

November 1, 2007

WFMCC Weekly Your True Colors

Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors.

-James 1:2 (The Message)



Dear Friends,

I am writing these words to you from San Francisco, in the midst of my week of candidating for the position of senior pastor at MCC San Francisco. Throughout all the meetings and activities here, I have been thinking about you and our wonderful congregation. I want you to know during this week that we are apart how deeply grateful I am to everyone at WFMCC for your faithfulness and support over the past few weeks.

I am thankful that at a time when you could choose to pull away from WFMCC in the face of the challenges ahead, you have instead chosen to be faithful to your calling as a church. I am thankful for the six new members we received into our congregation this past Sunday, and for the exciting events you have initiated and planned in the weeks ahead (see below for all the details). I am thankful for all of our musicians and liturgical dancers who are working and rehearsing so hard every week to make our worship services and holiday events the very best they can be.

In short, I am so grateful that during this time you have consistently shown the true colors of your faith. Even while I am here in San Francisco, my prayer throughout this week has been, "God, thank you for allowing me to serve with your people in Wichita Falls, and thank you for their commitment to your work even when they are tested on all sides." I will continue to hold you in my prayers and in my heart throughout the remainder of my time here, and will be looking forward to worshipping with you again on November 11th.

This Sunday, November 4th, our very special guest preacher will be **Rev. Dr. Cindi Love**, Executive Director of our denomination. Cindi is a wonderful person, a visionary leader, and a great supporter of WFMCC. She and her partner Sue live in Abilene and attend Exodus MCC there. Very fittingly for WFMCC, her sermon will be on "Your True Colors."

Also this Sunday, our fabulous **Worship and Praise Band** will perform, along with **Namesake**. It will be a wonderful day to bring folks to church who haven't experienced WFMCC before, and a great day to be reminded why we are a part of our beloved congregation. I will be with you in spirit, continuing to give thanks for each and every one of you.

Many blessings,

Lea

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1. Transition News

Our pastor, Rev. Lea Brown, is currently at MCC San Francisco, candidating for the position of senior pastor. The congregation there will be voting on November 4th on her candidacy. Lea and the Board of Trustees will be meeting on November 5th with Rev. Elder Lillie Brock to plan the next steps in our transition process. More details will be available after this meeting.

2. WFMCC Change Drive Continues

Now that we are in the final two months 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.

3. AIDS? In Wichita Falls?

In observation of World AIDS Day our HIV/AIDS ministry, No Day But Today!, will be presenting an educational event about HIV and AIDS. "AIDS? In Wichita Falls?" is being presented in partnership with MSU, Circle of Hope, and the Wichita Falls Public Health Department. It will take place on Friday, November 30th, at noon, in room 101 of the Dillard Building at MSU.



This event will feature a panel of speakers, including participants from No Day But Today!, MSU, and the Health Department. Posters will be available November 11th; please plan to attend this ground-breaking event and help us place posters around Wichita Falls to spread the word. Everyone is welcome to attend.

4. 2008 WFMCC Pet Calendar

Many thanks to everyone who submitted pictures of their furry (or feathery) family members for our 2008 pet calendar.



Now that we have received all the pictures, we will vote for our favorites over three Sundays in November - Nov. 4, 11, and 18. All votes cost \$1 each. The calendars will cost \$15 each and may be ordered in November as well.

The WFMCC Pet Calendar is a wonderful fundraiser for our church and a fun way to show our love for all of God's creatures. Plan now to order your copies soon - they make wonderful Christmas presents for friends and family alike.

5. Break the Barrier Update

Many thanks to everyone who has been contributing to our Break the Barrier Fund. Our current total is now \$3,230! 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, November 18th.

6. Save the Date for "Don We Now Our Gay Apparel"

Join us on Sunday, December 2nd at 6 p.m. for "Don We Now Our Gay Apparel!" We will be gathering in our sanctuary for Christmas decorating, a dessert potluck, hot chocolate, and wonderful entertainment provided by our musicians (including the long-suffering Barbie Butches).



Be sure to save the date - you won't want to miss this event!

7. Upcoming Men's Potluck Gathering

On Sunday, November 18th at 1 p.m., all those who identify as male at WFMCC are invited to a potluck gathering, hosted by Dwight and Kevin.

Please bring a dish to share or something for the grill, plus your favorite non-alcoholic beverage. Please feel free to bring your friends, even if they have never attended WFMCC before.

The event will take place at 3600 Alexandria Street in the Bel Air area.

8. Thanksgivings and Prayer Requests

Thanksgivings for family, lovers, and God's grace...for all of our many blessings...**Prayer requests** for less darkness, more sunshine...for WFMCC during this time of transition...for healing, courage, and strength for Michael...for Chrissie during her upcoming knee surgery on Nov. 20th...for the veil of darkness to be lifted...for all those suffering due to the fires in southern California.

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