

January 31, 2008

WFMCC Weekly Beyond Transfiguration



Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. --Matthew 17:1-2

Dear Friends,

This weekend we celebrate the Transfiguration of Christ in which we remember that moment in time when Jesus was transfigured before his friends in an intimate moment of spiritual power and glory. So profound was this moment that Jesus was joined by two other spiritual greats, Moses and Elijah. It didn't seem to faze Jesus or the other two luminaries to be found in such an unexpected meeting, but the disciples were so amazed that they wanted to build huts to memorialize the moment. They wanted to set up an official tourist trap, complete with cheap souvenirs--maybe a Jesus figurine that glowed when you pressed his tummy. Maybe I'm getting carried away again. Maybe they just wanted a permanent monument to the miracle of the moment. Ironically, the word for transfigured in Greek is "metamorphoo" which means change. It is, in fact, the root of our word metamorphosis. This was no small change that Jesus had experienced, like a new hair style, or a new job. It was a complete change from the inside out, like a caterpillar emerging as a butterfly. This was a type of change that could not be undone, change from the inside out. Indeed, the same word is used in Romans 12:2 when we're told "Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds in Christ Jesus."

What the disciples didn't understand was that the moment of transfiguration was not meant to be etched in stone, an unmoveable understanding of God's glory and grace; rather it was



meant to be a transforming moment in the life of Christ, in which he could go forward changed to meet the future with all its myriad transformations.

When we experience powerful moments of God's love, we're often tempted to set up camp and say we have found the mountain, the pinnacle of our spiritual life, and not be open to any further understanding of God. Yet what Transfiguration Sunday reminds us of, is that we are changed to go forth and be changed yet again, from glory unto glory as it were. And so, my prayer for you this week, wherever you are on your faith journey, is that you go forth, experiencing God's transforming love in a variety of ways, each of which will change you from the inside out.

Blessings and Peace,

Nori

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*New addition! See February
birthdays below*

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February Birthdays
If your birthday is this month

1. Special Speaker this Sunday.

I want to welcome Rev. Dr. Sharon Bezner to WFMCC as she brings a message entitled, "Beyond Transfiguration." Rev. Bezner is a Resource Specialist for MCC and works closely with our Regional Elder, Rev. Lillie Brock in providing care and resources to local congregations. I'm sure you will be blessed by Rev. Dr. Sharon Bezner's message. Please make it a point to attend.

2. Join us for Ash Wednesday Service

Next Wednesday, February 6, is Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Join us for a special meditative service in the Taize tradition which features music meant to draw us into deeper contemplation of God's love and presence in our lives. Imposition of ashes will be offered to all who wish to receive. The service will begin at 6:30 p.m. This is an excellent opportunity to take a few deep breaths and reflect on our faith journey as we begin Lent.

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 different chapters of this book, written by evangelical Christian Rick Warren. She will

*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 Pruet
2/20 Ron Preston
2/23 Milan Caper
2/28 Chris Boren

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. 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.

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 Samantha's invitation to have Jesus in her heart, Ron's love and encouragement daily, God's abundant grace, David R.s new 2720 sq. ft. penthouse.

...**Prayer requests for** abundance for all, Tricia as she goes for in vitro fertilization, Martha and Kathy, and healing for Martha's mom, Sandra, Lauretta, Pam's health, Tanner Mueggerborg, Lisa's surgery, for young people experiencing discrimination in their homes and schools, Debbie--health and strength, Heather--strength, prayers for all in the church, that they may receive healing and comfort, prayers for new beginnings in the lives and ministries of those involved in church.

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