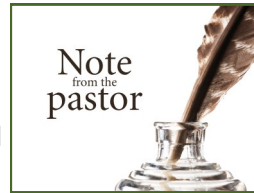


THE AGAPIAN

November 2012 — Agape Church of the Brethren

Redeeming the Time



Many years ago, I was shopping one evening in a department store in Pennsylvania with our oldest son, Joshua. As we moved through the store I suddenly caught sight of myself and Joshua in a TV monitor nearby. There was a hidden camera trained on us somewhere. Such a thing is not so uncommon now when you walk into a grocery store, enter a pharmacy, or stop in a gas station, but in the summer of 1990, when this happened, it was a joltingly new experience.

Not only was it a shock to see Joshua and I on a TV screen, it was also a little shocking to see how different I looked from how I thought of myself. Basically I looked older than I imagined. Yes, pastors note such things too! The experience tossed me into a reflective mood and drew my attention to how fast life was passing. It reminded me that time doesn't stand still. It was passing for me, just as it passes for everyone.

That fact called to my attention Paul's admonition to the Ephesians: "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-16/KJV). The challenge of those words really

struck me. In general it could be put as follows: "Are we using the time we have in this world in ways that please God, that demonstrate love, that serve our neighbors, and that fulfill us? Or are we letting the time slip by in other ways, ways that shortchange ourselves and others, and perhaps deny God?"

They are questions that are best not answered defensively or hurriedly, but rather reflectively and honestly. It's our life that's slipping away. We are the ones who lose if we don't examine our lives; and no one else can examine our life for us. We must examine it ourselves. Paul challenged believers to do that. "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise..." (Ephesians 5:15/KJV).

Joshua and I had an enjoyable time together that evening in the department store. And I was really glad of that, particularly after catching sight of he and I in that TV monitor. For such moments together, as parent and child, are certainly one way of "redeeming the time."

Think about it!

-Pastor Jeff

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Thanksgiving Feast



Don't forget about Agape's annual Thanksgiving Feast on **Sunday, November 18th, after worship service**. This is a planned menu carry-in meal, and everyone is welcome to celebrate thanking God for our blessings this holiday season. Make sure you **sign up on the clipboard** to bring your favorite Thanksgiving dinner food! See Becky M. or Diana S. if you have questions.

ALSO INSIDE:

- November Calendar
- November Birthdays



Agape Juniors

Thank you to Gerry and Sandy Charvat for a special evening and rib dinner at their home for twenty-eight Agape Juniors and guests on October 6. It was an evening to remember with pans of ribs, yummy side dishes, sweet fellowship, and memories by Gerry in his “toy store” complex.



Agape Juniors will meet on **December 2** at Hall's Guest House for lunch following worship. **Sign up will be available in the narthex so reservations can be made.**



Sign Up for Nurture Groups

Each month's Nurture Group meetings will be different, so **you must sign up on the announcement board** for the week you plan to attend. Nurture Groups welcome both host families and members for future months, so even if you didn't sign up initially, join us! Here's an overview of the groups:

- * **Daytime Nurture Group** meets the last Wednesday of the month at 10:00 for devotions/snacks, and then goes out for lunch. Marilu Brunson is the contact person if you'd like to join them.
- * **Crafty Nurture Group** meets on a Tuesday evening to work on group or individual projects at Mary Ebert's home. Mary or Kara Morris are the group's contacts, so let them know if you have a crafty bone in your body (or if you just want to help) and would like to join in the fun.
- * **Two Friday night Nurture Groups** usually meet the 2nd and 3rd Fridays each month in various homes. Each meeting will begin with a carry-in supper followed by a devotional/Bible study time and discussion of upcoming service projects.

Again, **make sure you sign up** so the host knows who is coming to set up enough tables and plan for food. You never know— if there is a change in plans, you will be notified only if you've signed up. **Sign up, make that commitment, and enjoy the fellowship!**

Coffee House & Talent Night



Thanks to everyone who participated in making this event a fun time for all!

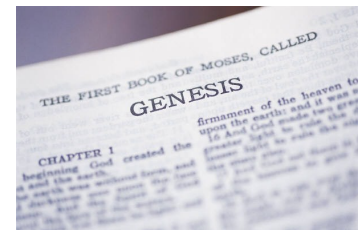
- * We enjoyed hearing from the Accordion Septet + 1, Kyle and Ron with their cowboy songs, “Low Expectations” (Ron, Kyle, & Kara) music, Rose's harmonica, Gene's poetry, Mary's Hymn History, Marilu's readings, Connie's lively piano music, and the fun-fun camp songs by Rick and Becky.
- * Of course the big secret/surprise of the evening was the recognition of Pastor Jeff through song and poem AND the presentation of the monetary gift from the church board members and matching grant from the Lilly Foundation through the district Ministry Excellence Project. What a great way to say THANK YOU to Jeff and show our appreciation for all he does for each of us and the church.
- * Our free-will offering will contribute \$50 to the New Ground Community Church begun by former Agape pastor Sid Gauby, located at Washington Square shopping center, and an outreach congregation/ministry of the Church of the Brethren.

A round of applause to everyone who helped transform the sanctuary into a coffeehouse, provided snacks and beverages, and helped turn things back to normal.

**Many hands make light the work!
-Nurture Commission**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

A dedicated group of people study, plan, prepare, and pray about the lessons they bring to the Sunday school hour each week.



We appreciate the efforts of Gene, Beth, Char, Becky M, Wendy, Vicki, and Joan. They have been diligent in their commitment to being there through September and October teaching lessons grounded in the Bible and leading discussion involving all who attend.

If you're not there, why not?

COOK'S CORNER

By: Joyce Musser

It is rare to highlight four members of one family in the same column. As we enter the holiday season, these four ladies shared their answers.

What is your favorite holiday food?

Mary Ebert: Mother's date pudding.

Laura LeMay: Scalloped potatoes.

Carolyn Furry-Brantley: Cranberry jelly.

Maura Furry (13 yrs. old): Green bean casserole.

What three words would describe yourself?

Mary: Positive, enjoy life, non-judgmental.

Laura: Happy, confident, healthy.

Carolyn: Happy, courageous, fun.

Maura: Strength, courageous, hopeful.

What is your favorite gift to give?

Mary: A quilted item I have made.

Laura: Gift of time to help.

Carolyn: Time.

Maura: Gift cards.

Most valuable life lesson learned?

Mary: No matter what happens, look for the positive. God is good!

Laura: Feel good about yourself and have confidence. Just do it!

Carolyn: When one door closes, another opens.

Maura: Life is an adventure; live it to the fullest.

What is your favorite gift ever received?

Mary: Time spent with family.

Laura: Diamond earrings from my husband, Wayne.

Carolyn: Time.

Maura: Cash money.

How would you spend a 25th hour every day?

Mary: With family and friends.

Laura: With family.

Carolyn: Take a walk with my mom.

Maura: Sleeping.

It sure sounds like these happy, confident, fun, and hopeful women have much to be thankful for at this special time of the year. Hope you do too!

The first Inglenook Cookbook was published in 1901. It contained 1,000 recipes furnished by the women of the Church of the Brethren and their friends. By 1940 the granddaughters of those who furnished and who used the original recipes were ready for their own cookbook, one that would again reflect their practical experience with recipes, but that would also utilize up-to-date nutritional information. Personal credit remains with each of the original recipes.

DATE PUDDING

1 c. brown sugar

1 c. flour

1 Tb. butter

1 tsp. baking soda

1 1/2 c. dates

1/2 c. milk

1/2 c. pecans



Syrup: 1 c. brown sugar, 1 1/2 c. boiling water, 1 Tb. butter and 1 tsp. vanilla. (Raisins may be used instead of dates.)

Mix together and put into baking dish (8"x8") all except the pecans. Sprinkle those over the top.

Pour syrup over the batter. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes. Serve with whipped cream.

Original contributor-Muriel Freds, Markle, Ind.

DEACON'S CORNER

Are you aware of the “quiet” ones? They are the people that do a lot of jobs for the congregation “behind the scenes.” The deacons are one of those groups of people that do a lot of jobs that help the congregation and many times no one even knows those activities are happening. The Deacons. . .

- * Sponsored Bread and Cup Communion on June 3 and August 5, 2012 and Love Feast on Sunday, October 7, 2012. *Who makes and bakes the communion bread? Who sets up the serving trays or sets up the tables and chairs? Who prepares the Love Feast meal? Who cleans up the kitchen or washes the towels and feet washing aprons?*
- * Helped sponsor the Ice Cream Social and New Member Recognition on August 18, 2012. *Who helps to make the ice cream? Who provides for the program to greet the newest members?*
- * Will prepare the congregation for a Call for Deacons on December 2, 2012. *Who will create the deacon moments for the worship services? Who will help the congregation understand what a deacon calling is?*
- * Continue to monitor the prayer chain. It was used 43 times over the last 5 months. *Who starts the prayer chain? Who sends the prayer requests out to everyone with an email account? Who takes notes every Sunday to provide prayer requests, announcements, and the order of worship for all those that are absent from our worship service?*
- * Provide gift cards to people in need. We monitor the vouchers to be used at the food bank. *Who actually buys the gift cards? Who collects the money from the “Love Fund” donation tube? Who built the donation tube? Who monitors how many times people use these services?*
- * Give visitor bags for all new visitors to our church and give loaves of bread to those that visit. *Who prepares the visitor bags? Who bakes the fresh bread? Who delivers those loaves to the visitor’s homes?*
- * Help sponsor the upcoming Christmas caroling on December 9, 2012. *Who will decide where the carolers go? Who will plan the routes the groups take? Who will prepare the goody bags to be taken to the shut-ins?*

There other people and other groups that do many jobs that none of us are aware of. Look around: Can you figure out some of those many jobs? The church would not be what it is today if it was not for all the “quiet ones.” **Thank you to all the “quiet ones.”**

The next Bread & Cup communion will be on January 13, 2013.



Agape Youth News

WOW! What a Burger Bash we had! Thank you to all those that stayed for the burger dinner on September 30th. It was a **GREAT** day.

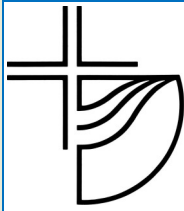
We increased money towards our goal by about \$400. We will have another luncheon for the congregation on **Sunday, November 4, 2012**. It will be a chili soup and sandwich meal with salads and desserts. **We hope you ALL stay for the council meeting and eat our lunch.**

We have a couple service projects already scheduled 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." We have too many kids that will not be present that Sunday, therefore we will have our own National Junior High Sunday during a worship at a later date. Stay tuned!

Thank you so much for supporting the youth group.





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 **Wednesday, 7** at **12:00 noon** (*moved from our normal meeting time on Tuesday because of Election Day*). Judy C. and Grace B. are the hostesses.
- * Meat and drinks will be provided—bring a dish to share!

Witness Commission Notes

- * In November, we will highlight the Northern Indiana District. An offering for their needs will be November 11th.
- * We will also start to collect for our **Christmas Season** by sponsoring the **Baby's Closet**. Look for more information in early November.



Agape Has a Website!

Agape Church of the Brethren has a website! It is www.agapechurchfw.org—check it out and spread the word! We currently have photo shoots set up with our very own professional photographer, Dean, to update the main photo of our church on the webpage, and we are also working on developing a Flickr page to show off some more photos. If you have comments or suggestions, please let Kendra M. know!

November 2012

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 4:30-7:30 Tutoring 6:30 B4G 6:30 Aerobics	2	3
4 Council Meeting Chili Luncheon, sponsored by Agape Youth	5 2:30-5:30 Tutoring 4:30 Piano 6:30 Aerobics (Narthex)	6 Election Day FH 4:30-7:30 Tutoring	7 12 noon Agape Seniors FH 2:30-5:30 Tutoring 7:30 Choir	8 4:30-7:30 Tutoring 6:30 B4G 6:30 Aerobics	9 Friday NG*	10 B4G Concert* 12-3 Piano Retreat*
11 Northern Indiana District Offering Deacon's Meeting	12 2:30-5:30 Tutoring 5:30 Piano 6:30 Aerobics	13 4:30-7:30 Tutoring 6:30 Scouts Crafty NG*	14 2:30-5:30 Tutoring 7:30 Choir	15 4:30-7:30 Tutoring 6:30 B4G 6:30 Aerobics	16 Friday NG*	17 Church Board Reorgani- zation
18 Traditional Service Agape Thanksgiving Feast	19 2:30-5:30 Tutoring 5:30 Piano 6:30 Aerobics	20 4:30-7:30 Tutoring 6:30 Scouts	21 2:30-5:30 Tutoring - No Choir -	22 - THANKSGIVING - (FH reserved by the Morris Family)	23	24
25	26 2:30-5:30 Tutoring 5:30 Piano 6:30 Aerobics	27 4:30-7:30 Tutoring 6:30 Scouts	28 10:00 Daytime NG 2:30-5:30 Tutoring 7:30 Choir	29 4:30-7:30 Tutoring 6:30 B4G 6:30 Aerobics	30	

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Birthdays

2	Ben Ryman	6	Connie Copp
3	Ethel Klopfenstein	10	Jerry Brenneman
3	Marie Chantaca	10	Rhonda Hughes
4	Alea Wagner	20	Rose Black
4	Jacob Klopfenstein	23	Duaine Scribner
5	Drebyn McCoy	28	Ellie Hough
5	Anthony Brantley	30	Sharon Bender

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