

Annual Conference ~ Church of the Brethren

July 15, 2000, Kansas City, Missouri

THE MOST EXCELLENT WAY – Emily Mumma



(excerpt from sermon) There is a woman in the congregation I serve that has a neurological disease of unknown original and with no known remedy. Carol is NEVER without pain. After years of living with such intense pain, she was ready to call it quits. She called me on the telephone saying that she was going to end it all, she just wanted to say good-bye. “Carol, I don't say good-by by phone. I'm on my way over and you will let me in!”

Carol felt utterly useless and was convinced that she was of no value to her husband, to her children or grandchildren. But most of all she felt of no use to God. Having recently been baptized, she wanted more than anything else to serve God, to know that she was doing something important for God.

After about 6 hours, she remembered the story of the FUZZIES. There are many adaption's of the original story by Richard Lessor.

The essence of the story is about a people so plain, so ordinary, so simple that they gave away Fuzzies just for the delight of it and to let people know they were loved.

Carol believes this is her ministry, to share God's love through the giving of Fuzzies. So she makes them and packs them with God's love. They are made with such care. Not just any old yarn will do, She chose this yarn for its softness and resiliency.

Most yarns packed as these have been packed would be flat. Notice how nice and round these are, That's the way with LOVE. It doesn't get all bent out of shape when it is stepped on or hurt. Love is resilient! It bounces back.

These Fuzzies are made to represent in every way possible God's love.

They are soft, yet firm; the way of gentleness.

Each one is different in design and color.

Each of us experiences love differently and has preferred ways of expressing love.

To see them, to touch them, to hold them makes one feel glad.

Isn't that the way with God's love, once you've experienced it? You want to pass it on...

Love is the only thing that multiples as you give it away. That's God's economy, *the most excellent way.*