

February 7, 2008

WFMCC Weekly

Forty Days of Purpose



Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts people from every nation who fear God and do what is right." --Acts 10:35

Dear Friends,

This Sunday, we begin our special Lenten sermon series entitled "Forty Days of Purpose." Over the next six weeks we will be intentionally taking a look at God's purpose for our lives and for WFMCC as we meander in a queer, progressive way through Rick Warren's popular book, "The Purpose Driven Church." We will be exploring the question "What on earth am I here for?" I believe that this will be a special time of blessing and growth for WFMCC as we continue to navigate the waters of change. I know God has big plans in store for each of us individually and for WFMCC corporately. I encourage you to read the book, if you haven't already and attend worship as we seek God's answers to the question of our existence! Even as we celebrate God's presence in our lives and feel the joy that brings, I was reminded this past week of places where lgbt people don't fare so well. Following is a letter from Rev. Elder Lillie Brock that the BOT and I received this week:



I am writing to make a special request on behalf of two of our members in Jamaica. Since I know how much your church is motivated to do things for people who are in need, I am writing to see if you could raise \$350 in the next few days to help us respond to the most recent violence against our MCC people there.

Here is the story:

On the evening of Tuesday, January 29th, a mob that had previously threatened three male residents of a private home in Greenvale, Manchester {Jamaica}, broke into that home carrying machetes. The three gay men inside were chased, beaten and chopped. One remains unaccounted for and is feared dead. Two have been hospitalized, one suffering the loss of an ear as well as other serious injuries, not to mention the trauma of being attacked in his own home for no other reason than who he is.

These young men need about \$2,000 to pay their hospital bill and continue to receive treatment so that is the urgency of this request. I will be asking 5 other churches who have a heart for this kind of compassionate response and am hoping to raise this money quickly.

This Sunday we will be taking a special love offering to help in the situation mentioned below. Please pray about what level of financial gift you can make to show these men God has not forgotten them and has a purpose for their lives as well.

Blessings and Peace,

Nori

In This Issue:

*New addition! See February
birthdays below*

1. Candy Donations for Patsy's House

2. Wichita Falls MCC Men's Retreat

3. Lenten Sermon Series

4. Congregational Surveys Available

5. Stewardship Month Reminder

6. No Day But Today meeting

1. Candy Donations Requested for Patsy's House

Bring in bulk valentine's candy and place in the special container in the foyer. This will be used to make valentine bags for the clients of Patsy's House. We must have all candy in by Sunday, February 10. Thanks for brightening the lives of women and children living on the margins.

2. Wichita Falls MCC Men's Retreat

The next men's retreat meeting will be on February 17th at 1 pm, in the fellowship hall. If you identify as male and want to be a part of the WFMCC men's community feel free to join us as we grow together for our community!

3. What would you get if you put Rick Warren in Drag?

A special sermon series based on Warren's popular book, "The Purpose Driven Church" all queered up by transitional pastor, Rev. Dr. Nori Rost. That's right, beginning February 10, Rev. Rost will preach on diifferent

7. Break the Barrier Update

8. Thanksgivings and Prayer Requests

February Birthdays

If your birthday is this month and isn't listed, email nrost@wichitafallsmcc.org to be included

2/1 KD Johnson

2/1 Deon Winchester

2/4 Kevin Stone

2/5 Cassie Daley

2/6 Ed Paul

2/9 Taylor Mull

2/10 Brian Vestal

2/12 Kathy Isaacks

2/14 Glenda Pruett

2/20 Ron Preston

2/23 Milan Caper

2/28 Chris Boren

chapters of this book, written by evangelical Christian Rick Warren. She will lead us through questions such as "What is my purpose?" "Why did God create me?" and others as together we explore the purpose God is calling WFMCC to, as well each of us as individuals. By looking at these important questions through the lens of progressive, queer Christianity, Rev. Rost will take us through a Lenten journey of eternal significance. And because it's a theme, we're going to be trying something new using our multi-media technology. On the weeks Rev. Rost isn't physically with us, she'll be providing the sermon via DVD. If nothing else, it should be fun just to see how it turns out. So plan on joining us every Sunday during Lent as we explore God's purpose for our lives and our church.

4. Pastoral Search Team Congregational Survey Available

The PST, with the help of Rev. Elder Lillie Brock has created a congregational survey that will be available both at the church and in down-loadable format on the website. It is very important that you fill out one (and only one) of these and either give it to a board member or place it in a designated box. By filling out this congregational survey you will be able to express your desires for what gifts and skills that pastor will bring to WFMCC. If you would prefer, simply download it in a .pdf format from the website and either mail it in or bring it with you on Sunday.

5. Don't Forget Your Stewardship Pledge Forms

These are also available at the back of the church. As we prepare to create a budget for the coming year, we need to hear from you the level of financial commitment you feel led to give to WFMCC. Already we have at least four people signed on for Month of Sundays and there are other creative ways to give as well, including the Popcorn Club and a specified pledge amount. Together we will grow this church!

6. No Day But Today!

No Day But Today! will be meeting again on February 24th at 1 pm here at the church. Refreshment will be provided and everyone is welcome! Come

join us as we work together to bring HIV/AIDS awareness to Wichita Falls!

7. Break the Barrier Update

Many thanks to everyone who has been contributing to our Break the Barrier Fund. Our current total is now \$4,744! 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 February 17, 2008. Please give as you feel God directing.

8. Thanksgivings and Prayer Requests

Add your Thanksgivings and Prayers Requests to the Prayer Book in the foyer at church or email them to nrost@wichitafallsmcc.org

Thanksgivings for Daughters and Husbands; and mother's enlightenment. For Better health for Max. For doctors, nurses, medication and healing! ...**Prayer requests for** new home additions...School for Samatha, "Lead us to put or keep Samatha in your choice of school." For young people struggling with coming-out issues!

Wichita Falls MCC
1401 Travis Street
Wichita Falls, TX 76301
(940) 322-4100
www.wichitafallsmcc.org
Rev. Dr. Nori Rost
(719) 963-0242

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