

December 20, 2007

WFMCC Weekly

What Dreams May Come



But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of God appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit..." Matthew 1:20



Dear Friends,

Well, this is my first official week of being transitional pastor for Wichita Falls MCC. I am looking forward to working together with what is already my home church, since I have had my membership here for the past two years and have visited as often as I could.

And I'm excited to sneak in on the end of Advent, celebrating with you. Rev. Lea had been doing a sermon series through Advent entitled "Advent in the Everyday." So far, you've explored the everyday practices of worship, repentance, faith and trust. And those are good and worthy practices to keep us centered, to keep our eyes focused on God and our hearts filled with Christ's love. But there's a twist for this last week. This week's sermon is entitled "When Dreams Invade the Everyday Practice of Faith." We'll take a look at the little-known, widely-ignored surrogate parent in the Christmas narrative: Joseph. Joseph represents those times when we think we've got God's will and our lives down pat. We know who God is, we know who we are and how we're to be in the everyday. But what happens when God speaks to us through angels or emails, requiring us to step outside the comfort zone of our everyday faith into something wild, unknown, and certainly not church-tested and approved? That's what we'll be exploring this Sunday, at 11 a.m. I hope you can join us. Also, make sure to attend the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Service of Candles and Carols. It's sure to be a blessing!

Looking forward to seeing you this Sunday!

Blessings and Peace,

Nori

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1. Transition News and Schedule for Our Temporary Pastor

Here I am! But for those of you just signing on, here's what they've been saying behind my back: She will be at WFMCC two Sundays and at least five weekdays throughout 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.

7. Thanksgivings and Prayer Requests

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 still have some left.

3. Christmas Eve Carols and Candlelight Service

Join us on Christmas Eve at 11 p.m. for a traditional service of Carols and Lessons as we celebrate the birth of Christ. The service will feature different biblical accounts of the birth of Christ, interspersed with your favorite Christmas carols. The magical conclusion comes when we all light candles as we sing "Silent Night" remembering the light that the darkness cannot overcome.

We hope to see you there!

4. Break the Barrier Update

Many thanks to everyone who has been contributing to our Break the Barrier Fund. Our current total is now \$4,597! 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 Sunday, January 20th.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. Thanksgivings and Prayer Requests

Thanksgivings for our tremendous growth under Lea's leadership...**Prayer requests for** Michael as he recovers from surgery...for Steve as he continues to heal...for Laurretta...for travel mercies for church members over the holidays...for Jaqlyn P...for Sandra coming off meds...for those for whom the holidays are times of stress and sadness rather than joy.

Wichita Falls MCC
1401 Travis Street
Wichita Falls, TX 76301
(940) 322-4100

www.wichitafallsmcc.org

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Wichita Falls Metropolitan Community Church | 1401 Travis Street | Wichita Falls | TX | 76301