

THE AGAPIAN

August 2014 — Agape Church of the Brethren

Brethren Values in a Non-Brethren World

If your experience is similar to mine, you have probably encountered the question: "What does it mean to be Brethren?" And if you are like me, you may not know how to answer that question. There are too many possible answers. Some would say that being Brethren means that we are a Peace Church. Others would say that being Brethren means that we are a New Testament Church. Some would say that it means we are a church committed to a wide diversity of theologies united together for the common good of serving Christ by serving the world. And still others would say that we are not much different than any other Church, we love Jesus, we love the Bible, we love all people and we are committed to sharing Jesus love with the world.

I suppose my favorite "pat answer" is this: "we are sort of like progressive Amish." Of course, that answer just leads to more confusion, but it is a springboard for me to fill in the bigger picture. So let me describe how I believe all the above answers to be true. These are in no particular order of importance: New Testament Church. Our concept "New Testament Church" started with the idea that our creed is the (entire) New Testament. It was felt by early Brethren that creeds limited what one should believe to be Christian. For example, "turning the other cheek" is as important as Baptism. The New Testament because is a New Covenant. Because the Old Testament's support of

war is inconsistent with Jesus' teachings, we limit our creed to the New Testament.

Peace Church. The Church of the Brethren, along with the Quakers and the Mennonites eschew war in all forms. Because Jesus commanded us to "turn the other cheek," we hold that we do not want to be involved in human warfare. We believe that we belong to Kingdom of God before the kingdoms of mankind. But, we offer no force in religion. Many Brethren serve with clear conscience in the military. Many of us believe that God has given governments the responsibility of a "just defense." And so, we honor our government's duty, but many do not participate themselves. During WWII we served as Chaplains, medics, drivers, and some of us even volunteered to be emaciated in order to help physicians learn how to treat survivors of death camps.

Diverse Church. This springs from the doctrine "no force in religion." We are committed to the belief that the Holy Spirit leads and guides people according to God's desire and plan for their life. It is not our place to mandate what a person has to believe. We are committed to unity because we believe that people on all sides of the spectrum can work together to bring Jesus' love to our world.

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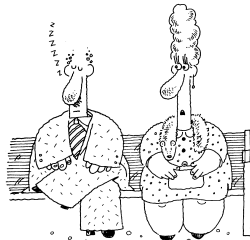
RESERVE THESE DATES...

The Search Committee is requesting that you save the dates of August 16 & 17 to meet our Pastoral candidate. On Saturday, August 16 there will be a carry-in dinner in the evening with some meet & greet/question time, and on Sunday, August 17, our Pastoral Candidate will provide the sermon with a Council Meeting and a vote following the service.



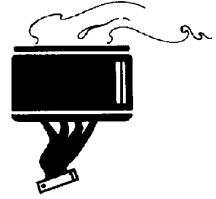
Senior Moments

The next Senior Moments meeting is on **Wednesday, August 6th at 12:00 noon.** Bring a covered dish to share!



The Agape Juniors... and friends,

will enjoy a brunch—or off the menu—at Red River Steakhouse on August 10 at 11:45. Red River is in the Ft. Wayne Hotel located at 305 W Washington Center Road. Reservations are requested, so please sign up in the narthex.



Love Fund Bake Sale

August 10 the Deacons are sponsoring a small bake sale and produce market in the narthex. Donations will be accepted with all proceeds going to the Love Fund.



The Love Fund is a ministry of the Deacons and has taken quite a hit this summer. Your support of the bake sale—as well as donations through the Sunday offerings—will make a difference in this ministry.

(Continued from page 1)

And finally, Loving Jesus. We do love Jesus and we place primary emphasis on Jesus' teaching. For my part, I do not believe that the New Testament contradicts itself in teaching. But, I do believe that we interpret the Letters written to the Churches in light of the teachings of Jesus. I am careful not to interpret the teachings of Jesus in light of the Letters. Although the Letters expand our understanding of the theology and the emphasis of the Church, those teachings spring out of the teachings of Jesus.

Jesus was a radical compared to the theologians of His time. Jesus is still a radical today. Jesus emphasized generosity, both in our giving mercy and acts of charity. But we live in a culture that measures success by money. Jesus never did. Jesus valued our love for others as proof of our success. Let us live Brethren in a non-Brethren world.

-Pastor Phil

COOK'S CORNER

By: Joyce Musser

Jody Lee Snyder Warner is one of four daughters born to Wilber and Eileen Snyder. Karen, Margo, Connie, and Jody were all raised up in the Church of the Brethren. In fact, Jody was the first baby born in the Beacon Heights congregation. After pestering her parents, Jody began taking piano lessons in third grade. Following graduation from North Side High School, Jody attended Manchester College for two years, before graduating with her masters degree in speech and hearing therapy from Ball State. Her favorite ways to spend her free time are working in the flowers, quilting, spinning and reading lots of books from a wide selection of topics. A memory from her wedding to Dale on June 4, 1983 is that their wedding was the first one held at Agape. The persons who influenced Jody's life the most were her parents and the best advice from them was: "do unto others as you would have them do unto you". If Jody could choose one person to spend a day with, it would be her mother, Eileen, who is deceased. Jody's proudest moment in her life is the raising of her two kids, Josh and Jennifer, who both work at Mayo's in Rochester, Minnesota – a twelve hour car ride away. Josh is a MD/PhD student with a degree in biomedical engineering doing research and Jennifer is to begin a new career in Sept. as a childcare life specialist who works with kids in the hospital. If Jody could have one super power, it would be to fly! She would still like to learn to knit socks, to do more cooking since she is now retired, and spend more time gardening. Something this crafty lady could not live without is her sewing machine. What brings joy to her life? The answers have to be her kids, her music, and nature. Jody and Dale's bucket list includes to some day visit Iceland and Ireland. While her favorite meal is French toast and her choice of junk food is Cheetos, they love to go out for pizza. The Warners do have a small vegetable garden and try to eat on the healthy side including lots of salads and simple foods, but the family often requests desserts. When the whole family gets together, the meal might include a simple enchilada soup, ginger cookies, Texas cake, and they even fight over a broccoli/cauliflower salad (Juanita's recipe)! Jody's favorite music group is Piano Guys; favorite hymns include "Holy, Holy, Holy" and "I Sing The Mighty Power of God" and "Great Is Thy Faithfulness". The Agape family is very grateful to Jody for sharing her many talents, especially playing the piano. We certainly appreciate that little third grader who loved her music and practiced faithfully!!

Enchilada Soup

2 & 2/3 cups of milk

1 can Campbell's Fiesta Nacho Cheese soup

1 can Campbell's Cream of Chicken soup (or Cheddar Cheese Soup)

1 can Old El Paso Mild Enchilada Sauce 10 oz.

1 can Chunk Chicken Breast, drained 10 oz.

Stir together, heat, and enjoy!

AGAPE'S SUMMER CAMPERS!

Thomas "TJ" Musser June 12 - June 14
Cameron Shipe June 29 - July 1
Hannah McComas July 27 - Aug 1
Seth McComas July 27 - Aug 1

Thanks to help from YOU, dear Agape congregation, wonderful parents, and awesome grandparents our kids were able to experience Camp Mack... which strives to nurture HIS "little children of the world".

Peg Robison, Camp Mack Rep.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

Don't miss the Sunday School hour and worship on August 24 as we hear from Dean Musser, our Annual Conference delegate and the Morris family who also attended 3 days of conference in Columbus, Ohio. Dean will be sharing some of the business of the conference and reporting during both morning sessions along with showing some of the Conference Wrap-up DVD. The Morris family attended numerous insight sessions during the noontime and evenings, and will share some of the program highlights and issues of the church. We all enjoyed meeting old friends, making some new ones, and we bring greetings from Keith and Alice Simmons and Rebecca Harding. Becky enjoyed a conversation with Duane Grady while both were waiting to donate blood, the 4th of July fireworks over the city was outstanding, and we found a new "best ever" ice cream shoppe! Come learn more at 9:00 on August 24 as we share the details of this annual event of the Church of the Brethren.

CAMP MACK FESTIVAL

Plan now to be a part of the Camp Mack Festival on October 4!

To sign up for a booth at the Food Court contact: Marie Tom, 574-518-2415 or email at grandkids-rus24@gmail.com.

To enter a scarecrow, contact: Linda Starr, 574-936-2358 or email at lls0527@comcast.net.

To offer a demonstration, contact: Tim or Amy Strycker, 574-538-1127 or email at atstrycker@yahoo.com.



Camp Mack Golf Event



Saturday, August 16
@ Sycamore Golf Club in North Manchester. If interested in participating, please contact the church office, we have a registration form.

*Live each day so that
you will neither be
afraid of tomorrow nor
ashamed of yesterday.*

VBS 2014 - THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED!

Another year of VBS for Agape is under our belts, and again the success for 4 nights of praising God through song, story, crafts, Bible activities, skits, offerings, and even snacks goes to a large number of people. Although it takes somebody to head-up this event, it wouldn't fly if it weren't for a few key individuals. This year, that would include Joan Sievers and Deb Wetzel from the nurture commission and Rick and Becky Flickinger. They took on a huge amount of planning responsibility and then passed along the nightly jobs to many of you. In summary, we had a total of 74 people participating, 22 children and 52 adults either helping with the children or sharing in the adult group. Offerings totaled \$431 for Make-A-Wish. Whether you were

there for one night or all four, the spirit of God's love filled the entire church - I hope you felt it.



ICE CREAM SOCIAL / NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION

When: Saturday, August 23, 5:30 P.M.

Where: Agape Pavilion

Who: EVERYBODY

What: Hot dogs and ice cream furnished - bring a side dish to share for a carry-in picnic. We'll eat and then have time for recognizing new members, visiting, games and fun.

Why: Because we never have enough time for just being together - bring table games, yard games, extra chairs, and a good appetite!



TIN CAPS GAME - AUGUST 15

"Play Ball" will be the cry of the night when 38 Agapians descend on downtown Fort Wayne. The "Pirates of Parrrkview Field" is the theme of the event, so bring your eye patch and parrot for a fun evening of baseball topped off by fireworks!



LOVE FUND UPDATE

The Love Fund exists as a quickly accessed resource to help those in need. A number of people call for assistance and are screened by the pastor, secretary, and/or deacons. They must meet the criteria set by the deacons, but help is usually in the form of a voucher for the Community Harvest Food Bank or a Walmart card. The voucher gets them 100 pounds of food for which we are charged \$19. The Walmart card can be used for fuel or products not covered by the food bank. Whether we are in a visible location, first in the alphabet, the economy is such that more people need help, or word has spread that Agape is a good resource - our Love Fund has been extremely active in the past few months.



We appreciate those who donate through offerings and/or in the quarter bank. As of July 23 we have \$484 in the Love Fund. Since January 1 we have given 58 vouchers for Community Harvest Food Bank, given out 40 Walmart cards, and assisted 3 families with rent or utilities. This is quite an outreach for our church, and we hope you continue to freely give to support this ministry of Agape.

**Without hard work,
nothing grows but
weeds.**



**2014 4-H Chicken BBQ Dinner
(20th year)**

I want to thank the Agape Family for helping make the **BBQ Dinner at the Allen County Fair so successful.** Whether you physically helped at the fair, made cupcakes, bought supplies, put up signs or came and ate, we couldn't do it without all of you. We served over 350 dinners in less than 1 ½ hours. It is such a blessing to be apart of the Agape Family. After 20 years of serving this dinner, we truly have it down to science. I want to especially thank Orie Imhoff for his help the whole day. He's my right hand man! We collected \$2,947.10 at the fair. From that, we will be able to give \$432 to the Allen County Fair, and \$380 each to the Messick Family, Huntertown Park project and Camp Mack. - Vicki Welch



Save the Date!!

September 28, 2014 for a baby shower to welcome Dave and Laura Hale's baby. Some hints: salad luncheon after worship, diaper theme. More information in the September newsletter.

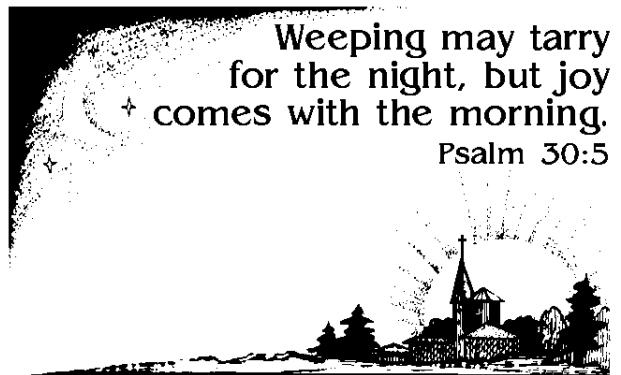


ATTENTION AGAPE WOMEN:

Women's Fellowship will be going to Kimmell House Inn, Oct 4, 2014 at 12:30 p.m. for a Tea Party. Please add this date to your calendar. More information will be in the Sept. newsletter. If you have any questions, see Vicki Welch.

Fellowship

*It often takes the
darkness of a storm to
show us the light of
God's presence.*



Weeping may tarry
for the night, but joy
comes with the morning.
Psalm 30:5



AUGUST 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 6:30 pm B4G 6:30 pm Aerob-ex Debi Goss-Race	2 8 am Men's Breakfast* Hannah McComas Joel Brennehan	3
3 Fellowship Hall reserved	4 6:30 pm Aerob-ex	5 6:30 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm Scouts Peg Robison	6 12 pm Senior Moments 6 pm Exec Brd Mtg Bert Eriks Isabelle Wisner	7 6:30 pm B4G 6:30 pm Aerob-ex	8	9
10 Bread & Cup 11:45 am Agape Juniors lunch* Bob Barkley Dale & Shirley Anderson	11 6:30 pm Aerob-ex	12 6:30 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm Scouts 6:30 pm Crafty NG*	13 Bert & Betty Eriks	14 6:30 pm B4G 6:30 pm Aerob-ex	15 Derek Hale	16 Pot-luck Meet & Greet With Pastoral Candidate Kara Morris Marilu Brunson
17 Pastoral Candidate presents sample sermon - Council Meeting vote following worship	18 6:30 pm Aerob-ex	19 6:30 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm Scouts Ron Spurgeon	20 6:00 pm Board Meeting	21 6:30 pm B4G 6:30 pm Aerob-ex	22 Cathy Gilbert Jim Wetzell Dave & Lynn Shipe	23 Ice Cream Social / New Member Recognition
24 / 31 24 - Church reserved 31 - Nik Flickinger	25 6:30 pm Aerob-ex	26 6:30 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm Scouts Sandy Charvat	27 10 am Daytime NG Dan Klopfenstein Dean Musser	28 6:30 pm B4G 6:30 pm Aerob-ex	29	30 Nick Fox Becky Morris Dale Anderson

* Denotes an event held outside the church. Contact the person in charge of that event for details. **Red** = Anniversary **Blue** = Birthday



Agape Church of the Brethren

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Sent to our friends at:



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

**This is the only time you see
this phenomenon in your life.**

Calendar August 2014.

August, [this](#) year, will have 5
Fridays, 5 Saturdays and 5
Sundays. **This happens only
once every 823 years.** The
Chinese call it 'Silver pockets
full'.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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