

August 23, 2007

WFMCC Weekly

A New Heaven and a New Earth



*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth,
for the first heaven and the first earth had
passed away...I saw the Holy City, the New
Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from
God..."*

--Revelation 21:1-2



Dear Friends,

This Sunday we will come to the end of our Summer Cinema Sermon Series, as well as to the final chapter of our three-part sermon on the greatest blockbuster of the Bible, the book of Revelation. And what an end it will be! Far from a fiery vision of Armageddon or frightening images of millions of souls raptured from the earth while millions more are left behind, we will discover that Revelation actually ends with God's great dream of hope and new life for all of creation.

In the new heaven and new earth written about by John, we have the opportunity to see what *can* be if we choose to live in Lamb Power - the power of love and peace over war and domination, and the power of compassion and generosity over violence and greed. It is such a beautiful dream, and one that is completely within our grasp if only we will decide to move deeper and deeper into the world, rather than desire to be raptured out of it.

I am currently on study leave, planning our worship services, programs and events for the next four months. As the summer draws to a close, I want to tell you how excited I am about all that lies ahead this fall. I know that our service celebrating GLBT Pride last Sunday (with 87 people there!) was just the beginning. As we move toward autumn, with Pentecost Sunday, Thanksgiving, and Advent all approaching, I believe the weeks to come are going to be filled with an outpouring of the Spirit, abundance in all good things, and the birth of a deeper realization among us of all that God has called WFMCC to be.

Wichita Falls and our world desperately need a different vision of a new heaven and a new earth, where all people are loved and respected. I hope you will join us, and bring your friends, as we live out this vision

with boldness and joy.

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 could really use some help.

We have all the equipment you will need - we just need

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 will conclude with the final chapter of a three-part sermon on that great blockbuster of the Bible, the book of Revelation.

2. Are You Ready to Splash?

Back by popular demand, this year's "End of Summer Splash" will take place on Sunday afternoon, September 9th at 4 p.m. The event will again be held at the home of Becky and Brazda, located at 5216 Seymour Highway. Come and enjoy a great afternoon with fabulous musical acts, BBQ, swimming, a dunking booth, and more.



The cost to attend is \$1 per person, plus \$1 per BBQ plate (no one will be turned away for lack of funds). Please bring your favorite non-alcoholic beverages, a side dish to share, and your most comfy lawn chair.

This will be our final fundraiser for our new multi-media system which will be installed this fall.

3. Upcoming Board of Trustees Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of our Board of Trustees will be held this Sunday, August 26th at 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

4. WFMCC Response to Arlington Church

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.

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 the *Dallas Voice* op-ed article written by Rev. Lea Brown, as well as an article from *The Advocate* about the event, go to:

[Dallas Voice Op-Ed](#)

and

[Advocate Article](#)

You can respond too! With *The Advocate* article 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 all of our musicians, dancers and preachers who made our Pride service such a moving experience...**Prayer requests** for safe travels for Laura, Karen and Debbie...for faith and healing for Trish...for travel mercies for Hallie and Becky...for safety and healing for Cheryl...for hope and strength for Kristen and Mia.

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