

THE AGAPIAN

April 2014 — Agape Church of the Brethren

Three Days for Us.

From the **PASTOR**—

It's Lent. It is the time for the Three Days. Remember? Jesus spent three years teaching us how to live. Then He spent three days atoning for our sins. Jesus spent three days redeeming humanity from its brokenness and separation from God. This is the atonement. This is what lent is all about.

There is an interesting transitional verse in the Bible between the three years and the three days. In John's gospel, Jesus is praying for the disciples in the upper room. In His prayer He says this: *I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. (John 17:4)* Isn't that odd? Right before He leaves to submit Himself to His death on our behalf, He tells God that He has finished....

Let us ponder that phrase. Let us wonder: "How can He be *finished* when His most important work, being the sacrifice that bridges the gap between God and humanity, has yet to be accomplished?" What does He mean: *finished*?

During those three years of Jesus' teaching ministry, Jesus, as God/man, was working for God the Father. He was working the God part of His God/man existence by teaching us how to live and love each other. He showed us how to love. He showed humanity how much God loves even the least of all people. He was a friend to sinners. He invited the little children to Himself. He included women, people of other races, people from the upper classes and people from the lower classes. He invited everyone. And that was His

work for God. It is intended as a way of life for us.

Then, for three days, the man part of the God/man worked on behalf of humanity. He provided the sacrifice for us. His sacrifice was not designed to shame or condemn us (John 3:16-17). Jesus' work *for us* on the cross was designed to restore humanity to God. He spent three years working on behalf of God, three days working on behalf of humankind.

So, here we are in Lent. Lent focuses us on Christ's atoning sacrifice. On Sunday mornings we have been looking at salvation, or as I like to put it: Restoration. I like that word because it includes everything. It isn't merely a fire escape from hell, but it speaks of the holistic restoration of Spirit, Soul, Mind, Body and Emotion. The restoration is first to our loving God and then to each other.

The Bible gives two signs that this restoration has happened. The first is internal: we get to experience first hand his love through the Holy Spirit dwelling inside of us -restored to God. The second is external: we are reconciled with each other -restored to humanity, even to our enemies if we permit it. What a witness!

This Lenten season, focus on how God has drawn us back to Himself. Let us experience the fullness of the atonement. And let us be restored to one another because God has restored us to Himself.

-Pastor Phil

Annual Conference	2
Agape Birthday Party	2
Cook's Corner	3
Camp Mack 2014	4
Ash Wed. Service	4
VBS Planning Committee	4
Time Change	4
Free Garage Sale	4
March Calendar	5
Senior Moments	6
Irish Blessing	6



Free Garage Sale- May 22-23

To refresh everyone's memory on this event, 4 years ago, the Service Nurture Group had a great idea to de-clutter our "stuff" and help others by giving it away. Not wanting to do a traditional garage sale with pricing everything, we decided to make it FREE and see what happened.

The results were amazing! The fellowship hall was full of "stuff," people came steadily, and at the end we had a small pile to donate to Goodwill. One surprise was that people WANTED to give something for what they got, so we put out a jar for donations to give to the food bank. A total of over \$300 was collected and given to the Associated Churches Food Bank.

Year #2 - we thought, let's try it again! Same results, and same outcome. Year #3 - pretty much the same thing, but there were 19 people waiting in line outside the doors when we opened. The BIG stuff went fast and the first morning was crazy! Both years we had a dozen or so boxes that we donated to the Salvation Army.

The Service Nurture Group is no longer functioning, so this has become the AGAPE CHURCH responsibility. We hope everyone will step up and help make this (obviously) needed event happen again this year. A handful of people cannot do it - we need a village.

SIGN-UP SHEETS ARE ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT BOARD. Please sign up for any and all time slots where you can help. Tuesday, May 20 will be a primary day for setting up tables, sorting and organizing the stuff, and getting ready in the morning, afternoon, and evening. Wednesday, May 21 will be a continuation of duties until the work's done.

WE NEED AT LEAST 12 PEOPLE ON THURSDAY MORNING. As all garage sales, the first morning is the biggest, and last year we were woefully understaffed. We are open from 9-4, so morning and afternoon times are available - if you can't commit to 5 hours - sign up for what you CAN do. FRIDAY AFTERNOON IS CLEAN UP although we consolidate and tear down as we eliminate the stuff, there's a certain amount of packing up and moving out at the end.

SO - we hope you're de-cluttering your own areas, save and KEEP all of it until after Mother's Day, and then the Woods Room will be a collection area as we begin the 5th year of offering a FREE Garage Sale to those in the community who need it! Questions - as somebody and we'll be giving more details through April and early May.



COOK'S CORNER

By: Joyce Musser

Spring fever has hit and we are busy getting projects done around the home-
stead. Snow piles are melting away and most gardeners are sorting through seed
catalogs and planning their plots. Gardening takes commitment. No matter how you
feel or how hot it is, you still need to water the plants and take care of them. Most
beginners start out with ten tomato plants for a family of four, not realizing that 2-3
plants would supply them with plenty. Same can be said for zucchini; some of them
can produce enough to feed an entire third world country!

Dave and Lynn Shipe's garden includes the basics plus spinach, asparagus, and several
varieties of squash, but strawberries are the most welcome addition to make yummy
freezer jam. The bountiful extras are shared with family and friends. (Plus the grand-
sons would rather spend their energy searching for praying mantis!)

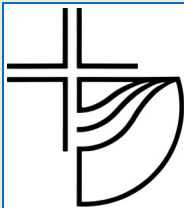
All three of the Morris kids grew up working in the garden and now grow their own
veggies. Chuck and Becky make their own sauerkraut and spaghetti sauce, also "last
of the garden". They look forward to growing brussel sprouts for the first time.

Everybody pays something for food, if it isn't through a paycheck, then it is through
the sweat of your brow. Maybe you can use the excess produce for others or to bar-
ter with it? Rick and Becky Flickinger share the plentiful supply from their garden with
Cedars at Leo, the food bank, and also sell produce at the Farmers Market at Leo. Rick
even starts his own plants from seeds, sharing the starts with friends and with the
garden club at the Cedars. Becky does the veggie work of the 3 C's: cleaning, cooking,
and canning. Rick does the outside work of mulching with straw so there are less
weeds, doing the endless care of the tomatoes in cages, and he also set up a watering
system. Team R & B make tomato sauce, salsa, freezer slaw and combo of cucumber
& onions, plus V19 juice, like V8 only more! Rick loves to grow flowers and share them
with Agape and the Cedars. He also has 33 varieties of dahlias. This season, Rick
hopes to grow some new round zucchini and ground cherries.

Galatians 6:7 says "for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap." When you want
kindness, you plant seeds of kindness and that is what grows. If you want patience,
scatter seeds of patience and harvest the fruit you planted. Same can be said for loy-
alty and respect. Sow and ye shall reap! (Do you think the children will notice this
happening and pitch in too?)

*You can bury a lot of troubles
digging in the dirt.*

APRIL 2014



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.

Senior Moments

The next Senior Moments meeting is on **Wednesday, April 2nd** at **12:00 noon**. Bring a covered dish to share!

