



Current Waves

"Experience the Spirit...Christ, Creation, Community"

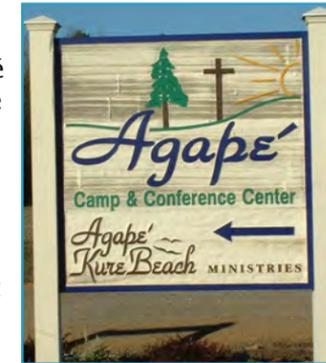
Celebrating 40 years of Ministry At Camp Agapé

CELEBRATE! 1974 was the first year facilities were officially open at Camp Agapé for guests. Since then thousands have been served at Camp Agapé. In 1974 the site consisted of the campground, bathhouse, and the Lutheran Men's Lodge. Early church leaders had a vision for a ministry that would serve the people of God in central and eastern North Carolina and compliment Lutheridge in the mountains.

Today we celebrate that annually over 5,800 school-aged children and adults participate in our environmental education program. All those people are experiencing what it means to care for and appreciate the gifts of God's creation at Agapé. Since the ACE Education program began, over 80,000 people have participated in this program.

Summer Camp attendance has been down over the past five summers but right now is on pace for a big jump upwards. This year over 1,000 campers are projected to "Experience the Spirit" here at camp. Our hosted retreat group ministry continues to grow and will serve over 4,000 guests in 2014.

In 2014 Camp Agapé will serve nearly 11,000 guests. Together we are a part of the early leaders' vision for this ministry. Perhaps we have even gone beyond that vision, and now are setting our sights on new and exciting ways to meet the needs of God's people. Thank you for your part in our ministry. Join us with a new vision for the future. Together, let's CELEBRATE 40 Years of serving the people of God. †



AGAPÉ-GANZA!

Come to Camp Agapé on Sunday, May 25th from 1:30 - 5:30 pm for our new and improved Open House! Come for a fun-filled day of FREE activities for the whole family, church group or youth group: "Dunk the Director," zip-lining, canoeing, archery, tours of the facilities and MORE!

Get your teams and recipes ready for the first ever Agapé GaGa Ball Tournament and Pie Competition! We are proud to announce that one of our pie tasting judges will be WRAL's Debra Morgan!

Agapé-Ganza will be loads of fun for all ages! If you are interested in entering a pie in the pie competition, contact Lauren at agape@agapekurebeach.org or 919.552.9421.



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Announcing the First Annual GaGa Ball Tournament

The First Annual GaGa Ball Tournament will be held at Camp Agapé, on May 25th, 2014 during the Agapé-Ganza Open House. The tournament will begin at 2:30 and will be held rain or shine. This fine sporting event will establish a reigning champion of the Agapé GaGa Pit and catapult a team into the chronicles of Agapé sporting fame.

The winning team will receive \$100 for their own use, the game winning ball for the year, and their team's name permanently inscribed to the wall of the Camp Agapé GaGa Pit for future generations to see. Additional benefits (that cannot be guaranteed, nor 100% endorsed by Agapé † Kure Beach Ministries) include bragging rights for the year, an active and healthy lifestyle, and friendly competition between youth groups.

A team leader must register with Alex Linn, Program Director at Camp Agapé, by calling the camp office. The cost of registration is \$25.00 per team. Registration and deposit are crucial, along with prompt arrival on May 25th. The tournament will conclude with the championship match; followed by an individual, one-off, match. This individual match will be an every-person-for-themselves battle to the finish.

Good hope, well wishes for a training season, and God speed. May all of your shots arrive at their target, and may none find their aim "too hyped." †



DIRECTOR'S NOTEBOOK

Its our birthday!! Camp Agapé is celebrating 40 years of serving God's people.

Recently I have been asked, "What makes Camp Agapé special?" It is and always has been the people of God gathered in a unique place apart where we can "Experience the Spirit." Camp Agapé provides a small-group environment focused on meeting the individual needs of our campers and guests. We have great facilities, fabulous food, 624 acres of beautiful rolling hills, but most of all we engage people in a special relationship which "Builds Leaders & Forms Faith."

To celebrate 40 years of relationship building and forming faith at Camp Agapé we have launched the "40 for 40 Challenge" The challenge is to sign-up 40 new campers who have never come to camp before, in this, our 40th year of operation. So we have challenged area congregations and you to help us reach this exciting new goal. As of this writing we are well on our way to adding 40 campers who have never previously attended a residential summer camp experience.

In order to make sure campers who want to attend can do so financially, we invite you to contribute to a "40 for 40 campership fund." You may designate funds for this cause by giving gifts from \$40.00 to \$400.00 to help 40 new campers attend camp this summer.

In this newsletter is an envelope which you can use to make a special "40 for 40 Challenge" gift to help us celebrate 40 years of "Building Leaders and Forming Faith" at Camp Agapé.

Make a gift today and help us celebrate our birthday!!

~ Randy Youngquist-Thurow, AIM, Executive Director, CCD

Celebrate Mother's Day at Camp Agapé! May 9-10



Join us May 9-10 as we celebrate Mother's Day at our special **Mother-Daughter Retreat!** All ages are welcome to enjoy numerous camp activities (hike, craft, worship, Bible study, play games, etc.) and to share this incredible experience with that special woman in your life. This year our retreat will be filled with sunshine as we look at how we can be a light to the mother-daughter relationship and to the world!

Activities begin at 7:30 pm Friday and end at 3:00 pm on Saturday. Reservations required. Questions? Contact Lauren at agape@agapekurebeach.org or by phone at 919.552.9421.



Spokes for Folks Retreat!

Bike and/or serve in the Kure Beach area! October 17-19

Come October 17-19 and be a part of this unique retreat! This retreat lets you pick the option of biking and/or serving in the Kure Beach area. Spend the weekend at our Kure Beach site with your family as you take some time to enjoy the beach, to serve and/or explore the Wilmington, Carolina Beach and Kure Beach communities on your bike!

Questions? Contact Lauren at 919.552.9421 or at agape@agapekurebeach.org.

Youth Leaders Retreat

Dec. 5-7, 2014

Youth leaders and advisors: we have a retreat for you (volunteers or paid staff)! Join us to learn some tricks of the trade from outdoor ministry professionals. This weekend has been praised by past participants as a practical "learn-by-doing" training event. Gain a clearer vision for ministry and set a course for building faith-based relationships with your youth. Make an investment in the future of your youth by equipping your leaders at this dynamic retreat.

Questions? Contact Lauren at 919.552.9421 or at agape@agapekurebeach.org.



Good News Good Brews: Beers and Bibles: Hops and Hope: Faith and Froth: Malt and Majesty



Can there be anything better than good, I mean really well made, craft beer? Yes, it's a pretty solid argument that the Love of God as shown in God's only Son, Christ our Lord and Savior, is better than a good beer. What if you have both beer and Bible? Ah-ha, we're on to something almost divine now!

Late this summer, riding the coattails of the summer camp session, we're going to be having our very first Good News Good Brews adult retreat, onsite at Camp Agapé. During the weekend of August 22-24, we'll gather for worship, Bible study led by Pastor Charlie Zimmerman, and of course good beer. Although much is still in the planning stages, we can confirm that this retreat will be a perfect way to wind down a busy summer.

For more information, ideas, and questions, please contact Alex at 919-552-9421 or at program@agapekurebeach.org (obviously, this is a 21 or older retreat)...

Unfinished Objects (UFO) Retreat



December 12-14

Do you get stressed preparing for Christmas? Do you struggle to find the time to make or wrap Christmas gifts and write Christmas cards? Do you have any unfinished projects laying around your house - is it a craft project or a book you have been meaning to work on? Do you just want a weekend away? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then we have the retreat for you! Come and join us at Camp Agapé December 12-14 for our UFO Retreat! Take a moment to pause in a busy December month and spend the weekend with good food, laughter, and fellowship with friends as you finally get the chance to complete that project.

Registration required. Contact Lauren at agape@agapekurebeach.org or at 919.552.9421 for more information.

Take a 'Liken' to Lichens!



Lichens are fascinating entities. ('Lichen' rhymes with 'liken.') They are made up of a fungus and an alga living in a mutualistic symbiotic relationship. In other words, both the algae and the fungi benefit from each other. The fungus provides structure, while the alga provides food through photosynthesis.

There are three basic types of lichens:

1. Crustose - typically found on rocks, tree bark, and even statues. These lichens form a crust. They are slow-growing and long-lived. It takes as long as 25 years to grow one inch.
2. Foliose - often found on tree trunks, branches, and soil. These lichens are leafy-looking. They grow fairly quickly, for lichens, adding as much as one inch each year.
3. Frustricose - often found on tree trunks and branches. These lichens look like mini-shrubs or trees.

All are indicators of air quality. They thrive in clean, moist air. The fruiticose lichens are the most sensitive to air pollutants. We have some of the freshest air around, as evidenced by the presence of lichens all over Agapé's forests.

Lichens are useful to people as well as animals. For instance, Native Americans used lichens as dyes and medicinal teas or poultices. Some lichens were even used as baby diapers! Animals such as squirrels, chipmunks, and deer nibble on lichens. They are a good source of energy because they are rich in carbohydrates. Some birds use lichens as part of their nest-building material.

Next time you're hiking on Agapé's trails, see if you can find examples of all three forms of lichens. They add yet another dimension to the great biodiversity with which we are blessed!

Mir Youngquist-Thurow
Environmental Education Director



News from Kure Beach: Bathroom Remodel Completed

The much needed handicap accessible bathroom in the Faith Center dining and meeting room has been completed. A special gift from the Mission Outreach Fund at

Christ The King, Cary, along with some individual gifts, provided the funds to complete the project. Mike Goynes, our beach site manager, and several volunteer groups worked hard to bring the project to completion. Thank you to all!

New Tables at the Beach

A grant from First Lutheran Greensboro has allowed us to purchase eight new tables and a table rack for the Faith Center. Thank you, First Lutheran!!



Looking for a special vacation location?

Come spend the week of July 20-25 at Camp Agapé this summer!

Plan your own retreat or bring the family -

you'll have the run of the Retreat House from July 20-25. Yes, there will be summer campers onsite but that won't keep you out of the pool or off the zip-line. Cook your own meals or eat in the dining hall. It's guaranteed to be five days of fun to remember! Contact Lauren for rates at 919.552.9421 or at agape@agapekurebeach.org.

Summer camp 2014 is just around the corner!

There are only a few weeks left until super summer staff arrive and begin their intense training; filled with learning games, "Somethings," activities, how to become Agapé Players, and what it takes to build relationships in an intentional Christian community apart.



Surf Camp

As we prep for the summer and what it has to offer, campers and staff alike can look forward to the return of summer programming at the Kure Beach site. After a summer off we will be heading to hit the waves down at the Kure Beach Faith Center for our very first ever Surf Camp.

A week of good vibrations will be led by our aforementioned, super summer staff, and the surfing guru talents of Pastor Will Rose, of Holy Trinity, Chapel Hill fame. Pastor Will, a native of Wilmington, and the Agapé staff will guide campers through surf, sand, and the church seasons. This camp experience is something you do not want to miss. ✚

Archery Prime!

New to this year's line up, Archery Prime! A program that is sure to be "on point" will be flying its way into becoming a



new camper favorite. Equal parts summer camp and archery range, campers will stay on target and rise to increasingly more difficult shots at the range and in the field.

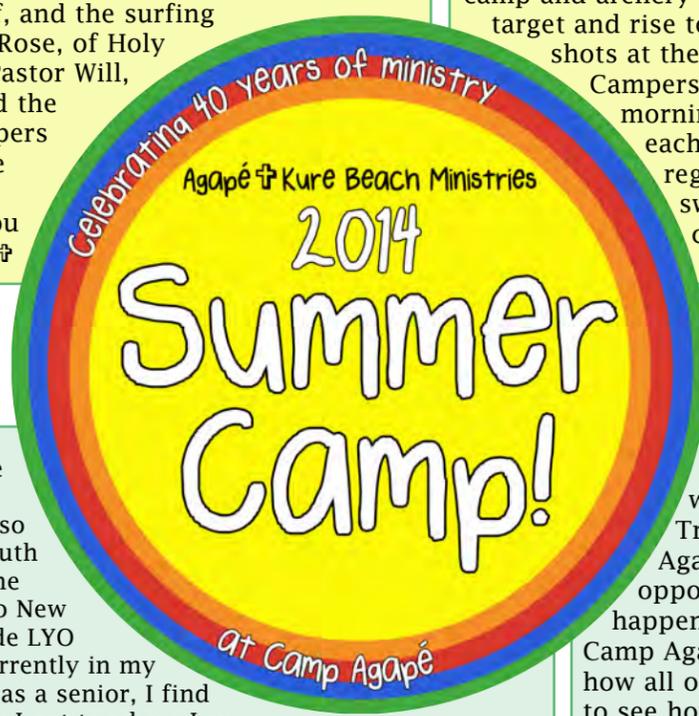
Campers will spend time each morning perfecting their aim, and each afternoon taking part in regular camp activities like swimming, nature activities, canoeing, crafting, and camp games. ✚

Building Leaders

Over the years I have had the opportunity to participate in so many different summer camps at Camp Agapé, and also to attend a lot of different youth retreats and trips including the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering to New Orleans and multiple Statewide LYO Assemblies. Now that I am currently in my final semester in high school as a senior, I find myself reminiscing about how I got to where I am today. Without the support of this very generous congregation I would not be the person I am today. The different trips and summer camp experiences I have had over the years have all helped to shape me into the person I am. I've learned so much - like the importance of being a positive Christian role model to those around me. I learned to seek out those who seem left out and to build everyone's self-esteem and self-value every chance I get. I learned to show care for God's creation around me. And I realize that I would not be the kind of leader I am today without these opportunities. Without the financial help of the congregation through donations and camperships I would not have been able to attend many of these life changing events. So from the bottom of my heart, I thank you all for being such a supportive congregation and for truly being Christ's hands and feet in the world - so that a young kid like me could have the chance to grow into the young man I am today with a very positive future. Thank you. Thank you so much ~ Aran Stalls

Forming Faith

One of my favorite summer camp memories was being an SIT (Staff In Training) Leader at Camp Agapé last summer. We had the opportunity to learn what happened behind the scenes at Camp Agapé. It was really neat to see how all of the staff are trained and to see how the philosophies of the camp are Christ-centered in all that they do. It was really inspiring to see how the staff and campers all work together in such a unique Christian atmosphere that you simply can't find anywhere else. Simply being in the presence of such a profound Christian community really inspired me last summer. The relationships that are built there will last a lifetime. I look forward to hopefully working at camp in the future to help pass on such a great experience to other campers. ~ Evan Clayton



Staff In Training (SITs)

An oldie but a goodie, Staff In Training (SIT's as they're affectionately called) will continue to be a big learning week in the faith



lives of the young adults who participate. This program is in two sections, 9-10th grade "Servants" and 11-13th grade "Leaders." Although it is one of the older programs at Camp Agapé, its impact in the community can be seen very easily. Former SIT's can be seen directly involved in the church body as Youth Leaders, Summer Camp staff, and year round Program Staff at camps and non-profits. SIT's are not only in the leadership of the church, but they can also be seen "walking the talk" in other ways; some in environmental leadership, outdoor education facilities, and creation stewardship. SIT campers truly learn what St. Francis meant by, "Preach the Gospel at all times; and when necessary, use words." ✚

- ✚ Building Self-Esteem
- ✚ Christian Role Models
- ✚ A Safe Environment

Come to Agapé All Year Long!

Sometimes people ask us what does Camp Agapé do when summer camp ends. The answer is A LOT! Come join us all year long for programmed events and retreats or plan your own event for your church, family, friends, or business! We host



Team building is a great way to spend a day at Agapé!

day meetings, weekday retreats and weekend retreats all year long!

Bring your family for a birthday party, baby shower, or family reunion. Bring your business for a day meeting or weekday retreat to plan and train. Bring your friends for a parent's weekend away or crafting retreat. Stay in our "high-comfort" buildings and eat delicious Agapé food. Come spend time apart in a unique place! Contact Lauren for rates and availability at agape@agapekurebeach.org or by phone at 919.552.9421. ✚

Day Camp is a Blast onsite!

This summer we will be running an onsite version of our very popular Agapé Day Camp! Just like the day camp that happens in the church congregation, we'll be running from 9:00 - 3:00 a day camp program at our outdoor campground facilities.



What makes the onsite day camp special is that you can do normal day camp activities, in addition to onsite only things like the Nature Center, swimming in the camp pool, maybe even a Mud-Pit trip. So come on out to camp for our very special Day Camp Blast.

Week #4, July 6-11, entering grades 1-6 @ Camp Agapé, 9:00-3:00, Monday-Friday. Contact Lauren at agape@agapekurebeach.org or at 919.552.9421 for registration information.



- ✚ Creation Stewardship
- ✚ Building Leaders
- ✚ Music ✚ Having Fun!

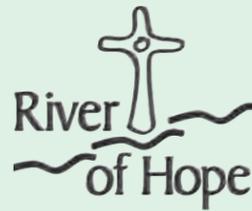
Dear Camp Agapé,

My name is Samantha Goodman, age 11. I was in Joel's Middle School camp group at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. I would like to say I really enjoyed camp, all the fun games we played such as tea pot tag, TV tag, and Statues (my favorite of them all!).

I also loved all the community work we did. I understand it was work, but it just didn't feel like it since I was doing it with my friends. The day I thought was the most fun was the day at the soup kitchen. It felt great to help all those poor people.

After I took that camp, I truly felt more in touch with God. I hope that Agapé will continue to come to Our Redeemer Lutheran church each summer for more day camps.

I'm also looking forward to next summer, so I can go to your camp Night Owls (because really, I'm not a morning person). I truly cannot wait to go! I'm sure it will be awesome! ~ Samantha



River of Hope Grows through Legacy Giving Club

Many of you lament the fact that you can't give more to support Agapé ☩ Kure Beach Ministries. You love this ministry and want to do more to help it survive and flourish to insure the future of your faith.

So, how is God calling YOU to respond to God's presence in YOUR life? Perhaps a gift in your will would be an opportunity to leave that legacy that you are praying for.

You may not have much money to give now, but when you make plans now to leave a legacy you can take comfort in knowing that your impact will be felt for generations to come.

The following donors have listed Agapé ☩ Kure Beach Ministries in their estate planning. Gifts made through wills, retirement plan beneficiaries, life insurance, etc. are gifts that will leave a legacy for years to come. We want to thank these people for their visionary gifts.

Bill & Margaret Alsbrooks
George & Betty Burfeind
Richard & Joy Cook
Thomas & Ethelyn Hegele
Rev. David & Pat Huddle
David & Angela Hutzenbuhler
Rev. Dr. David & Diana Keck, Sr.



Dr. George Kroncke
Rev. John & Lanie Nagle
Jim & Patty Peeples
Gary & Judy Stivland
Bruce Wherle
Randy & Mir Youngquist-Thurrow

YOU can make a difference! You can give a gift for today and for the future. Please contact us for more information about how YOU can make a big difference in the future. ☩



Buy a Brick

Pop the question like Brendan did, wish someone a Happy Birthday or honor your church in the path leading to the front door of the dining hall. Buy a 4" x 8" brick with that special someone's name on it for a gift of \$125.00. \$300.00 buys you an 8" x 8" brick with even more space for your personal message. Leave a lifetime legacy with this special gift to your camp. Go to www.agapekurebeach.org for more information. ☩



Thank you to Our Saviour, Southern Pines Children of God & congregation for their gift of \$283.25. ☩



So Much Fun!

So Much Fun!! That is how I would describe my first months working as Development Director for Agapé ☩ Kure Beach Ministries. I continue to be amazed at how much goes on at our two locations. There is ALWAYS ministry happening! Every week seems to be filled at Agapé and the Beach, with Deans Meetings, First Call Retreat, Via de Cristo, Council Retreats (numerous denominations), ACE Education, BYG, Scouts, Women's Retreats.... the list goes on and on. I have been blessed to worship with many of you in the last few months in your congregations, and the stories shared with me of how much this ministry is loved and appreciated are so rewarding. I have visited with many of our past, current, and future leaders who remind me of how much their time at A☩KB have meant to their spiritual growth and development. Our young people are such a gift to the Church! We continue to raise up leaders and I am so proud of them and their devotion to this ministry. As we move into the summer season, we thank you for your support by your prayers, your monetary gifts, and your visits! We have many needs, but just like all of you, we are blessed in so many ways and want to give back all that has been given to us. Your impact has changed lives. Please continue that impact. Our work is possible through the grace of God and our generous donors like you. Thank you! ~ Sandra Cline, Development Director

"Gathered by the River" Growing our Giving Club



A special group of faithful supporters known as the River of Hope Giving Club provide funds to maintain excellence in our ministry. These are people who believe in the power of the Outdoor Ministry experience. They understand the importance of being active in faith formation in our young people right now. River of Hope donors make an annual gift to our ministry. The funds donated are used to cover the expenses of hiring and paying the "brightest and best" young Christian role models that we can for our summer camp staff. These young adults are the front line in teaching about the love of God to our campers.

Currently we have over 300 families or individuals who are members of this important giving club. The challenge is that we would like to reach 400 giving units by the end of the year. Would you be willing to host an informational 90 minutes in your home or at your church to share the story of our ministry? We have all the information and Randy or Sandra will come to share the story; we simply need you to invite some friends. Please contact Sandra Cline, our Development Director at development@agapekurebeach.org or call (704) 582-2069.

A "Gathered by the River" event is simply a gathering of friends to hear more about the value of Agapé ☩ Kure Beach Ministries. These cottage gatherings will help us build a strong base of financial support for the future of our ministry. ☩

Former Staff . . . Where Are They Now?



Summer Staff 2010-2013

Katharine Ritzi

Katharine is currently serving as a missionary in London, England through the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program. She says she realizes she is not there to fix or solve any problems, but rather to be present in recognizing how the Holy Spirit is alive throughout the whole world. "Camp Agapé instilled deep seeds of faith into my heart about the importance of confidently answering God's call of service. I am reminded every day in some way of our seven major goals, and truly believe Agapé is a place that allows every person to shine as children do." ☩

Katharine will be attending seminary this fall. ☩

Dustin Lenz

Dustin currently serves as the Associate Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Loves Park, IL. Among general pastoral duties he oversees the building remodeling and the children's and youth programming.

"Being on staff at Agapé helped me to understand how to work with children and create programs to keep them engaged. One example is Friday Fun Fest, an afterschool program we started at Grace - inspired from my time as a counselor. Grace impacts 150 students each week... The credit goes to the volunteers who make this happen, but it was camp that set the wheels in motion for the impact." ☩



Summer Staff 1998 & 2001



Summer Staff 2004-2006, 2009

Michael Beery

Michael currently serves God's people as a pastor WAY UP in the northwestern corner of Minnesota. His wife, Lisa, is also a pastor - their congregations are less than a mile apart from each other. While living in the North Country, Michael has developed a deep appreciation for hockey, walleye, automatic car-starters, and the word "UFFDA." Lisa and Michael are the proud parents of two awesome dogs and are expecting their first two-legged child in June.

"Working at camp helped to deepen my faith, strengthen my sense of call, and it enabled me to make life-long friendships." ☩

Megan Opalinski

Megan is having the time of her life and is very grateful to be earning a living as an actor and singer. She's been based out of NYC for 10 years, but frequently travels for work. In addition to performing in NYC in multiple productions, she's performed in Florida, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Kansas, Ohio, Arizona, North Carolina, Wyoming, New Hampshire, Virginia, and CHINA!

"Camp was THE most important part of my childhood. I looked forward to every year and it truly shaped who I am today. My time at Agapé brought me to be Director of Youth and Family Ministries at Kimball Lutheran Church in Kannapolis, NC for two years." ☩

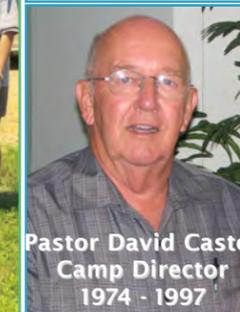


Summer Staff 2001 ACE Ed 2001

Agapé ☩ Kure Beach Ministries
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 Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526



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Randy Youngquist Thurow
 Camp Director
 1997 - present

Pastor David Castor
 Camp Director
 1974 - 1997

2014 Upcoming Events

May 3	Agapé Work Day	Camp Agapé
May 9-10	Mother Daughter Retreat	Camp Agapé
May 12-13	Church Staff Retreat	Camp Agapé
May 15-18	Via de Cristo	Camp Agapé
May 25	AGAPÉ-GANZA	Camp Agapé
June & July	Summer Camp!	Camp Agapé
Aug. 2	River of Hope Luncheon	Camp Agapé
Aug. 22-24	Good News Good Brews Retreat	Camp Agapé
Aug. 23	Project WET	Camp Agapé
Aug. 29-Sept 1	Teens Encounter Christ (TEC)	Camp Agapé
Sept. 5-6	Board Retreat	Camp Agapé
Sept. 6	Project Learning Tree (PLT)	Camp Agapé
Sept. 11-14	Via de Cristo	Camp Agapé
Sept. 19-21	Kairos Outside	Camp Agapé
Sept. 26-28	Raleigh Mennonite	Camp Agapé
Oct. 3-5	BYG-ER Retreat (Grades 6-8)	Camp Agapé
Oct. 6	Golf Outing at Echo Farms	Kure Beach
Oct. 10-12	BYG Retreat (Grades 3-5)	Camp Agapé
Oct. 11	Saturday Safari	Camp Agapé
Oct. 17-19	Spokes for Folks	Kure Beach

For more information on any of the above events, contact our office: 919.552.9421, or visit our website: www.agapekurebeach.org. Your pastor or church secretary has also received mailings on many of the events listed above; ask them for more info. ☩

Wish List:

"Gifts in kind" or cash toward the purchase of items are always graciously received. Thank you for helping our ministry to grow.

CAMP AGAPÉ

Used Minivans for Day Camp Program

Flowers & Bushes (outside)
 Generator
 Commercial Grade String Trimmer
 Hand Truck
 Archery Targets
 EZ-up Tents
 Kitchen Towels & Dish Cloth
 Reams of Paper
 Dehumidifier

KURE BEACH

Windows for the Rooms
 Brick Work - Re-tuck
 New Oreck Vacuums
 3 New Signs on the Building
 New Kitchen Pots & Pans
 Quilts for each Bed
 Kitchen Towels & Dish Rags
 Gas Grill
 Beach Sand Toys

Special Needs:

Microwave Oven for office & for Lodge
 Refrigerator for the Retreat House
 18 cu ft. or more with ice maker - simple
 Do you have an old one that still works?
 We can put it to great use here at camp!