

Easter

March 23, 2008



Resurrection
Metropolitan Community Church

Staff

Rev. Dwayne Johnson

Senior Pastor

RevDwayne@ResurrectionMCC.org (x101)

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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

RevBernie@ResurrectionMCC.org

Rev. Rick Elliott

Rev. Mona Lopez

RevMona@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 Home!



There's no place like home. That's not just a famous line from a movie. It is one way to describe Easter at Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church. This is our spiritual home, a place where you don't have to click your heels to receive a blessing.

Home is knowing that the person next to you is your friend, even if you have yet to meet. Home is knowing that families of birth and families of choice are all welcome. Home is knowing that you can be yourself. If you enjoy tradition, this service offers several nostalgic moments. If you like surprises, you can always expect the unexpected at Resurrection MCC. Part of what makes our worship different from many churches is that we include such variety in every service. All services include quiet contemplation and joyous praise. After services, I often ask, "What was your favorite part of worship today?" Usually I receive a range of responses. This is good news! It means that by offering great variety we help people to experience God in their own unique way.

If you already worship with us often, I hope you'll feel more at home than ever this year. If you are searching for a spiritual home, you'll find Resurrection MCC to be a place of warmth, energy, and wholeness. More plans are in the works than ever before to offer spiritual growth, life development, equality actions, community outreach, life changing worship, and fun gatherings.

Again, I welcome you to Easter at Resurrection MCC. Whether you are a long time member or a brand new friend...welcome home!

Peace & Blessings,
Rev. Dwayne

Visiting Us for the First Time?

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** 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.

Prelude

Joel Hammett

Easter Hymn

Arr. Powell

Our Community Gathers

Rev. Dwayne Johnson & Mark Eggleston

+ Exchange of Peace

+ Processional Hymn

EASTER HYMN

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Christ the Lord is risen to - day — Al - le - lu - ia!
 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, — Al - le - lu - ia!
 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, — Al - le - lu - ia!
 Soar we now where Christ has led, — Al - le - lu - ia!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say — Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death is now your sting? — Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, — Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt ed Head, — Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high Al - le - lu - ia!
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing — glad — heavens, and earth re - ply — Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where — your — vic - to ry, O grave? — Al - le - lu - ia!
 God — has — o - pened par - a - dise, — Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours — the — cross, the grave, the skies, — Al - le - lu - ia!

+ Invocation

+ Please rise in body or spirit.

Rev. Mona Lopez

We Worship

This hymn comes from a collection of new hymns written in 1708 entitled *Lyra Davidica*. The unknown editor wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. *Easter Hymn* was among the first of a new popular style of that day. This version we have adapted was arranged by famous British composer/arranger, John Rutter.

We Hear the Word

This is part of Paul's letter to the church at Colossae. The Colossians are to live now as if they are already in heaven, because in effect they are with Christ, who is in heaven. They have in effect died and are buried (*hidden*) - not in the earth, but in God, along with Christ, where all wisdom and real knowledge lie hidden, undiscerned by the world. When Christ returns (*is revealed*) they will share his glory.

The Gradual is a response used in the traditional Mass. It is normally sung after the reading of the Epistle. But in modern services it is sometimes used to respond to a reading other than the Gospel.

This is one of the most beautifully told stories in the Bible. Mary's transformation from weeping to joy fulfills Jesus' promises. The angels do not announce Jesus' resurrection, but instead keep the focus on Mary's grief. It is only when Jesus calls her name that Mary recognizes Jesus. Then she calls to him in a personal address or form of endearment for "rabbi," teacher.

He tells Mary she cannot hold on so that he can ascend and all can share fully in the relationship with God.

Epistle Reading

Bill O'Rourke (9 am)
Michelle Freeman (11 am)

Colossians 3:1-4

So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, *act* like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ - that's where the action is. See things from *Christ's* perspective. Your old life is dead. Your new life, which is your *real* life - even though invisible to spectators - is with Christ in God. *Christ* is your life. When Christ (your real life, remember) shows up again on this earth, you'll show up, too - the real you, the glorious you. Meanwhile, be content with who you are, like Christ.

+ Gradual

Blessed Be the Word of the Lord

Bless-ed be the Word of the Lord. God is wor- thy to be praised and a -
dored; — So we lift up all our hearts in one ac - cord, — Sing- ing "Bless-ed be the Word, —
bless - ed be the Word, — bless - ed be the Word — of the Lord.

+ Gospel Reading

Rev. Bernie Barbour

John 20:11-18

One: God be with you!

All: **And also with you!**

One: A reading from the Gospel according to John.

All: **Glory to you, O God.**

Mary stood outside Jesus' tomb weeping. As she wept, she knelt to look into the tomb and saw two angels sitting there, dressed in bright robes, one at the head, the other at the foot of where Jesus' body had been laid. They said to her, "Woman, why do you weep?" "They took the Teacher," she said, "and I don't know where they put him." After she said this, she turned away and saw Jesus standing there. But she didn't recognize him. Jesus spoke to her, "Woman, why do you weep? Who are you looking for?" She, thinking that he was the gardener, said, "If you took him, tell me where you put him so I can care for him." Jesus said, "Mary." Turning to face him, she said in Hebrew, "*Rabboni!*" meaning "Teacher!" Jesus said, "Don't cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to God. Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them, 'I ascend to my Creator and your Creator, my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went, telling the news to the disciples: "I saw the Teacher!" And she told them everything he said to her.

One: This is the Resurrection Gospel.

All: **Praise to you, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit.**

Gloria

Glory to God

Glor-y to God; Glo-ry to God. Glo-ry to God ___ in the high - est. Glo-ry to to God;
Glor-y to God. Glo-ry to God ___ in the high - est. We pray for peace; peace on the earth.
Peace and good will ___ to all peo - ple. We pray for peace; peace on the earth.
Peace and good will ___ to all. Glo-ry to God; glo-ry to God. Glo-ry to God ___ in the
high - est. Glo-ry to God; Glo-ry to God. Glo-ry to God ___ in the high - est!

Words & Music by Steven D. Couch
© 2008 SDC Music & Resurrection MCC

Anthem

Cassandra White
Gospel Ensemble & Sanctuary Choir

They Could Not

Words & Music by Claire Cloninger. Arranged by Steven Couch

Spiritual Encouragement

Rev. Dwayne Johnson



Making Ministry Happen

Rev. Janice Ladd

Offertory

HeavenSound Handbells

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Arranged by Cynthia Dobrinski

Holy Communion

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini
Rev. Janice Ladd

Introduction

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Invitation to the Feast

We Hear the Word

The *Gloria* is also part of the Mass. It is always sung following the reading of the Gospel except during Lent and Advent. The Gloria always proclaims the Glory of God and always requests "peace" to all people.

This song was recorded by Grammy and Dove award-winning artist Sandi Patty. The song tells the story of Jesus' ministry and proclaims the fact that death, the Pharisees nor anything else could keep him from rising from the grave.

We Receive

At Resurrection MCC and at all MCC churches around the world, communion is open to all who wish to partake. Simply come forward as the ushers direct you.

God, we praise you for these gifts that free us from all tombs.

Live life in the fullness of Christ's presence.

We Sing

We sing as a body during the distribution of the elements. If you do not wish to sing, please be in an attitude of prayer for those who wish to meditate during this time. We stand on the chorus of the final communion song in celebration of the Feast of our God.

This version of *Joyful, Joyful* was made popular in the movie *Sister Act II: Back in the Habit*.

Communion Songs

Come, Just as You Are

Come, just as you are. Hear the Spirit call.
Come, just as you are. Come, and see, come, receive; Come, and live forever
Life everlasting; and strength for today.
Taste the Living Water, and never thirst again.
Come, just as you are. Hear the Spirit call.
Come, just as you are. Come, and see, come receive; Come, and live forevermore.

Words & Music by Joe Sabolick
© Maranatha Praise, Inc.
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We Are an Offering

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to you, we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands,
Lord, use our lives they are yours, we are an offering.
All that we have, all that we are, All that we hope to be, we give to you.
We give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to you, we are an offering.

We are an offering
Words & Music by Dwight Liles
© 1984 Bug & Bear Music
CCLI License #1025612

As the Deer

As the deer panteth for the water, so my soul longeth after thee.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship thee.
You alone are my strength, my shield; To you alone, may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship thee.

Words & Music by Martin Nystrom
© 1984 Maranatha! Music
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How Great Thou Art

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.
+ Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee;
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee;
How great thou art! How great thou art!

Words by Stuart K. Hine Tune: O STURE GUD
© 1953 S.K. Hine and Manna Music, Inc
This arrangement by Steven Couch © Cathedral of Hope
CCLI License #1025612

+ Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

Special Music

Cassandra White, Angels in Motion,
Gospel Ensemble, Resurrection Singers
& Sanctuary Choir

Joyful, Joyful

Arranged by Mervyn Warren, Adapted by Roger Emerson

+ Benediction

Rev. Dwayne Johnson

Postlude

Sacred Reading

Of all the mysteries our faith invites us to contemplate, the Resurrection is by far the most astonishing.

~ Wendy M. Wright, *The Rising*, 117-118.

The experience of resurrection is mystical or spiritual. We look up from thoughts of nothingness, and we know it is God. We know resurrection when we become transformed by grace. When we turn around and really listen to the wind, to a baby's voice, to the sweet melody of an anthem or spiritual, to a solo saxophone or flute, to a violin or cello: when we really, really listen, we know resurrection.

~ Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan,
Soul Pearls: Worship Resources for the Black Church, 139, adapted.

Truly this is the unending miracle of love: that one loving person, through his or her love, can embrace God, whose being fills and transcends the entire creation.

~ *The Cloud of Unknowing*

The very idea of resurrection shatters all the categories of comprehension with which we make sense of our world. It draws us instead into a reality that transcends present possibility.

~ Wendy M. Wright, *The Rising*, 117-118.

Spiritual Maturity & Application

This is a perfect week to create a simple yet special prayer reminder, using gifts of color and nature. Create a "prayer arrangement" using flowers, plants and/or other elements of nature. Place it where you will see it several times a day. At such moments, allow the arrangement to call you to briefly pause for a moment of prayer. Ask yourself a question such as, "What was the most life giving moment so far today?"

Praise God for that moment, seek more such moments, and share life with all those around you at work, home, and play.

Thursday's reading is Psalm 136. Read it slowly. Now focus on the line for which this Psalm is so well known: "God's steadfast love endures forever."

Divine love is a theme woven through all of scripture.

Divine love is woven into your story as well: You are born, and God loves you. You take your first steps, and God delights in you. You enjoy a sunset, and God smiles with you.

Think back through the events of the last twenty-four hours. As you remember each event, speak this echoing refrain to yourself: "And God loves me."

Reflect on the sense of God's love and presence that this meditation fosters.

~ Adapted from *The Spiritual Formation Bible*, 809.

New Members Class

Sunday, April 20
1:00 - 3:30 pm

Gathering Place
Lunch 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, Jason@ResurrectionMCC.org or 713-861-9149 x105. Download Spiritual Gifts Assessment from www.ResurrectionMCC.org

Dialogue: Racism

SPRING EIGHT-WEEK 2008 SESSION

Monday Evenings, March 24 through May 5, 2008
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

"[People] hate each other because they fear each other, and they fear each other because they don't know each other, and they don't know each other because they are often separated from each other."

-Dr. Martin Luther King

Dialogue:Racism provides a safe, respectful and loving atmosphere for individuals to learn new information, share their experiences, and ask questions to dispel the fears, to get to know one another, and to stop the separation.

TOPICS FEATURED:

Defining Various Types of Racism, How Racism is Perpetuated, Unaware Racism and White Privilege, Stereotypes and how they affect us, Cultural Racism, Internalized Racism, Institutionalized Racism, Race is a Human Invention, My Next Steps, Finding Allies

The sessions are free and open to the public; registration is required by calling the Center's office at 713-520-8226 and leaving the name(s) and phone numbers of person(s) attending.

www.centerhealingracism.org



By Rev. Janice Ladd

Within the next few weeks, you should receive in the mail, your invitation to participate in the Imagine Capital Campaign. The goal is bold: we want to raise two million dollars over three years and we want this to be over and beyond our regular tithes and offerings. That may sound like a crazy request. It may seem too impossible for us. You may be shaking your head and wondering who lost their marbles in the Board room?

Well, let me take you back to a time and place when fourteen people were assumed to be a few bricks shy of a full load. They began meeting when no one thought you could be gay and Christian...yet they founded a church. They dared to believe that God's love included everyone...and they started a movement. They had the audacity to give their lives to something greater than themselves...and they created countless moments of spiritual transformation. And so I ask, what do you dare to imagine? What do you dare to believe? What is our call today? Are we ready to make a bold stake in our movement of social justice? Can we even imagine the lives we could touch or the souls we could save with God message of love and hope?

Resurrection, it is time! We can do this! Together we can do more than any one of us could imagine. Together we can make a three year commitment that will seed a future for decades to come. Together we will accomplish the dreams God has placed on our hearts. We have a bold mission to spread the message of God's unconditional love and a large vision to attract, include, mature, and mobilize people for God's purposes. Your legacy gift will enable the financial health and long-term stability needed to accomplish this calling.

I ask that you take the time to read the letter and brochure for the campaign when they arrive in your mail. Set time to discuss with God what your role is in the future of the church. Make a commitment to pray for 30 minutes during the 12 hour prayer vigil on Saturday, April 5th. And then, hold on for the ride of a lifetime as we watch what God can do when we dare to dream, believe, give, live...imagine.

Why Become a Legacy Giver?

- To stimulate our worship experience through audio/visual enhancements.
- To forge new friendships through a revitalized, enlarged Welcome Center.
- To design a space that will transform lives by converting the Activities Building into the Life Development Center.
- To create committed leaders for tomorrow through expanded children and youth programs.
- To inspire adults to vitality and wholeness through increased education, wellness, community involvement, and spiritual growth opportunities.
- To reach millions with the *Would Jesus Discriminate?* billboard and marketing campaign.
- To impact the lives of those oppressed through further partnerships with organizations focused on social justice.
- To create financial health and long-term stability through increased payments on our debt.

Single?

Singles Spiritual Gathering

Thursday, March 27

7:30 pm, Chapel

Join Us!

Singles Afternoon Brunch

TODAY! 12:30 pm

Jax Grill, 1613 Shepherd (3 blocks South of I-10)

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



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.



O.W.L.S. Gathering

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

Tuesday, April 1
12:00 pm, Gathering Place

RSVP to Pat Walker, Team Lead, at
OWLS@ResurrectionMCC.org

Potluck lunches held 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each Month

Friday Night OUT

March 28, 7 pm

Dave & Buster's

7620 Katy Freeway

@ Silber (Marq-E Center)



**Join this newly formed social group
for bowling, food and fun!**

For more information, or to join the email list for the
group, email NightOUT@ResurrectionMCC.org

VIP

Volunteer Impact Program

presents

a congregational retreat

EXCEL in the Church
Adults, Children, & Youth

Saturday, May 17
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
\$10

Breakfast & lunch will be served.
Register with Jason@ResurrectionMCC.org

Resurrection
Inspirations
Coffee Café & Gift Shop

In-Stock!

Love Thy Neighbor t-shirts
For the Bible Tells Me So DVD

Volunteers are needed to assist this ministry.
Please contact Jason@ResurrectionMCC.org



Holy Union Preparation Seminar

Sunday, May 4, 1 - 3 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.

Register to Jason@ResurrectionMCC.org

H.O.M.E. Groups

**Attend One
This Week!**

These small groups meet regularly, throughout the Houston area, for prayer, study, fellowship, and outreach.

To attend a HOME Group, please visit our Web site at
www.ResurrectionMCC.org for a list of locations.

If you are interested in starting a new group, please
contact Jason Wood at JWood@ResurrectionMCC.org



Immediate Volunteer Opportunities Available!

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 Jason@ResurrectionMCC.org or call 832-971-0354.

Meets for lunch 1st Sun. at 12:30 pm.

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

Georgette L. Monaghan

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 Receptionists

Fabiola Cruz, John "Bubbles" Dye,

Jerry Reitz, Carole Wiseman

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."

H.O.M.E. Groups

John Garcia

Davis Raley

Marco Santoyo

Robert Sliepka

To attend a HOME Group, please visit our Web site at www.ResurrectionMCC.org for a list of locations.

If you are interested in starting a new group, please contact Jason Wood at Jason@ResurrectionMCC.org or 832-971-0354

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.

Baptism? Yes!

Baptism is a high moment in the Christian spiritual journey, shared in community.

At Resurrection MCC, we consider it a sacred honor to baptize infants, children, and adults.

For more information and to schedule a baptism during a Sunday worship service, contact Jason at Jason@ResurrectionMCC.org



Parents Lunch Social Sunday, April 13 12:30 pm, Activities Building Parents, Parents-To-Be, or those interested in becoming parents, are invited to join us for lunch!

If you aren't able to join us today, but would like to receive announcements about future events, please email Parents@ResurrectionMCC.org



Our Children Need You!

Teachers & Volunteers Needed
for 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 Rev. Kristen at 713-861-9149 x107 or
RevKristen@ResurrectionMCC.org



yL® youthLife
2nd & 4th
Sundays
12:30 pm
Activities Bldg.

Now Training Volunteers! Jason@ResurrectionMCC.org

Equality Ministry Initiative: Creating a Community of Respect at Resurrection



A Community of Respect? Do you want to be a part of it? Can you imagine that it can be done now, here at Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church? If you value this-and you want to be a part of it-now is the time to sign up! Join the Equality Ministry this Sunday in the Gathering Place between services (10:00 - 10:45 am) where members of this ministry will provide you with an opportunity to sign a **Resolution of Respect**. By signing, you are pledging to take personal responsibility for standing up against all forms of prejudice and discrimination and commit yourself to creating a Church community and a world that is a *Community of Respect*.®

Working with the Anti-Defamation League's "No Place for Hate" program, Resurrection's Equality Ministry has submitted a Letter of Intent applying for certification as a Community of Respect. A number of activities and events have taken place in 2008 which qualify Resurrection for this certification; for example: *Dialogue: Racism*; *A Raising of Voices Vigil Against Hate Crimes*; and several of the *Freedom to Marry Week* activities. We are almost there-only a few more events to document and your active support by signing this pledge.

Why? A Way to Live our Values...

Resurrection MCC has as one of its core values a commitment to sustaining a community in which the dignity of every individual is respected. Key to this value is fostering an environment of civility and mutual respect by preventing acts of bias, identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability, age or religion. Such actions interfere with our success and violate our core values and beliefs.

At Resurrection we worship, play, learn and work in a culture that defines itself in terms of intellectual exchange, appreciation of individual differences and respect for each individual's personal dignity. We believe that each of us will discover our spirituality through active participation in the work of God, in pursuit of health, wholeness and justice for everyone. Our diverse blend of members, friends, staff, volunteers and clergy is a tremendous resource, and we all benefit from this mix of perspectives and experiences. For some, this community provides an opportunity to meet and interact with those from other races, cultures and backgrounds. It is through this rich environment that we teach each other and future generations the importance of understanding and valuing every individual's opinions and experiences.

While Resurrection is committed to a respectful and inclusive environment, it can only fulfill that commitment through the actions of individual members and friends of our church community. Each one of us is responsible for treating every member and friend of the church with dignity and respect. If one of us engages in harassment or discrimination, the person subject to that behavior will not feel respected or genuinely valued, or that s/he is an equal member. That person may stop contributing a unique perspective or may lose a feeling of commitment to the community and leave. When one person engages in acts of bias, many of us suffer the effects.

Together we can create and maintain a respectful and inclusive environment that provides the support and opportunity necessary for each member of our community to feel loved, grow in faith, spirituality and experience community.

Members of the Equality Ministry team will staff tables in the Gathering Place on March 23, March 30, and April 6. Please stop by one of the Sign In tables on any of these Sundays and sign the *Resolution of Respect*. The content of the resolution may also be found to the right of this article.

COMMUNITY OF RESPECT®

A NO PLACE FOR HATE® PROGRAM OF THE ADL

By signing this Resolution of Respect you are taking personal responsibility for standing up against all forms of prejudice and discrimination and committing yourself to creating a world that is a *Community of Respect*.®

I pledge from this day forward to do my best to combat prejudice and to stop those who, because of hate or ignorance, would hurt anyone or violate their civil rights.

I will try at all times to be aware of my own biases and seek to gain understanding of those who I perceive as being different from myself.

I will speak out against all forms of prejudice and discrimination. I will reach out to support those who are targets of hate.

I will think about specific ways my community members can promote respect for people and create a prejudice-free zone.

I firmly believe that one person can make a difference and that no person can be an "innocent" bystander when it comes to opposing hate.

I recognize that respecting individual dignity, achieving equality and promoting intergroup harmony are the responsibilities of all people.

By signing this pledge, I commit myself to creating a community that is a *Community of Respect*.®

SOULFORCE

The American Family Outing Mother's Day through Father's Day, 2008

Jay Bakker, son of Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker, will serve as a clergy leader for the American Family Outing.

Soulforce is seeking couples with or without children, single parent families, and single individuals who want to participate with a member of their extended family. Between Mother's Day and Father's Day, 2008, these diverse families will create meaningful dialogue with six of America's most influential evangelical leaders and their mega-churches. The six churches on our schedule have a combined membership of nearly 150,000 and their pastors reach millions every week through television, radio, and best-selling books. Our goal is to begin a process of changing hearts and minds and to educate the national public through the media about LGBT people and our families.

Lakewood Church will be the first stop, so we hope you'll consider joining us!

For more information, contact Mark Eggleston.
Mark@ResurrectionMCC.org, 713-861-9149 x106



Angels in Motion

Angels in Motion is taking on new challenges, with a great desire to increase in number. They'll also be ministering with live music as much as possible. This group rehearses on Saturdays at 1:00 pm. Experience in dance is helpful, but not a requirement. Choreography is done to suit each dancer's ability. If you are interested in joining, please email AngelsinMotion@ResurrectionMCC.org.

Angels in Motion is led by Marcus Carter & Leslie Jackson.

What is a Sacristan?

Sacristans are the people that prepare the communion for us each Sunday morning at both services. Currently, we are seeking more people to serve in this way.



Communion Server

This is an important task. For many that visit our church, the only contact they have with another queer Christian is when they take communion on Sunday morning.

If you have interest in serving in either of these capacities, please contact Steven at Steven@ResurrectionMCC.org or 713-861-9149 x109.



Faces of Resurrection

Lend your image to several exciting new marketing campaigns in 2008, which will showcase the many faces of our church family. If you are interested, call Mark for more details at 713-861-9149 x106, or email your photo (individual, as a couple, etc.) to Mark@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.

Angels in Motion

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



We Are Family!

Join us for the first planning meeting for our 2008 Pride Parade Entry!

**Sunday, March 30, 12:30 pm
Activities Building #108**

To join the team, email Pride@ResurrectionMCC.org

**WOULD
JESUS
DISCRIMINATE**
WWW.JESUS.COM



Prayer Vigil

Stop by the Gathering Place today after services to sign up for a 30-minute commitment to our *Imagine* Campaign Prayer Vigil, Saturday, April 5, from 9 am - 9 pm.



Adopt a Bed!

The recent workday has beautified our campus! There are a few beds that need to be adopted so they'll stay maintained.

Email Landscape@ResurrectionMCC.org if you would like to help!

**Gospel Ensemble Fundraiser
for People of African Descent Conference**

\$6



**Sunday, April 6
after both Worship Services**

**Hot dogs, hamburgers,
sodas & all the fixins!**

Join us in celebration
of our 36th Anniversary!



Friday, April 25, 7:00 pm

Free Screening: *Call Me Troy*

With Special Guest, Rev. Troy Perry

A reception will follow the screening

Saturday, April 26, 7:00 pm

Anniversary Concert: *Sanctuary*

Sunday, April 27, 9:00 am & 11:00 am

Anniversary Worship Services

With guest preacher, Rev. Troy Perry

MEET THE MAN WHOSE
SPIRITUAL QUEST LED HIM ON
A CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNEY...



CALL ME TROY

Directed by Scott Bloom

Produced by Scott Bloom and Larry Diamond
Film Editors: Scott Bloom and Kevin Connolly

Director of Photography: Clay Westervelt
Original Music: Zallen and Steven James Zdroik



2025 W. 11th St @ T.C. Jester, Houston 77008 • 713-861-9149 • www.ResurrectionMCC.org

Food Pantry Ministry

Open Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays,
with *appointment*
Team Lead: **Marty Williams**

Monthly Food Drive

3rd Sunday of each month

Donation drop-off in

Shopping Cart in Welcome Area

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





**Congratulations,
Team Resurrection!**

\$700 t-shirt sales
+ \$7,337 online

\$8,037 TOTAL!



ON THE MOVE
Stepping OUT on FAITH

2008 CONFERENCE for PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT
and OUR FRIENDS and ALLIES.

April 17-19, 2008 - St. Louis Missouri

Since 1998, the PAD Conference has been a landmark MCC event and it continues to be an occasion to bring together people of African descent, our friends and allies. To add to the excitement of our gathering this year, we will also celebrate the 10th year of the PAD Conference.

The conference theme is "On the Move – Stepping Out on Faith," a testament to our commitment to building bridges of support and understanding among people of all races, to address issues related racism and homophobia, and to create together a place where we all are at home.

Guest speakers include Ellen "Denise" Junious. Rev. Bernie is on the anniversary planning team. And both the Gospel Ensemble and Cassandra White will be featured!



For more information and to register, visit www.MCCChurch.org

2008



**Easter Offering
benefitting
Global Justice
Ministries**

Justice ministry has always been central to MCC's calling. It is an expression of our Christian faith; it reflects the heart of God for all who have been persecuted, devalued, and marginalized.

This year's Easter Offering for Global Justice will allow our denomination to continue to respond strategically to cries for help from around the globe. From an underground church in Pakistan, where laws still allow stoning to death LGBT people, to Jamaica, where in January 2008, a machete-wielding mob broke into a private home, attacking three gay men, MCC's Global Justice ministry is urgently needed.

Resurrection will be supporting this initiative by dedicating 2% of all our offerings for the five Sundays of March and Holy Week to this project. This is in addition to our 13% tithe.

Board Members on Duty

Debbie Skelly & Brian Long

Board Minutes Available Upon Request.

Flowers for the Sanctuary

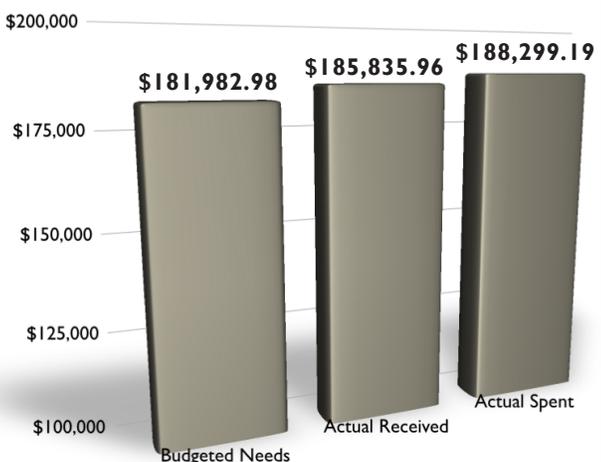
Welcome to Houston & Resurrection, Rev. Kristen & Tate! – Bubbles & Dan

Happy Birthday, Kecia! – Love, Joy & Brandon

General Fund Financial Report

Tithes & Offerings		Week	Year
03/16/08 9:00 am	99	\$6,245.55	\$65,968.45
03/16/08 11:00 am	321	\$5,165.50	\$72,983.44
Special Services			\$3,591.05
Online Giving		\$1,547.07	\$17,867.14
Other Contributions		\$1,097.00	\$21,274.27
Total	420	\$14,055.12	\$181,684.35
Other General Fund Income			
Fundraising		\$219.65	\$351.47
Miscellaneous		\$1,719.81	\$3,800.14
Total Received		\$15,994.58	\$185,835.96
Budgeted Need		\$17,816.63	\$181,982.98
Total Surplus / (Deficit)		(\$1,822.05)	\$3,852.98

Week Ending March 16, 2008



Budgeted Needs	Actual Received	Actual Spent
\$181,982.98	\$185,835.96	\$188,299.19

This Week @ ResurrectionMCC.org

SUNDAY **EASTER** **MARCH 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 Singles Brunch *Jax Grill*
1:30 pm HeavenSound Handbells Rehearsal *Music Room*

MONDAY **OFFICE CLOSED** **MARCH 24**

- 6:30 pm Anointing Rehearsal *Sanctuary*
6:30 pm JustUs Rehearsal *Music Room*
7:00 pm Dialogue: Racism *Gathering Place*

TUESDAY **MARCH 25**

- 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (Open) *Wellness Center*
7:00 pm Gospel Ensemble Rehearsal *Music Room*

WEDNESDAY **MARCH 26**

- 6:30 pm Creating a Life That Matters (Closed) *Gathering Place*
7:00 pm Houston Pride Band Rehearsal *Activities Building*
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal *Music Room*

THURSDAY **MARCH 27**

- 7:00 pm Resurrection Singers Rehearsal *Music Room*
7:30 pm Singles Spiritual Gathering *Chapel*

FRIDAY **MARCH 28**

- 7:00 pm Friday Night OUT *Dave & Busters*

SATURDAY **MARCH 29**

- 1:00 pm Angels in Motion Rehearsal *Sanctuary*

SUNDAY **MARCH 30**

- 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*
1:30 pm HeavenSound Handbells Rehearsal *Music Room*