

# THE AGAPIAN

October 2012 — Agape Church of the Brethren

## Colonize Space or Make Peace?

In the troubled times we live, in a verse from Proverbs in the King James translation has repeatedly occurred to me: “Where there is no vision, the people perish; but he that keepeth the law, happy is he,” (Proverbs 29:18/ KJV). When I look around and see the violence occurring in our world, and the number of different places and circumstances in which it is occurring, I am convinced that the world needs to adopt a different vision of how it will live together.

Without the emergence of a different vision, the future could be bleak. A respected intellectual got some headlines a few years ago by recommending that we look to colonize space because of the likelihood that we will end up making earth uninhabitable. That is a frightening thought; because of the suffering it implies for the future in this world, and because we’re nowhere near being able to colonize space. Indeed, without a different vision, the people could “perish.”

As Christians, we have a vision that can make a difference: the envisioned peaceable kingdom foretold by the prophets and inaugurated by Christ, where the wolf and the lamb and the leopard lie down together (Isaiah 11:6/NIV), and swords are beaten into “plowshares...” (Micah 4:3). Often largely dismissed as simply a dream for the world beyond, this vision is beginning to look like humanity’s only

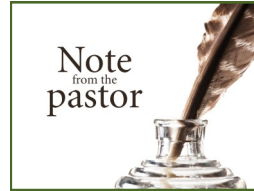
hope for survival.

Whatever our personal convictions about the end of the world and the return of Christ, it is clear from the New Testament that Jesus intended for His disciples to be “peacemakers” (Matthew 5:9) in this world, while they are in it. Though the future might indeed hold “wars and rumors of wars,” (Matthew 24:6) Jesus’s disciples are to occupy themselves in trying to take the world in another direction.

“Put your sword back in its place” Jesus told Peter in the Garden, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword,” (Matthew 26:52). It is a warning whose relevance becomes increasingly clear and urgent with every new outbreak of violence or injustice in our world. Humanity must learn to solve its problems without violence or its problems may spiral catastrophically out of control. As Christians we face into these challenges soberly, but without fear. We know our job. We’re peacemakers with a different vision for the world, if the people will just pay attention to it. And we also know that whatever happens, personally, whether we live or whether we die, “we belong to the Lord,” (Romans 14:8).

*Think about it!*

*-Pastor Jeff*



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### ALSO INSIDE:

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## Jam Tasting w/ Women's Fel- lowship



Women's Fellowship is planning a jam-tasting party & luncheon on **Sat., Oct. 13**, hosted by Doris Holm at **9114 Schlatter Rd** (across from the Flickingers' property). Plan to arrive at **11 a.m.** to sample 20+ Holmade jams and jellies. At noon a light luncheon will be served. **An \$8 party donation will be collected per person.** 80+ jams and jellies will be available to purchase (checks or cash only). A sign-up sheet will be posted on the white board. **Party size is limited from 10 to 18 people maximum.** Allow 2 1/2 hours for the party. Questions? See Sharon Bender.

## Agape Juniors

Gerry and Sandy have 9 slabs of ribs that they

need help eating. So bring a dish to share and come to their home north of Leo on **Oct. 6 at 6:00** for a rib fest. Table service and beverages will be provided.

**Sign up is available in the narthex.**

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP SECRET PALS!

What fun to see those little goodie bags, boxes, and envelopes appearing on the mailboxes. **Thanks to all who are participating in this year's secret pal program!** Just a reminder to keep those treats coming (even if it's just a "thinking of you/keeping you in prayer" note) through the next few months - holidays are SUCH fun.



We will be wrapping our year up in December with a brunch "revealing party" so look for something soon with some possible dates/times so we can land on the best for the most!

Questions? See Becky Morris.

A photo of all the ladies who went to see Liz Curtis Higgs in September. If you



would like a full-size version, ask Beth Green or Kendra Morris.

## Coffee House & Talent Night



### Talent? Have we got talent?

**You bet!** Whether your expertise is in the field of instrumental or vocal music, poetry or prose readings, dance, comedy, bird calls, or whatever, we hope you'll decide to share your talent at the Agape Coffeehouse! Have you ever heard a terrific song, but it just doesn't "fit" the Sunday morning venue? Well, here's your opportunity to perform country, bluegrass, rap, or polka music! Secular acts are welcome!

We are currently looking for quality talent to provide the entertainment at our Coffeehouse. Don't miss out - **get on the list by Oct. 7**—space is limited, so we hope to see a wide variety of acts and we especially hope to see **you!** Contact Becky Morris!

We hope you have signed up for one of the

## Nurture Groups Begin!

nurture groups!

- \* The **Service and Mission** and **Serendipity** groups both restarted and are currently deciding on a night of the week to meet.
- \* The **Daytime** group meets on the last Wednesday of the month.
- \* The **Crafty** group meets on a Tuesday evening at Mary Ebert's home.

These groups welcome additional people as the year progresses. If you'd just like to pop in to see what's happening, contact someone in the group to see when and where they are gathering and invite yourself! Questions? See those already signed up or nurture commission members.

# COOK'S CORNER

By: Joyce Musser

Regardless of the explosion of free information from the internet, we can still learn from our elders. At our fingertips, we can easily find the top twenty best pizza or chili recipes or fifty new ways to fix chicken. In today's world, the decision to live below your means is not always dictated by money, but also by spiritual, religious, or ethical beliefs. Our grandparents learned the basics of living below their means, saving for a rainy day, getting an education, and investing in their futures. These are some standard values that many people could benefit from learning today.

1. **Frugality is not a bad word.** It doesn't mean being cheap; instead it means getting the most out of what you have and not purchasing things that you really don't need. It's okay if you still wear a few pieces of favorite clothing bought during the Carter term!
2. **"Make it, make do, or do without."** Use what you have, fix what you can, or make do with less. Reduce clutter, then you can find what is misplaced so you do not need to go out and buy an unneeded replacement. Mary Jo Wort's family always said, "It is best to wear out than rust out!" Since Dale Anderson's father worked long hours on a base and was rarely home when he was a child, Dale learned responsibility and to work hard from his grandfather, who lived with the family.
3. **Fix it yourself.** Get a how-to book from the library and add a dose of patience!
4. **Search for bargains.** Do research, plan ahead, and wait until price is right rather than whipping out a credit card. Bargains take planning and time to find but you have the satisfaction of knowing you've gotten a great deal. Also, consider trading or bartering for needed items or services.
5. **Homemade food is less expensive and more nutritious and delicious** than eating out all the time. It is easier to eat a healthy and balanced diet at home. Entertain at home with a shared meal! Play cards, games, or dominoes and share conversations! Ella Kart remembers churning butter, serving big meals to groups of hungry threshers, and making six bushels of apples into apple butter.
6. **Avoid debt at all costs**—this is something you and your spouse need to agree on up front. Paying your bills on time is one of the easiest ways to save money. Don't get stuck paying late fees. Pay bills online and save cost of postage. Having a budget that you both believe in reduces the stress in the household. Maybe you could even jointly purchase a needed item with friends or family to share.
7. **Learn to say "no" to the kids.** It's *not* your job to pay for unnecessary treats or extras. There isn't a money tree growing in the back yard!
8. **Save for a rainy day.** Rainy days eventually come—an emergency fund is necessary.
9. **Used can be just as good as new.** This concept doesn't stop with only cars.
10. **Teach a strong work ethic to each family member.** Betty Barkley milked cows, shoveled manure, and worked in the garden as a child. She couldn't "opt out"—it was expected that she would help by her parents. Lois Riddle's parents said, "Do not hurry on a job, but to do it right the first time so you don't have to do it again." When it was butchering time, everyone at Ella Kart's farm had a job to do. Besides pigs, cows, and chickens, they also raised turkeys, ducks, and geese.
11. **Use coupons!** Search on the internet to print off only the ones you need. "Stack" the coupons by adding a manufacturer one with a store coupon. By doing this, you could possibly triple your savings. Target, Meijer, and Wal-mart all accept other stores' ad prices on brand named products, so match them. Even Wal-mart matches store brands to their store brand.

**Help others in need: Consider buying extras for donating to the food bank.**

# AGAPE SAYS THANK YOU!

## CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING EARLY WITH AGAPE

Even as a kid, I always loved the idea that we have a holiday called “Thanksgiving”: Probably before learning the *real* pilgrim-and-Indian history lesson, I thought it was a wonderful thing that we celebrated simply being thankful for what we have, and always with family members close by. But as I grew a little older, I discovered that some have not a single person to spend this holiday with (which includes the quickly approaching Christmas and New Years season as well), and I remember the extreme sadness that I felt for those who were alone. How did they get to be alone? Did they want to be alone? Who will give them hugs and say that they were loved? Little, eight-year-old (or however old) me felt overwhelmed: I wanted to cry for them and also to invite them along to my family’s Thanksgiving. And then I “grew up.” That is to say, I learned to *fear* those less fortunate than I was instead of *love* them.

But as I look forward to this Thanksgiving and upcoming holiday season, I find myself feeling overwhelmed again—full of feelings of blessings to be part of Agape’s family, thankful for being a Morris (but always a Leonard, too!), and, slowly, feelings similar to that little kid again—realizing how much I have, while also knowing how much we can offer others who are in need.

Thank you to everyone who submitted “thank you” notes: I’ve included them below. It’s so encouraging to hear how we all are grateful for what we have and willing to share it with others! Remember to continue this not just this November and holiday season, but year round! And don’t be afraid (like I sometimes am) of getting in touch with the eight-year-old versions of ourselves again!

I feel blessed and thankful for my three siblings (Harvey, Sheila and Steve). We have loved and supported each other these past 5 years through the aging of our parents and their subsequent deaths as well as losing our sister. When families all around seem to be breaking up, I am grateful that I am still close with each of my siblings. —Rose Black

Gerry is thankful he is not on a pray list. Sandy is so happy to be a member of a church that is so thoughtful and caring. The cards everyone sends, whether birthday, anniversary or sympathy is just amazing. We have a wonderful congregation. —Sandy & Gerry Charvat

We are grateful for all those who willingly share their musical talents and to all those who volunteer to get needed jobs done. —Dean & Joyce Musser

I am thankful Rick and all the time he sends helping others. He is a very caring person and many times his service goes unnoticed. His caring spirit is an inspiration to me and hopefully others. —Becky Flickinger

I am grateful and thankful to be 5 years free of colon cancer. Also, for a most loving family—what a blessing. —Shirley Anderson

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE  
AT AGAPE!**

# Agape Youth News

**The youth group is going very well.** We consistently have 7 or 8 meet together each Tuesday evening for games, scripture lessons, and fellowship. We had a great summer. Many meetings were "at the pond"! Great fun times swimming, snacking and talking. Thanks to Darwin Sievers and Carolyn Brantley for helping lead the youth a number of Tuesdays when I was out of town. They are a BIG help. It is such a blessing to have many people helping with this program.

We are trying something a little different this year. There will be two different youth that will help plan the topics for discussion and some of the activities every two months.

We served a Burger and Dog meal to the congregation September 30<sup>th</sup>. At this time we hope to have another luncheon for the congregation on **Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>**. It will be a soup and sandwich meal. A huge thanks goes 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.

We hope to have several service projects this fall. If you have a few odd jobs you think the youth group could handle, please let Rick Flickinger know about them.

**Sunday, November 4** is National Junior High Sunday and the theme is "Put On Love." The Junior High kids (and the older kids will help) are all planning to work with Pastor Jeff in planning and orchestrating that Sunday morning service.

Thank you so much for supporting the youth group!

**Remember:** The Agape Youth will be going to NYC in 2014. Agape wants to fund this, so here's a thermometer so we can keep track of our fund raising efforts!

**You can help by :**

1. **Buying more Scriptures**
2. **Supporting the youth luncheons**
3. **Bringing in all empty aluminum cans**
4. **Drinking more pop from the kitchen frig!**
5. **Donating to the youth group!**

**NYC Here  
We Come**

**\$8,000**

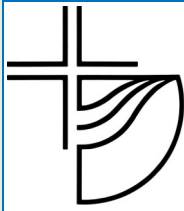
Our goal

The youth group needs to reach this goal by January 5, 2014

15 months from now!

THANK  
YOU!

Approx. \$2000 Now



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11610 Lima Road

Fort Wayne, IN 46818

Phone: 260 489 6908

E-mail: [agapefort@frontier.com](mailto:agapefort@frontier.com)

*Sent to our friends at:*



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

## **Agape Seniors:**

- \* The next Agape Seniors meeting is on **Tuesday, October 2 at 12:00 noon**—The seniors from Robison Chapel will be joining us, and Ann Pepple will share about her Alaska trip.
- \* Meat and drinks will be provided—bring a dish to share!

## *Witness Commission Notes*

The **Witness Commission** would like to give a **BIG THANK YOU** to all the people who helped to support the food bank. We cannot do our part without the food and supplies coming in as donations and the personnel to work the Food Bank in both May and August. Unfortunately, the need continues. Please continue to give food and paper supply donations all winter. The Commission will see to it that the donations are taken to the Food Bank. **Remember food stamps to not help with cleaning fluids and paper products.**

- \* **We will miss Dick and Ann**, as they have been the pillars of the Food Bank, with their unending support, in the name of Agape, over many years.
- \* The commission would also like to **thank you for your support of the Camp Mack Ministries**; as you have learned the camping program in a very important part of the faith development of children.
- \* In October, the commission will take a break on informing the congregation about other missions of the church and gear up for the giving season of Christmas. . .

**Christmas = Baby's Closet! Start planning ahead.**

# October 2012

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

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue   | Wed  | Thu   | Fri                | Sat                             |
|---|---|---|--|---|--------------------|---------------------------------|
|   | 1<br>2:30-5:30 Tutoring<br>5:30 Piano<br>6:30 Aerobics  | 2<br>12 noon Agape Seniors FH<br>4:30-7:30 Tutoring | 3<br>2:30-5:30 Tutoring<br>7:30 Choir                        | 4<br>4:30-7:30 Tutoring<br>6:30 B4G<br>6:30 Aerobics  | 5<br>4:00 Wedding? | 6<br>6:00 Agape Juniors*        |
| 7<br>Love Feast  | 8<br>2:30-5:30 Tutoring<br>5:30 Piano<br>6:30 Aerobics  | 9<br>4:30-7:30 Tutoring                             | 10<br>2:30-5:30 Tutoring<br>7:30 Choir                       | 11<br>4:30-7:30 Tutoring<br>6:30 B4G<br>6:30 Aerobics | 12                 | 13<br>11:00 Women's Fellowship* |
| 14  | 15<br>2:30-5:30 Tutoring<br>5:30 Piano<br>6:30 Aerobics | 16<br>4:30-7:30 Tutoring<br>6:30 Crafty NG*         | 17<br>2:30-5:30 Tutoring<br>6:00 Board Meeting<br>7:30 Choir | 18<br>4:30-7:30 Tutoring<br>6:30 B4G<br>6:30 Aerobics | 19                 | 20<br>Agape Coffee House        |
| 21  | 22<br>2:30-5:30 Tutoring<br>5:30 Piano<br>6:30 Aerobics | 23<br>4:30-7:30 Tutoring                            | 24<br>2:30-5:30 Tutoring<br>7:30 Choir                       | 25<br>4:30-7:30 Tutoring<br>6:30 B4G<br>6:30 Aerobics | 26                 | 27                              |
| 28<br>Bring a Friend Sunday!  | 29<br>2:30-5:30 Tutoring<br>5:30 Piano<br>6:30 Aerobics | 30<br>4:30-7:30 Tutoring                            | 31<br>2:30-5:30 Tutoring<br>7:30 Choir                       |   |                    |                                 |

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## **Birthdays**

- 3 Bradley Imhoff
- 7 Bette Scribner
- 9 Kyold Morris
- 11 Rebecca Shipe
- 11 Gordon Klopfenstein
- 13 Lois Riddle
- 17 Charlotte Wertman
- 19 Tim Shipe
- 30 Justin Cook
- 30 Rick Wagner

## **Anniversary**

**Oct. 4, Dan Klopfenstein  
& Judy Frederick**

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