

November 8, 2007

WFMCC Weekly

The Peaks, the Pits, and the Prize

"...forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

-Philippians 3:13-14



Dear Friends,

Several months ago when I asked the congregation to submit topics for sermons, someone contributed this idea: "...our peaks and our valleys in life, and how they relate to our spiritual ups and downs." When I scheduled this particular topic quite awhile ago for this coming Sunday, I had no idea that we would all be in the middle of such a peak and valley experience here at WFMCC.

Last week while I was in San Francisco the excitement of candidating there was certainly a peak moment, and the deep sadness I have felt this week at the thought of leaving this church has just as definitely felt like a valley. As many of you have shared both your excitement at the part WFMCC is playing in MCC San Francisco's future and your sadness too, I know that we are sharing this roller-coaster, up and down experience.

But isn't this place we find ourselves in right now just like so much of life? Many days hold both great joys and sorrows; sometimes we find ourselves in a prolonged "pit" time, full of tremendous challenges and pain, only to have these times followed by joy in equal measure. Through it all, how do we maintain our spiritual equilibrium? How do we, as the Apostle Paul said to the Philippians, press on toward the goal to which God has called us in Christ Jesus?

Perhaps most importantly of all, how do we as the people of Wichita Falls MCC stay faithful to our calling, even on this journey full of both peaks and pits we are travelling now?

These are the questions we will explore together this weekend in worship. This Sunday marks my second anniversary with the church, and I can't think of a better time for us to embrace the encouragement we will find in God's word for dealing with the peaks and the pits in life, while pushing on toward the prize. I will very much be looking forward to seeing you there.

Many blessings,

Lea

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1. Transition News

By a vote of 98% on Sunday, November 4th, the congregation of MCC San Francisco chose Rev. Lea Brown to serve as its next senior pastor. Lea and our Board of Trustees met with Rev. Elder Lillie Brock this past week to plan the next steps for our church. Several details of those plans will be announced this Sunday, with more to follow on Sunday, November 18th. Please continue to hold WFMCC and our Board in your prayers during this very important time.

2. 2008 WFMCC Pet Calendar

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



Now it is time to vote for our favorites! Voting began last Sunday, and continues Nov. 11th and Nov. 18th. 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. Posters will be available this Sunday; 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

This Sunday we will all have the opportunity to help those in need this holiday season. Patsy's House has asked us to provide three boxes, each containing all the ingredients for a full Thanksgiving dinner, for three families who would otherwise go without. Sign-up sheets will be available in worship; all contributions MUST BE received next Sunday, November 18th. Let's work together to provide the best meal we can for our brothers and sisters this Thanksgiving!

5. 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.

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 on 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. Thanksgivings and Prayer Requests

Thanksgivings for lovers, daughters, and God's grace...for many blessings in life...for Tanner and his progress and healing...**Prayer requests** for continued sunshine and salvation...for Lea and her

message...for Heather and her boys...for strength and understanding...for peace and love...for Mark and his mom...for Pee Wee and her dad...for Neil and his mom Lillian as she faces upcoming tests for cancer...for healing and strength for Michael...for Cheryl and her family.

Wichita Falls MCC

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