

December 6, 2007

WFMCC Weekly Light of a Million Mornings



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...In him was life, and that light was the light of all people.

John 1:1, 4



Dear Friends,

This Sunday promises to be a wonderful day in the life of our church. At 11 a.m. our VIP Choir and a cast of friends will present our annual Christmas Cantata, "Light of a Million Mornings." The narrative of the cantata was written by none other than WFMCC's soon-to-be temporary pastor, Rev. Elder Dr. Nori Rost, who will be with us for the service.

"Light of a Million Mornings" tells the story of Tom, a person who is wondering just where God is in all the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season. He asks the question, "God? Is there any part of this that is still about you?" The answer he receives begins with a light he sees through his living room window, and his experiences that follow help him to discover that the light of Christ really can shine every day in the glory of God revealed through each of us.

It is a beautiful story, and one that has been lovingly prepared by many people in our congregation to bless us as we continue our exploration of "Advent in the Everyday" throughout this month. Following the cantata and the service, everyone is invited to gather in the fellowship hall for Christmas refreshments and hot chocolate.

We will also have the opportunity this Sunday to make the light of the Christchild real for many children in need here in Wichita Falls. There are 18 young ones at Patsy's House who need us to make their Christmas a joyful one this year. Please see below for all the details, and come prepared to choose a child you would like to bless with light and love this Advent.

This Sunday is a perfect time to invite friends and family to WFMCC who have never been before. I hope you will come and be blessed by our Handbell and VIP Choirs, a moving story told in song, and the warm fellowship to be found in our sanctuary. I will be looking forward to seeing you there!

Many blessings,

Lea

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Rev. Elder Dr. Nori Rost to Serve as WFMCC Temporary Pastor

1. Transition News: Rev. Elder Dr. Nori Rost to Serve as WFMCC Temporary Pastor

With guidance from Rev. Elder Lillie Brock, our board of trustees recently announced its decision to choose a *temporary pastor* for our congregation, rather than an *interim pastor*.

2. Christmas Gifts for the Children at Patsy's House

What is the difference between the two? An interim pastor is generally hired for a period between 12 and 24 months, and usually has the responsibility of helping a congregation heal from a challenging or painful time. A temporary pastor, however, is hired for a shorter period of time to provide spiritual leadership and a pastoral presence when no such period of healing is necessary.

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Because WFMCC is in such a period of growth and stability at this time, the primary concern of the board is to maintain our current momentum. Thus, the board has approved Lillie's recommendation for a temporary pastor who will support us in maintaining our momentum while the pastoral search committee does its work to help the church in finding and calling a new permanent senior pastor.

On November 18th Barbara Mann, vice-moderator of our board, announced the selection of our temporary pastor: the Rev. Elder Dr. Nori Rost. Nori will begin her duties on December 17th, immediately following Lea's last WFMCC service on December 16th.

If you are not familiar with Nori, you will have the opportunity to meet her on Sunday, December 9th when she will be joining us for our annual

Christmas Cantata.

2. Christmas Gifts for the Children at Patsy's House

This Sunday we will have the names and information available for 18 children from Patsy's House who need us to make their Christmas as joyous as possible.

The mission of Patsy's House is to reduce trauma to child abuse survivors, and to work toward improving the justice system's response to child abuse.

Throughout each year WFMCC provides holidays treats and gifts for these children who need to know that we care about them. We will have information available for each child and what they are hoping to receive for Christmas. You can choose to provide for as many of these 18 young ones as you would like.

Large gift bags have been provided, so you won't have to do any wrapping.

ALL GIFTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER

16th. Please plan to bring the gifts you will be providing to the worship service on Sunday, Dec. 16th. Thank you!

3. Tree-Trimming Party Hosted by Dwight and Kevin

Dwight and Kevin would like to invite everyone to a tree-trimming party this Sunday, December 9th at 4pm. Please bring an ornament for the tree and an appetizer to share. Coffee, soda and water will be provided (plus Kevin's best holiday cheesecake!); you are welcome to bring your favorite beverage.



The party is at Dwight's house, 3600 Alexandria Street (Bel Air development). For more details, please call Kevin at 940-867-8624.

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. Break the Barrier Update

Many thanks to everyone who has been contributing to our Break the Barrier Fund. Our current total is now \$3,360! 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 on Sunday, December 16th.

6. Pet Calendars Are Still Available

It's not too late to order your 2008 WFMCC Pet Calendars! These calendars are always adorable and make great Christmas presents for your friends and family.



If you would like to place an order, please see Ronda at church on Sundays. Calendars are \$15 each and must be paid for at the time you place your order.

7. Rider High School presents "The Laramie Project"

Through December 11th the Theater Department at Rider High School is presenting "The Laramie Project, a powerful play that revolves around the hate-crime murder of Matthew Shepard.



Performances will take place on the following dates: November 30th, December 1, 4, 7, and 11, all at 7:30 p.m., and on December 2 and 9 at 2:30 p.m. After each performance there will also be a panel discussion, many of which will feature WFMCC congregants.

For more information about tickets and panel speakers, please contact the church office at (940) 322-4100. Let's turn out to support Rider High's very courageous decision to present this play to Wichita Falls!

8. 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.

9. Thanksgivings and Prayer Requests

Thanksgivings for a working computer!...for new beginnings...for transition of job duties...for life and all its blessings...**Prayer requests** for Steve's return to church and work as soon as possible...for Glen following the loss of his wife...for comfort, peace and healing for Mary Phelan...for healing for 4-year-old Cecilia Baggs in Dallas...for the Walker and Christiansen family following the death of Aunt Moze on Dec. 1...for Shelly and our family...for travel mercies for Trish's parents...for Don following the loss of his wife and daughter...for continued strength and courage for Michael.

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