Whether you led a group, planned an activity, shared in the opening or closing, came one night or four, or donated a jar of peanut butter - YOU were part of what made it happen! I would attempt to recognize each person who had a part in the event, but I'd probably forget someone, so I'll just share some of the highlights of the four VBS nights!



We had . . .

- * 23 children participating and 38 adults helping with the opening, closing or activities.
- * a total of 73 adults and youth involved in either working with children or listening to the speaker.
- * 4 nights of great presenters: Jackie Hoopfer/Horticultural Therapy; Kevin Roth and Jerry Sauder/Food Resources Bank; Jim Roth/Associated Churches Food Bank; and Lori Berndt/Olive Twist

We also . . .

- * listened to the Tator's fun skits: Dick/Jim W, Hesi/Rose, Sweet/Deb W, Agi/Mary Jo
- * brought in lots of food for the Associated Churches Food Bank
- * collected offerings of \$420 to be divided between Food Resources Bank and Heifer International's "Seeds of Change"
- * enjoyed the "TREE SONG" featuring the Youth Group!
- * made pine cone bird feeders, potato print bags, rock candy, seed collages or cereal necklaces, breadsticks, and stone soup!
- * had "tree" nametags
- * enjoyed the "garden areas" in the front of the sanctuary and in the classroom
- * grew and sprouted seeds and watched them grow
- * smelled spices and herbs
- * sorted cans and boxes of food and more into categories
- * played games
- * heard stories
- * learned how grains, veggies, and fruits become foods we eat and drink
- * pretended to be "seeds" and sang about how God makes plants grow
- * learned about communion
- * decorated foam "stuff"
- * ate yummy snacks
- * made new friends

We didn't want it to end, but we did end on a high note and shared our songs in the worship service on Sunday. Thanks to Rick and Becky Flickinger for an amazing amount of work that they did to plan and make things happen!

—The Nurture Commission (Becky M, Joan S, and Wendy I)

Photos from Annual Conference

From Jack & Beth Green

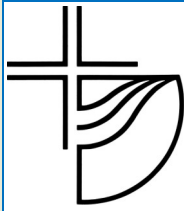
Jack and Beth Green represented Agape Church of the Brethren at Annual Conference this year, and here's some pictures they want to share with you all. Jack will be giving a presentation on his experiences at Annual Conference soon—stay tuned for updates!



Left, Jack points out Agape's quilt that was on display at Conference. He's pointing to Charlotte Schafer's square!



Right, Jack delivers a big box full of school supplies from Agape to Conference for the St. Louis public school kids!



Agape Church of the Brethren

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Sent to our friends at:



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



Agape Seniors:

- * The next Agape Seniors meeting is on **August 7**: Plans are to meet at **1:00 p.m.** for ice cream sundaes (no carry in or lunch) and games.
- * Bring a game of your choice!

Contact Ann Pepple or Sharon Bender if you have questions.

Congratulations to the following people who attended **Sunday School Stars** a Sunday School class at least 6 of the 8 weeks in May and June. Due to some malfunctions in the system during April the adult classes didn't have accurate records, so we just eliminated it.

Way to go - Maura, Becky M, Jack, Dan, Dean, Darwin, Chuck, Gene, Mary Jo, Rhonda, Charlotte S, Becky I, Beth, Connie, TJ, Daniel, and Joyce.

Thanks for your support of the teachers who work and prepare each week, and thanks for making Sunday School class time a priority. We know there are others who use that time for worship preparation, but this group were the ones in a class during the 9:00 hour!



In other news, stay tuned—the Agape website is coming soon!

August 2012

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 4:30 Tutoring 6:00 Executive Board Mtg	2 5:00 Tutoring 6:30 Aerobics 7:00 Bound 4 Glory	3	4
5 Gump Reunion (Morris)	6 4:30 Tutoring 5:30 Piano 6:30 Aerobics	7 1:00 Agape Seniors 5:00 Tutoring 6:28 Youth 6:30 Scouts	8 4:30 Tutoring	9 5:00 Tutoring 6:30 Aerobics 7:00 Bound 4 Glory	10 7:00 Bound 4 Glory Concert*—Van Buren, IN	11
12 Pavilion Reserved (Mary Ebert) 3:00 Agape Juniors*	13 4:30 Tutoring 5:30 Piano 6:30 NO Aerobics	14 5:00 Tutoring 6:28 Youth 6:30 Scouts 6:30 Crafty NG*	15 4:30 Tutoring 6:00 Board Mtg	16 5:00 Tutoring 6:30 NO Aerobics 7:00 Bound 4 Glory	17	18 5:00 Ice Cream Social, Cruise-In, & New Member Recognition
19	20 4:30 Tutoring 5:30 Piano 6:30 NO Aerobics	21 5:00 Tutoring 6:28 Youth 6:30 Scouts	22 4:30 Tutoring	23 5:00 Tutoring 6:30 NO Aerobics 7:00 Bound 4 Glory	24	25 7 am-9pm Friends of Tim- bercrest - Chicago Bus Trip*
26 12:00 Merl & Trudy Gump Reunion (Green)	27 4:30 Tutoring 5:30 Piano 6:30 Aerobics	28 5:00 Tutoring 6:28 Youth 6:30 Scouts	29 4:30 Tutoring	30 5:00 Tutoring 6:30 Aerobics 7:00 Bound 4 Glory	31	

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Birthdays

1	Debi Goss-Race	27	Dean Musser
2	Hannah McComas	29	Rhianna Wertman
2	Joel Brenneman	29	John Stoy
5	Peg Robison	30	Nick Fox
6	Bert Eriks	30	Ashley Race
6	Isabelle Wisner	30	Becky Morris
10	Ethan Unman	30	Dale Anderson
10	Bob Barkley	30	Dick Wagner
16	Kara Morris	31	Nik Flickinger
16	Marilu Brunson		
19	Ron Spurgeon		
22	Cathy Gilbert		
22	Jim Wetzel		
26	Sandy Charvat		
27	Dan Klopfenstein		

Anniversaries

1	Jeff & Connie Copp
10	Dale & Shirley Anderson
13	Bert & Betty Eriks
18	Dominic & Jill Jack
22	Dave & Lynn Shipe

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