

April 26, 2007

WFMCC Weekly

What can you imagine?



"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. God will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more, for the first things have passed away. And the One who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new."



-Revelation 21:1, 3 - 5

Dear Friends,

What can you imagine? Can you picture a new Wichita Falls, free from all hatred and bigotry? How about a world where no one dies from AIDS, a world where we proclaim that God lives among all people, HIV positive and negative?

Twenty years ago, a small group of courageous gay and lesbian people and people living with HIV had their own revelation. Even though other churches told them God did not live among them, they could see a new heaven and a new earth where God would wipe away all the tears of injustice from their eyes. And so, through their faith in the One seated on the throne, they made something new: Wichita Falls MCC. Starting this Sunday, April 29th, we begin a week-long celebration of all that they imagined into being.

Recently four women in our congregation, Cassie, Jennifer, Jessica and Mandi, also had a revelation. They saw a new world in which AIDS had passed away forever, and where death from this terrible disease would be no more. And so they decided to organize the very first AIDS Run/Walk in Wichita Falls called "Say It Loud, Save a Life!" Even now, they are imagining many, many people this Saturday in Lucy Park, all running and walking and united in our fight against HIV. Can you imagine this with them, and help bring it into being?

All of the details for both "Say It Loud, Save a Life!" and our 20th Anniversary Revival are below. I encourage you, if you are able, to fully participate in all of these events. I truly believe that the next 11 days can give us all a glimpse of a new heaven and a new earth here in this place where we live, and

where God surely dwells among us through our love. I look forward to seeing you in Lucy Park on Saturday, and on Sunday as we begin our anniversary week - a week that will be full of many revelations of justice and joy.

Many blessings,

Lea

P.S. Be sure and check out Sarah Johnson's "View From the Pew" column in the *Times Record News* this Saturday. She has promised to write about WFMCC and our 20th Anniversary Revival!

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**1. 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.

Wichita Falls, Texas



Saturday April 28, 2007

**Say It Loud, Save a Life!
AIDS Run/Walk**

This Saturday, April 28th we will all have a chance to fight AIDS in Wichita Falls and beyond. Everyone is invited to participate in Say It Loud, Save a Life!, a 5K run and one-mile walk, which will start at 9:45 a.m. in Lucy Park. 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 the Circle of Hope food pantry.

Registration forms are available at WFMCC and also at Powerhouse Gym on Lawrence Road. You can also register online at www.runtex.com (click on events to get started). Registration is \$35. If you register on the day of the event, please arrive no

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!

Please Note: **You must purchase a ticket to attend the BBQ, and all tickets must be purchased by Monday, April 30th. You can reserve your ticket(s) by calling the church office at (940) 322-4100.**

2. Rev. Elder Jim Mitulski at WFMCC May 19-20

Right on the heels of our 20th Anniversary Revival, we are very fortunate to have Rev. Elder Jim Mitulski with us to preach on Sunday, May 20th. Rev. Elder Mitulski was the pastor of MCC San Francisco for 15 years, and is now serving as the Elder for Region 2. Jim is one of the most brilliant, visionary and gifted leaders we have in our denomination, he is a long-term survivor living with HIV, and he is a fabulous preacher as well. In addition to worshipping with us on Sunday, Jim will also be sharing with us his considerable knowledge about hymns and their history on Saturday, May 19th at 7 p.m. as we gather for an evening of singing together, with a dessert potluck following. Bring your favorite brownies and your voice for a great time!

3. 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 \$2,111. Amount needed: \$36,000. We will receive our next Break the Barrier offering on Sunday, May 20th.

4. 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

later than 8:30 a.m.

Many, many thanks to Cassie, Jennifer, Jessica and Mandi for all their hard work that has made this historic event possible.

two five-gallon containers at the front of the church where you can put your change, and cups are 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!

5. Next Meeting of No Day But Today!

The next meeting of No Day But Today! is taking place tonight, Thursday, April 26th at 6:30 p.m. at WFMCC. This meeting is open to both HIV positive and negative people, and is for anyone whose life has been touched by the disease in any way. For more information please contact the church office at (940) 322-4100.

6. Thanksgivings and Prayer Requests

Don't forget that you can write your thanksgivings and prayer requests to share with congregation in the prayer book in the church foyer.

Wichita Falls MCC

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