

May 17, 2007

WFMCC Weekly

A Weekend with Rev. Elder Jim Mitulski



Remember that someday the AIDS crisis will be over. And when that day has come and gone there will be people alive who will hear that once there was a terrible disease, and that a brave group of people stood up and fought and in some cases died so that others may live and be free.

Vito Russo, 1998



Dear Friends,

We are so fortunate to have the opportunity to spend this coming weekend with Rev. Elder Jim Mitulski. Jim was the very first person I met many years ago when I first walked into the doors of MCC San Francisco where he served as the pastor for 15 years. During the 1980s and 90s Jim courageously led the church and the gay community through the worst of the AIDS epidemic against all odds. Even as he performed hundreds of funerals, he never failed to make hope and healing real for those all around him. Rev. Elder Jim Mitulski is most certainly one of "that brave group of people" who stood up and fought back against AIDS and the homophobia that helped spread the disease.

One of the most powerful tools that MCC/SF used during those terrible years to keep hope alive was the act of singing. Voices were raised in song during worship so loudly the whole building vibrated with the sound, and with the determination of our people to survive. Jim and the MCC/SF congregation knew the healing power of singing and of hymns perhaps more than any other congregation possibly could have.

This Saturday night, Jim will share with us his vast knowledge about hymns, the people who wrote them, and the secret stories behind the songs. On Sunday during worship Jim will share with us from the gospel of Luke and his thoughts on the account of Jesus healing ten men with leprosy. (All of the details about Saturday and Sunday are listed below.) Jim is an incredible teacher and preacher, and I know we will be richly blessed by all he has to share with us in sermon and song.

Many blessings,

Lea

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Rev. Elder Jim Mitulski
at WFMCC May 19 - 20

Right on the heels of our 20th Anniversary Revival, we are very fortunate to have Rev. Elder Jim Mitulski with

1. Summer Cinema Sermon Series Begins Soon!

As we look ahead to the gay lesbian, bisexual and transgender film series the church will be hosting in August for Pride Week, we are also going to explore a different kind of "cinema" in sermons throughout the summer. What kind of movies do you like best during the summer? Romances? Superhero flicks? Blockbusters? Did you know you can find all three in the Bible?



From May 27 - August 26 the sermons on Sunday mornings will highlight some of the great romances and superheroes of the Bible, plus that great biblical blockbuster, the Book of Revelation. We begin May 27th with the passionate relationship between Jonathan and David, a powerful romance worthy of the silver screen. This is a series you won't want to miss!

2. Special Offering This Sunday

This Sunday, May 20th, would normally be a day we would be receiving an offering for our "Break the Barrier" fund. However, in honor of Rev. Elder Jim Mitulski's visit, we will instead be receiving a special offering that will go to the Mother of Peace orphanage in Zimbabwe for children living with HIV.

In order to continue building our "Break the Barrier" fund this month, the Board has decided to move \$150 (the approximate amount we usually receive once a month for the fund) from our savings account to the "Break the Barrier" fund.

The Mother of Peace Orphanage is a wonderful ministry that our denomination also supports. Come to church this Sunday and learn about the inspiring and life-saving work that is happening there.

3. 10-4-20 Change Drive Continues

Between now and the end of 2007, we are collecting loose change as a fundraiser for the church. Our goal is to receive 10 gallons of change for

us to preach on Sunday, May 20th.

Rev. Elder Mitulski was the pastor of MCC San Francisco for 15 years, and is now serving as the Elder for Region 2. Jim is one of the most brilliant, visionary and gifted leaders we have in our denomination, he is a long-term survivor living with HIV, and he is a fabulous preacher and teacher as well.

In addition to worshipping with us on Sunday, Jim will also be sharing with us his considerable knowledge about hymns and their history on Saturday, May 19th at 7 p.m. as we gather for an evening of singing together, with a dessert potluck following. Bring your favorite brownies or cookies and your voice, and join us for a great time all weekend!

the next 20 years at WFMCC. There are two five-gallon containers at the back of the church where you can put your change, and cups are available that are labeled 10-4-20 to collect your coins at home or in your car or at work. Together we can make it all the way to 10 gallons by December 31st!

4. Upcoming Membership Class

The next class for those who would like to become members of Wichita Falls MCC, or for those who are interested in learning more about membership, will be held on Sunday, June 24th at 1 p.m. Please let Lea know if you would like to attend.

5. "Music of the Night" at Faith Lutheran Church

Our friends at Faith Lutheran are having a seminary scholarship benefit concert for Jealaine Marple on Wednesday, May 23. The event includes a spaghetti dinner at 6 p.m. and the performance of Broadway selections at 7 p.m. from plays such as "Rent," "Wicked," "Phantom of the Opera," "Oklahoma," and many others.



For more information, call Chris at (940) 224-9404.

6. PFLAG Meets Tonight

The next meeting of our local chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays will be held tonight at WFMCC at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.



7. Upcoming Board of Trustees Meeting

The WFMCC Board of Trustees will be holding its regular monthly meeting this Sunday at 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

8. Thanksgivings and Prayer Requests

Thanksgivings for the beautiful weather we are having...for all of our

musicians...**Prayer requests for** Glenn Hendrix and his mother, who broke her hip and is having surgery today...for continued healing for Brian...for our No Day But Today! and TruBluU ministries...for Rev. Elder Troy Perry, who is having another heart procedure done soon...for healing for Cheryl.

Wichita Falls MCC

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