

December 13, 2007

WFMCC Weekly

What WFMCC Means To Me



*I thank my God every time I remember you...
It is right for me to feel this way about all of
you, since I have you in my heart.*

--Philippians 1:3, 7



Dear Friends,

From time to time over the past two years I have asked congregants to share with us in the WFMCC Weekly what our church means to them. Since this will be my last weekly email message to you, I hope you will indulge me just a bit as I share with you "What WFMCC Means To Me."

I have been thinking so much this week about all the many things that Wichita Falls MCC means to me - joy, laughter, courage, community, healing, and worship are only a few. But over and over again this past week, and over the past two years, what WFMCC has meant to me comes down to one, most important thing above all else: love. Love has never been something we just talk about at WFMCC; it is something we *do*.

I have seen this love on the faces of our dedicated grown-ups as they leave our worship services each week to teach our little ones in Children's Church. I have heard it in the voices raised in laughter and song every Wednesday night as I have listened from my office to the choir during their rehearsals. I have felt it in my own body as I have watched our folks in Rhythm and Praise dance their worship and prayers across our sanctuary. I have watched it transform lives and bring healing and hope to the folks who are a part of No Day But Today! and to the people who come in our church doors for the very first time.

It has uplifted me through the hard work and commitment of every person on the Board of Trustees and their partners. I have been moved by it so powerfully in the stories and the life experiences I have been so privileged to hear from many of you. I have been tremendously blessed to be a part of this unconditional love that we have made real again and again in our times of worship, and through our acts of "giving God's grace away" in all the many ways we have done so over the past two years.

As I type these words, I am seeing so many faces from our congregation in my mind's eye, and in my heart. I wish I could name each and every one of you, for you have all taught me about the power of God's love, and about the healing power of a church community united together in that love. Thank you for blessing my life in more ways than I could ever tell you, for sharing such love so abundantly with me, and for inviting me to travel along with you on this sacred journey that I believe God always had planned for us.

We will have one more opportunity to worship and share God's love together this Sunday, Dec. 16th at 11 a.m. I know it is going to be an amazing and powerful experience. Our Worship and Praise Band, Voices in Praise Choir, Rhythm and Praise Liturgical Dance Team, and Namesake will all be performing. There will be a special multimedia presentation, Rev. Elder Lillie Brock, her partner Juley Andersen, and Lillie's mother Linda Brock will be joining us, and there will even be a special guest who I guarantee will be quite a surprise! Following the service we will be enjoying a potluck meal together. I hope you will be there as we celebrate one more time together *all* of who God has created us to be.

Perhaps most of all, I hope you remember that no matter where in the world I am and no matter what I am doing, I will always be thanking God every time I remember you and our life together at WFMCC, and I will always be holding you in my heart.

Many blessings always,

Lea

P.S. Please don't forget to bring your gifts for the children at Patsy's House this Sunday. We must receive them by Dec. 16th in order for them to be delivered in time for Christmas. Thank you!

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1. Transition News and Schedule for Our Temporary Pastor

Our temporary pastor, Rev. Elder Dr. Nori Rost, will be traveling back and forth between Wichita Falls and her home in Colorado Springs, CO, during the months ahead while we search for a new permanent senior pastor. She will be at WFMCC two Sundays and at least five weekdays throughout

Available

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each month. However, **she will be working full-time for our church from Colorado Springs**, and is available at any time for counseling and pastoral care. She can be reached at 719-963-0242 or revrost@aol.com.

She will begin serving the church on Monday, Dec. 17th, and will be here to preach and lead worship on Sunday, Dec. 23rd. In January Nori will be at WFMCC for the service on Sunday, Jan. 6th, and also for our 21st Anniversary weekend, Jan. 26th and 27th. Through the use of our new multi-media technology, we are currently working to make it possible for Nori to preach at WFMCC every Sunday, even when she can't be here in person.

Nori will be holding a congregational forum immediately following the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, January 6th. Please plan to attend to learn more about Nori's work schedule, our transition time, and worship themes and special events that are being planned for the months ahead.

2. Pet Calendars Are Still Available

Give the gift of fur...or feathers...or fins this Christmas! The 2008 WFMCC Pet Calendar can be yours for just \$15 each. They make wonderful Christmas gifts while providing financial support for our church, all at the same time. Ronda Hall will be selling calendars at the potluck meal this Sunday; we currently have 30 available.

3. Break the Barrier Update

Many thanks to everyone who has been contributing to our Break the Barrier Fund. Our current total is now \$3,860! These funds are set aside each month to fund our dream of hiring a full-time director of music and worship. With the continued faithfulness and generosity of the WFMCC community, we can be assured that we will be able to make this dream come true.

The next Break the Barrier offering will be received this Sunday, December 16th.

4. WFMCC 21st Anniversary Banquet

Tickets are on sale now for WFMCC's 21st Anniversary Banquet, which will

be held on Saturday, January 26th. Join us for dinner, a silent auction, entertainment, our annual presentation of the "Spirit of the Community" Award, and a rousing bunco tournament, all to be held at the Women's Forum at 6 p.m.

Tickets cost \$21 each for adults and can be purchased from anyone on the Anniversary Committee. We also need your nominations for the "Spirit of the Community" Award, which you can place in the suggestion box located in the church foyer.

5. WFMCC Change Drive Continues

Now that we are in the final month of 2007, we haven't got much longer to fill up the two five-gallon containers in our sanctuary with loose change. Our goal is to collect "Ten Gallons of Change for 20 More Years," and together we can do it!



There are cups labeled "10 for 20" in the back of the sanctuary next to the change containers. Take as many as you like for your home, vehicle, workplace, etc., to help you collect your change. You can bring the cups back with you to church any Sunday and pour your coins into the containers.

Both containers are a little over half full at this time. Please help us fill them all the way to the top by December 31st. Every penny, nickel, dime and quarter will help us continue our ministries into our 21st year and beyond.

6. Thanksgivings and Prayer Requests

Thanksgivings for my parents...for new beginnings...for love and people to love...**Prayer requests** for Michael as he recovers from surgery...for Steve as he continues to heal...for Roxine's sis Diane as she receives biopsy results...for travel mercies for church members over the holidays...for help for my friend Alyssa's sister Secilia during her sickness and for her family during their time of sadness...for Kristi's 8-year old nephew Jacob who has been diagnosed with Tourette's...for healing for Linda...for strength and courage for Neil's parents as his mother Lillian undergoes six months of chemotherapy...for Lynn Thornhill who is in a coma at United Regional...for travel mercies for Trish.

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