

January 24, 2008

WFMCC Weekly

Growing Up and Reaching Out



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We are God's handiwork taking the paths God has prepared for us *Ephesians 2:10*

Dear Friends,

This weekend we will be celebrating the 21st Anniversary of Wichita Falls MCC. Give yourselves a great round of applause! For 21 years, WFMCC has provided a beacon of hope and healing to the glbt communities and our allies by preaching a bold and fearless gospel of God's inclusive love and grace. Stop for a moment and think of how WFMCC has changed your life. Maybe you were struggling with your sexuality and spirituality, maybe you were dealing with HIV/AIDS or another serious health problem. Maybe you felt all alone in the world. And then you walked through the doors of WFMCC and found, well, home. I know WFMCC has changed my life--even as a commuter member/transitional pastor! And you know what the truly amazing thing is? When I say WFMCC has changed my life, I'm saying YOU have changed my life. Because you are, each one of you, the Church. Together we are God's handiwork...God's hand-sewn quilt..lovingly stitched into intricate patterns, connecting us to one another, creating a work of beauty and warmth.



Being 21 in our culture is a coming of age, isn't it? It's the entree into the adult world with all

its benefits. We get to play Bunco, for example :) We get to make adult decisions, we can legally drink wine. And the same is true for our church, I believe. We are coming into a new age of blessings and benefits. This is no game of chance, however. We are being given the opportunity to make decisions that will have eternal ramifications for our church and our communities. We are being invited to drink anew the wine of Christ's love and grace and to share that with others.

And now, we are being called to paths God has ordained for us, it is up to us to shoulder this task and keep moving forward. The Good News is, we can step onto these paths with confidence knowing that the One who created us, calls us forth. Let us go forth, resplendent in our tapestry of love, to the future God has already prepared for us!

Blessings and Peace,

Nori

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*New addition! See January
birthdays below*

**1. WFMCC 21st Anniversary
Banquet**

**2. No Day But Today Meeting,
January 27th.**

3. WFMCC Change Drive

**4. Pastoral Search Team Moves
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5. Break the Barrier Update

**6. Thanksgivings and Prayer
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1. WFMCC 21st Anniversary Banquet

The moment you've all been waiting for! This weekend is WFMCC's 21st Anniversary Celebration, starting with a 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. YOU CAN STILL GET TICKETS!

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.

On Sunday, January 27, continue the celebration and join us at our 11 a.m. worship service as Rev. Elder Dr. Nori Rost preaches a special Anniversary sermon.

2. No Day But Today Meeting

No Day But Today ministry will meet on Sunday, January 27th, following the Anniversary worship service. If you are concerned about HIV/AIDS in

January Birthdays

*If your birthday is this month
and isn't listed, email*

nrost@wichitafallsmcc.org
to be included

Solyta Trainer 1/17
Annette Bever 1/18
Kelly Poer 1/20
Cathy Rudy 1/22
Addison Hale 1/26
Glenn Hendrix 1/28
Brent Braswell 1/29
Katie Farmer 1/29

Wichita Falls and beyond, plan on attending this important meeting. See John Forsythe for more details.

3. WFMCC Change Drive

The Board of Trustees decided to extend the deadline for counting the change until after the anniversary weekend. Stay tuned for the final tally. And why not get a jump start on this worthy goal for 2008 as we try to fill up the five-gallon container 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.

Every penny, nickel, dime and quarter will help us continue our ministries into our 21st year and beyond.

4. Pastoral Search Team Moves Forward

The PST, with the help of Rev. Elder Lillie Brock have created a congregational survey that will be available both at the church and in download-able 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. This format should be available by the end of this weekend.

5. 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.

6. 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 21 years of Ministry in Wichita Falls..with many more to come! Praises for all the Husbands, Daughters, and Mother's. Praises for the talents giving to each individual in this church.

...**Prayer requests for** Valerie Vela and her husband as they travel to the funeral of his grandmother, Emory Vela, who passed away this week, for Martha and her family as they support her mother, who was diagnosed with cancer last week--and praises that she is now back at home! For David R. in Cancun. Prayers for health and abundance and for the continued power in grace. Prayers of Healing and comfort for the WFMCC congregation. Prayers for Health and Blessings for Debbie LeFleur.

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