

# Agape LoveLetter

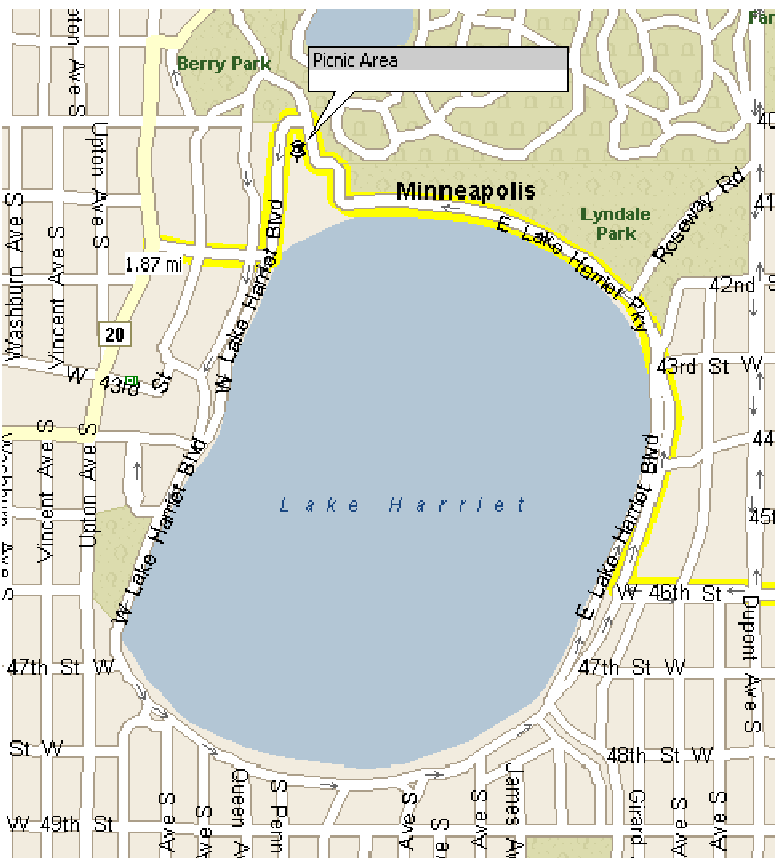
## Picnic Saturday, July 22, 5:00 pm at Lake Harriet

Come for a fun afternoon and evening. Enjoy a picnic supper, ride the old streetcar, walk along the lake, hear the Minneapolis Pops Orchestra at 7:30 playing Broadway musicals and light classical music in the bandstand. The concert is over by 9:00 at the latest. There is a playground if you bring young kids. Restrooms are nearby and there is also a concession stand for treats. If you come early, you could stroll through the rose gardens at the northeast corner of the lake before the picnic.

We will provide paper plates, cups, utensils, drinks and KFC Chicken. We will take a collection but it should not be excessive. Bring a salad, rolls & butter, chips or a dessert to share. Call, tell or e-mail Ross & Karin to let us know if you are coming so we can plan intelligently — at least in theory. Phone 612-824-7691 and leave a message if no one is home. E-mail [ross@rossolson.org](mailto:ross@rossolson.org). (Ross is the one who keeps trying to teach. Karin is the one who came once and became the treasurer.)

Parking is tight so carpooling would be a good idea, if you need or could provide a ride, also call. People could arrange to meet at church at 4:30 and consolidate vehicles. Parking is available on Lake Harriet Parkway which is a one way going counter clockwise around the lake — sometimes you find a space before getting to the bandstand. The lot northeast of the bandstand is for "Park Patrons" only — whatever that is! After taking a loop around the picnic grounds, there is a small lot. Failing that parking is available in the residential area up the hill on 42nd street, past the street cars.

Also, bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on during the concert if we elect to stay in the picnic area during the music — it carries very well and the area is shady. Someone will go early and try to save places at the picnic tables.



## Agape Adult Bible Fellowship

Yes, we do meet on Sundays through the summer .... Sometimes, anyway.

We are slowly moving through the Gospel of John, at least when not pre-empted.

We have already had a missionary presentation by Rick and Becky Mackey who will be going to the Dominican Republic. Rick was Youth Pastor here not that long ago.

On July 16, Enrique and Becky Fernandez will be sharing about their upcoming ministry of theological education in Latin America.

Chairman Dick will be pulling something off his well-stocked shelves for every Sunday except when ABFs are cancelled for an all church activity, such as the baptism service and picnic at Lake Nokomis on August 20.

# Testimony Corner

By David Kriesel-Koll

Matthew 5:14-16 (You are the light of the world...let your light shine before men). I am the recipient of a great gift from God, a second chance at life. I've been selective however, with whom I share my experience and therefore have "hidden my light". On May 14, 2003, I received a heart transplant at the University of Minnesota. My heart disease odyssey began in 1992 after having a heart attack at age 35. During the next 11 years, my heart kept enlarging until it finally went into congestive heart failure. Heart transplantation is a last option, having exhausted all other medical interventions and procedures to keep a diseased heart functioning.

The thought of facing imminent death was not frightening to me. God had intervened many times on my behalf during my life. I was at peace that He was still with me to handle this situation, and in my mind, I was comforted knowing that if my earthly time was up I would be with Jesus in Heaven. After the transplant, I had a deep spiritual awakening and knew that I felt the touch of God immediately following the procedure. God is real and He is with each one of us. We have to trust in Him.

My family was with me every phase of my disease and was vital in helping me deal with the decreasing heart function. The sacrifices and stress of caring for a chronically ill family member was a burden I wished they didn't have to endure. I will never fully comprehend the anxiety that the members of my immediate and extended family had to deal with, but their love and prayer was always with me. There were many periods that my wife, Pam, felt isolated and lonely by a lack of support and resources for her to vent her frustrations with.

Do I feel an obligation to take full advantage of my gift? You bet. The Achilles Heel in this attitude is that I have the same personality to some extent post-transplant in dealing with issues and expressing gratitude toward receiving the new heart. The new heart in and of itself does not transform outward expression and communication about my experience. The best way for me to show the love and power of Jesus Christ is through my visible presence, the fact that I'm still alive. There is definitely a purpose for my life, and I believe my survival is a desire by God to witness to others and let Jesus Christ into their hearts.

I'm very open to discussing my second chance at life and would be glad to share with anyone who's interested. Pray for my family as they continue their care-giving role and ask them how they are doing on occasion. Keep in your prayers my donor family who lost a husband and father but are comforted in their grief by knowing that through unselfish organ donation others were given the renewed hope of life.