

Love Letter



Agapé Ministries, Ohio Valley Lutheran Bible Camp Association

Agapé Has Best Summer Yet

As the cool autumn days settle in and the Agapé Board of Directors and its committees review this past summer, we can definitely say that *Agapé has had it's best summer yet!*

With a total of 83 campers attending seven weeks of summer camp, it is plain to see that there is a definite need for Agapé's ministry.

Having made an intentional focus on learning camps the past several years (with a particular emphasis on improving reading and math skills), Agapé programs continue to grow.

Agapé can still boast of a one year improvement in reading skills in just one week of summer camp. We attribute this to small classes, a secure en-



Campers from Explorer Day Camp and Fun Factor Camp take time out to pose for a group photo.

vironment, caring teachers, excellent materials (we use materials from Christian Literacy Associates of Allegheny County created by Dr. Bill Kofmehl), Christian community, and the prayers and gifts of our supporters.

We are in constant need of

caring individuals to serve as teachers and reading helpers. You may serve one week or all summer. If God is calling you to this important ministry, please call Dr. Lavinia Wingert at 724-356-2308. No experience is needed — we will train you!

Agapé Chapel Gets Facelift

This past spring and summer, George Carvlin IV with the help of other scouts from Troop #23 (Dormont, PA) completed his Eagle Scout Project by giving the Agapé chapel a facelift.

The work included ground clean-up in the area, installation of chapel boundaries with fallen logs, the construction and installation of six benches and a rustic looking cross from fallen branches.

The scouts also improved the campfire site and built 12 new portable benches to be used at the campfire site.

Thank you to George and Boy Scout Troop #23!!!

Autumn 2008

Annual Association Meeting Date Set

The Agapé Annual Association meeting will be held on Saturday, November 22, at 9:00 a.m. at the new Agapé Retreat and Learning Center at camp. All Association member representatives should please plan to attend.

Mission Statement

The mission of Agapé Ministries is to bring people together in Christ through Outdoor Ministry.

Staff

Dr. Lavinia Wingert
Camp Director

Mr. Gerald Smith
Equipment Manager

Mr. Mark Gilbert
Maintenance & Property Manager

Ms. Kate Gilbert
Housekeeper

Agapé Ministries

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*... bringing people together in Christ
through Outdoor Ministry*



New Retreat & Learning Center Nears Completion

This past summer, a team of five Mission Builder couples arrived at Agapé in their RVs and began to build. Many volunteers from a number of SWPA Synod congregations and the Bombardier Corporation joined them. Now a new building sits at the top of the hill overlooking the hills of Washington County.

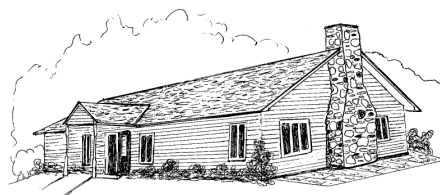
The long-awaited multi-purpose building will be used for summer camp activities as well as meeting space for user groups.

Provisions for a wing to be added later as a sleeping area will make it a complete retreat center.

Mission Builders is an organization of the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, comprised of dedicated Christians, many of whom are retirees, who share a desire to give of their time and abilities to support mission with their hands.

It is in thankfulness for all that God has provided that they use their God-given skills to help congregations, schools,



The new Agapé Retreat and Learning Center.

camp and other social ministry organizations of the ELCA construct or add to their facilities.

Agapé is deeply grateful to the Mission Builders and the many volunteers who helped with the new building. The dedication of the building is set for Sunday, November 16 at 4:00 pm with Bishop Kusserow presiding.

Financial contributions are still being accepted for the building construction. If you would like to donate, please mail your contribution to Agapé Ministries and earmark it for the new building.