Children receive encouragement and help with their homework so that no child will be left behind.

"God sent Christ in the form of a child as the Messenger to bring good news..."  
--Matthew 18:3

Children receive encouragement and help with their homework so that no child will be left behind.

"...and he took them up in his arms, laid his hand on them, and blessed them."  
--Mark 10:16

Children will not be discriminated against due to race, national origin, sex, or religion.

A ministry of the Eastern Shore District
Virginia Annual Conference UMC
P.O. Box 317
Parksley, VA 23421

VA Conference Advance Special

Please send contributions to:
Barbara Mason, Treasurer
P.O. Box 704, Chincoteague, VA 23336

INQUIRIES:
Phone:  757-336-6436 or
E-mail:  <barmason26@yahoo.com> or
Website:<www.easternshoredistrictumc.org>

AGAPE
CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY CENTER
4605 Fleming Road
P.O. Box 155
Horntown, VA 23395
Phone:  757-824-0072
Open for Visitations

"Let the little children come to me; do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."  
-Mark 10:14

agapé (God’s unconditional, welcoming love)

A ministry of the Eastern Shore District of THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
The Agape Christian Children's Community Center (ACCCC) is a place where children can come to have fun and learn the basics in preparation for school - ABC's, counting, colors, etc. It's a place where their activity is encouraged with art; dress up play, stories and games. It's a place where their feelings are respected and where they can learn how to get along with others in love. Each child is treated as someone special because he/she is! The Center is a happy place where children want to return every day because, most importantly, it's a place where they learn how much Jesus loves each and every one of them.

The Agape Center is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Our preschool is for children ages three and four. The children are served breakfast, lunch and two snacks each day. The schedule for the After-School Program is Monday through Friday 3:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. The After-School Program is FREE with preferences given to parents who have a child attending our preschool.

The summer program welcomes children (three-eleven) with activities for each age group.

We are grateful to our director and teaching staff. They have been carefully selected to become a part of the Agape Center because of their unique gifts and talents, their love of children and their love of Jesus Christ.

The Agape Center is governed by a Board of Directors, comprised of volunteer laypersons, local clergy and the Superintendent of the Eastern Shore District of The United Methodist Church.

How you can help...

- **Pray** for the center and its mission.
- **Send work teams** to do repairs on the playground and building.
- **Send a team** to hold Vacation Bible School this summer.
- **Invite a speaker.** Some of our board members are available to speak to your church, UMW, UMM, Sunday School, or other groups.
- **Support Agape** through regular giving or through Christmas & Lenten offerings.

For more information contact: Barbara Mason at 757-336-6436 or Brenda Child at 434-848-3329
FREE SUMMER PROGRAM FOR 2017?

Thanks to a grant from the Eastern Shore District’s Ministry With The Poor Workgroup in 2016, we were able to offer a free summer program for ages 3-11, many of whom were siblings. This resulted in a full house of 36 children with a waiting list! Salaries for the summer were approximately $8,000.00 with the hiring of 2 part-time summer aides. Tuition is $65 per week unless income is below the poverty level, then a sliding scale is used.

The Agape Board of Directors would like to offer a free summer program again this year. Children are more at risk during the summer than the school year. Agape is a place for the children to be able to be in a safe environment, receive healthy meals, and be loved unconditionally during the hot days of summer.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! If we can raise $8,000 by May 31, 2017, we will be able to offer the children a time of fun, fellowship, and most of all, a time to learn about Jesus. There would be no cost to their family.

This is a special campaign, so please note on your check that your gift is for our summer program. We still need and are grateful for your regular support.

Those Three Little Words

A few days ago, I witnessed one of the most amazing interaction between two children. Each morning I check each child for any bumps or scrapes they may have before arriving at the Center. This ritual is met daily with who can be the one at Ms. Doris’s knee. Some of them feel the knee belongs to them. This particular day, after checking one little girl, she decided not to move. When the next little girl came up to be checked, the first girl refused to move. Little Mahayla simply put her around the first child’s shoulder and said, “I love you”. I thought this was so wonderful. Would it not be a more perfect world if adults could take a page out of a child’s book and say to someone who may have impeded on their space, “I love you?” Many times we fail to empathize with others’ feelings that a person may be having a bad day or moment in their life, and a simple “I love you” could make a big difference in their day, and possibly yours.
CHRISTMAS COMES TO AGAPE

The children were so excited when St. Luke UMC from Yorktown came and brought Santa, lots of gifts, food and spent time with the children.

Williamsburg UMC came and brought stockings filled with gifts for each of the children. A good time was had by all.

The children received hand-made hats & gloves from Ms. Linda Leasure as well as knitted hats from two ladies in Trails End, Horntown.

Ocean View UMC brought individual gifts for each child.

Thanks to all who made Christmas special for the children of Agape!

In December, Ms. Jacqueline Holden retired from the Agape Center to move to take care of her grandson. Ms. Jackie was the after-school program teacher since we opened. A former student said, “I missed having Ms. Jackie help me with my homework. It’s hard to do it without her encouragement.” We will miss her, but we wish her well and hope she enjoys watching her grandson grow up.

December, 2016, Mrs. Yvette Morrison joined the staff working with the after-school program. She has worked with children her whole career. She lives in Withams, VA and is currently attending college. She will soon earn her certificate in Human Services and plans to continue with college. We are happy she has joined our staff.

The Agape Board and staff would like to thank some very special people who reached out in love, saw the need, and filled that need.

We thank Sarah & Johnson Chin for providing a new flat screen television as well as special books for the children.

Special thanks to Gail & Hall Barr for providing the means for us to purchase a new refrigerator.

We are grateful to Sherri and Jim Ketner, representing Kilmarnock UMC, who purchased a new stove for the Center.

God has truly blessed us through the love and support of these special people.

Bethany UMC for food & visit
St. Andrews UMC, VA Beach for gift cards
Market St. UMC for food & visits
David Hickman for toys
HEARD IN THE CLASSROOM

- Little Jordyn arrived at the Center crying because she did not want to be separated from her mother. She sat down later during circle time, still crying, beside little Mahayla, who feels she is everyone’s mother. Little Mahayla is busy rubbing Jordyn’s back and the girl on her other side at the same time. She turned and looked up at Ms. Doris and said, “you need to send them both home because they are hot.”

- We teach the children to answer or ask questions in a sentence. Many times it will get lost in the translation. One such morning, little Mahayla had to go to the bathroom. Mahayla, who normally speaks in a low tone, stated very softly:

  Mahayla: “I need to go to the bathroom.”
  Ms. Doris: “What did you say?”
  Mahayla: “I need to go to the bathroom.”
  Ms. Doris, not clearly understanding what Mahayla said, asked a third time.
  Mahayla: (In a loud voice) “I said I got to go Pee Pee! (I bet you heard it that time, Ms. Doris, and it was in a sentence)

- Little Jordyn is quite a conversationalist. She loves to talk, and eats with her leg crossed and fingers pointed. She arrived at school with a different hair style and sporting a headband. Ms. Robbin & Ms. Jaclyn said, “Well, who do we have in here this morning?” Jordyn replied, “Michelle Obama.”

- Exercise is a daily regime for the children, especially on days when the weather is bad. On this particular day, Ms. Doris decided to get with the program and exercise too. The kids began to laugh because to them it was funny. Little Jordyn spoke up and said, “I have one.” She began to do squats and looked over at Ms. Doris and said, “Don’t you do it, you might fall down.”

- The boys at Agape are constantly driving cars or talking on some old cell phones Ms. Doris no longer uses. (without batteries) One morning while Ms. Jaclyn was preparing work for the morning class, she overheard the boys talking while they were “driving”. Verrell: “Boys, where are we having lunch?” Connor: “McDonalds” Seth: “OK, let’s go!” Verrell: (Flips out one of the cell phones and says, “Hold up boys, I need to pull over here and pick up my girl.”

- Knowing you can never have too many teachers; while working together, Ms. Robbin & Ms. Jaclyn were giving instructions and directions to the children. They were constantly telling them to follow directions. Verrell was constantly doing the opposite of what he was told. Connor looked over and told him, “That’s not right.” Ms. Robbin looked at him and said, I have this, Connor. Connor smiled and said “He’s not following directions.”

FOOD & SUPPLIES ALWAYS NEEDED

Canned fruits, vegetables, spaghettiios, baked beans, applesauce, cereals (hot & cold), graham crackers, vanilla wafers, ravioli, macaroni & cheese, spaghetti & sauce are a few of the items we need. Disposable, bowls, plates & utensils would also be a help. Lysol wipes, Clorox wipes, construction paper, card stock, copy paper, craft materials and supplies, as well as hand sanitizer & deodorizer spray are needed.
**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

**2016 Year End**

2016 Income all sources $92,540.08

2016 Expenses $96,281.51

2016 Expense above Income $3,741.43

Unfortunately, Expenses were greater than income for 2017.

**January 1, 2017 – March 8, 2017**

Income all sources $14,503.39

Expenses $15,913.22

Expense above Income $1,409.83

Please pray for our mission and the finances we need to continue to fulfill the vision God gave for His little ones to have a place to know Jesus and be prepared for school.

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**WAYS TO HELP**

Advance Special #920

Budgeted Mission

Benevolence

Advent/Easter Offerings

Bazaar Proceeds

Penny or Coin Collection

Second Mile Giving

Memorials & Honorariums

Sunday School Classes

Alternative Giving

Events Youth, UMM, UMW, VBS Fundraisers

Start a drive to raise funds for our Summer Program

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THE CHILDREN OF AGAPE WISH YOU A BLESSED SPRING AND SUMMER!

Please remember them when planning your VBS offering focus. We can provide a speaker or send brochures & information for you to share with the children about Agape.

For a speaker to share the miracles of Agape, please call:

Barbara Mason 757-336-6436 or 757-894-3208 (cell)

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Please make checks payable to Agape CCCC

and send to: Mrs. Barbara S. Mason,

Treasurer

PO Box 704

Chincoteague, VA 23336

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