

## Changes for Agape Ministry

*Elizabeth Hewins, Mission and Service Committee chair*

A huge “Thank you” to all who contributed to our April Food Drive. Once again we filled the bed of a pickup truck with all kinds of good food items for the families served by Agape Ministry. In the process of coordinating the delivery to Agape, we learned about some new changes at Agape. We also heard the question “Why do we contribute to Agape Ministry?” Northwood has been supporting Agape Ministry for many years in many ways. We have:

1. Filled the box in the Narthex with food
2. Filled the box with other needed items, such as household items and clothing
3. Donated funds through the Mission and Service Committee budget
4. Volunteered weekly at Agape to help with their mission.

What is Agape Ministry and why do we support them? The short answer is that they serve many families in our zip code. That may seem surprising, given that Northwood is in such a nice neighborhood, and so many Northwood families live in our zip code. But parts of the “0 nine” are not so nice and are not typical of our neighborhood. Many families suffer from food insecurity and need other basic necessities.

In 2021, Agape Ministry has undergone some major changes that are of interest to our congregation. They have a new Executive Director, Loretta Morse. I spoke to her during our food drive, and she was most helpful. They sent not one, but two trucks to pick up our food donations, so we did not have to load up cars and drive to them! Two very nice gentlemen helped load the food items into the bed of their trucks!

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Once the pickup was loaded with donated food for Agape Ministry, it was time for a well-earned break for Lalo Peña who is an Agape volunteer, Elizabeth Hewins, and Mike Pitman, manager of Agape.

# Thank You from the Day School

by Martha Sherrod



A big THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our Spring Online Silent Auction! Whether you donated items, bid on items or anywhere in between, we appreciate your support. Your generosity is helping to upgrade and make renovations to our infant/toddler play- yard. Can't wait to see our little ones enjoy the "great outdoors" in their new and improved space! Thank you so much.

June 1 will mark a year since the Day School reopened after closing for a few weeks last year due to the pandemic. In the last year we have learned to do many things in a new way. All change can come with some challenges, and Ms. Rebecca's strong and graceful leadership has kept us on course and continues to guide us through. Our teachers continue to have bright spirits and happy smiles for the children as they work hard to keep our children safe while delivering top-notch lessons.

As the school year comes to an end and the summer sessions begin, we look forward to gradually doing some of the activities we have missed when the time is right. The summer sessions are always a time when the teachers can have a little fun with their lessons, especially some fun lessons outside.

The following is a poem from a book by Ann Weems, *From Advent's Alleluia to Easter's Morning Light*.

*"Eyes believing, Gifts receiving, Our hearts can see so many things: A child in the snow making angel wings, The grand bravado of marching bands, An elderly couple holding hands, The warm sweet silence of the early morn, A lullaby sung to a precious newborn, A fire's warmth and a trusting face, Heartfelt thanks! Small blessings of grace!"*

We are truly thankful for each and every blessing. We are thankful for your prayers and support of your Day School! Enrollment for the summer and for next school year continues! Pass the word!

## Agape Changes, Continued

Until this year, Agape Ministry has been receiving food from the San Antonio Food Bank to distribute to registered families. This year they have decided to rely on The Daily Bread Ministries for the bulk of their food. They made this decision "so that we will have the freedom to become a true ministry, rather than just handing out food and clothing", according to their new Executive Director. Now they can pray openly with clients and share the Word with them on a regular basis. They will start Bible studies with clients soon, as so many of their clients have requested. Agape has now become a real ministry, administering to the spiritual needs of their clients. They are asking churches in the area to help with this new direction with food and dry goods, as well as financial assistance. As Northwood has proved, we DO help with our donations of food, household items, funding and our time and talent.

We will go back to monthly themes, based on information we get from Agape about their needs. Watch for information in the E-Notes and other Northwood publications. Thank you for your generosity! Let's keep Agape Ministry in our prayers.

# **PW BEACH RETREAT**

**2021**

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**OCTOBER 1-4**

**At last we return to SUN and FUN on the Coast**

**Northwood Presbyterian Women takes you to**

**Corpus and Port Aransas**

**3 days and nights with your PW friends and family**

**Cost: \$185**



## Congratulations!

Graduating seniors Sidney Wallace and Phoenix Rivera served as worship leaders on Youth Sunday. Elder Carlos Baladez from Holy Trinity preached.



## Session Report for May

The stated Session meeting for May 25 was held via Zoom.

**Pastor Jon Watt** zoomed in for a short time as session and staff introduced themselves. He talked about moving to San Antonio, finding a new home, and his approach to pastoring.

**Day School Budget Report**, presented by guest Wes Collier, Day School treasurer. The 2021-2022 budget which begins in two months will be reviewed by the Session after it has been approved by the Day School Board. Wes said he had expected a much larger deficit and he is pleased by efforts to contain spending. Enrollment continues to be steady, and he cited Miss Rebecca who has carefully watched spending and gotten grants that have made their budget work.

**Financial Report**, presented by Bob Lord. Northwood continues to do well, with expected income keeping up closely with expenses (and getting a little bit better every month). The church is more active than we expected to be at this time when the lockdown was initiated. Some changes may need to be made to the budget as members return in person.

**Safe Church Report**, presented by Tommy Moreno. Session approved a motion that electronic locks be installed on doors to the Narthex and Breezeway and that other external doors be re-keyed, with a limited number of keys. Members and visitors who have been vaccinated against Covid will be allowed to remove masks during services once they are seated. Unvaccinated members are encouraged to wear masks, as is everyone when they are around children under age 12.

**PNC Report**, presented by Elizabeth Hewins. The PNC is organizing meetings with Jon for groups of members. Small groups within the congregation will be invited to meet with him. (Continued on next page)

## May Session, Continued

### Session Team Reports

**Christian Education,** Vanessa Mueller and Karissa Arnett. During the month of May, a “Moment on the Sidewalk” was offered to elementary age kids prior to Sunday worship. Three out of four Sundays had kids; one Sunday had kids from three families. For Youth Sunday on May 16, two high school graduates served as worship leaders and were recognized for their accomplishments along with two not in attendance; another shared music. CE thanked the Fellowship Team for a reception afterward. CE is seeking ideas for summer and for fall from those who have worked at VBS as well as parents.

**Congregational Care,** Sheron Antczak. As care centers relax visitation rules, the team plans to visit home bound members. Corine Pittman was the first to be visited and she was feeling



Andrew, Kate, and Hayden Davila attended “A Moment on the Sidewalk” where they created wind catchers for Pentecost.

good and happy to have a visitor. Please continue to pray for health and healing for Pastor Emeritus, the Rev. Frank Seaman. Some NPC members who have wheelchairs and walkers would like to lend to members in need. The CC team is looking for a safe place to store the items in the church.

**Fellowship Team,** Nancy Byers. Fellowship will offer a monthly Second Sunday Social beginning in June with Bunco and a sandwich lunch. Northwood will participate with the Neighborhood Association for July 4th festivities, celebrate Pastor Jon Watt’s first Sunday on July 11. They have lots of ideas for future SSS (Second Sunday Social) events.

**Mission & Service Team,** Elizabeth Hewins and Anne Little. Members contributed to a food drive for Agape Ministry by collecting food at home and bringing it to church on May 2. Going forward, there will be a “theme” for each month’s collections in the Narthex collection box. Agape Executive Director Loretta Morse told M&S that Agape will begin offering Bible studies and prayer sessions to their clients. The Pentecost Offering taken in May will be distributed to support Northwood youth as well as PC(USA) youth projects.

**Worship Team,** Anne Detweiler. Worship continues each week and communion is celebrated each month as guest preachers and members provide the sermon and serve as worship leaders. May 16 was Youth Sunday and May 30 was Women’s Sunday. Sunday worship has been averaging about 35 congregants.

## June Celebrations

### Birthdays

- 11 Jeremy Kolok (Gayle Lord’s son)
- 13 Sue Johnston
- 14 Larry Finkel
- 17 Erin Walsh
- 18 Clayton Cabarcas-Smith
- 19 Deanna Wilson
- 22 Madeline Huffstickler
- 26 Samuel Mueller
- 29 Samuel Cabarcas-Smith

### Anniversaries

- 4 Drew & Sherryl Walsh
- 6 David & Mary Middleton
- 9 Donn & Linda Iverson
- 15 John & Patty Clark
- 18 Guy & Denise Wilson
- 30 Sally & Tom Ramsey