

August 16, 2007

WFMCC Weekly

It's Time for Pride!

*Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb.
He called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"
The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped
with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.
Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes
and let him go."*

--John 11:38, 43-44

Dear Friends,

I am so excited about the next few days ahead! For many weeks now, through our Summer Cinema Sermon Series, we have been building up to "GLBT Pride Goes to the Movies" which starts tonight. All of the details about the films we will be showing at the church over the next three days are below. Remember - admission is free and this is a great chance to bring folks you know who have never been to WFMCC before.

Then, this Sunday, we are going to have a wonderful time worshipping and celebrating together. Our Worship and Praise Band will be getting things started; don't forget to come early at 10:30 a.m. to sing with them and let your spirit soar with the music they will be sharing with us. Our liturgical dance team and VIP choir will be blessing us as well with performances they have been preparing just for Pride Sunday.

Not only will we be touched by music and dance, but I definitely know we will all be moved by those who will be sharing their stories with us during the sermon time. Lois, Heather and Nicole, and Raudel have courageously agreed to speak to us about what coming out has meant to them, and their relationship with themselves, with others, and with God.

Just as Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, I believe that Jesus is always beckoning to us to "come out" of the tombs of shame and living death that many of us have been forced to inhabit for too long. We may be feeling led to come out about all kinds of things about ourselves - our sexual orientation, our gender, our family history, or anything that we have felt the need to keep hidden from others, and from God.



No matter where you are on your coming out journey - whether you have just come out to yourself, or have been out to everyone you know for many years, the next few days are all about being proud of who we are in all the fullness of who God made us to be. I hope you will join us for what promises to be a powerful and joyful time of community together.

Many blessings,

Lea

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We Need Mowers!



Because of the huge amount of rain we have had this year, we are having a difficult time keeping up with all the mowing that needs to be done at the church. The folks who have been doing the mowing week after week

1. Summer Cinema Sermon Series Concludes

The curtain is almost ready to come down on our Summer Cinema Sermons Series. Since May we have been learning about some of the great romances, superheroes, musicals, sequels, and blockbusters of the Bible.



This Sunday we are taking a break from the series to celebrate Pride. Next Sunday, August 26th, we will conclude with the final chapter of a three-part sermon on that great blockbuster of the Bible, the book of Revelation.

2. GLBT Pride Goes to the Movies!

Celebrate Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Week, August 13 - 19 with some great movies that tell our stories, honor our lives, and camp it up! **Admission to all movies is free** (donations gladly accepted) and everyone is welcome. We'll be showing movies like...



Thursday, August 16th

Victor/Victoria: Julie Andrews as Victoria Grant, who pretends to be a male female impersonator. Also starring James Garner and Robert Preston. Rated PG. Starts at 6 p.m.

Ed Wood: Johnny Depp plays Ed Wood, who directed some of the most notoriously bad films in Hollywood while wearing women's undergarments. Also starring Sarah Jessica Parker and Bill Murray. Rated R. Starts at

could really use some help. 8:30 p.m.

We have all the equipment you will need - we just need your time and energy for about two hours once a month. (It goes a lot faster if you have a team of two or more!)

If you would be willing to help with this important ministry, please contact Lea at (940) 322-4100 as soon as possible, or by email at lbrown@wichitafallsmcc.org.

Remember - our building and grounds are our calling card to our community! Please consider helping us to continue looking our best.

Friday, August 17th

Brokeback Mountain: Two shepherders, Jack Twist and Ennis Del Mar, fall in love in 1963 Wyoming. Starring Jake Gyllenhaall and Heath Ledger. Rated R. Starts at 6 p.m.

In & Out: Kevin Kline, Matt Dillon, and Joan Cusack star in this hilarious comedy about coming out. Rated PG-13. Starts at 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 18th

The Wizard of Oz: Join Dorothy, the Tin Man, the Cowardly Lion, Scarecrow, and the little dog Toto too for this gay classic adventure! Rated G. Starts at 1 p.m.

All About Eve: What's a Pride film festival without Bette Davis as an aging Broadway diva, and Anne Baxter as the conniving upstart without morals? This picture won six Academy Awards in 1950, including Best Picture. Unrated. Starts at 3 p.m.

Boys on the Side: Whoopi Goldberg, Mary-Louise Parker, and Drew Barrymore on a road trip from NYC to LA that involves adventure, AIDS, and love. Rated R. Starts at 6 p.m.

Kissing Jessica Stein: What happens when a straight woman answers a personal ad...from another woman? Find out with Jennifer Westfeldt and Heather Juergensen as Jessica and Helen in the Big Apple. Rated R. Starts at 8:30 p.m.

All movies will be shown at Wichita Falls MCC, 1401 Travis Street.

3. Celebrate GLBT Pride on Sunday, August 19th

This Sunday, August 19th we have a very special worship service planned in celebration of GLBT Pride, featuring:

- Karen and our VIP choir performing a



beautiful arrangement of *We Shall Overcome*

- Our Liturgical Dance Team will share with us their powerful interpretation of *Man in the Mirror*
- Pam's performance of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow"
- The sermon will be provided by Heather and Nicole, Lois, and Raudel from the congregation as they share with us what "coming out" has meant to them spiritually in their lives
- Our Worship and Praise Band will be there to rock the house! Come early to hear them at 10:30 a.m.

After the service there will also be a gathering at Odds with great food and good times for everyone starting at 2 p.m. at \$2 per person. The folks from WFMCC will be providing desserts for the event. Bring your friends and don't miss this great chance to truly celebrate *all* of who God created us to be!

4. WFMCC Response to Arlington Church

You may have read recently in the *Times Record News* about High Point Church in Arlington, TX that refused to perform a funeral for a gay man - *after* they had already agreed to host the event.

This terrible act of homophobia was carried out, according to the church, because of its "principles," namely, its rejection of homosexuality and homosexuals.

At WFMCC we believe that Christianity is all about a different set of principles. To read an article about the incident, as well as the op-ed article written by Rev. Lea Brown, go to our website at www.wichitafallsmmc.org (it will be posted within the next couple of days).

This op-ed piece has been submitted to the *Times Record News* and *The Dallas Voice* in the hope that the papers will run it. You can respond to! On the website you will also find the information you need to write a letter to the editor. Let's not let this act of hatred and discrimination go unnoticed or unanswered here in Wichita Falls.

5. Thanksgivings and Prayer Requests

Thanksgivings for the awesome men's retreat last weekend...for all those

who are making our Pride celebration possible...**Prayer requests for**
Karen and her father...for Cookie...for healing for Grant...for a job for
Kim...for Mom French's health...for a job for Laura.

Wichita Falls MCC

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