

Hello:

I wanted to respond to Telling Our Story from the Saturday morning worship.

I am Jamie Winter owner of "Winter & Company Dance Studio" here in Greeneville and I have danced for 36 years. I have owned and operated the studio since 1994 and Mrs. Marci came to Cedar Creek in maybe 2000 - not sure what year - but, she brought so much to our beautiful Cedar Creek church in the world of music and worship! Together we wanted to incorporate dance into worship during services. So, our mission began: of course, dance in church is unacceptable in many denominations although in the Bible it clearly states that dance is rejoicing!

Psalms 23: "Praise Him with dance...." is my favorite! So we set out to prove dance can be incorporated into worship on a Christian level as God intended in the Bible. We began in the fellowship hall with dance during youth events etc. Then, we made the huge leap of faith and presented our liturgical team in front of the congregation and they loved it! Since then we have been doing two yearly cantata's where the choir sings and we dance to different songs and our youth and adult provide the drama of the music for both Christmas and Easter! It is so dramatic! The use of the props, costuming etc. brings it all to life ... for all of us!

We did ask for a little break this past Easter to do just a dance number and the Kidz choir sang because I have battled breast cancer already twice. I have a strong history and I needed a break! I personally wanted to watch my own daughter because normally I am so busy with all else during a performance that I miss out on the live experience and don't get to enjoy it as much! SO, I needed that at this point in my life ... it was a strong impact and my heart is ready to take on the Christmas performance in December! It is wonderful and something that I am called to do and serve through dance - the way God intended to rejoice! I wanted to thank you for the opportunity and hope we will be asked to return in the future!

All the kids performing and adults were Presbyterian - all of them were from Cedar Creek Pres. except one and she was from the church we danced at and is a member of my dance studio! So, she is awesome and one of my Seniors this year and I will sadly miss her! She is just beautiful! I love my calling and am so happy to be able to serve through dance

Happily Dancing through Him,

Jamie Winter
Cedar Creek Presbyterian Church Liturgical Dancers

