

Volume 02, Issue 38

Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church

September 23, 2007

Prelude

Steven Couch

Our Community Gathers

Rev. Janice Ladd & Mark Eggleston

- + Exchange of Peace
- + Songs of Praise & Worship

Anointing

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord; open the eyes of my heart
I want to see you, I want to see you
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord; open the eyes of my heart
I want to see you, I want to see you
To see you high and lifted up shining in the light of your glory
Pour out your power and love as we sing holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy I want to see you.

Words & Music by Paul Baloche
1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music
CCLI License #1025612

Here I am to Worship

Light of the world, you came down into darkness; opened me eyes, let me see Beauty that made my heart adore you, hope of a life spent with you. *(Chorus)*

Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that you're my God.
You're all together lovely, altogether worthy, alltogether wonderful to me.
King of all days, oh so highly exalted; Glorious in heaven above;
Humbly you came to the earth you created All for love's sake became poor.
(Chorus)

I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin up that cross.

(Chorus)

Words & Music by Tim Hughes © 2000 Thankyou Music CCLI License #1025612

Grace Flows Down

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
Amazing love, now flowing down
From hands and feet that were nailed to the tree
As grace flows down and covers me

And covers me...(repeat)

Words & Music by David Bell, Louie Giglio, Rod Padgett © 2000 Worship Together CCLI License #1025612

+ Please rise in body or spirit.

We Gather

In this season of
Pentecost, we gather
and await the presence
of the Holy Spirit into
our midst as we invoke
her presence with our
singing and our
worship.

We Worship

The writer of this chorus, Here I am to Worship, is Tim Hughes, a Christian worship leader and songwriter with Survivor Records. He is currently Director of Worship at Holy Trinity Brompton, a vibrant Anglican church in central London and he heads up Worship Central, a new worship training resource. The son of an Anglican vicar, Hughes grew up in Birmingham, England, and studied History at Sheffield University.

Community Prayer

Rev. Mona Lopez

Old Testement Reading

Win Boyd (9 am) Vicki Hopper (11 am)

Isaiah 56:1-2, 7b-8

Thus says the Lord; Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance will be revealed. Happy is the one who does this, the one who holds it fast, who keeps the sabbath, not profaning it, and refrains from doing any evil... For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all people. Thus says God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

Anthem Anointing

Made Me Glad

(congregation join on the chorus)
You have made me glad and I'll say of the Lord
You are my shield, my strength my portion, Deliverer
My shelter, strong tower My very present help in time of need

Words & Music by Miriam Webster © 2001 Hilssong Publishing CCLI License #1025612

+ Gospel Reading

Rev. Bernie Barbour

Luke 15:11-32

Jesus said, "There was once a man who had two sons. The younger said to his father, 'Father, I want right now what's coming to me.'

So the father divided the fortune between them. It wasn't long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country. There, undisciplined and dissipated, he wasted everything he had. After he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine all through that country and he began to hurt. He signed on with a citizen there who assigned him to his fields to slop the pigs. He was so hungry he would have eaten the corncobs in the pig slop, but no one would give him any.

That brought him to his senses. He said, 'My father's farmhands have three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I'm going back to my home. I'll say to him, 'Father, I've sinned against God, and before you; I don't deserve to be called your child. Take me on as a hired hand.'

When he was a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him. The son started his speech, but the father wasn't listening. He was calling to the servants, 'Quick! Bring a clean set of clothes. Put the family ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Then roast the fatted calf. We're going to feast! My son is here - he was dead and now alive! He was lost and now found!

We Hear the Word

This writing from Isaiah is an oracle promising universal salvation. In earlier chapters, the promise seems dependent on the coming of Cyrus II of Persia. His armies promised to liberate the Israelites from Babylon. However, it seems these events have already occurred, and yet salvation-the restoration of a prospering Israelite community-still had not been realized. Consequently, this verse, like much of this chapter, looks to God to bring redemption, and these verses are indicative that God's redemption will include all people.

The older brother stalked off angry and refused to join the celebration. His father came out and tried to talk to him, but he wouldn't listen. The son said, 'Look how many years I've stayed here serving you, never giving you any grief, but have you ever thrown a party for me? Then this son returns, who has thrown away your money and you throw a party!"

His father said, "Son, you don't understand. You're with me all the time, and everything that is mine is yours - but this is a wonderful time, and we had to celebrate. This brother of yours was dead, and he's now alive! He was lost, and now he has been found!"

Special Music Kedric Brown

He Looked Beyond My Fault LONDONDERRY AIR

Spiritual Encouragement

Rev. Janice Ladd

It's Time: To Be Radically Inclusive

Making Ministry Happen

Rev. Bernie Barbour

Offertory Anointing

My Heart, Your Home Words & Music by Christy Nockels

Communion Rev. Mona Lopez

Introduction

Consecration of the Elements

Prayer of Consecration

The Prayer that Jesus Taught

Invitation to the Feast

We Hear the Word

Like the previous two stories, this one focuses on the recovery of what is lost. Its greater length demonstrates the gravity of the situation of the lost son. including his decline into a lifestyle far removed from Jewish faithfulness, and his downward mobility in economic terms. It also introduces a new character, the elder son, whose role in the parable mimics that of the Pharisees and tax collectors. It also mimics the motif of celebration at the recovery of the lost, giving expression to the magnitude and persistence of God's graciousness. Most interesting in this parable is that it is open-ended: Will the elder song join the celebration?

We Receive

All Congregations in MCC practice an open communion.
We believe that communion is a visible sign of Christ's presence and God's grace that each one of us, visitor, friend or member, may receive.

We Give Thanks

We stand at the end of the communion service as part of our thanksgiving for the service of communion and the representation of the body and blood of Christ as the sacrifice made for us. For now we offer the sacrifice.

Communion Songs

I Stand in Awe

You are beautiful beyond description, too marvelous for words
Too wonderful for comprehension, like nothing ever seen or heard
Who can grasp your infinite wisdom? Who can fathom the depth of your love?
You are beautiful beyond description majesty enthroned above
(Chorus)

And I stand, I stand in awe of you. I stand, I stand in awe of you.

Holy God to whom all praise is due, I stand in awe of you

No one ever dared to touch my sickness, my broken heart as well.

I cried out in the heat of anger, my rage became a burning hell

Then the coolness of your Spirit bathed my mind and gave me control

You are beautiful beyond description Loving One, you've made me whole

(Chorus)

Words & Music by Mark Altrogge © 1987 People of Destiny International CCLI License #1025612

Eagle's Wings

Here I am waiting, abide in me I pray here I am longing for you. Hide me in your love, bring me to my knees may I know Jesus more and more. Come live in me, all my life take over come breathe in me, I will rise on eagle's wings

Words & Music by Reuben Morgan © 1998 Hillsong Publishing CCLI License #1025612

Draw Me Close

Draw me close to you, never let me go
I lay it all down again to hear you say that I'm your friend.
You are my desire no one else will do.
'Cause nothing else can take your place; to feel the warmth of your embrace;
Help me find the way bring me back to you
You're all I want. You're all I've ever needed
You're all I want. Help me know you are near

Words & Music by Kelly Carpenter © 1994 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing CCLI License #1025612

Glorify Thy Name

Jehovah, we love you, we praise you, we adore you
Glorify thy name in all the earth.
Glorify thy name. Glorify thy name
Glorify thy name in all the earth

Jesus, we love you...

+ Spirit, we love you...
Words & Music by Donna Adkins
© 1976 Maranatha Music
CCLI License #1025612

+ Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Mona Lopez

+ Benediction Rev. Janice Ladd

Postlude

~Rev. Janice Ladd

The Worship of God Each Day

Opening Prayer

Make me know your ways, O God; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me. For you are the God of my salvation. For you I wait all the day. Remember, O God, your compassion and your loving kindness. For you have been from everlasting.

~ Psalms 25: 4-6

Daily Scripture Readings

Sunday - Ephesians 2: 11-22 Monday - Isaiah 61: 1-3 Tuesday - Luke 4: 16-21 Wednesday - 2 Cor. 5: 16-20 Thursday - Hebrews 13: 1-3 Friday - Psalm 4: 4-8 Saturday - 2 Cor. 1: 3-10

Sacred Reading (page 6)

See opening essay, quotes, or other sources.

Spiritual Maturity & Application (page 6)

See questions and reflection journal exercises.

Closing Prayer

God, we are opening ourselves to you and your people. Give us your heart to love others, Give us your eyes to truly see, Give us your passion to fulfill the work of this your church. Amen.

~Rev. Janice Ladd

Grow Up

Spiritual Maturity, Transformation & Application

Opening Essay

It's Time: To Be Radically Inclusive

Since its inception, the Metropolitan Community Church has been committed to inclusivity in life and faith. In fact, "inclusion" is one of the four core values of MCC and is included in Resurrection MCC's Vision Statement. A press release from September 14 (see page 10) is indicative that the Metropolitan Community Church continues to see "radical inclusivity" as a necessary component of our work together as a denomination.

So what is it and why is it so important? Simply put, radical inclusion is the vision of God as stated in Isaiah 56:7, "for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." Inclusivity is the mission for the church that all are to be one in the body of Christ. "Inclusiveness is an attitude or stance of mutuality and openness towards others that recognizes everyone's right of equal access to the experience and realization of wholeness and it is a commitment to remove barriers between individuals and among communities that deny such access." (from *Report of the Inclusive Language Task Force UFMCC*, 1981, Houston, Texas).

Radical inclusivity therefore is our work as a church to include every person in the family of God. It's all about hospitality - how we intentionally create safe space for others to discover the God of their own understanding. Inclusivity is welcoming everyone at the table of life and actively removing barriers that keep someone from experiencing God's grace. Until everyone has found their seat at God's table, we are incomplete as a family.

Let us all open our hearts this week and find new ways to include others into our lives. Challenge any and all prejudices, see with new eyes, and listen for fresh perspective. Let God lead and guide us I pray.

Message Notes

Sacred Reading

God's love for us and our love for others is the single greatest motivating force in the world. And this love and the good it creates will always triumph over hatred and evil. But if you are to be true partners with God in the transfiguration of his world and help bring this triumph of love over hatred, of good over evil, you must begin by understanding that as much as God loves you, God equally loves your enemies.

~Desmond Tutu, God has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time, 41.

When we attend deeply to the persons in our surroundings, we begin to see them according to the Spirit. We begin to behold or perceive more than the external. We cannot help each other become reconciled to God if we see only the outward presentation. We must look deeper. What is really there, even in the one we struggle with, the one with the most complex personality? Christian community can truly be celebrated when we realize the church is a spiritual, mystical, faith-based community, and we relate best when we make the drop from head to heart.

~ Yvette A. Flunder, Where the Edge Gathers: Building a Community of Radical Inclusion, 44.

Henri Nouwen, author of *Reaching Out* says, "Hospitality...means primarily the creation of a free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not bringing men and women over to our side, but to offer freedom not disturbed by a dividing line. It is not to lead our neighbor into a corner where there are no alternatives left, but to open a wide spectrum of options for choice and commitment. It is not a method of making our God and our way into the criteria of happiness, but the opening of an opportunity to others to find their God and their way. Hospitality is not a subtle invitation to adopt the life style of the host, but the gift of change for the guest to find his/her own."

~ As quoted in 12 Steps to Radical Inclusivity, The Fellowship Church (www.radicallyinclusive.com)

Spiritual Maturity & Application

In *Bread for the Journey*, Henri Nouwen writes, "Every good relationship between two or more people, whether it is friendship, marriage, or community, creates space where strangers can enter and become friends. Good relationships are hospitable. When we enter into a home and feel warmly welcomed, we will soon realize that the love among those who live in the home is what makes that welcome possible.

When there is conflict in the home, the guest is soon forced to choose sides. "Are you for him or for her?" "Do you agree with them or with us?" "Do you like him more than you do me?" These questions prevent true hospitality-that is, an opportunity for the stranger to feel safe and discover his or her own gifts. Hospitality is more than an expression of love for the guest. It is also and foremost an expression of love between the hosts."

To be intentional about inclusion, each of us needs to be intentional about how we speak about our church home. What we say about each other can create barriers for our guests to experience the love of God. Journal or discuss with spiritual companions ways to generate a grateful attitude for the church. Take the time to create a gratitude list of the things for which you are grateful about your community of faith.

The Isaiah passage in Monday's reading implies that the Spirit of God commissions everyone to welcome, include, and heal the broken, outcast, and needy. In Tuesday's passage, when Jesus read from the scroll of Isaiah one Sabbath morning, he established the role of his ministry and therefore established the center or origin of the ministry of the church.

These priorities must also be the priorities of an oppression-free Christian community. How can we be the church of Jesus unless we reflect the ministry of Jesus? It is crucial in the formation of community that those who were and are oppressed seek to overcome the theological millstones tied around their necks. It is equally important to eschew pejorative assumptions toward others in community who are different to avoid passing on the sickness of oppressive theology.

What can Resurrection do to be the radical incarnation of the ministry of Jesus vs. a private social club? In what ways can you participate in this calling of the church to be radically inclusive? How can you challenge any and all prejudices, see with new eyes, and listen for fresh perspective on issues of racism, sexism, classism, serophobia and homophobia?

~ Yvette A. Flunder, Where the Edge Gathers: Building a Community of Radical Inclusion, 7-8, adapted.

Hebrews 13:1-3 talks about hospitality to strangers, treating others as if we were walking in their shoes. Practice active listening for three days in ways that allow you true understanding of one person each day. Turn three "strangers" into "storytellers." Take notes in your journal each night of the details of that person's life. Then in the morning as you put on your shoes, remember that person again and picture yourself putting your feet into their shoes. Take a few steps in their life and reflect on what it means that "you yourselves are also in the body."

Staff

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Ken Thompson

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Anthony White

Gospel Ensemble Pianist

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Rev. Rick Elliott

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Worship

Sunday, 9:00 am & 11:00 am Wednesday, 7:00 pm

Children & Youth Worship Sunday, 11:00 am

Nursery

Sunday, 9:00 am & 11:00 am

Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church

2025 West 11th St, Houston, Texas 77008 Phone 713-861-9149 / Fax 713-861-2520 www.ResurrectionMCC.org

Welcome!

If you are visiting Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church for the first time, we are glad to have you here! We invite you to join us each week as we worship God and learn more about Christian living in an inclusive way. All are welcome.



Please stop by the Concierge Desk

Creating a Life that Matters...Creates a Church that Matters!

located next to *Inspirations*, our coffee café and gift shop, to receive a welcome gift. You will find friendly volunteer hosts waiting to greet you.

Worship Services

Resurrection MCC is proud to offer a variety in our worship services. Our two services are identical in form, however they contain different elements from diverse religious traditions each week.

In addition to our 9:00 & I I:00 am Sunday worship services, we also offer a Spiritual Uplift service on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. The Spiritual Uplift service is more contemplative and includes a devotional, a short message or a biblical review. There is also a time of communion and a service of prayer.

About Us...



Resurrection MCC is a Christian church with a primary outreach to the lesbian, gay,

bisexual, transgender, and queer community. We are a part of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, founded by Rev. Troy D. Perry in Los Angeles, California on October 6, 1968. Metropolitan Community Churches are on a bold mission to transform hearts, lives, and history. We are a movement that faithfully proclaims God's inclusive love for all people, and proudly bears witness to the holy integration of spirituality and sexuality.

The **Mission** of Resurrection MCC is to demonstrate God's unconditional love to all people through Christian action.

The **Vision** of Resurrection MCC is to **ATTRACT** people into a relationship with God through radical **INCLUSION** into God's family, transform them to Christ-like **MATURITY**, and **MOBILIZE** them for their life purpose.

At Resurrection MCC, every member and friend is a minister of the church. We envision a Christian community that values diversity and is as diverse and allencompassing as creation. Through salvation, service, study, and tithing, each member and friend will live and grow in faith and be spiritually fed. To that end, we embrace five core beliefs:

We believe in God's unconditional love for everyone.

We believe in the saving grace of Jesus Christ and the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.

We believe in including everyone and excluding no one.

We believe in joyfully providing access to Christ-centered spiritual nourishment and Biblical truths.

We believe that each of us will discover our spirituality through active participation in the work of God and in the pursuit of health, wholeness, and justice for everyone.

Again, welcome!



MCC's Transformational Spiritual Development Curriculum

Creating a Life that Matters is a three-course curriculum which explores ways to rediscover relationship with the Sacred, with my Self, and with my Passion. These three courses correspond to the spiritual experiences of being changed, gifted and called. Graduates of Creating a Life that Matters will have been challenged to broaden their understanding of all that is Sacred; integrate their self-awareness into being authentic, aware leaders; and live their passion intentionally through the life and work of the church.

Creating a Life that Matters integrates art, scripture, music, film, journaling, and diverse spiritual resources to augment our exploration of the Christian path.



Name:

A Program of Metropolitan Community Churches
©2006 Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

Register Today! Class size is limited to 25.

Cost is \$100 and covers curriculum, workbook, meals, and other materials. We ask that you make a commitment to attend all 18 classes. Classes held Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8:45 pm. The first | 25 individuals to submit this form, with payment, to *Inspirations* | Coffee Cafe & Gift Shop will be secured a spot in the class.

Address:
City, State, Zip:
Phone:
Email:

Session I:The Sacred
October 31, 2007 to December 12, 2007

Session II: My Self January 9, 2008 to February 20, 2008

Session III: My Passion March 26, 2008 to May 7, 2008

For more information, please pick up a brochure located in the Welcome Area and at the Concierge Desk, or contact Rev. Janice Ladd at 713-861-9149 x104 or by email at RevJL@ResurrectionMCC.org

Christian Education for ALL Ages!



Nursery (0 - 2 years)

Located in the front hallway outside Sanctuary. Provided for all ages, during every service.

Sprouts Children's Worship (3 - 5 years)

Children leave during 11 am service, return for communion.
Activities Building Room #107

Faith Beginnings Children's Worship (6 - 12 years)

Children leave during 11 am service, return for communion.

Activities Building Room #108

Youth (13 - 18 years)
youthLife @ 12:30 pm TODAY, Activities Building
youthLife occurs every 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month.

Adults (18+ years)

Creating a Life That Matters (see ad, left) Resurrection Connection (see ad, below)

For more information, please contact Jason Wood, 832-971-0354 or JWood@ResurrectionMCC.org



RESURRECTION GUMBO: Cookin' Up Sermons with Rev. Dwayne

THIS Thursday, September 27 7:00 - 8:30 pm Gathering Place



Sometimes after a sermon someone will share an idea with me that came to them during the sermon. What if those great ideas were brought to me before the sermon? Creating a sermon is like making a big pot of gumbo. I bring together lots of ingredients, mix them together and let them simmer.

I'm inviting you to bring your ideas, stories, diversity, and creativity and join me in my sermon kitchen to help cook up some sermons for November.

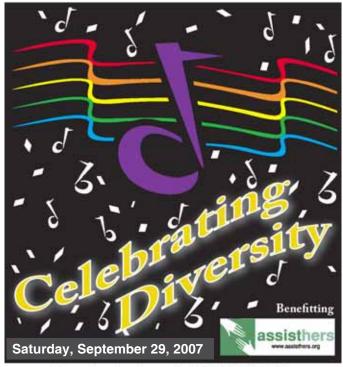
This Thursday, we'll be mixing ingredients for two messages I'm preparing for **RESURRECTION**November with the theme,

Be Strong in the Strength.

So bring your Bibles and prayers and let's watch how the Spirit will work through us together.



The Houston Pride Band Presents



Concert Location: Resurrection MCC • 2025 W. 11th St 7:30 PM (Doors open @ 7:00 PM) • Tickets \$10 Available at The Door For More Info Call: 713-862-9491 • www.houstonprideband.org

YARNWEH

Whether your talent is little or big, Yarnweh needs you. Creating for the community is a form of ministry that encompasses talent, tithe and treasures. Come create and be a part of this fellowship building ministry!!!

The first "redirection"
circle will be held Sunday,
October 14th, 12:30 2:30 in the Gathering
Place. For more
information,
call Charles Clark II
at 832-372-1280 or
email him at
Yarnweh@
ResurrectionMCC.org

Lay Delegate Openings

The 2007 Nominating Committee invites all Resurrection MCC members to apply for openings on the Lay Delegation.

We will be filling six (6) Lay Delegate openings.

The application process will close on Septmeber 30, 2007.

Applications available at Sanctuary entrances, in the church office, and online at www.ResurrectionMCC.org

One year church membership is required for consideration.

If you have questions, please speak to any Nominating Committee member (Georgia Chambers, Lynn Jenkins, Yolanda Richardson, and Win Boyd), or email Georgia at Nominating@ResurrectionMCC.org



THE 11TH ANNUAL HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



For The Bible Tells Me So TODAY! 3 pm Angelika Film Center Bayou Place at 510 Texas Ave.

Resurrection MCC is collaborating with Q-Fest to present For The Bible Tells Me So... "A powerful, thought-provoking meditation on what it means to be gay and Christian, Daniel Karslake's acclaimed documentary features five families who have confronted a crisis of faith upon the discovery of their child's homosexuality."

Resurrection will have a table outside the theater, will introduce the film, and tell the audience about Resurrection. Join Us!

Full details available at www.q-fest.org

Blessing of the Animals Saturday, October 6, 10:30 - 11:30 am



They're more than pets... they're family!



\$8 per session / \$2 per coverall game

Food, Fun, Fabulous Prizes!

Proceeds benefit Children & Youth, General Fund





Did we buy a new organ?

The answer is: NO! Many of you will notice that we have a new organ console sitting on the chancel. That organ is a Wicks Royal Classic Organ. It is a new design from the Wicks Pipe Organ Co. of Highland, IL. Because of a long-standing relationship between me and that family-owned business, they have agreed to place this brand new digitally sampled organ in

our sanctuary as a demonstration instrument to people in the South Texas Region who might be interested in purchasing one. The Wicks Organ Co. will be sending people to our worship space to hear the organ and have me or Joel demonstrate its capabilities to them. In return, we get to use the instrument free of charge. If the organ should be sold, they will bring us another instrument of equal or greater capacity!

This particular organ has a larger console and more speakers and amplifiers, but does have a few less stops than our other instrument. However, this instrument is digitally sampled note by note and stop by stop from the vintage organ at the Basilica in St. Louis, Mo. You will notice a fuller sound coming from this instrument and the different colors of the organ will amaze all listeners. Feel free to come by and take a look at the beautiful console as well.

For more information on the Wicks Pipe Organ Co., visit www.wicksorgan.com. For more information on the organ at the Basilica in St. Louis, visit www.cathedralstl.org.

Blessing to you all, Steven Couch Director of Worship

Gospel Ensemble Concert

Resurrection's Gospel Ensemble, directed by Cassandra White, will present a concert on Sunday, October 14th, at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. This concert's offering will benefit Resurrection's general fund.

Our Gospel Ensemble was recently featured at the General Conference of UFMCC in Scottsdale, Arizona, to very high acclaim. The concert will feature some of the 'greatest hits' of our Gospel Ensemble and some new selections not yet heard. Mark your calendars now to be a part of this worship experience...and bring a friend! Or two!

African-American Cross-Denominational Group & World's Largest Predominantly Gay Christian Denomination Announce Joint Efforts to Promote "Radical Inclusivity"

The Fellowship, Metropolitan Community Churches Unveil Goals; Plan Calls for 10 Major U.S. City Gatherings in 2008

On September 11, 2007, with the backdrop of 9-11 as catalyst, the leadership of The Fellowship Churches (www.radicallyinclusive.com), a national U.S. trans-denominational fellowship of primarily African-American Christian leaders working for radical inclusivity, and Metropolitan Community Churches (www.MCCchurch.org), the world's largest and oldest Christian denomination with a primary, affirming ministry to lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgender individuals, gathered at DaySpring Conference Center in Florida to declare solidarity and commit to work in unity on three objectives.

Storm Recovery Update



We had another close call last week with Hurricane Humberto. Many of you came by to see if you could help secure the property as a precaution to the projected rainfall. I stand in awe that over the years weather has challenged our brick and mortar, but never our church. Resurrection members and friends always pull

together and find a way to worship.

That is what happened back in June when our roof gave way to heavy wind and rain. Water was pouring into our music room and offices and was threatening our sanctuary. But within a few hours, Resurrection family moved all the furniture out of harm's way and a restoration crew arrived to remove the excess water and install a temporary patch on the roof.

Since that day, we have been seeking approval from our insurance to begin reconstruction of the roof, walls, and ceiling that were damaged. Unfortunately, our insurance company denied the claim and on Monday, September 10, our public adjuster informed me that he sees no way to argue their denial. The Board of Directors is currently in dialogue with our banks to secure the financing to move forward with the repairs, and I have been gathering estimates.

I'll keep you posted as we continue the recovery efforts. Your continued prayers and support are greatly appreciated.

Blessings, Rev. Janice Ladd Executive Pastor

FIRST JOINT OBJECTIVE:

-- Resistance to and healing of religious and spiritual violence perpetrated against people who have traditionally lived at the margins of society, including people suffering from substance abuse; people living with HIV/AIDS and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and inter-sex people;

SECOND JOINT OBJECTIVE:

-- Radical and full inclusion of all people living at the margins of communities of faith and spiritual practice;

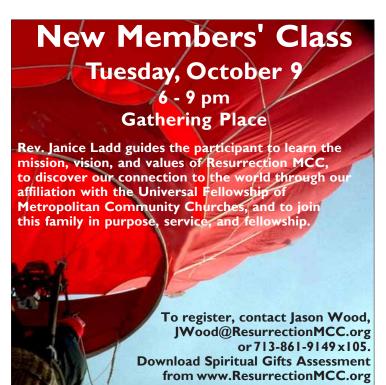
THIRD JOINT OBJECTIVE:

-- Commitment to the deep and challenging work toward reconciling the historical divisions in faith and religious communities created by racism, sexism, classism,



Rev. Nancy Wilson (Left) Bishop Yvette Flunder (Right)

The full text of this joint declaration can be found online at www.MCCchurch.org





Tickets Available in the Gathering Place TODAY!

Board Members on DutyGeorgette L. Monaghan & Leland McKinney



Holy Union Preparation Seminar

Sunday, October 28 I - 5 pm Lunch Provided Activities Building #108

Are you and your partner thinking about having a Holy Union? This seminar is the recommended first step to having a Holy Union performed by Resurrection clergy.

It is designed to help couples discuss relationship matters, while keeping Christ in the center of their relationship.

You can learn more about having a Holy Union at Resurrection, and download the full information packet from our Web site, www.ResurrectionMCC.org.

Please RSVP via email to JWood@ResurrectionMCC.org or call 713-861-9149 x105.

2 - 3 pm Camp Cho-Yeh

All Excel Graduates are invited to attend the Excel graduation today! Remember your graduation? Come relive yours and meet the new graduates whose lives have changed.

North on Hwy 59, approaching Livingston, turn Right onto the feeder road. Just past the Gabriel/Jordan Ford Dealership. You will pass the East Texas Realty, follow the service road, turn right onto the first street, Washington. Camp Cho-Yeh Conference Center is on your Left. Look for the Graduation Signs!

Flowers for the Sanctuary

Please consider donating flowers for the Sanctuary. Sign up on the flower chart in the Welcome Area today.

General Fund Financial Report Week Ending September 16, 2007 Tithes & Offerings Week Year to Date \$617,550.58 09/12/07 Mid-Week \$38.50 \$11,298.40 \$625,000 09/16/07 9:00 am \$2,528.25 \$163,390.81 144 09/16/07 11:00 am 292 \$7,826.41 \$208,452.03 \$600,000 **Special Services** \$1,388.06 Gift of Love Campaign \$45.00 \$14,290.30 \$575,000 Other Contributions \$1,911.00 \$97,712.57 \$546,113.94 441 \$12,349.16 **Total** \$496,532.17 \$540,470.80 \$550,000 Other General Fund Income **Fundraising** \$0.00 \$24,877.15 Miscellaneous \$285.00 \$24,704.62 \$525,000 \$546,113.94 **Total Received** \$12,634.16 **Budgetary Need** \$22,424.61 \$617,550.58 \$500,000 **Total Surplus / (Deficit)** (\$9,790.46)(\$71,436.64) Actual Spent Actual Received Budgetary Need

This Week @ ResurrectionMCC.org

SUNDAY	,	SEPTEMBER 23	
9:00 am 10:15 am 11:00 am 11:15 am 12:30 pm 1:30 pm	Sunday Worship / Rev. Janice L Fisher's Net Prayer Ministry Sunday Worship / Rev. Janice L Children & Youth Worship Service youthLife HeavenSound Handbells Rehearsal	Chapel	
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 24			
6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Board of Directors' Meeting JustUs Rehearsal	Gathering Place Chapel	
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 25			
7:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Gospel Ensemble Rehearsal Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (Ope Timbergrove Neighborhood Associati	<i>'</i>	
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 26			
7:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Mid-Week Worship Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Houston Pride Band	Chapel Sanctuary Activities Building	
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 27			
7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Resurrection Connection Resurrection Singers Rehearsal	Gathering Place Chapel	
FRIDAY		SEPTEMBER 28	
7:30 pm	Karaoke Cafe	Gathering Place	
7:30 pm	Houston Pride Band Concert	Sanctuary	
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 30			
9:00 am 10:15 am 11:00 am 11:15 am 1:30 pm	Sunday Worship / Rev. Dwayne Fisher's Net Prayer Ministry Sunday Worship / Rev. Dwayne Children & Youth Worship Service HeavenSound Handbells Rehearsal	Chapel	