



# Resurrection

Metropolitan Community Church

Volume 02, Issue 51

December 16, 2007

**Prelude**

HeavenSound Handbells

*Gesu Bambino*

Arranged by Sharon Rogers

**Our Community Gathers**

Rev. Dwayne Johnson & Jason Wood

**+ Exchange of Peace**

**Introit**

*Carol of the Bells*


Arranged by Wilhousky

Sanctuary Choir

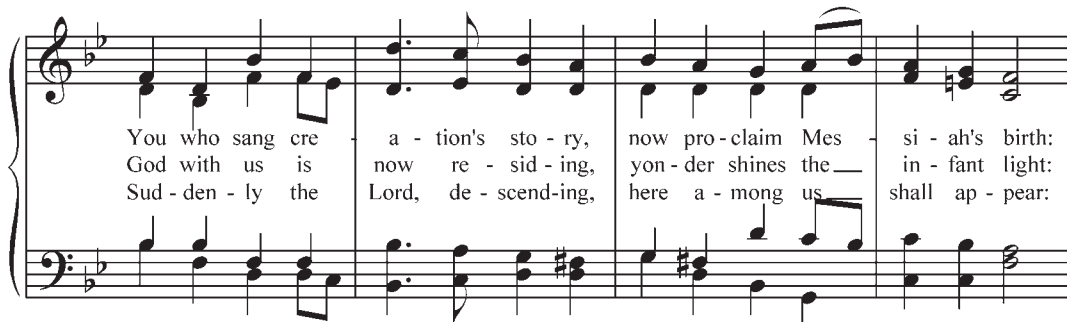
**+ Processional Hymn**

REGENT SQUARE

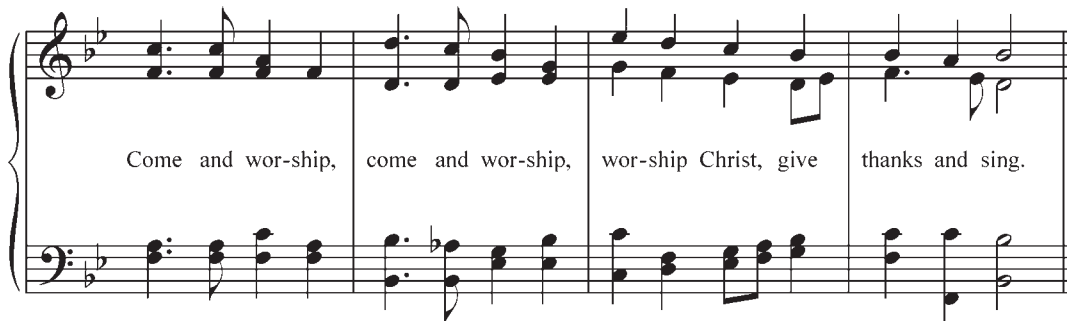
*Angels From the Realms of Glory*



An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,



You who sang cre a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light:  
 Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, here a - mong us shall ap - pear:



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, give thanks and sing.

**+ Invocation**

Rev. Janice Ladd

+ Please rise in body or spirit.

## We Prepare

As the prelude begins, the congregation is invited to be in an attitude of expectation for the worship of God.

## We Worship

The text of this hymn comes from the birth narratives told in Luke 2 & Matthew 2.

The hymn is considered by many to be one of the best of the Christmas hymns.

The text tells, in a well-organized and emotionally moving style, the story of angels, shepherds, and sages. The fourth stanza tells of the devout world looking toward Christ's coming again.

Originally titled *Nativity, Angels From the Realms of Glory*, it was written by Scotsman James Montgomery for publication in the 1816 Christmas Eve edition of his *Sheffield Iris*. It was not until the hymn appeared in his publication *The Christian Psalmist* (1825), that it became universally popular.

## We Prepare

There is some evidence to suggest that a form of the Advent Wreath first occurred in the Middle Ages; however, the first modern Advent wreath was made by Johann Hinrich Wichern (1808-1881), a German theologian and educator that founded a home for poor children in the city of Hamburg. During the Advent season, the children asked daily if Christmas had arrived. In 1839, he built a wooden ring (made out of a cartwheel) with 19 small red and 4 big white candles. A small candle was lit successively every day of Advent. On Sundays, a large white candle was lit. This eventually led to the modern Advent Wreath with its four candles. In 1860, people started to entwine the wooden ring with evergreen cuttings. The Advent wreath became a German Christmas tradition at the beginning of the 20th century. In Austria and Southern Germany (particularly Bavaria) it did not become a custom before 1930. It has now spread to other countries as well. Eventually, the Advent Wreath made its way into various Protestant churches and later into Roman Catholic churches in the United States.

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Rev. Charli Merchant

One: Today we relight the candle of unity and the candle of fulfillment.  
We also light the third candle for hope.

**All: We pray that we will live in expectation as we keep hope alive.**

One: May we learn to be hope to our community and our world.

**All: May we live in expectation for that day to come.**

One: Let us pray:

## Community Prayer

### Response

Raise, raise your song on high, and listen for a lul-la-by;  
Joy, joy in hope and peace - wait the child of Mar-y!

## Hebrew Reading

Marlon Bourque (9 am)  
Aaron Capps (11 am)

### *Isaiah 35:1-10*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory and majesty of God.

Strengthen weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, coming to defeat your enemies. God is coming to save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the evil-hearted shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of God shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

## Anthem

Praise Dancers

### *Christmas Jubilee*

Traditional Carols recorded by Whitney Houston

+ Gospel Reading

Rev. Janice Ladd

*Matthew 11:2-6*

One: While John was in prison, he heard about the works the Messiah was performing, and sent a message by way of his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the one we are looking for? Or must we wait for someone else?" In reply, Jesus said to them, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see:

**All: "Those who are blind recover their sight;**

One: Those who cannot walk are able to walk;

**All: Those with leprosy are cured;**

One: Those who are deaf hear;

**All: The dead are raised to life;**

One: And the poor have good news brought to them.'

**All: "Blessed are those who are not offended by me." Amen.**

Special Music

Terry Jones

*Just In Time for Christmas*

Words & Music by David Friedman

Spiritual Encouragement

Rev. Dwayne Johnson

*Unexpected Expectations:  
Unexpected Hope*

Making Ministry Happen

Rev. Janice Ladd & Jules Gauvin

Offertory

Sanctuary Choir & Ron Williams

*The First Noel*

Arranged by Rhonda Polay

Communion

Rev. Charli Merchant

One: On the night you were betrayed you took the bread;

After giving thanks you broke it and said,

"This is my body broken for you, and as you eat it remember me;

**All: This is my body broken for you and as you eat it, remember me.**

One: On the night you were betrayed you held the cup

After giving thanks you lifted it up.

This is my life poured out for you, and as you drink it remember me.

**All: This is my life poured out for you, and as you drink it remember me.**

One: So we thank you for the cup and for the bread,

For we see the life you gave and the blood you shed.

**All: And we remember your wondrous love;**

**You gave your body you shed your blood.**

**And we remember your wondrous love**

**You gave your Spirit to live in us.**

**And we remember your wondrous love;**

**You gave your body you shed your blood.**

**And we remember your wondrous love**

**You gave your Spirit to live in us.**

**We Hear  
the Word**

"Isaiah does not speak gently to them of incremental improvements or baby steps toward home. He tells a story not just of safe passage but of a blooming desert. Isaiah describes a way that will be not only predator free, but also fool friendly. He pictures the travelers not as tired slaves returning from exile, but freed prisoners, healthy and strong, and dancing their way home."  
-Mary Hinkle Shore,  
*New Proclamation*

**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 Sing

During a year's sabbatical from his ministry at Holy Trinity Church in Philadelphia, author Phillips Brooks (1835-1893) rode to Bethlehem on horseback for Christmas Eve 1865. As a year that had seen the end of the American Civil War and the assassination of an American President drew to a close, Brooks' longing for peace found expression as he pondered the "everlasting light" that had shone in Bethlehem's "dark streets."

Once believed to have been composed by Martin Luther, its origin, text and tune have been traced by modern research to the United States of the nineteenth century. Although the text is of unknown origin, the tune AWAY IN A MANGER was composed by James R. Murray (1842-1905). At one time he taught music in the public schools of Andover, Massachusetts. He later served as an editor for a publisher of sacred music.

## Communion Songs

### *Emmanuel*

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, your name is called Emmanuel;  
God with us, revealed in us; your name is called Emmanuel.

Words & Music by Bob McGee  
© 1976 C.A. Music (div. of Christian Artists Corp.)  
CCLI License #1025612

### *Jesus, Name Above All Names*

Jesus, name above all names;  
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.  
Emmanuel, God is with us;  
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

Words & Music by Naida Hearn  
© 1974, 1978 Scripture in Song (admin. by Maranatha! Music)  
CCLI License #1025612

### *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.  
How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the joys of highest heaven.  
No ear may hear Christ's coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

Words by Phillips Brooks, Music by Lewis H. Redner  
© Public Domain  
Tune: ST. LOUIS

### *Away in a Manger*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.  
Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Words anonymous, Music by James R. Murray  
© Public Domain  
Tune: AWAY IN A MANGER

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Charli Merchant

### + Benediction

Rev. Dwayne Johnson

### + Benediction Response



Glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!  
Glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

## Postlude

Joel Hammett





## *Sacred Reading*

Hope does not deny the circumstances of the present, and hope doesn't help us get out of our difficulties. Hope doesn't get us out, but it does get us through.

~ Peter Gomes, *The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart*, 205.

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hope is knowing  
that when winter crushes  
autumn's beauty  
that it comes to restore the land  
just as hope  
fans the flames  
of the courage we share  
to survive  
to heal  
and to love

~ Karen Dutil,  
sister of Resurrection MCC member, Winifred Boyd

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We must live with hope, yet we cannot live by hope. It is fine to hope for the best. That, however, is not enough. We cannot merely hope; we must take action.

It is sad how many things are tolerated in the hope that they will improve. Hoping for the best won't do anything. Working and taking action, with hope in your heart, will bring about results. That's a powerful combination. Hope works in your favor only as long as it is accompanied by action and commitment.

~ Ralph Marston

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The fear of commitment taking us to places where we are not in control is real and terrifying, but there are great rewards for not being a coward. Can't we build a faith on commitment to relationships come hell or high water, to a belief that all things are indispensable and precious and worth saving, even our dreams?

~ Sandy Brawders, "A Call from the Past,"

*Called Out: The Voices & Gifts of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Presbyterians.*  
Edited by Jane Adams Spahr, Kathryn Poethig, Selisse Berry, and Melinda V. McLain. 246, adapted.

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## *Spiritual Maturity & Application*

Monday's scripture from Hebrews 6: 13-19 challenges us to "seize the hope." Many people seem overwhelmed by a chronic, low-grade hopelessness. Adrift in a sea of busyness and pressure, they are looking for something to grab hold of--anything to keep them afloat.

What is your greatest source of hope? In what areas of your life are you most in need of hope? Hebrews speaks of hope as an "anchor of the soul." Reflect on that image. What other symbol or image would remind you of hope? Doodle or find a picture of that item, and hang it in a prominent place where you can see it and let it strengthen you. Or find an item (a small stone for example) and carry or display it as a symbol of hope.

~ *Spiritual Formation Bible*, 1593, adapted.

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Tuesday and Wednesday readings from the Psalms speak to the promise of hope. Hope is a very important word in the Psalms. Psalm 65 describes creation's beauty and expresses the psalmist's conviction that God is "the hope of all the ends of the earth."

Some days when the newspaper tells us another sad story of a school shooting, injustice to the poor, or political corruption, it is difficult to feel that hope. An overload of bad news can numb our hearts.

As a way of remaining faithful to God's undying love for the world, take a story or issue from the world news and make it a focus of intercessory prayer for the day (or perhaps the week). Be a partner with God in hope as you pray.

~ *Spiritual Formation Bible*, 746, adapted.

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## Staff

### Rev. Dwayne Johnson

Senior Pastor

RevDJ@ResurrectionMCC.org (x101)

### Rev. Janice Ladd

Executive Pastor

RevJL@ResurrectionMCC.org (x104)

### Steven Couch

Director of Worship

SCouch@ResurrectionMCC.org (x109)

### Mark Eggleston

Director of Outreach

MEggleston@ResurrectionMCC.org (x106)

### Jason Wood

Director of Connections

JWood@ResurrectionMCC.org (x105)

### Joel Hammett

Organist

### Ken Thompson

Audio / Visual Director

### Justin West

Pianist

### Anthony White

Gospel Ensemble Pianist

### Cassandra White

Gospel Ensemble Director

### Jim Winslett

HeavenSound Handbells Director

## Volunteer Staff Clergy

### Rev. Bernie Barbour

RevBB@ResurrectionMCC.org

### Rev. Dr. Sharon Bezner

### Rev. Rick Elliott

### Rev. Mona Lopez

RevML@ResurrectionMCC.org

### Rev. Tracye Ruffin

RevTR@ResurrectionMCC.org

## Worship

Sunday, 9:00 am & 11:00 am

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.



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

Please stop by the **Concierge Desk**

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 Sunday services, at 9 & 11 am, are identical in form, however they contain different elements from diverse religious traditions each week.

## 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 all-encompassing 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!*

# Merry Christmas!



*"Favorite Place to Worship!"*

OutSmart Readers' Choice Awards 2007

Candlelight Communion  
Christmas Eve Services  
Monday, December 24  
8:00 & 10:00 pm

Children's Worship, Friends & Fellowship, Holy Union, Sermon Podcast  
2025 W. 11th St @ T.C. Jester, Houston 77008 • 713-861-9149 • [www.ResurrectionMCC.org](http://www.ResurrectionMCC.org)

## New Members' Class

Saturday, January 19  
9 am - 12 pm

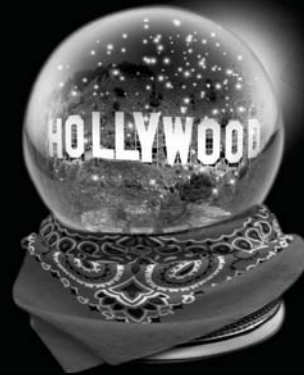
Gathering Place  
Breakfast Served

Rev. Janice Ladd guides the participant to learn the mission, vision, and values of Resurrection MCC, to discover our connection to the world through our affiliation with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, and to join this family in purpose, service, and fellowship.

Please RSVP to Jason Wood, [JWood@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto:JWood@ResurrectionMCC.org) or 713-861-9149 x105. Download Spiritual Gifts Assessment from [www.ResurrectionMCC.org](http://www.ResurrectionMCC.org)

THE BAYOU CITY PERFORMING ARTS 2007-2008 CONCERT SEASON

## ECHOES



### Ho-Ho-Ho-down to Holly-wood: Echoes of the Season

A holiday classic  
Gay Men's Chorus of Houston  
Bayou City Women's Chorus  
Bayou City Chorale  
Tuesday, December 18, 2007  
Jones Hall | 7:30 PM  
Tickets from \$19 - \$39

To order tickets call 713-521-7464, or purchase them online at [www.BayouCityPerformingArts.org](http://www.BayouCityPerformingArts.org).





## Our Children Need You! Teachers & Volunteers Needed

for our Children & Youth Ministry

Nursery (0 - 2 years) Sprouts (3 - 5 years)  
Faith Beginnings (6 - 12 years) Youth (13 - 18 years)

We are now training volunteers to care for and teach our children and youth. Jason Wood, Director of Connections, will be providing one-on-one training at your earliest convenience.

Contact Jason at 832-971-0354 or by email,  
JWood@ResurrectionMCC.org

## Food Pantry Monthly Food Drive

**TODAY!**

*3rd Sunday of each month*

**Welcome Area**

**Forgot your donation?  
Cash is always welcome.**

Needed: Canned Meats, Canned Vegetables,  
Canned Fruit, Canned Juice, Canned Soup,  
Pasta, Bagged Rice, Dry Beans



## Parents Lunch Social TODAY!

**December 16, 12:30 pm  
Lunch Served, Childcare Provided**

Parents, Parents-To-Be, or those interested in becoming parents, are invited to join us!

*Enjoy lunch, fellowship with other parents, and hear from Paige Schilt, Director of National Media for Soulforce, as she discusses the social justice collaborative efforts between Soulforce and UFMCC, starting Mother's Day weekend, 2008!*

If you'd like to receive information about future events for Parents, email Parents@ResurrectionMCC.org



Paige Schilt

## Single?

Join Us!

To join our new singles group, or learn about our upcoming gatherings, email Brandon at Singles@ResurrectionMCC.org



## Music Ministry Opportunities



Resurrection MCC is so blessed to have a number of music groups to minister at our worship services. Solo or professional quality voices are not necessary to be a part of these groups. Below is a list of the groups and when they meet. Please take some time to consider being a part of Resurrection MCC's music ministry.

### Gospel Ensemble

Tuesdays, 7 pm

Directed by Cassandra White, this group sings music in the African-American Gospel tradition, traditional Spirituals and contemporary music of all types. Reading music is not required for this group, but the ability to match pitch and sing a part separate from the melody is.

### Sanctuary Choir

Wednesdays, 7 pm

This group sings mostly traditional church choral music with some contemporary music added from time to time. The group is directed by Steven Couch. Reading music is not required for this group, but the ability to match pitch and sing a part separate from the melody is.

### Praise Dancers

Saturdays, 1 pm

This group is a dance troupe that ministers through dance and movement. Led by Marcus Carter & Leslie Jackson, this group has its own choreographers. Experience in dance is not necessary, if one has the willingness to learn.

### Resurrection Singers

Thursdays, 7 pm

This is our newest group. Reading music would be very helpful and being comfortable on a separate microphone. This group is directed by Steven Couch.

### HeavenSound Handbells

Sundays, 1:30 pm

Currently there are several open spots in the handbell choir. Interested people need to have some music reading skills. Experience in ringing is not required. The director, Jim Winslett, will teach anyone the techniques of ringing.

### Resurrection Orchestra

Weekly rehearsal day has not been determined. We currently have about 6 people interested in beginning this new group, however, we need a few more to have a balanced instrumentation. Reading music is essential, as is having your own instrument (other than percussion).

If you have interest in any of these groups, please email SCouch@ResurrectionMCC.org or call 713-861-9149 x109

# Get Connected!

[www.ResurrectionMCC.org](http://www.ResurrectionMCC.org)

## Second Family Care Partners

**Kristia Ammerman**

SecondFamily@ResurrectionMCC.org

This care team acts as extended family and friends, offering emotional, practical, and spiritual support.

If you would like to receive a care visit, or are interested in becoming a care visitor, please contact Jason at JWood@ResurrectionMCC.org or call 832-971-0354.

Meet 1st Sun, 12:30, Act. Bldg #108

## Loaves & Fishes

**Robert Sliepka**

LoavesAndFishes@ResurrectionMCC.org

*Do you like cooking, serving, and providing nourishment to others?*

This group provides food for those in need due to a funeral, a special need, as well as for occasional church events.

## Care Callers

**Karen Cruse**

**Terry Talley**

CareCallers@ResurrectionMCC.org

*Do you have a friendly, loving attitude and enjoy speaking with people on the phone?*

Our care callers make phone calls to our first time visitors and follow up on congregational care needs.

## Volunteer Receptionist

**Fabiola Cruz**

**Carole Wiseman**

**Jerry Reitz**

Reception@ResurrectionMCC.org

*Do you like answering the phone and helping out around an office?*

We need people to help answer our phone each day from Sunday through Friday.

Training can be done immediately. Please contact Jason Wood for additional information, or to sign up.

## Concierge Desk

**Leslie Jackson**

Concierge@ResurrectionMCC.org

*Do you like to help people feel welcome and included?*

We need loving, warm and friendly people to serve at the Concierge Desk, located in the Gathering place, before and after both Sunday Worship Services!

This desk will help welcome new visitors, provide them with a free gift, and help them get connected.

## Ushers

**Kecia Bullock**

**Dave Mathis**

Ushers@ResurrectionMCC.org

We need ushers for 9 & 11 am Sunday Worship Services.

There are 10 exciting teams!

Each team ushers one service a month, at either the 9 am or 11 am Service.

Remember, "No one is *JUST* an usher."

## Inspirations Coffee Cafe

**Travis Ochoa**

**Marcus Carter**

Inspirations@ResurrectionMCC.org

*Do you enjoy coffee, gifts, and fellowship?*

We need enthusiastic volunteers to serve before and after both Sunday Worship Services.

Volunteers are also needed during the week to help with restocking inventory, cleaning, and general maintenance.

## Welcome Team

**Flo Perry**

Welcome@ResurrectionMCC.org

*Do you like helping people feel special and welcome the moment they arrive to the church?*

We want to welcome people to the church and help them get to where they need to go.

Team members will be positioned at every door and sidewalk, greeting people with a smile and kind word, offering directions or answering questions.



## Poinsettias for the Sanctuary!

Resurrection is again taking orders for poinsettias to fill our sanctuary during the Advent Season. Consider honoring a loved one, friend, spouse, or ministry leader. You can also give them in memory of those no longer with us.

In our Christmas Eve bulletin each person's name will appear with the person they are honoring or memorializing.

Poinsettias are \$12.00. Simply tear out this form and place it in the offering basket with your check or put cash in an envelope and mark it poinsettias.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Poinsettias: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

-or-

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_



## Holy Union Preparation Seminar

**Sunday, Jan 6, 12:30 - 3:30 pm**  
**Gathering Place / Lunch Served**

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.



## New Year's Eve Worship Service

**Monday,**  
**December 31, 7:00 pm**

**Spiritual**  
**Encouragement by**  
**Chris DeJohn**





## Christmas Jar Update

by Jules Gauvin

So, how is that Christmas Jar coming? Mine is almost to the top. Have you been putting your coins into a jar since reading my last article, or are you still throwing them into the cup holder in your car? Perhaps you're still emptying your pockets at night and tossing your change into a drawer? Huh? What? What am I talking about?

Well, last Christmas I read a book by Jason Wright called Christmas Jars. In the book, there is a family that collects coins all year long and puts them in their Christmas Jar. On Christmas Eve the family goes out and finds someone in need of that money and gives them the jar.

I stayed up late that night reading this book and knew that I would start my own Christmas Jar come January 1st and went off to bed. As the night wore on I had a vision, some may call a dream, regarding our church. I clearly saw, during our Christmas Eve Service, people getting out of the pews, walking down the aisles, carrying their own Christmas Jars and laying them on the steps at the front of the sanctuary. I saw this as if I were there. I knew I had to tell you about it and help make it happen.

So, dust off those jars....empty those cup holders and drawers....because I'd love for you to join us when we walk on down the aisle on Christmas Eve carrying our Christmas Jars full of coins for Resurrection MCC.

I can't wait to hear the jingle of coins on Christmas Eve.

### Meet Me at the Manger

Consider a Christmas gift to the church. White boxes are available at each entrance to the Sanctuary. Boxes may be laid in the manger during our Sunday, December 23, and Christmas Eve Worship Services.

### Board Members on Duty

Georgette L. Monaghan & Jerry Reitz  
Board Minutes Available Upon Request.

## O.W.L.S. Gathering

Outreach, Wisdom, Laughter, Support: A Seniors' Ministry

**THIS Tuesday, December 18**  
**12:00 pm, Gathering Place**  
**Caravan to Pat Walker's Home for Christmas Party**

RSVP to [OWLS@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto:OWLS@ResurrectionMCC.org)  
Lunches held the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each Month

### A.A. Recovery Group

Every Tuesday, 7 pm - 8 pm  
Wellness Center

This is an open meeting of  
Alcoholics Anonymous.

For more information, please call  
Jason Wood, Director of Connections, at 832-971-0354.



**yL**®

**youthLife**  
**Next Sunday**  
**12:30 pm**  
**Activities Bldg.**

*youthLife meets 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month.*  
**Now Training Volunteers!** [JWood@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto:JWood@ResurrectionMCC.org)

### Christmas Card Mailbox

Drop off Christmas Cards for your Resurrection family members in the "mailbox" in the Gathering Place.



Or mail them to:

Recipient's Name  
c/o Resurrection MCC  
2025 W. 11th St  
Houston TX 77008-6320

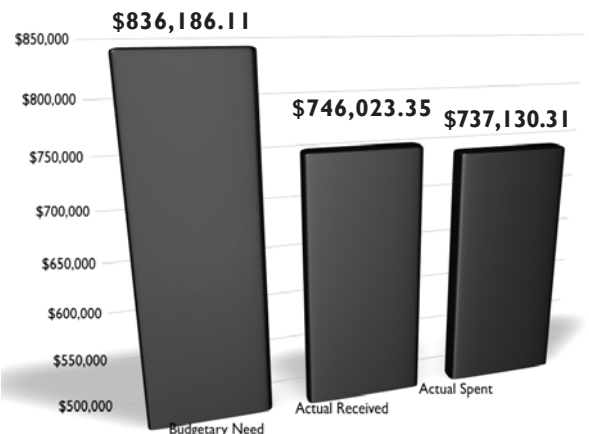
### Flowers for the Sanctuary

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

## General Fund Financial Report

Week Ending December 9, 2007

| Tithes & Offerings               |            | Week                | Year to Date         |
|----------------------------------|------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 12/09/07 9:00 am                 | 141        | \$3,544.20          | \$208,392.52         |
| 12/09/07 11:00 am                | 278        | \$5,294.25          | \$282,273.81         |
| Special Services                 | 403        | \$3,677.50          | \$20,397.22          |
| Online Giving                    |            | \$1,365.00          | \$20,654.29          |
| Gift of Love Campaign            |            |                     | \$14,440.30          |
| Other Contributions              |            | \$1,068.31          | \$113,323.50         |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>822</b> | <b>\$14,949.26</b>  | <b>\$659,481.64</b>  |
| <b>Other General Fund Income</b> |            |                     |                      |
| Fundraising                      |            | \$216.00            | \$25,510.15          |
| Miscellaneous                    |            | \$10.00             | \$61,031.56          |
| <b>Total Received</b>            |            | <b>\$15,175.26</b>  | <b>\$746,023.35</b>  |
| <b>Budgetary Need</b>            |            | <b>\$17,604.63</b>  | <b>\$836,186.11</b>  |
| <b>Total Surplus / (Deficit)</b> |            | <b>(\$2,429.37)</b> | <b>(\$90,162.76)</b> |



# This Week @ ResurrectionMCC.org

## SUNDAY DECEMBER 16

- 9:00 am **Sunday Worship / Rev. Dwayne Johnson**  
10:15 am Fisher's Net Prayer Ministry *Chapel*  
11:00 am **Sunday Worship / Rev. Dwayne Johnson**  
11:15 am Children & Youth Worship Service *Activities Building*  
12:30 pm Parents Lunch Social & Soulforce *Activities Building*  
1:30 pm HeavenSound Handbells Rehearsal *Sanctuary*

## MONDAY DECEMBER 17

- 6:30 pm JustUs Rehearsal *Chapel*

## TUESDAY DECEMBER 18

- 12:00 pm O.W.L.S. Luncheon *Gathering Place*  
7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (Open) *Wellness Center*  
7:00 pm Gospel Ensemble Rehearsal *Chapel*

## WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 19

- 7:00 pm Houston Pride Band Rehearsal *Activities Building*  
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal *Chapel*

## THURSDAY DECEMBER 20

- 8:00 am NCS CM In-Service Training *Gathering Place*  
7:00 pm Resurrection Singers Rehearsal *Chapel*

## FRIDAY DECEMBER 21

*No Events Scheduled.*

## SATURDAY DECEMBER 22

*No Events Scheduled.*

## SUNDAY DECEMBER 23

- 9:00 am **Sunday Worship / Rev. Dwayne Johnson**  
10:15 am Fisher's Net Prayer Ministry *Chapel*  
11:00 am **Sunday Worship / Rev. Dwayne Johnson**  
11:15 am Children & Youth Worship Service *Activities Building*  
12:30 pm youthLife! *Activities Building*  
1:30 pm HeavenSound Handbells Rehearsal *Sanctuary*