

What Did They Know And When Did They Know It ? And Exactly How Long Did They Remember It ?

Does the Agape Class have a plan ? Why don't we have John Easterwood speaking every Sunday ? These questions have been heard among the doughnuts and coffee or on the way out the door, often during class time.

We all appreciate the teaching of Rev. Easterwood on Romans and hope he continues with us until the rapture, but he is not always available. Sometimes other obligations pre-empt Agape and sometimes they come up quite suddenly. Rev. Easterwood is looking for full time employment and we can all pray that it might involve teaching at a seminary in the Twin Cities and leave Sundays free. Alternatively, we might start paying him a living wage. In that case, we would have to take the offerings a bit more seriously.

Also, we have a number of missionaries who have come out of our class and been part of our class when they are in the area or have been important in the lives of some of our members. For example, we have sent construction teams to Africa to work with the Lanruds who will be visiting us in June (see schedule below.) If you were a missionary and had a connection with or had been receiving gifts from a class and asked to speak to them on home assignment, would it seem a little strange to be told that all the slots were full? Hey! Paul was a missionary!

Does the Agape Class even exist ?

Under the previous administration, it was felt that the existing classes were not visitor friendly. It was not just that the class members needed to reach out more, it was felt that the class system was fatally flawed. This was said to be because if people come into a group where everybody seems to know each other and shares things together, the newcomers will feel that they are not a part. (The counter would be that they might say, "These people care, I like that.")

Because of this, a concerted effort was made to turn the adult Sunday School into a series of shifting electives, with people choosing the things that piqued their interest. The concept took root in the minds of some Sunday School attendees who got in the habit of moving around. The older two classes never accepted the concept and stayed with their group, now merged into one mega-class, of "Seniors" and "Super-Seniors." Interestingly, the younger crowd in the church seem to be trying to create a stable group with loyalty and stability in which to build relationships. That is how Agape began.

Now, with a Senior Pastor who heartily endorses the concept of classes as the social units of the church, there is a segment of the adult population who are caught in a time warp. They favor the free-wheeling elective system and, finding none, tend to attend nothing.

The social time after church is a wonderful chance to meet new people and maintain contact with old friends, but it is also a hard thing to leave when the time is up. For some, it is easy to stay there for extended fellowship and then fade out without attending Sunday School at all.

If someone makes a deliberate decision to not attend Sunday School, on the basis of all the factors that only they and the Lord know, then no one else can really challenge that decision. Paul went to Jerusalem against advice. But let us all truly examine our own hearts and the Lord's leading. Is Agape just teaching or relationships?

Regatherings Happen

Every time there is a Sunday evening prayer meeting or concert at First Free, there will be an Agape Regathering. Stand in the foyer afterwards looking hungry and an agent will contact you.

On April 21, a group regathered at the Olsons for food, fellowship and fun.

Summer Schedule

(Lord willing and the creek don't rise)

SUNDAY MORNINGS 11:00—12:00

May 26	John Easterwood	Romans
June 2	John Easterwood	Romans
June 9	John Easterwood	Romans
June 16	Jon and Lyn Prins and a group of Japanese	
June 23	Dave and Jan Harthan	Mozambique
June 30	Ken and Judy Lanrud	Central African Republic
July 7	John Easterwood	if available
July 14	John Easterwood	if available
July 21	John Easterwood	if available
July 28	John Easterwood	if available
August 4	John Easterwood	if available
August 11	John Easterwood	if available
August 18	John Easterwood	if available
August 25	John Easterwood	if available

Picnic At The Goodmans

Bob and Paulette Goodman have again invited Agape and all Agape friends, including grown children of Agape and even interested parents of Agape to a picnic at their spacious yard in Lakeville. (No, it is not half way to Iowa.)

This year it will be on Sunday afternoon July 14. You can come right from church, or stop and change into casual attire. (Or you might even come casual to church!)

Bring a salad, hot dish, chips or dessert. Brats and hamburgers will be provided and grilled to perfection (and beyond) at about 1:00 pm. Drinks will also be provided.

Entertainment may include the famed water balloon launch across the Christina Huddleston School Playground.

Goodmans live at 17394 Isleton Avenue Lakeville. Phone is 952-435-6007.

Directions: Take 35W south (past merging with 35E) to County Road 50 Exit. Go left on 50, under the freeway and one messy block to 175th Street where you turn left again. Take 175th Street a little more than a mile to Isleton and turn left yet again. If you begin passing the playground and building of Christina Huddleson School, you have gone too far, just like this issue of LoveLetter.

Congratulations !!

High School Graduates

Heidi Hultstrand
Katie Hucek
Molly Miller
Kyle Prins
Steve Sawyer
Deanna Symington

College Graduates

Heather Hultstrand
Eric Stabnow

Advanced Degrees

Dan Juarez, Masters in Vocal Performance
Jeff Olson, Masters in Software Engineering

Engagement

Susan Mondy & Eric Stabnow (Dec 21)

Wedding

Iman Mitchell & Luke Horn (May 17)

Short Term Missions

Alicia Juarez — Mexico (Feb — Aug)
Stacy Olson — Hong Kong (May — Aug)