

November 22, 2007

WFMCC Weekly Giving Thanks for WFMCC

I thank my God every time I remember you.

Philippians 1:3



Dear Friends,

Happy Thanksgiving! Over the last few days I have been reflecting upon my tremendous gratitude for my time in Wichita Falls, and for all of the abundant blessings we have received this year as a church. I wanted to share with you just a few of them...

I am grateful for the 20 new members we have welcomed; for the "Say It Loud! Save a Life!" AIDS Run our congregants organized for our community; for the beautiful stained-glass windows and rainbow cross we now have in our sanctuary; for the VIP Choir, our new Worship and Praise Band, our liturgical dance team Rhythm and Praise, for Namesake and By Faith; for our Children's Church that we have every Sunday because of the dedication of our teachers; for our No Day But Today! and TruBluU ministries; for our faithful and hard-working Board of Trustees; for all of the donations of supplies and funds we were able to give to Faith Mission, Mother of Peace Orphanage, Patsy's House and for our denomination's work around the world; for the abundance of financial resources we have received this year; for our new multi-media system; for our office volunteers; and for all of the celebration and transformation we experienced during our 20th Anniversary Revival as we boldly proclaimed "Never again will My people be shamed!"

What I am grateful for the most, though, is for each one of you. The words of the Apostle Paul to the Philippians have been resounding in my heart this week: "I thank my God every time I remember you." All that we have been able to do, and all the lives we have been able to touch, have been

because of your presence and hard work, your faithfulness and generosity, and your openness to God's call. I have been forever changed because of your love and courage, and I will always give thanks to God for the privilege of serving and being in ministry with you.

This Sunday we will all have the opportunity to be blessed once again by the openness and courage in our congregation. As we prepare to observe World AIDS Day on December 1st, we will hear from three people, David, Greg, and Valarie, about how AIDS has forever changed their lives. I know we will all be blessed by the powerful truths they will share with us, and be renewed in our resolve to fight this disease every way that we can.

Finally, we have one more reason to be truly grateful this day: our beloved and long-time member Steve Cash is now in recovery, having come successfully through his six-bypass heart surgery yesterday. Thank you for your constant prayers for him, and for your continued prayers as he heals and grows stronger in the weeks ahead.

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*.

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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.

Last Sunday 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. Annual World AIDS Day Service

Circle of Hope will be hosting its annual World AIDS Day Service on Saturday, December 1st, 7 p.m., at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Members of our VIP Choir will be participating in the choir for the service. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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. 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."

Finally, Dwight and Kevin would like to invite everyone to a tree-trimming party on 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.

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. WFMCC Change Drive Continues

Now that we are closing in on 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. 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.

8. Thanksgivings and Prayer Requests

Thanksgivings for Moms and Dads...for understanding and love...praises for our beloved Nori...for Steve's successful surgery...**Prayer requests for** comfort for Kelly and Beth following the death of Kelly's father...Karen R. as she recovers from pneumonia...for healing for Ricky after fracturing his arm...for strength for Rita, Sr. and Rita, Jr. in their efforts to quit smoking, and for healing for Rita, Jr...for comfort for Pee Wee and Brenda following the death of Pee Wee's father...for healing for Deon's niece Cheryl, and for her brother-in-law Don following the loss of his wife and Deon's sister Charolot...for courage and strength for Michael S...for courage, strength and peace for Neil and his mother Lillian following her recent cancer diagnosis.

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