

November 15, 2007

WFMCC Weekly Adventures in Missing the Point

*Now when all the people were baptized,
Jesus was also baptized...and a voice
came out of heaven, "You are my
beloved child, in you I am well pleased."*

Luke 3:21-22



Dear Friends,

There are probably very few theological subjects within Christianity that are more hotly debated than the topic of baptism. Some Christians say you must be fully immersed in water, others believe in christening for children and adults alike, and our own denominational bylaws state that you must be baptized before you can become a member of an MCC church.

With so many differences of opinion, no wonder someone placed the topic of "why baptism?" into the sermon suggestion box this past summer. With our final "sermon by request" this Sunday, we will explore this whole rather confusing issue.

Unfortunately, more often than not, Christians have tended to miss the point entirely when it comes to baptism, but that doesn't mean we can't discover just what that original point was intended to be. Together we will take a look at a few differing theological viewpoints, we will explore what the Bible has to say, and we will determine what the truth is for us about the why, when, where, and how of this powerful spiritual act known as baptism.

And that's not all we will be doing this Sunday! Barbara Mann, the vice-moderator of our board of trustees, will be announcing ***the person who will serve as our temporary pastor*** in the months ahead (see below for more details). We will also have our final round of voting for the 2008 pet calendar, and the board of trustees will be holding its regular monthly meeting at 3 p.m.

In short, we will be doing what we do every Sunday as the church: worshipping, singing, praying, and supporting one another together. Even during this time of impending transition, we are continuing to celebrate *all* of who God created us to be. Come and join us for worship, celebration, service, and community...because after all, isn't that the point?

Many blessings,

Lea

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1. Transition News

This past Tuesday evening the board of trustees met with Rev. Elder Lillie Brock regarding the next steps for WFMCC during our upcoming transition in pastoral leadership. With guidance and advice from Lillie, the board decided to choose a *temporary pastor* for our congregation, rather than an *interim pastor*.

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.

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.

This Sunday Barbara Mann, vice-moderator of our board of trustees, will announce the person chosen to serve as our temporary pastor. The new temporary pastor will begin serving following Lea's last service at WFMCC on Dec. 16th.

2. 2008 WFMCC Pet Calendar

Many thanks to everyone who submitted pictures of their furry (or feathery) family



members for our 2008 pet calendar.



This Sunday will be the last day to cast your votes! All votes cost \$1 each. The calendars cost \$15 each and may be ordered while voting 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 - they make wonderful Christmas presents for friends and family alike.

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. 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. Thanksgiving Dinner for Those in Need

Don't forget to bring your items THIS SUNDAY for the Thanksgiving dinner boxes we are providing for three families in need. Many thanks to everyone who signed up to provide all of the necessary food items.

5. Upcoming Men's Potluck Gathering

This 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.

6. Upcoming Christmas Events

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).



Also, during our 11 a.m. worship service on December 9th, the fabulous musicians of WFMCC and a supporting cast will be presenting our 2007 Christmas Cantata, "Light of a Million Mornings." Tell your friends and family, and save these dates on your calendar. You won't want to miss either of these wonderful celebrations!

7. 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 this Sunday, November 18th.

8. 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.

9. Upcoming Board of Trustees Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the board of trustees will take place this Sunday, Nov. 18th, at 3 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

10. 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.

11. Thanksgivings and Prayer Requests

Thanksgivings for family, lovers, and daughters...for the holiday...for life and another day to live it...**Prayer requests for** Kelly, Beth, and Kelly's family following the death of her father this week...for healing and peace for Deon's niece Cheryl...for healing for Karen R. who has pneumonia...for courage for Neil and his mother Lillian during her tests for breast cancer this week...for Lea's transition...for smiles in our hearts...for Laretta...for a lightening of my heart...for my brother-in-law Don, following the death of my half-sister last week...for Moze during her last days in hospice...for strength on this long and winding road...for Dr. Leuzinger...for blessings of love, healing and protection for Chase Doe...for Brynlee during her heart surgery next week...for strength, courage and peace for Michael.

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