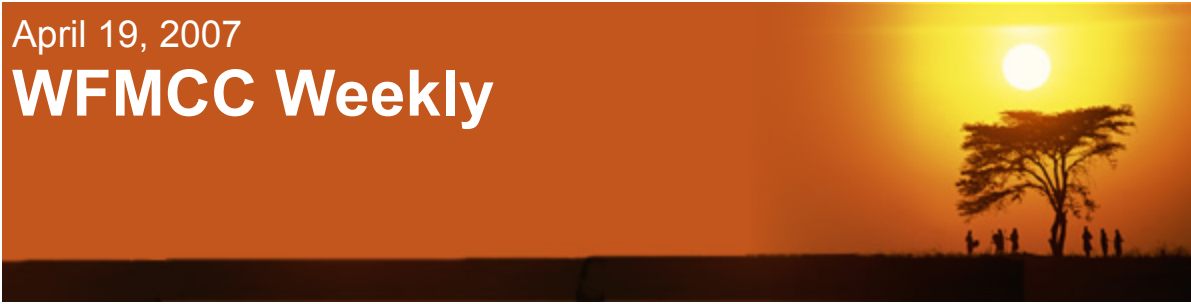


April 19, 2007

WFMCC Weekly



Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

--John 20:24-25



Dear Friends,

During this week of terrible tragedy, the joy of Easter has seemed far away. When tragedy strikes in our lives, whether it is a senseless act of violence, or something like a long-expected loss of a loved one, fear and doubt are rarely far behind. In the words before the verses above, the gospel of John tells us the disciples were trapped behind locked doors out of fear of those who wanted to destroy them. When I read these words this week, I couldn't help but think of the students in Virginia, trapped behind locked doors, trying to find safety from the one who was trying to end their lives.

The gospel of John also tells us that Jesus appeared to most of the disciples, bringing them hope and healing in their time of greatest despair. These words, too, reminded me that when we lock the doors of our hearts against pain and grief, Jesus comes to us even there, bringing hope and comfort, and the promise of new life.

This Sunday we are going to hear from one who wasn't with those disciples when Jesus appeared to them: Thomas. Thomas refused to believe that Jesus had risen until, as he said, he could actually touch Jesus' wounds. While we often chastise Thomas for his apparent doubt, I think he has a powerful message for us about what can happen when we touch the wounds of those we love, especially in the wake of tragedy. Join us this Sunday as we learn from Thomas, and as we open the doors of our hearts to the healing power of God's love.

Many blessings,

Lea

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