

September 27, 2007

## WFMCC Weekly Finding a Way Through the Wilderness



*"I am such a long way in I see no way through and  
no space: everything is close to my face, and  
everything close to my face is stone."*

*-Rainer Maria Rilke*



Dear Friends,

Have you ever been in a place like the poet Rilke describes above - a place where you feel as though you are surrounded by unmoveable stone on all sides? A place with no light at the end of the tunnel, and seemingly no where to turn? We might have many names for just such a place, because all of us at one time or another find ourselves wandering there - wandering in the wilderness.

This Sunday Barbara Mann will be our guest preacher, and she will be sharing with us from the account of Jesus' time in the wilderness from Luke chapter four. Immediately following the amazing spiritual experience of his baptism, Jesus soon finds himself face to face with isolation and loneliness, temptation, and perhaps even physical danger during his 40 days and nights in his own wilderness. Barbara will guide us through Jesus' experience, as well as the wisdom and hope the Bible has to offer to us when it feels as though everything close to our face is stone in our own wilderness journeys.

This Sunday we will also be blessed by our own Voices in Praise Choir and Kevin Stone, who will all be sharing their musical talents with us. Don't forget to bring donations for Faith Mission on this last Sunday of our collection. If you aren't sure what to donate, canned food items of any kind are always needed. I hope you will join us as we share together once again in the joy of both receiving and giving away God's love and grace.

Many blessings,

Lea

**In This Issue:**

1. **Discipleship 101: Building a Close Relationship With God**
2. **Collection for Faith Mission**
3. **CHANGE OF DATE: Follow-Up Meeting From the Men's Retreat**
4. **Next Membership Class**
5. **It's Time for WFMCC's Annual Garage Sale**
6. **WFMCC Change Drive Continues**
7. **2008 WFMCC Pet Calendar**
8. **Break the Barrier Update**
9. **No Day But Today!**
10. **Thanksgivings and Prayer Requests**



having a difficult time keeping up with all the mowing that needs to be done at the church. The

**1. Discipleship 101: Building a Close Relationship With God**

Do you long for a deeper relationship with God? Would you like to know more about what makes you "tick" spiritually? Do you wish you felt more connected to others at WFMCC? If you answered "yes" to any or all of these questions, then "Discipleship 101" might just be for you.



"Discipleship 101: Building a Close Relationship With God" is a 10-week course designed to help participants discover what being a disciple, or follower, of Jesus is really all about. The topics we will cover in the course include:

- Oct. 7th:** Discipleship Overview
- Oct. 14th:** What is Jesus Like?
- Oct. 21st:** What Does Discipleship Look Like? - Part 1
- Oct. 28th:** What Does Discipleship Look Like? - Part 2
- Nov. 4th:** Pulling It All Together
- Nov. 11th:** Time With God
- Nov. 18th:** Prayer
- Nov. 25th:** Devotional Bible Encounters
- Dec. 9th:** Pulling It All Together
- Dec. 16th:** Celebrating Together

All those who complete "Discipleship 101" will be eligible to participate in a nine-week "Discipleship 201" course that will be offered next year.

folks who have been doing the mowing week after week could really use some help.

We have all the equipment you will need - we just need your time and energy for about two hours once a month. (It goes a lot faster if you have a team of two or more!)

If you would be willing to help with this important ministry, please contact Lea at (940) 322-4100 as soon as possible, or by email at [lbrown@wichitafallsmcc.org](mailto:lbrown@wichitafallsmcc.org).

Remember - our building and grounds are our calling card to our community! Please consider helping us to continue looking our best.

Pre-registration is required to take this course, and there is a \$5 fee for each class (\$50 total per person); some scholarships are available. Please talk with our pastor Lea Brown if you are in need of financial assistance.

A serious commitment to attend all of the classes and complete weekly homework is also required. All classes will take place on the above listed dates at 5 p.m. at the church.

If you are interested in registering for "Discipleship 101," there will be a registration form with complete information available at church this Sunday. **All registration forms must be received by Wednesday, October 3rd along with a minimum payment of 50% of the registration fee.**

For more information please contact Lea at (940) 322-4100 or by email at [lbrown@wichitafallsmcc.org](mailto:lbrown@wichitafallsmcc.org).

## **2. Collection for Faith Mission**

This Sunday will be the last day we will be collecting supplies for the amazing ministries provided by our neighbors across the street, Faith Mission.

Faith Mission provides meals for anyone who is hungry, a safe place to sleep for those who are without a home, a residential 12-step program for those recovering from substance abuse, a day labor program, and bedding, furniture and supplies for families in need. They help hundreds of people each year who are living in extreme poverty, and their theme is "From Hurt to Hope."

We can help Faith Mission provide that hope to so many who are hurting in Wichita Falls. After the conclusion of our collection this month, we will deliver our donations to Faith Mission the first week of October. Let's work together to collect as much as we can to support our brothers and sisters in need.

## **3. CHANGE OF DATE: Follow-Up Meeting From the Men's Retreat**

All those who identify as male are invited to bring a brown-bag lunch and meet with our pastor Rev. Lea Brown on Sunday, October

7th immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service. (Please note: this is a change from the September 16th date that was originally planned.)

We will talk about the recent men's retreat, and make plans for future events. Whether or not you attended the retreat, you are welcome to participate in this meeting. Come and help us build up our men's community at WFMCC!

#### **4. Next Membership Class**

Are you interested in becoming a member of WFMCC, or would you like to know more about what membership means? If so, please plan on attending our next membership class, which will be held on Sunday, October 21st at 1 p.m. Please let Lea know as soon as possible if you would like to register for the class.

#### **5. It's Time for WFMCC's Annual Garage Sale**

Each year WFMCC holds a garage sale to help raise funds to cover our expenses. Our sale for 2007 will take place on Saturday, October 6th in the church backyard from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. We need your donated household and clothing items to help make this fundraiser a success.

If you have items you would like to contribute, please [bring them to the church](#) on any Sunday between now and October 6th, or on October 4th and 5th after 2 p.m. We will not be picking items up this year - you must bring them to the church to make your donation. If you have large pieces of furniture you would like to contribute to the sale, we can arrange to help. Please talk with Kathy Carr or Lea Brown for assistance.

We also need folks to help with set-up on Friday evening, and throughout the day on Saturday, Oct. 6th. A sign-up sheet will be available this Sunday, or you can call Lea at (940) 322-4100 to sign up by phone.

#### **6. WFMCC Change Drive Continues**

Now that we are in the final four 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 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. 2008 WFMCC Pet Calendar**

Even though it is only September now, we are already making plans for our 2008 Pet Calendar fundraiser. This is your chance to introduce your furry family member to everyone at WFMCC!



Here is how it works: you can submit up to three digital pictures between now and October 21st to [lbrown@wichitafallsmcc.org](mailto:lbrown@wichitafallsmcc.org). All pictures must be received electronically. If you don't have a digital camera, you can arrange to bring your pet(s) by the church and we will take pictures for you. Call Lea at (940) 322-4100 if you need to do this.

Once we have received all the pictures, we will vote for our favorites over three Sundays in November. All votes cost \$1 each. Altogether forty-one of our favorites pets will be featured in the calendar, with the top three receiving special recognition. The calendars will cost \$15 each and may be ordered in November.

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. Send in your pictures today!

### **8. Break the Barrier Update**

Many thanks to everyone who has been contributing to our Break the Barrier Fund. Our current total is now \$2,996! 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, October 21st.

### 9. No Day But Today!

The next meeting of our HIV/AIDS ministry, No Day But Today!, will be held this Sunday, Sept. 30th at 1 p.m. This meeting is open to anyone who wants to raise awareness about AIDS and fight the disease in Wichita Falls and beyond. Everyone is welcome. Please feel free to bring a brown-bag lunch and join us as we plan our projects for the Fall.



### 10. Thanksgivings and Prayer Requests

**Thanksgivings for** Heather's new job...**Prayer requests for** Maria Alcantar, and for healing and strength for her family...for healing for Laurie...for safe travels and strength for Pam and Ginger...for continued healing for John...for healing and strength for Cheryl's family...for healing for Andrew and strength for Nicole...for Marilyn and Nora...for Ron and Greg.

**Wichita Falls MCC**  
1401 Travis Street  
Wichita Falls, TX 76301  
(940) 322-4100  
[www.wichitafallsmcc.org](http://www.wichitafallsmcc.org)

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to [pastormel@wichitafallsmcc.org](mailto:pastormel@wichitafallsmcc.org) by [lbrown@wichitafallsmcc.org](mailto:lbrown@wichitafallsmcc.org) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Wichita Falls Metropolitan Community Church | 1401 Travis Street | Wichita Falls | TX | 76301