

JOURNEYS TO BETHLEHEM

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
• DECEMBER 24 | 8 & 10 PM

Candlelight Communion




Resurrection
Metropolitan Community Church

Staff

Rev. Dwayne Johnson

Senior Pastor

RevDwayne@ResurrectionMCC.org (x101)

Rev. Janice Ladd

Executive Pastor

RevJanice@ResurrectionMCC.org (x104)

Steven Couch

Director of Worship

Steven@ResurrectionMCC.org (x109)

Mark Eggleston

Director of Outreach

Mark@ResurrectionMCC.org (x106)

Craig Felderhoff

Director of Operations (Interim)

Craig@ResurrectionMCC.org (x102)

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

Director of Life Development

RevKristen@ResurrectionMCC.org (x107)

Jason Wood

Director of Connections

Jason@ResurrectionMCC.org (x105)

David E. Durham

Pianist

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 in our Welcome Area, 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.

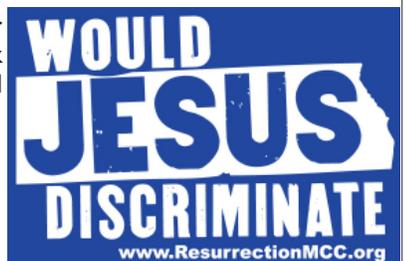
We believe in the saving grace of Jesus Christ and the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.

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!



Flourish on ADESTE FIDELIS
by Tom Mitchell

Our Community Gathers

Rev. Dwayne Johnson & Rev. Janice Ladd

+ Exchange of Peace

+ Processional Hymn

ADESTE FIDELES

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
Sing choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, —
Child for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger, —
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born for our sal - va - tion, —

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le hem; Come and be -
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to
we would em brace thee, with love and awe; Who would not
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of Cre -

hold him born the king of an - gels;
God, all glo - ry in the high - est; O come, let us a - dore him, O
love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?
a - tion, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

+ Invocation & Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini,
Rev. Janice Ladd,
Jason Wood &
Rev. Dwayne Johnson

We Prepare

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

We Worship

This wonderful hymn tells, in poetic form, the story of Christmas. It bids us come to Bethlehem, tells of the angels and shepherds, and communicates the story of the incarnation. The text as used in this version was altered slightly in stanza 4 from 'born this happy morning' to 'born for our salvation,' to widen its use to the whole Christmas season. It was only 1947 that the author became conclusively known to be John Francis Wade (ca. 1710-1786). Through careful research Dom John Stephan identified the writer as an Englishman working in France, who copied and sold music of the Roman Catholic Church. This hymn was found in several copybooks located in Ireland and England. The watermarks found in one of these books establish it as written between 1720 and 1750.

We Hear the Word

In Christian tradition, this oracle is commonly regarded as a description of the messianic king to come. In its original context, however, it celebrated the coronation of a king of First Isaiah's day, probably Hezekiah. This may have been why Israel expected a messianic king. However, what they found was that Jesus came as a servant rather than a ruler.

The text of this hymn was written by Edmund H. Sears while he was pastor of a Unitarian church in Massachusetts. It was published in December of 1850 in the *Christian Register*. Since that time it has been considered a traditional Christmas carol.

Luke 2:1-15 is the most read Christmas story. It is read here by a fictional character created by Charles M. Schultz.

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in shadows have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep shadows - on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the trampling warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Creator, Prince of Peace. Authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his realm. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

+ Response

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-ri-ous song of old, from an-gels bend-ing
 For lo, the days are hasten-ing on, by proph-et bards fore-told, when with the ev-er-
 near the earth to touch their harps of gold; "Peace on the earth, good will to all, great
 cir-cling years comes round the age of gold; When peace shall o-ver all the earth it's
 news of joy we bring." The world in sol-emn still-ness lay to hear the an-gels sing.
 an-cient splen-dors fling, and all the world send back the song which now the an-gels sing.

+ Gospel Reading I

Linus Van Pelt

Luke 2:1-15

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all.

Anthem

Christmas Eve Chorus

Candlelight Carol
 Words & Music by John Rutter

Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which God has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Special Music

Christmas Eve Chorus
Rico Sangel

Mary Did You Know?

Words & Music by Mary Lowry, arranged by Steven Couch

Spiritual Encouragement

Rev. Dwayne Johnson

**Journeys to Bethlehem
Journey of Light**

Making Ministry Happen

Rev. Janice Ladd

Offertory

Christmas Eve Chorus
Anne Dittmar

This Christmastide

Words by Jane McColloch, Music by Donald Fraser

Communion

Rev. Janice Ladd
Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini
Jason Wood

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift our hearts to God.

One: Let us give thanks and praise.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise to our God.

Sanctus

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zon te - a dor - a! Mi
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

cor - a - zon te sa - be de-cir: San - to er-es Se - nor!
 heart knows how to say to you: Ho - ly are you, Lord!

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

The Prayer that Jesus Taught

Invitation to the Feast

We Listen

Mary Did You Know? is one of the most recorded contemporary Christian songs. It is written by Houston resident, Mark Lowry.

This Christmastide has also received the subtitle of *Jessye's Carol*. It was first performed and recorded by opera singer, Jessye Norman with the American Boys Choir. The song uses images from the secular and sacred to tell of the Christmas story.

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.

Communion Anthem***Strange Way to Save the World***

By Mark Harris, Don Koch & Dave Clare

Communion Carols***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

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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

Joy to the World

+ Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
 Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
 And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
 Christ rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
 The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
 And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Words by Isaac Watts Music Attributed to George Frederick Handel

© Public Domain

Tune: ANTIOCH

+ **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Rev. Janice Ladd

+ **Benediction**

Rev. Dwayne Johnson

+ **Benediction Response*****Silent Night***

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child,
 Holy infant so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
 Silent night, holy night Son of God, loves pure light radiant beams from thy holy face,
 With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
 Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light; With the angels let us sing, al-
 leluia to our king; Christ, the Savior, is born, Christ, the Savior, is born.

Words by Joseph Mohr Music by Franz Bruber

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Tune: STILLE NACHT

Postlude

Joel Hammett

Paeon on ANTIOCH

by David Lasky

We Sing

This carol, *Joy to the World*, was not originally written as a nativity hymn. Isaac Watts conceived of it as a Christ-centered interpretation of Psalm 98:4-9 ("Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth...for he is coming..."). The tune is a piecing together of phrases in Handel's *Messiah* (from "Lift up your heads" and "Comfort Ye"). Lowell Mason popularized it in this country and named it ANTIOCH after the town where Jesus' followers were first called Christians (Acts 11:26).

The story of *Silent Night's* origin is so familiar as to bear the marks of folk legend. Nonetheless, the account is well documented. Joseph Mohr, associate pastor of St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Church in the Austrian village of Oberndorf, composed it in 1818. It was first sung to guitar accompaniment as a duet by Mohr and the composer of the tune, Franz Gruber. The organ at the church was not functioning and it was composed to be sung with just guitar.

Join Us in a Celebration of Family, Community & Culture

Kwanzaa

Saturday, December 27, 6 pm
The Gathering Place



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

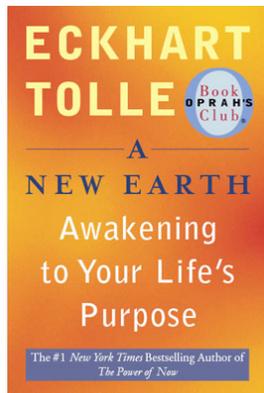
In the Gospel story of Mary and Martha, Jesus says to Martha, "You are anxious and troubled about many things, but only one thing is needful." (Luke 10:41)

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...

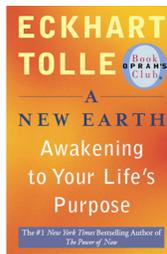
The Open Door Discussion Series

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!

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

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

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

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

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

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 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 or call 713-861-9149 x109

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.

During Kwanzaa, we light the 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 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 January 1, the 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 Kawaida (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 and click on the Kwanzaa link.

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

Holiday Services & Schedule Changes

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

Food Pantry Ministry

Open 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.*



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

Friday Night OUT January 23, 7 pm



Join us for dinner at El Paraiso.
Later, we'll head over to Chances!

El Paraiso Mexican Restaurant
2320 Crocker St (at Fairview)

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

**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.

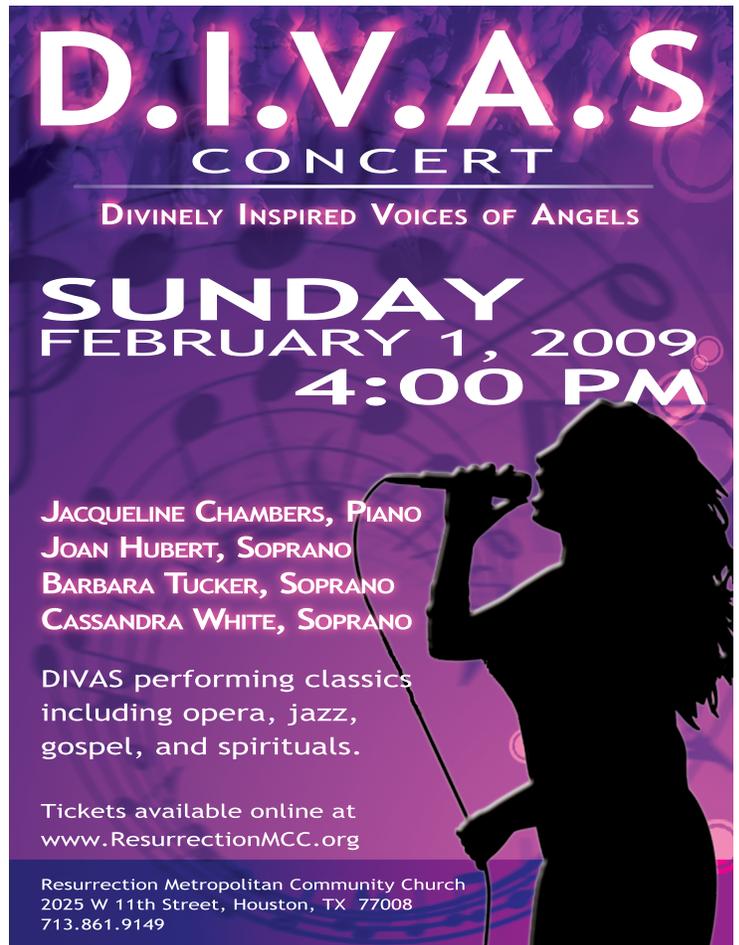
At the conclusion of their training these ministers began developing flock care lists. The Pastoral Care Ministers are committed to praying regularly for the people on their flock list, to being available to helping or assisting them in appropriate ways, and to contacting the members of their flock regularly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

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



D.I.V.A.S.
CONCERT
DIVINELY INSPIRED VOICES OF ANGELS

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 1, 2009
4:00 PM

JACQUELINE CHAMBERS, PIANO
JOAN HUBERT, SOPRANO
BARBARA TUCKER, SOPRANO
CASSANDRA WHITE, SOPRANO

DIVAS performing classics including opera, jazz, gospel, and spirituals.

Tickets available online at www.ResurrectionMCC.org

Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church
2025 W 11th Street, Houston, TX 77008
713.861.9149



**Would Jesus Discriminate?
T-shirts**

**Available in
Inspirations Today!**



Resurrection
Inspirations
Coffee Café & Gift Shop

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

Volunteers are needed to assist this ministry.
Please contact 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
or 713-861-9149 x105.
Download the Spiritual Gifts Assessment
from 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

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Care for our environment by recycling newspapers, magazines, catalogs, and junk mail in the container in our parking lot.

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

Owls

Outreach, Wisdom, Laughter, Support:
A Ministry for Seniors & Friends

Tuesday
January 6, 11 am
Field Trip!

Meet at church and caravan to Brookwood Community, a God-centered educational, residential, and entrepreneurial community for adults with functional disabilities located in Brookshire, Texas, just west of Houston.

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



Advertise with us.
As low as \$25 / week.
Ads@ResurrectionMCC.org



Singles Group

Friday, January 9
7 pm, Harlow's

www.harlowsrestaurants.com

3839 Wesleyan

Join us for dinner at Harlow's,
and then a movie at Edward's Cinema!

To be notified of upcoming events for our singles,
or for any questions, please email Mike at
Singles@ResurrectionMCC.org.

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
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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	

DRUMMING CIRCLE

Saturday, January 3, 3:00 - 4:30 pm

Gathering Place

From a distance, it may sound like music from a car stereo. But as you draw near, you realize that there is no melody, just a pulsating rhythm. Close inspection reveals a group of a dozen or so people playing drums of all kinds: big and little ones, both primitive and high-tech.

This is a drumming circle. Gaining popularity across the country, some celebrate Native American customs and heritage or other ethnic traditions, but all are outlets for people expressing a primal urge that drives their spirit, amidst camaraderie and fun.

A 2003 study found that drumming induces deep relaxation, lowers blood pressure, and reduces the stress which contributes to nearly all disease and life-threatening illnesses. Drumming puts the mind, body and spirit in a place of rest and strengthens wellness!

We had a drumming circle workshop a few weeks ago and it was a huge success. The drumming circle is open to ALL, and requires no prior experience with drumming. Join us! If you want more information, contact Denise Junious at DrummingCircle@ResurrectionMCC.org or call Steven Couch at 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.

Board Members on Duty

Debbie Skelly & Eve Messina

Board Minutes Available Upon Request.