



# THE AGAPIAN



February 2014 — Agape Church of the Brethren

## TRANSITIONS

Welcome to Agape!

I can't tell you how great it is for me to hear these words. Thank you! This is now the fifth church that God has blessed me with serving. Although it is a temporary assignment, it is meaningful to me. Every Church has its own distinctive "flavor", its own unique charisma and its own charm. Agape is warm and welcoming. The people here seem genuinely authentic.

I love new adventures, they are stimulating. I love meeting new people and sharing our journey in Christ together. But I have to admit, the older I get, the harder change is for me. I have to constantly remind myself that God is the Creator and He is always creating something new. Søren Kierkegaard, who speaks of the great "leap of faith", tells us that something sleeps inside of us unless change happens and to embrace change "the sleeper must awaken!".

However, sometimes change is painful. Sometimes change is forced upon us through the loss of those whom we hold dear. Sometimes, we are more comfortable with the security of what we know instead of the indeterminate nature of the future.

We ask the question: "what assurances do we have that new circumstances



# FEB.

## *From the* PASTOR—

will be better?".

Faith. Trust. God's faithfulness. Hope. And over all of that is love. This is a loving place. We are loving people. And God, loving God, is always faithful. He is. And God creates change. God's love for all of humanity is our assurance.

We are the light of the world. We are God's light. We are the wellspring of God's hope to a hurting world. I believe that when we are focused on the mission of God in the world, instead of seeing more of the changes, we see more of the constants.

God's love for us is constant. God's love for the world around us is constant. God's presence in our lives is constant. God's promise to abide with us forever is constant. Our love for God is constant. And our love for each other is constant. Our community here is constant. The greater church provides constancy for us.

Sometimes faith takes an action. Look at 2 Corinthians 1:20 (NLT) *20For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory. God says "yes!". And we respond with "Amen".* In so doing, we accept that God is in control of our future and we declare to Him and to the angels that we too will move forward with God, trusting God, and in the hope of God's love for us.

So, again, thank you for the welcome as we move forward!

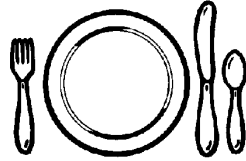
**-Pastor Phil**

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## Agape Juniors

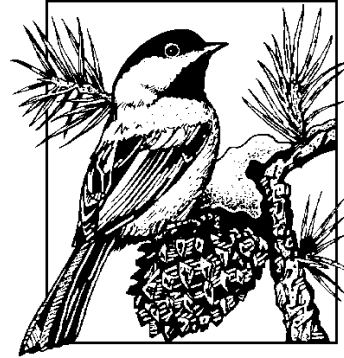
Agape Juniors and friends will be dining at Joanna's on February 16 right after worship. Joanna's is located in the Leo Crossing on Dupont. It comes highly recommended by Gerry and Sandy. A sign-up is available in the narthex for reservations.



If you have questions, contact Beth Green.

## 5th Annual Agape Soup-Off!

Thanks for all who participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Soup Off on January 19. Ten pots of soup were enjoyed, and \$1 votes for favorites donated to the food bank. \$102 was collected and the winning soup was Beth Green's "St. James Sauerkraut Soup." We're all glad she sneakily copied down the recipe and shared it with us. Second and third places went to Joe and Kara, but everyone received votes and many were hovering around the \$10 collection amount.

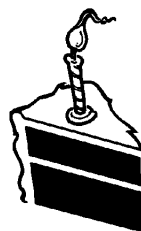


## Agape Secret Gal Pals

Ladies, you have the opportunity to participate in a sharing and fun time from February through April and join the Secret Gal Pals. Invitations are in your mailboxes and all the information is included for you. Fill out the bottom portion with your information, and return it to Becky Morris. We will conclude by eating out in early May to discover the identity of our SGP!

## Happy Birthday Agape!

February 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 brings an opportunity for the church to gather for games, a light meal, cake and ice cream, and opening presents for the church. Get involved first by signing up to bring something to eat for the party, and then by taking as many sticky notes as you like and purchasing supplies for the church. All areas



are covered from the kitchen, office, restrooms, and beyond! Bring your gifts (wrapped in newspaper if you like) to church anytime – there will be a place to put them in the fellowship hall. Join us for a fun time for ALL ages!

## COOK'S CORNER

By: Joyce Musser

The winner of the 5th annual Agape Soup-Off is.....Beth Green's St. James' Sauerkraut Soup!! The recipe came from the St. James' Restaurant in Avilla, which is over 75 years old. The soup is only served on Thursdays and usually is a sell-out. Beth was presented with a traveling trophy made by the talented hands of Chuck Morris. The contest raised \$107 for the food bank and included a variety of ten soups. Joe Schafer's beef vegetable came in second place and Kara Morris' Oriental Pork Soup placed third.

Beth is the youngest of three siblings, with two older brothers. She was nine years old when she gave her heart to Jesus and has always been active in the life of the church. The family was raised in a rural area and always had close attachments to their grandparents and other relatives. Beth fondly remembers taking fishing trips to Michigan and Minnesota with her extended family. She was a ten year member in 4-H. After graduating from Purdue, Beth worked for 36 years in several forms of education. She even taught for 18 mos. in Australia and traveled home thru Europe. She presently helps homeschool her three great nieces and nephews and considers her family and friends to be her mission field.

The favorite vacation spots of Beth and hubby Jack are to Nova Scotia, Alaska, and Route 66. Her hobbies include reading, making yummy items from her kitchen, knitting, doing puzzles, and yard work. She especially enjoys spending time with friends and wants those relationships to grow. Beth tries to do her best every day and work with Jack as a team. They share their Kendallville home with Abbey, their precious feline. The best advice Beth would give to herself twenty years ago would be to be more patient with yourself, don't have expectations of perfection, and just learn to let some things go. Beth is looking forward to spring and working in their garden.

### St. James' Sauerkraut Soup

1 lb. smoked sausage, chopped  
3 cups milk  
6 T. chopped onions  
1 cup half and half  
1/4 cup flour  
8 oz. sauerkraut, undrained  
1/2 tsp. thyme  
1 T. fresh parsley, chopped  
1/2 tsp. pepper

Heat milk and half and half.  
Sauté sausage until browned and hot.  
Remove from pan.  
Sauté onions in sausage juices. (add butter if needed)  
Add thyme, pepper, and flour.  
Add milk and half and half.  
Heat and stir until thickened.  
Stir in sauerkraut and smoked sausage.  
Heat and add parsley.

# Camp Mack 2014

**Camp Mack 2014 Summer Camps  
Registration Forms & Fee \$ due by  
Sunday, March 16th  
(in order to receive the before  
March 20th discount)  
Camp Rep, Peg Robison  
260-484-0001**



## VBS Planning Committee

It's not too soon to be thinking about our Vacation Bible School – if we continue our theme of the past few years, we will be continuing “In the Beginning, God Created. . . .” and that is where we are right now. Some ideas have been considered, but if you would like some input, talk to one of the Nurture Commission members and we'll begin planning. Tentative dates for VBS are June 16/17 and 23/24.



are those who have been  
persecuted for the sake of  
righteous, for theirs is  
the kingdom of heaven.  
Matt. 5:10

## FROM DUPONT HOSPITAL...

From Dana Wyant at Dupont Hospital...

Thank you so much to everyone that helped to make the beautiful hats for us. It is so wonderful to have a handmade hat for our little ones. Thank you so very much for the blankets. It is so wonderful to be able to wrap out little ones in a handmade quilt. Our parents are so appreciative.

### DONATION



## Free Garage Sale

Many have indicated an interest in HAVING our 4<sup>th</sup> FREE Garage Sale. There is no organized nurture group to plan and execute this event. Therefore if you are interested in having it, you need to commit to helping with one or all of the following areas: Planning, Publicity, Set up, Working, Clean up. If you are cleaning those closets (and several have indicated they are already accumulating stuff) then decide now to put forth the effort to make it happen. Keeping the dates we have had in the past will make May 20-21 the set up dates and the actual



# FEBRUARY 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Jeff Copp
2 6:00 Youth Group	3 4:00-7:30 Piano 6:30 Aerobics	4 6:30 Scouts	5 12:00 Senior Moments 6:00 Exec. Meeting 7:30 Choir	6 6:30 B4G 6:30 Aerobics	7 7:00 a.m. Men's Break- fast*	8
9 5:00 Agape Birthday Party	10 4:00-7:30 Piano 6:30 Aerobics	11 6:30 Scouts 6:30 Crafty NG* Rose Eastes Kathy Reynolds	12 7:30 Choir Linda Rupp	13 6:30 B4G 6:30 Aerobics	14 Orie Imhoff; Kelley Brenneman; Sara Sipe; Kristina Musser	15
16 11:30 Agape Juniors* 6:00 Youth Group	17 4:00-7:30 Piano 6:30 Aerobics	18 6:30 Scouts	19 6:00 Board Meeting 7:30 Choir Grace Hale	20 6:30 B4G 6:30 Aerobics	21	22
23 6:00 Youth Group	24 4:00-7:30 Piano 6:30 Aerobics	25 6:30 Scouts	26 10:00 Daytime N G 7:30 Choir AJ Rupp Steve & Judy Cormany	27 6:30 B4G 6:30 Aerobics Derek Imhoff	28	

## **Urgent Request for Food Donations!**

Associated Churches Neighborhood Food Network is asking for donations as the food supply is running drastically low and the demand is higher than ever. "We are in dire straits", said Pastor Fred Meuter, Director of Church Relations for Associated Churches of Fort Wayne and Allen County. An average of 3,000 Allen County families access the Neighborhood Food Network per month.



Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow.  
-Matthew 6:28

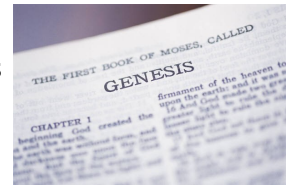
## **2014 Directories**

Now available!!! Check your mailbox for your copy. Extra copies available at the entry cabinet.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Have you ever had an unglued feeling? You are definitely not alone. The Sunshine Room class will be exploring those feelings and their resolutions through a 6-session DVD study by Lysa Terkeurst. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the study "Unglued," making wise choices in the midst of raw emotions. The class will be starting mid-February. The "Mary" classes will end about February 9.

Classes are meeting every Sunday morning at 9:00, and we'd love to see you there. Study the book Amish Peace to learn how a simpler life works for not just the Amish, but there are life lessons we can apply to ourselves. Vertical Church gives ideas for making church life different by changing the traditional methods. Children and Youth classes are studying about the life and teachings of Jesus as written in the book of John. Something for everyone!



*From Timbercrest...*

**"We are looking for donated material to make aprons or laundry bags. We have a few ladies here at Timbercrest that could start sewing these bags with your help. Let me know if you are able to donate material."**

*Faith Miller*

**Director of Development**

# Executive Board & Church Board

**2014 Special Insert**  
Agape Church of the  
Brethren

We have decided on meeting dates for the 2014 year and announced the new church board. This information will be included in the 2014 directory, but they are also provided here for your convenience.

## 2014 Meeting Dates

Month	Executive Board Mtg. Date	Board Mtg. Date
January	None	15
February	5	19
March	None	19
April	2	16
May	None	Council Meeting - 4 None
June	4	18
July	None	16
August	6	20
September	None	17
October	1	15
November	None	Council Meeting - 2 19 (Reorganization for 2015)
December	None	None

## 2014 Church Board

**Chair – Chuck Morris; Vice Chair – Kendra Morris**

**Nurture –** Becky Morris (*Chair*), Joan Sievers, Deb Wetzel

**Parish –** Dave Shipe (*Chair*), Beth Green, Kendra Morris

**Witness –** Ron Spurgeon (*Chair*), Diana Spurgeon, Jim Wetzel

**Stewardship –** Dean Musser (*Co-Chair*), Jack Green (*Co-Chair*), Dale Warner

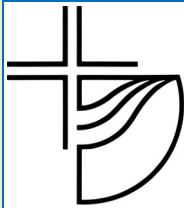
**Deacon Representative (non-voting) –** Jim Wetzel

**Clerk (non-voting) –** Tania Fox

**Treasurer (non-voting) –** Laura Lemay

Pastor Phil Reynolds (non-voting)





Agape Church of the Brethren

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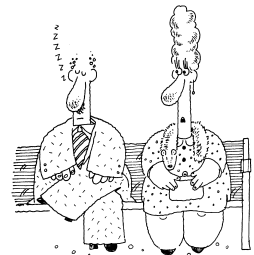
**Sent to our friends at:**



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

## Senior Moments

The next Senior Moments meeting is on **Wednesday, February 5th at 12:00 noon**. This meeting will hold the **election of new officers**, so we hope to see everyone in attendance. Bring a covered dish to share!



## Greeting Card Collection



We will continue saving the fronts of greeting cards; it is a huge help to patients at St. Jude's Children's Hospital. **A gift bag in the narthex is now available for you to deposit the fronts.** The patients and auxiliary will recycle them by making new cards and reselling them to support their projects. For more information about the program, the website is <http://www.stjudesranch.org/shop/recycled-card-program/>. (Remember: We cannot accept Disney, Hallmark or American Greetings cards due to licensing restrictions.)