



# Resurrection

Metropolitan Community Church

Volume 03, Issue 52

December 21, 2008

**Prelude**

HeavenSound Handbells

*Stille Nacht*

Franz Guber, arrangement by Jim Winslett

**Our Community Gathers**

Rev. Dwayne Johnson & Mark Eggleston

**+ Exchange of Peace**

**+ Processional Hymn**

GLORIA

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?

And the moun - tains in re - ply Ech - o - back their joy - ous strains.  
Say what may the ti - dings be, Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?

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

Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

**+ Invocation & Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Rev. Dwayne Johnson

+ Please rise in body or spirit.

## We Prepare

The prelude is designed to set the tone for the worship service. It is also an offering from some of our gifted musicians. Many wish to listen and meditate during this time.

## We Worship

There have been many versions of this hymn, which was first published in 1855, but all stem from the same source, *Holy Family Hymnal* (1860). It came to have prominence in hymnals during this century by way of an anonymous version from a mystery play entitled *The Nativity* in 1922. Several minor adjustments to the hymn make it more useful in today's congregations. The original French setting was translated into English by Rev. G. Crenthem.

## We Hear the Word

The birth announcement to Mary is reminiscent of that to Zechariah, but there are some outstanding differences. Most important, although Zechariah and Elizabeth are presented as persons of advanced status and religious honor, Mary's introduction is without any honorifics. God's favor extends to her for no reason other than that it is God's character to demonstrate compassion and to bestow blessing.

Mary's response to God's faithfulness brings the movement of the Luke narrative to a complete halt and serves to provide commentary on the events recounted thus far. Reminiscent of scriptural hymns of praise sung in response to God's intervening graciousness and power, Mary's song - also known as the *Magnificat* - grounds her praise and God's present activity in God's faithfulness and ancient promise.

### + Gospel Reading

Georgette L. Monaghan (9 am)  
Ron Drumm (11 am)

#### *Luke 1:26-38*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his dominion there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

### Reponse

O come Em-man - u - el, help us find\_\_ your peace, as we show\_\_ your  
light to a shad - owed world. Come, Em-man - u - el, Word that be - came  
flesh, God of Peace\_\_ to us, Child of Hope\_\_ for all. Come, Em - man\_\_ u - el.

### Community Prayer

Rev. Mona Lopez

### + The Magnificat

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

#### *Luke 1:46b-55*

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for God has looked with favor on the lowliness of this servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is that name. God's mercy is for those who fear God from generation to generation. God has shown strength; and scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; The Lord has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. God has helped the servant Israel, in remembrance of mercy, according to the promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and Sarah and to their descendants forever."

**Anthem**

Sanctuary Choir  
Rico Sangel, soloist

***Mary Did You Know?***

Words & Music by Mark Lowry, arranged by Steven Couch

**Spiritual Encouragement**

Rev. Janice Ladd

***Journeys to Bethlehem:  
Mary's Journey***

**Making Ministry Happen**

Rev. Dwayne Johnson

Offertory

Jules Czarnik  
Sanctuary Choir Women

***Welcome to Our World***

Words & Music by Chris Rice, arranged by Steven Couch

**Communion**

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

Introduction to Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Invitation to the Feast

**Communions 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

**We Listen**

*Mary Did You Know?* is one of the most recorded Christmas songs from the contemporary Christian genre. It has been recorded by many artists from pop to classical.

*Welcome to Our World* was recorded by Amy Grant originally for her second Christmas album.

**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, friend or member, may receive. Simply come forward as the ushers direct. We use grape juice for the cup. After you are served you will receive a blessing from the server. If you are in need of further prayer, our Fisher's Net Prayer Ministry team is available following both services to pray with you.

## Music During Communion

### 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.

God, open us to your living presence through your life at this table.

Receive the living grace of this spiritual nourishment.

### *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. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

### + Benediction

Rev. Janice Ladd

### + Benediction Response



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

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

## Postlude

Joel Hammett

## Staff

**Rev. Dwayne Johnson**  
Senior Pastor

RevDwayne@ResurrectionMCC.org (x101)

**Rev. Janice Ladd**  
Executive Pastor

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**Joel Hammett**

Organist

**Sara Navarro**

Graphic Artist

**Rusty Swisher**

Bookkeeper

**Ken Thompson**

Audio Technician

**Anthony White**

Gospel Ensemble Pianist

**Cassandra White**

Gospel Ensemble Director

**Jim Winslett**

HeavenSound Handbells Director

**Pepe Zuniga**

Facilities

## Volunteer Staff Clergy

**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

The Chalice: Mid-Week Spiritual Deepening

Wednesday, 6:30 pm

## 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 attending 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.

**Make sure to visit the Concierge Desk, located next to Inspirations, our coffee café and gift shop, to receive a gift from us.** 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.

## A Special Welcome to our First-Time Families!

Our nursery staff would love to meet you and your infants & children aged 1-3 years! The nursery is located to the right of the Sanctuary entrance and is open during both the 9 am & 11 am services.

Children & Youth aged 4-12 years are invited to join our Youth Ministries Program during the 11 am service in the Activities Building (located across the breezeway from our main parking lot). Sign-in begins at 10:45 am. All children must be registered and signed-in to attend. Parents are welcome to join the children for Communion at 12 noon in the Activities Building. Snack & sign-outs begin at 12:15 pm.

## 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.

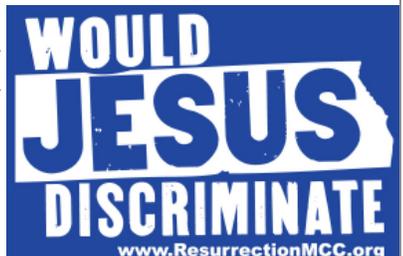
**We believe in** the saving grace of Jesus Christ and the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.

**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!**



Join Us in a Celebration of Family, Community & Culture

# Kwanzaa

Saturday, December 27, 6 pm  
The Gathering Place

Please RSVP by Dec. 21 to [Kwanzaa2008@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto:Kwanzaa2008@ResurrectionMCC.org)



## The Season of Advent

Have you noticed that Christmas decorations and holiday music seem to show up in stores earlier and earlier each year? As Rev. Dwayne said recently, it appears that we see Christmas décor even before Halloween.

The Advent season should be one of expectation, anticipation of the coming of Christmas. The Advent Season is made up of the four Sunday's preceding Christmas. It is considered a penitential season, like Lent. The first Sunday of Advent also marks the beginning of the Liturgical year.

At Resurrection, we will be working to create more expectation and anticipation. You may have noticed the first Sunday we only had the Advent Wreath as our decoration. Last Sunday more greens have been added. As Christmas Eve draws nearer, each Sunday more decorations will be added in anticipation of the birth of Christ, God among us.

May we all wait in anticipation for the coming Christ!



## Kwanzaa

A Celebration of Family,  
Community & Culture  
by Elisa Vega-Burns



Kwanzaa is a unique African-American celebration with a focus on the traditional African values of family, community responsibility, commerce, and self-improvement. Kwanzaa is neither political nor religious and, despite some misconceptions, is not a substitute for Christmas. It is simply a time for African-Americans to reaffirm and reinforce communitarian values and practices that strengthen and celebrate family, community and culture.

The word "Kwanzaa" comes from the phrase, "matunda ya kwanza" which means "first fruits of the harvest" in the African language, Swahili.

The "First Fruits" are celebrated as we uplift principles which support and strengthen family, community and culture. The NGUZO SABA (The Seven Principles), lifted up during Kwanzaa, are UMOJA (Unity), KUJICHAGULIA (Self-Determination), UJIMA (Collective Work and Responsibility), UJAMAA (Cooperative Economics), NIA (Purpose), KUUMBA (Creativity), IMANI (Faith).

There is a traditionally established way of celebrating Kwanzaa. First, you should come to the celebration with a profound respect for its values, symbols and practices and do nothing to violate its integrity, beauty and expansive meaning. Secondly, you should not mix your Kwanzaa celebration or its symbols, values and practices with any other holiday or cultural celebrations. Thirdly, choose the best and most beautiful items to celebrate Kwanzaa. This means taking time to plan and select the most beautiful objects of art, colorful African cloth, fresh fruits and vegetables, etc. so that every object used represents African culture and your commitment to Kwanzaa in the best of ways.

MISHUMAA SABA (seven candles: one black, three red, and three green), which together represent the seven Kwanzaa principles. The black candle represents the first principle Umoja (Unity) and is placed in the center of the Kinara. The red candles represent the principles of Kujichagulia (Self-determination), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics) and Kuumba (Creativity) and are placed to the left of the black candle. The green candles represent the principles of Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Nia (Purpose) and Imani (Faith) and are placed to the right of the black candle.

The black candle is lit first on the first day of the Kwanzaa (December 26); the remaining candles are lit afterwards alternating from left to right on the following days (December 27 through January 1).

The last day of Kwanzaa is the January 1, first day of the New Year. Historically this has been for African people, a time of sober assessment of things done and things to do, and of self-reflection. Following in this tradition, this day of meditation is a time for us to ask ourselves and answer soberly and humbly the three Kwanzaa (Kwanzaa value system) questions: Who am I?; Am I really who I say that I am?; and, Am I all that I ought to be? Thus, it is a time to recommit ourselves to our highest ideals.

Since its founding in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa has come to be observed by more than 18 million people worldwide. Join us for this rich cultural celebration, as together we commit ourselves to our highest ideals for 2009.

For all the details, check out the home page of our Web site at [www.ResurrectionMCC.org](http://www.ResurrectionMCC.org) and click on the Kwanzaa link.

## Christmas Jars

by Jules Gauvin

I've got \$205.32 in my jar. What have you got? Anybody out there got more than I do? Bring it! I dare you to beat me!! My goal was to reach at least \$200.00 and I have made it!



After reading the book *Christmas Jars* by Jason F. Wright, I shared my vision with several people, one of them being Joy Jolley. After I shared the story with her, Joy and her son, Brandon, started their own jars right away. This will be the second year they have been filling their jars up all year long, with all their loose change, and giving it to the church.

Christmas Eve will be here very soon. Will you be ready? Last year people brought their change in coffee cans, Tupperware containers, cigar tins, and syrup bottles. I even had a gentleman bring his coins in a beautiful vase. The point is, it doesn't matter what the size or shape of the container, what matters is that your heart is in it.

Hope to see you on Christmas Eve, but if you can't make it that day, and you have a container of coins, please drop it by the office or bring it any Sunday.



Can't wait to hear the jingle jangle of coins on Christmas Eve.

# JOURNEYS TO BETHLEHEM

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE  
DECEMBER 24 | 8 & 10 PM

*Candlelight Communion*



## Holiday Services & Schedule Changes

### Wednesday, 12/24 (Christmas Eve)

Christmas Eve Services, 8 & 10 pm, Sanctuary  
NO CHALICE OFFERINGS

### Thursday, 12/25 (Christmas Day), Offices Closed

### Saturday, 12/27 (Kwanzaa)

Kwanzaa Celebration, 6 pm, Sanctuary

### Wednesday, 12/31 (New Year's Eve)

New Year's Eve Prayer Vigil, 7 pm, Sanctuary  
NO CHALICE OFFERINGS

### Thursday, 1/1 (New Year's Day), Offices Closed

## Christmas Baskets

Today! 12:30 pm

Activities Building #110

**Volunteer Help Needed  
to Distribute Baskets**



## Food Pantry

Mondays & Wednesdays

by *appointment*

**Team Lead: Marty Williams**

*Food Pantry fund is very low.*

*Please make a donation today.*

*Write "Food Pantry" on your  
check or giving envelope.*

**NONPERISHABLES Needed**

**Canned Meats / Vegetables / Fruit /  
Juice / Soup / Pasta / Rice / Beans**



Before you celebrate the

# NEW YEAR

come by your God-Parent's House for  
a Spiritual Hug!

**New Year's Eve Service  
Wednesday • December 31 • 7 pm  
Sanctuary**

**Message Delivered by  
Chris DeJohn**

## Get Connected to a First Impressions Ministry

Stop by the Gathering Place after the services and find out more about exciting volunteer opportunities!

### Concierge Desk

**Leslie Jackson**

[Concierge@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto: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 helps welcome new visitors, provide them with a free gift, and help them get connected.

### Inspirations Coffee Cafe & Gift Shop

[Inspirations@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto:Inspirations@ResurrectionMCC.org)

Looking for new friendly faces and volunteers for this ministry!

Provide outstanding customer service in an atmosphere of fellowship for people to make connections.

### Second Family Care Partners

**Kristia Ammerman**

[SecondFamily@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto:SecondFamily@ResurrectionMCC.org)

This care team acts as extended family and friends, offering emotional, practical, and spiritual support. Meets for lunch 1st Sun. at 12:30 pm.

### Security Team

**Karen Cruse**

[Security@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto:Security@ResurrectionMCC.org)

Provides safety throughout the building and parking lots during worship services and special events. A law enforcement or correctional institute background is recommended for this ministry.

### Ushers

**Dave Mathis**

[Ushers@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto:Ushers@ResurrectionMCC.org)

We need ushers for 9 & 11 am Sunday Worship Services. Teams serve one service (either 9 or 11 am) each month. Remember, "No one is *JUST* an usher."

### Welcome Team

**Jason Sowders**

[Welcome@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto: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 are positioned at every door and sidewalk, greeting people with a smile and kind word, offering directions or answering questions.

If you have questions or would like to join any of these teams, email the team lead (listed above) or contact Jason Wood at [Jason@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto:Jason@ResurrectionMCC.org) or 832-971-0354.

# MUSIC MINISTRY

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

Tuesdays • 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.

## 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.

## ANGELS IN MOTION

Saturdays • 1 pm

This group is a dance troupe that ministers through dance and movement. This group has its own choreographers. Experience in dance is not necessary, if one has the willingness to learn.

## 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 [Steven@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto:Steven@ResurrectionMCC.org) or call 713-861-9149 x109

## 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.

**Commitment cards may be picked up at The Concierge Desk and Sanctuary entrances. They may be returned in the offering basket or by mail.**

### UPCOMING CHALICE OFFERING: A book-study exploration of spiritual awakening with *A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life's Purpose*

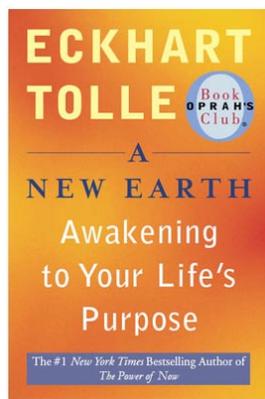
In the Gospel story of Mary and Martha, Jesus says to Martha, "You are anxious and troubled about many things, but only one thing is needful." (Luke 10:41)

Quoting this Scripture, author of the bestselling *A New Earth* Eckhart Tolle says, "I only ever write or speak about one thing: Spiritual awakening."

Join Spiritual Director Cathleen Sheil as she facilitates this open 7-week study and conversation with Eckhart Tolle's bestselling book, *A New Earth!*

Gather with others in this compelling exploration of the spiritual path through *The Chalice* on Wednesday evenings from 7 - 8:30 pm! Come to one, many, or all of these exciting book study discussions offered over 7 weeks, beginning Wednesday, January 7!

Begin the New Year with *A New Earth* – pick up the book then pick up the discussion! Open to all ...



# The Chalice

*opening...receiving...offering*  
*Life in Fullness*

**No Chalice Services will be held on...  
Dec 24 - Christmas Eve / Dec 31 - New Years Eve**

**Community Meal – 6:00-6:30 pm – Open to All**

**Spiritual Deepening – 6:30-7:00 pm**

**Life Development Offerings – 7:00-8:45 pm**

### The Chalice: Offering One

**OPEN TO ALL**

Jesus lived with the awareness that God is doing something, right here, right now, and anybody can be a part of it. Wherever he went, whatever he did, Jesus started discussions about what matters most, because for Jesus, God is always inviting us to open our eyes and join in...

### The Open Door Discussion Series

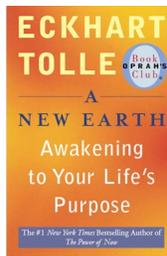
A facilitated open discussion using the short NOOMA films as a jumping-off place for personal reflection and shared engagement with our journeys of faith.

### The Open Door - January 7: "Rich"

There's a popular bumper sticker that reads "God Bless America," but hasn't America already been blessed? It's easy for us to fall into a mindset of viewing "our" world as "the" world, because it's all we generally see. We're constantly bombarded with images of the latest styles and models of everything, and it can easily leave us feeling like what we have isn't enough because we see people that have even more than us. But how does what we have compare to what most people in the world have? Maybe what we have is enough; maybe it's more than enough. Maybe God has blessed us with everything we have so we can bless and give to others.

### The Chalice: Offering Two - January 7

**OPEN TO ALL**



### *A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life's Purpose*

Join us for one many or all of these book study discussions offered over seven weeks. Explore together what awakening *your* life's purpose looks like in 2009.

**Everyone welcome! Get your book at bookstores everywhere.**

### The Chalice: Offering Three - CLM

**Session Full**

CREATING A LIFE



THAT MATTERS

#### SESSION III: January 7 - February 11

**My Passion:** Our passion make us most ware of our personal power, energy and joy. In these six sessions, we explore ways to manage internal and external factors, and discover what gives us power, energy, and joy as we serve the Sacred through the church.

**Spring Dates Coming Soon!**



## Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor replaces Share Card

The new *Neighbor to Neighbor* program (which is replacing the *Share Card*) launched on May 1, 2008 and allows Resurrection MCC the opportunity to earn a portion of \$1 million that will be donated annually. The program earning period is May 1, 2008 through April 30, 2009.

To participate in the program, simply take this printed page on your next shopping trip and have the cashier scan it at the beginning of the order.

Below are a few frequently asked questions of the program:

### Can a household “link” their Kroger Plus Card to more than one organization at a time?

No, the system allows for one organization per household. To change organizations, you must present your Kroger Plus Card and the new organization’s barcode to the cashier.

### Do I have to enroll each program year?

Yes, all organization’s and participants must re-enroll for each new enrollment period. The current *Neighbor to Neighbor* Program is effective May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2009.

### Do I have to scan the organization letter each time I shop?

No, once the barcode is scanned with your plus card, you are enrolled for the remainder of the program year, ending on April 30, 2009.

### How much can my organization earn?

The Kroger *Neighbor to Neighbor* Donation Program will donate \$1 million annually. Each organization will earn a percentage of the \$1 million equal to the percentage of total earned contributions attributable to that organization.

Additional information available at [www.krogerneighbortoneighbor.com](http://www.krogerneighbortoneighbor.com)

RESURRECTION METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH



Kroger cashier: Please scan customer’s Kroger Plus Card at the beginning of the order, and then scan the above barcode. The customer’s Kroger Plus Card is now enrolled in the Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor Donation Program.

## Do you Have a Need? Pastoral Care Ministers Available to Listen & Pray!

In his excellent book, *Can the Pastor Do it Alone*, Melvin Steinbron asserts emphatically that “there is no way we can build a staff large enough to put love with skin on for every one of our members if we continue to proceed in the traditional way.”

One method by which God’s love can be given concretely, specifically and continually to all of our members is through recruiting, training, and commissioning a sizable team of Pastoral Care Ministers.

At Resurrection we believe that building up the body of Christ in love is central to the purpose of the church. In order to facilitate this goal, 20 people have been trained and commissioned to care for our congregation.

At the conclusion of their training these ministers began developing flock care lists. The Pastoral Care Ministers are committed to then praying regularly for the people on their flock list, to being available to helping or assisting them in appropriate ways, and to contacting the members of their flock regularly to encourage them.

The Pastoral Care Ministers officially began their ministry this month. They will begin to make contact with their flock list to make congregants aware of their availability. As our ministry grows the goal is to reach out to every person in our expanding community of faith. In the meantime, Pastoral Care Ministers are available to pray with and encourage anyone who would like to receive ministry. If you have not yet been contacted directly, but would like someone to talk or pray with you, please email or give us a call. Your prayers and support are greatly appreciated.

*From Jesus the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and build itself up in love, as each does its work (Eph. 4:16)*

If you have questions, ask! You will see the Pastoral Care Ministers wearing a button indicating they are Pastoral Care Ministers. If you need someone to talk or pray with you, please let them know. That is what they are available for. If you would like a minister to come and visit you in the hospital or at home please feel free to call our 24-hour prayer and care line at 713-861-9149 x105 or email [Jason@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto:Jason@ResurrectionMCC.org)

In Christ Love and Care,  
Jason Wood, Director of Connections

Resurrection

*Inspirations*

Coffee Café & Gift Shop

**50% ALL  
Merchandise**  
(except t-shirts)

Volunteers are needed to assist this ministry.  
Please contact [Jason@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto:Jason@ResurrectionMCC.org)

# New Members' Class

Saturday, January 10

9 am - 12 noon

Gathering Place / Breakfast Served

Join Rev. Janice, Rev. Kristen, and Jason in discussing 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.



To register, contact Jason Wood,  
[Jason@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto:Jason@ResurrectionMCC.org)  
 or 713-861-9149 x105.  
 Download the Spiritual Gifts Assessment  
 from [www.ResurrectionMCC.org](http://www.ResurrectionMCC.org),

## Hartman

& ASSOCIATES

2000 ELLA BLVD  
 HOUSTON, TX 77008

**PAT WALKER**

REALTOR ASSOCIATE

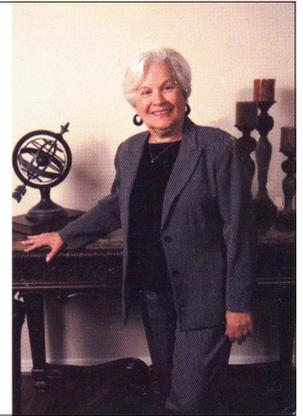
OFFICE: 713.861.2004

FAX: 713.861.2040

[PATWALKER@HARTMANASSOCIATES.COM](mailto:PATWALKER@HARTMANASSOCIATES.COM)

**713.412.6682**

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We receive cash based on the weight of the paper collected!

Advertise with us.  
 As low as \$25 / week.  
[Ads@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto:Ads@ResurrectionMCC.org)

### Board Members on Duty

Jerry Reitz & Flo Perry

Board Minutes Available Upon Request.

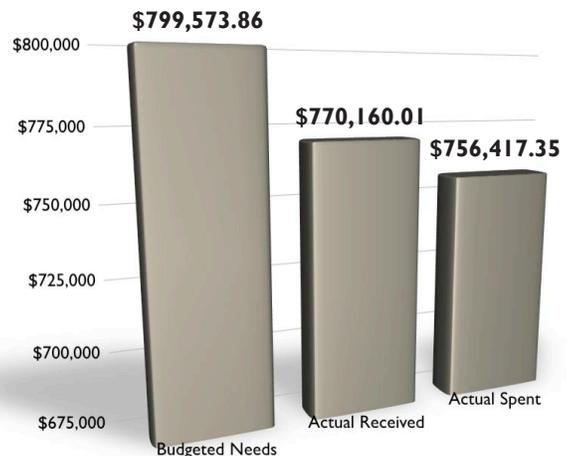
### Flowers in the Sanctuary

Please Consider Donating Flowers to Beautify Our Sanctuary.  
 Sign up on the chart in the Welcome Area.

## General Fund Financial Report

Week Ending December 14, 2008

		Week	Year
<b>Tithes &amp; Offerings</b>			
12/14/08 9:00 am	125	\$2,842.00	\$227,092.09
12/14/08 11:00 am	288	\$5,515.08	\$336,484.90
12/10/08 7:00 pm	32	\$378.00	\$2,298.35
Special Services		\$0.00	\$8,092.25
Online Giving		\$665.00	\$65,536.14
Other Contributions		\$786.00	\$85,246.58
<b>Total</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>\$10,186.08</b>	<b>\$724,750.31</b>
<b>Other General Fund Income</b>			
Fundraising		\$422.00	\$16,639.00
Miscellaneous		\$2,485.00	\$28,770.70
<b>Total Received</b>		<b>\$13,093.08</b>	<b>\$770,160.01</b>
<b>Budgeted Need</b>		<b>\$16,315.57</b>	<b>\$799,573.86</b>
<b>Total Surplus / (Deficit)</b>		<b>(\$3,222.49)</b>	<b>(\$29,413.85)</b>
<b>Total Imagine Capital Campaign</b>		<b>\$1,532.00</b>	<b>\$243,986.41</b>



# This Week @ ResurrectionMCC.org

## SUNDAY DECEMBER 21

- 9:00 am Sunday Worship / Rev. Janice Ladd**  
10:15 am Fisher's Net Prayer Ministry *Chapel*  
10:45 am Children & Youth Worship *Activities Building*  
**11:00 am Sunday Worship / Rev. Janice Ladd**  
12:30 pm Christmas Basket Pick-up *Activities Building #110*  
12:30 pm Equality Ministry Meeting *Activities Building #108*

## MONDAY DECEMBER 22

- 6:00 pm Board of Directors' Meeting *Gathering Place*

## TUESDAY DECEMBER 23

- 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous *Gathering Place*  
7:00 pm Gospel Ensemble Rehearsal *Music Room*

## WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24

- 8:00 pm Christmas Eve Services / Rev. Dwayne Johnson**  
**10:00 pm Christmas Eve Services / Rev. Dwayne Johnson**

## THURSDAY CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 25

OFFICE CLOSED

## FRIDAY DECEMBER 26

OFFICE CLOSED

## SATURDAY DECEMBER 27

- 1:00 pm Angels In Motion Rehearsal *Sanctuary*  
6:00 pm Kwanzaa Celebration (see ad, page 6) *Gathering Place*

## SUNDAY DECEMBER 28

- 9:00 am Sunday Worship / Denise Junious**  
10:15 am Fisher's Net Prayer Ministry *Chapel*  
10:45 am Children & Youth Worship *Activities Building*  
10:45 pm Faith Explorers *Activities Building #104*  
**11:00 am Sunday Worship / Denise Junious**