

April 12, 2007

# WFMCC Weekly

## A Whole New Look!



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the new WFMCC Weekly! I am very excited to be writing to you about the life of our church in this new format, especially since there is so much good news to share.

What a fabulous Easter Sunday we had! There were 140 people in our sanctuary for the service - our largest ever. Many, many thanks to our musicians and readers who made Christ's resurrection deeply real for us with an incredible cantata. So many people have told me how moved they were by the service, and how much they are looking forward to our upcoming revival.



This coming Sunday we will be looking ahead to that event coming up in May as we experience another "anniversary Sunday" in worship. Long-time member Grant Barry will be preaching, and I know he will bless us with both his memories and knowledge of our past, as well as his deep love for WFMCC and his hopes for our future. For a sneak preview of all that Grant has to share with us, read "What WFMCC Means To Me" below. Thank you, Grant, for all that you mean and all that you give to our church!

I look forward to seeing you Sunday as we both continue to celebrate the resurrection, and begin our countdown to revival.

Many blessings,

*Lea*

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**1. "What WFMCC Means To Me" by Grant Barry**

In the years that I have been at Wichita Falls MCC, the church has always been a place of spiritual retreat and growth. From each person who has ever preached, taught, sung, or played an instrument, I have learned a new aspect of God. Through the new people and the ones who have been there for some time, I find sources of inspiration and joy.

There have been and are so many different ways that God is there for me to see and experience. Sometimes it has been just sitting quietly in a service or even before or after service and listening to the silence. Sometimes it is in the laughter and energy of the children. Sometimes it is in the soft dignity of those who, despite adversity, have continued on.

When we were on Wichita Street, it was the feeling from the building of a country church like one or two I remember from my childhood days. On 26th Street it was the trees around us and the flowers that signaled that Spring was here. Just seeing the Iris blooming said that Easter wasn't far behind. When we had to use the dance studio, there was a sense that we were starting over, not in a bad way but rather because God had a door that needed to be opened.

From Faith Lutheran, there came a sense of belonging to a larger community; not just the MCC community, but one that reached much farther and wider than I had imagined before. I guess I always knew that but sometimes it seems like we have been cut off from the rest of Christianity. And then, another congregation reaches out in God's own love and suddenly all that melts away. Finally, in coming Travis Street, it is now time for Wichita Falls MCC to spread its wings and soar as God intended.

We are no longer some little church sitting way back off the beaten path, but rather right there in the open Sun (Son) light. We are proclaiming God's grace and mercy in a clear voice that is not to be silenced by critics or doomsayers or just those who don't think God is big enough to be able to love all of His/Her creation.

Over the years I have been here, we have agreed, disagreed, fussed, comforted, laughed, cried and, well, just plain become a family together. I continue to learn what it means to give of oneself, not just with time but financially too, and using the talents and gifts that God has given me. MCC has helped me awaken things I never knew I had to give. It has also been a place where I can come and be me and explore what that means. I know I am still a work in progress, but it is my hope that I have grown and will continue to do so as I become not merely older, but also wiser and more compassionate as well.

## **2. Say It Loud, Save a Life AIDS Run/Walk**

In just a few weeks we will all have a chance to fight AIDS in Wichita Falls and beyond. Say It Loud, Save a Life!, a 5K run and one-mile walk, starting at 9:45 a.m. in Lucy Park, will take place on Saturday, April 28th. Everyone is invited to participate! You can run or walk, and all proceeds raised from the registration fees will go to WFMCC's AIDS program, No Day But Today, and Circle of Hope.

You can register at Powerhouse Gym on Lawrence Road, or online at [www.runtex.com](http://www.runtex.com) (click on events to get started). Registration is \$25 per person on or before April 18th, and \$35 after that date. If you register on the day of the event, please arrive no later than 8:30 a.m. Many, many thanks to Cassie, Jennifer, Jessica, and Mandi for all their hard work that is making this event possible.

## **3. WFMCC's 20th Anniversary Revival: "Never Again Will My People Be Shamed"**

On May 4th, 5th and 6th WFMCC will be celebrating 20 years of ministry in Texoma with a three-day revival. Our theme for this celebration is from Joel 2:26 - "Never again will my people be shamed." Bring your friends and family as we gather for three days of amazing worship, testimonies, and

celebration:

**Friday, May 4th:** Rev. Margaret Walker will be our preacher as we *honor our past*. We'll sing old-time gospel favorites, Namesake will perform, and we will give thanks together for how far we have come. The service will begin at 7 p.m.

**Saturday, May 5th:** Join us as we *celebrate our present* with Rev. Lea Brown preaching. Special guests from the MCC/San Francisco choir will sing, we'll present a "Spirit of the Community" Award, and our liturgical dance team will perform. The service will begin at 7 p.m.

**Sunday, May 6th:** The Rev. Elder Troy Perry, founder of our denomination, will be our very special guest preacher as we bring our past and present together to *vision our future*. Our Voices in Praise Choir will perform, there will be a very powerful multi-media presentation telling our story, and we will cap it all off with a big barbecue in our church backyard. The service will begin at 11 a.m., and Children's Church will be provided.

These are just a few of the details about all that is going to take place. Our 20th Anniversary Revival is going to be an event like no other in our history! Tickets for the barbecue are on sale now and cost \$10 each. T-shirts are also on sale now and cost \$15 each. Everyone is welcome; mark your calendars now because you won't want to miss a thing!

#### **4. WFMCC Landscaping Day This Saturday!**

With our anniversary celebration fast approaching, the grounds around our building need some tender loving care to help us look our best. Come and help us spruce up our landscaping this Saturday, April 14th at 10 a.m. Please bring gloves and whatever yard tools you have, and come and have a good time while we work together.

#### **5. 10-4-20 Change Drive**

Between now and our anniversary revival May 4th, 5th and 6th, we are collecting loose change as a fundraiser for the church. Our goal is to receive 10 gallons of change for the next 20 years at WFMCC. There are two five-gallon containers at the front of the church where you can put your change, and cups available that are labeled 10-4-20 to collect your coins at home or in your car or at work. Together we can make it all the way to 10 gallons by May 6th!

#### **6. Break the Barrier Fund Update**

The Break the Barrier Fund was started to begin saving the resources we need to hire our first full-time minister of worship and music, a ministry position that is critical to our goal of breaking the "100 barrier" in membership and church attendance. The fund currently totals \$1,943. Amount needed: \$36,000. We will receive our next Break the Barrier offering this Sunday, April 15th.

#### **7. Membership Class This Saturday**

The next class for those who would like to become members of WFMCC, or who are interested in exploring membership, will be held this Saturday, April 14th at 10:30 a.m. Please let Lea know if you would like to attend no later than Friday morning.

#### **8. Upcoming LGFA Tournament**

The Lesbian/Gay Fishing Association Tournament is coming up May 2 - 5. There are flyers with all the details at Odds. Everyone is welcome to participate.

#### **9. Upcoming Board of Trustees Meeting**

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be on Sunday, April 22nd at 3 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

#### **10. Thanksgivings and Prayer Requests**

**Thanksgivings** for health and happiness...**Prayer requests** for Pam's

mom...for the Austin judge's decision...for families, friends and life...for Heston's continued recovery, and for strength for this entire family...for all the teachers and students next week during TAKS exams.

**Wichita Falls MCC**

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