



Resurrection

Metropolitan Community Church

Volume 4, Issue 10

March 1, 2009

Our Community Gathers

Rev. Dwayne Johnson & Mark Eggleston

+ Exchange of Peace

+ Opening Hymn

SLANE

Be Now My Vision



1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;
 2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;
 3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,
 4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,



noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—
 ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;
 you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!



You my best thought, by day or by night,
 Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,
 You and you on - ly are first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.
 now and for - ev - er your child I will be.
 great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

+ Please rise in body or spirit.

We Worship

This Irish text brings the clear presence of God into harmony with the fervent prayer of the believer. Stanza 1 affirms the vision of God that becomes the guiding light in the hearts of God's people. Stanza 2 calls for God's knowledge and truth to give guidance. Stanza 3 affirms that one's relationship with God is treasure enough in this life, replacing any riches or empty praise of this earthly realm. Stanza 4 provides a fitting climax, claiming victory regardless of what may befall the believer. The tune is a traditional Irish air named for a hill, ten miles from Tara, in County Meath.

We Hear the Word

This covenant in Genesis should be seen as not only made with humans, but with the plant and animal worlds as well. The flood destroyed all but sea-dwelling creatures, though one should suspect that the imbalance caused by overwhelming waters would ruin the ecological coherence assumed in the creation stories. As such, this Lenten passage urges us to consider human impact and interaction on creation. Even if we reject exilic theology of a God who "punishes" creation, which many do, we may not reject culpability and consequences of behavior on others, including on creation. Modern movements to embrace "green theology" should find in this passage an entree for such a discussion.

~ Valerie
Bridgeman Davis,
New Proclamation
Year B 2008-2009,
156.

Call to Worship

Vicki Hopper
Candidate for the Ministry

Psalm 25:1-10

One: To you, O God, I lift up my soul!

All: My God, I trust in you; you lift me from shame, you raise me up where others would hold me down.

One: All who wait upon you will be uplifted; aimlessly seeking for joy without while refusing to turn to you within betrays us both.

All: Show me your ways, O God! Teach me your paths! Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation!

One: I wait all day long for you! Remember your mercies, O God, your love -- your ancient and unwavering love!

All: Do not remember how I turned from you, forget my rebellious ways! Remember me because of your love, because of your goodness, O God!

One: How good and upright you are, O God! You instruct all who stumble in the path, you guide the humble in what is right, and teach us all your ways.

All: All of your paths, O God, are full of love and faithfulness for those who keep your covenant and live in testimony to your steadfast mercy.

Instrumental Invocation

Josette Bergeron

Meditations on Cello

Scripture Reading

Rev. Mona Lopez

Genesis 9:8-17

God then said to Noah and his family, "I hereby establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you - birds, cattle, and the earth's wildlife - everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth.

I hereby establish my covenant with you: "All flesh will never again be swept away by the waters of the flood; never again will a flood destroy all the earth."

God said, "Here is the sign of the covenant between me and you and every living creature for ageless generations: I set my bow in the clouds, and it will be a sign of the covenant between me and you and every kind of living creature, and never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all flesh. Whenever my bow appears in the clouds I will see it, and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all living things on the earth."

Sung Response

**All: Word of God speak. Would you pour down like rain?
Washing my eyes to see your majesty.
To be still and know that you're in this place.
Please let me stay and rest in your holiness. Word of God speak.**

+ Scripture Reading

Jason Wood
Candidate for the Ministry

Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan River by John. Immediately upon coming out of the water Jesus saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. Then a voice came from the heavens: "You are my Beloved, my own. On you my favor rests."

Immediately the Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness. Jesus was in the wilderness for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John's arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the good news of God and saying, "This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God has come near! Change your hearts and minds, and believe this Good News!"

Special Music

Gospel Ensemble

Walk With Me / Lord I've Been Changed

Words and Music Traditional
© Public Domain

Spiritual Encouragement

Rev. Dwayne Johnson

Finding Our Way: Giving Up Control to Receive Direction

Making Ministry Happen

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

Offertory

Terry Jones

Where Joy & Sorrow Meet

Words & Music by David James White

Communion

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

Introduction to Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Invitation to the Feast

We Receive: A Communion of Presence

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.

During the Season of Lent, you will be invited to share a moment of silent invitation to the Presence of God followed by a simple blessing that God's Presence remain with you as you journey through this season.

We use grape juice for the cup. If you desire intercessory prayer, our Fisher's Net Prayer Ministry team is available following both services to pray with you.

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.

Where two or more are gathered You are present. May you remain in God's presence this season.

In emptiness,
You fill us.
In silence,
You speak.
May you be open and listening this season.

Communion Songs

Word of God Speak

I'm finding myself at a loss for words and the funny thing is it's okay.
The last thing I need is to be heard but to hear what you would say.

Word of God speak. Would you pour down like rain?

Washing my eyes to see your majesty. To be still and know that You're in this place.

Please let me stay and rest in your holiness. Word of God speak.

I'm finding myself in the midst of you, beyond the music, beyond the noise.

All that I need is to be with you, and in the quiet hear your voice.

Word of God speak. Would you pour down like rain?

Washing my eyes to see your majesty. To be still and know that you're in this place.

Please let me stay and rest in your holiness.

Word of God speak. Would you pour down like rain?

Washing my eyes to see your majesty. To be still and know that you're in this place.

Please let me stay and rest in your holiness.

I'm finding myself at a loss for words and the funny thing is it's okay.

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Draw Me Close

Draw me close to you, never let me go,

I lay it all down again to hear you say that I'm your friend.

You are my desire, no one else will do,

'Cause nothing else could take your place; to feel the warmth of your embrace.

Help me find the way, bring me back to you.

You're all I want, you're all I've ever needed.

You're all I want - help me know you are near.

Words & Music by Kelly Carpenter
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Shout to the Lord

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like you,

All of my days, I want to praise the wonders of your mighty love;

My Comfort, my Shelter, Tower of refuge and strength;

Let every breath, all that I am, never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing

Power and majesty, praises we bring,

Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of your name.

I sing for joy at the work of your hands, forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand;

Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

Words & Music by Darlene Zschech
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+ **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

+ **Installation of Candidates for the Ministry**

+ **Benediction**

Rev. Dwayne Johnson

Postlude

Joel Hammett

Staff

Rev. Dwayne Johnson

Senior Pastor

RevDwayne@ResurrectionMCC.org (x101)

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Joel Hammett

Organist

Debbie Mansfield

Nursery Coordinator

Sara Navarro

Graphic Artist

Joel Palomares

Youth Ministries Program Coordinator

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: Spiritual Deepening

Wednesday, 6:30 pm

Resurrection MCC

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 and 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.

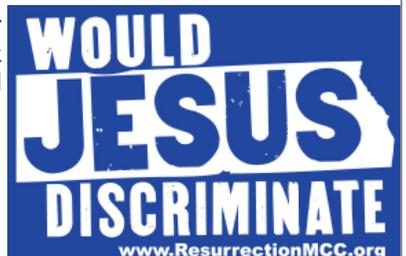
We believe in the saving grace of Jesus Christ and the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.

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!



Free Cup With a Guarantee



If you've recently visited Resurrection MCC, perhaps you have received our famous Cobalt Blue Resurrection MCC cup. We've learned that many who have received this cup use it daily, as a prayer reminder.

From time to time, someone will say, "Hey, I love those cups! Resurrection wasn't giving those out when I first came." Well, this Sunday is

an opportunity to receive your free cup!

When we found out that people were using the cup as a prayer reminder, we thought, "What if the entire congregation did this together for the Season of Lent?"

Thus, you are invited to participate in *The Daily Cup*, Resurrection MCC's special opportunity to join together as community in the spiritual practices of prayer, worship, giving, service and sharing our stories.

Following services today, visit the Gathering Place. Prayerfully consider the Lenten Covenant (see column to right) for which your cup will serve as a daily reminder. If you accept this invitation, and receive your cup, then each day you will also receive *The Daily Cup* email that will include a scripture, a prayer, and great ideas for living and sharing your faith.

This free cup comes with a "better than money-back" guarantee! If your life is not touched through the daily practice of your Lenten Covenant, we'll buy back your free cup for \$5 after Easter Sunday!

Yes, this is a different approach to Lent. Many have grown up with the concept of "giving up" something for Lent. This year, how about "receiving" something instead...like the Resurrection cup, and the daily blessing that comes through your own special "blend" of spiritual practices?



THE DAILY CUP

A Lenten Covenant for Living from Fullness through Lent

Fill your cup with...

PRAYER

Ideas include yet are not limited to an attentive walk, listening to music, journaling, or a prayerful reading of a favorite scripture.

WORSHIP

Throughout Lent, offer your faithful presence for worship on Sundays and/or at The Chalice on Wednesdays.

GIVING

Listen to how God will invite your generosity. One approach is to take a breath, become calm, and simply pray, "God, how are you inviting me to give?" Then await the answer. Though God may stretch you, God will not ask you to give more than you are able. If each of us follows this invitation, those who are able will be able to give more. Others may offer smaller, yet fruitful seeds. Giving through General Tithes and Offerings, the Imagine Campaign, Online Giving, or Benevolence will impact lives each day.

SERVICE

Ideas include yet are not limited to volunteering for a ministry such as Children and Youth, reaching out to someone who could use encouragement, or sharing your talent in Resurrection's Music Ministry. Sign-up for *The Daily Cup* email for more ideas.

SHARING

Ideas include drinking from your cup at work or among friends to open conversations with others. You don't need to sound preachy or religious. Let your Resurrection cup remind you to just be real and have fun living your faith. Talk about such things as how you find peace, what prayer means to you, and how Resurrection MCC has added value and meaning to your life.

Sign up to participate in this Lenten Journey in the Gathering Place after worship services today!

The Chalice

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

MARCH 4

Community Soup Supper – 6:00-6:30 pm

Spiritual Deepening – 6:30-7:00 pm

Life Development Offerings – 7:00-8:30 pm

Join us as we Find Our Way through the journey of Lent with *The Chalice*!

Beginning each Wednesday in March and through the first Wednesday in April, we will gather and share our Lenten journeys with a community Soup Supper from 6:00 - 6:30 pm, a time of shared Spiritual Deepening from 6:30 - 7:00 pm, and three open small-group offerings to choose from as we draw near to God in Contemplative Practice, Scripture Study, and in Reflection for Social Action.

Come for one, some or all – let us journey and together Find Our Way!

A Sip from The Chalice

Spiritual Deepening Practice On the Journey of Lent

What is Lent?

Lent is a 40-day liturgical season that begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes at the Great Vigil of Easter. Sundays are not included in the 40-day count because every Sunday is a joyful celebration of Jesus' resurrection. Though not biblical, Lent has long been a tradition in the Christian Church, and it is thought that the tradition of the 40 days recalls the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness, fasting and being tempted by Satan (Matthew 4:1-11). Lent is considered a time of penance and discipline.

Because of Lent's penitential nature, worship tends to be more solemn, and purple is the liturgical color of the season. Some congregations remove flowers from the worship space, and for many, songs of praise like the Gloria in Excelsis ("Glory in the highest") and expressions of joy like the exclamation "Alleluia" ("Praise the Lord") are removed from the liturgy until Easter. Many congregations hold special mid-week worship services and promote other devotional activities to help their members concentrate on the Lenten disciplines of fasting, almsgiving (charity) and prayer.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. On this day, Christians focus on that which keeps us at a distance from the Presence of God and the love of Christ wherein we experience salvation. Ashes are referred to many times in the Old Testament as signs of sorrow, mourning, humility, and repentance, and on Ash Wednesday they are used to remind people of our mortality -- that "you are dust, and

to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19) – and our humble desire for the transforming Presence of God and the love of Christ. Many churches use ashes during Ash Wednesday worship in a ritual called the Imposition of Ashes. In this custom, ashes are mixed with a small amount of oil and applied to the forehead of each worshipper.

The Sunday of the Passion or Palm Sunday begins the last week of Lent, known as Holy Week. During this holiest time of the church year, the worship services relive the final week of our Lord's human life. Holy Week includes Maundy Thursday, when Christians observe Christ's "Last Supper" -- the institution of the Sacrament of Holy Communion -- and the mandate to serve one another in love. Good Friday commemorates the imprisonment, trial and death by crucifixion of Jesus.

Lent culminates on Saturday evening of Holy Week in the Great Vigil of Easter, when Christians gather in darkness, light new fire, and celebrate the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies in the resurrection of Christ.

God became flesh in Jesus Christ. Jesus faced temptation, he suffered hunger and thirst, he suffered the agony of crucifixion. Jesus our God did not face these things so that we would be exempt from them, he faced these things so that we would have dignity in them. Jesus came in the flesh and dwelt among us, and suffered hunger and thirst and heat and cold and betrayal and loneliness, and finally also pain and agony and death upon the cross, and in this "journeying with/in humanity." He gave dignity to his little ones who suffer. He gave dignity to us! Everyone avoids a sad person, except Jesus Himself who is much acquainted with sorrow. Jesus was the only person who gave the demoniac his dignity, the only one who could "exorcise" him from his inner torment and shame. Jesus faced the man who lived in a cemetery, naked and screaming all day and night and calmed his spirit and healed his soul. How can you think that this same Jesus would be repelled by your pessimism or your cynicism or your sadness or your grief? How could a man who seeks the company of demoniacs be repelled by you? While we may believe in the power of positive thinking and in happiness, and in believing these things we may be able to transform our experience of the present moment, what do we do when we cannot "snap out of it" or replace negativity with positivity? What if, for a day or season, we are overcome by grief or despair? If what we rely on is our own ability to "think positive," we have lost something when we find we cannot. But we who are Christians can endure unhappiness and sadness and loneliness and backstabbing and betrayal and friendlessness and poverty and hunger and thirst; we can face mourning and grief and even death, because Jesus faced all those things. As Christians, we know that Jesus brings life in the very place of death. We can face our own crucifixions in life, because we know that Jesus is "alive and well, his spirit is within us" because he died to live again!

Lent is a time to live our friendship with Jesus. Let us be bold to join him, fasting in the wilderness for forty days during Lent; let us be bold to pray with him in the garden on Maundy Thursday, let us fearlessly stand at the foot of his cross on Good Friday, so that we may witness his Resurrection and his Ascension, and join in his triumphant reign. Let us live the journey of our faith – friends of Jesus, alive in God – through these weeks ahead.

Get Connected to a First Impressions Ministry

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

Concierge Desk

Eliot Perez

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 friends, provide them with a free gift, and help them get connected.

Inspirations Coffee Cafe & Gift Shop

Dawn Ashbrook

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.

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

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. 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

Mondays • 7 pm

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

ANGELS IN MOTION

Second & Fourth 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 Worship@ResurrectionMCC.org

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

Owls

**Saturday
March 7, 11:30 am
Gathering Place**

**Our regular gatherings will now be on
the First Saturday of the month.**

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

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



**In 2008, we recycled
30 tons of paper,
a 12% increase
over 2007.**

We now have two
collection bins
as this program
grows. We receive
cash based on the
weight of the paper
collected.

DRUMMING CIRCLE

**Saturday, March 7, 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 circles celebrate Native American customs and heritage or other ethnic traditions, but all are outlets for people expressing a primal urge that drives their spirit, as they drum amidst camaraderie and fun.

Drumming is not only fun, it 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!

Resurrection hosted a drumming circle workshop a few months 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, DrummingCircle@ResurrectionMCC.org.

Drumming Circle is hosted monthly on the first Saturday.

FINDING OUR WAY

Giving Up Control to Receive Direction

Giving Up Illusions to Receive Greater Clarity

Giving Up Agendas to Receive Surprises

Giving Up Compulsion to Receive Unlimited Love

Worship Services
Sundays, 9 & 11 am. Wednesdays, 6:30 pm.

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

www.ResurrectionMCC.org

Handicap Accessible
Sundays • Nursery Available 9 & 11 am
Signed for the Deaf 11 am
Children & Youth Program 11 am



Join Team Resurrection MCC!

Sunday, March 15, 9 am

Go online today. Sign up to walk and raise funds for
our HIV / AIDS Benevolence Fund. Get your t-shirt in
Inspirations Coffee Cafe & Gift Shop today!

For questions, or to volunteer, email
AIDSWalk@ResurrectionMCC.org

Second Family Care Team Ministry

Is looking for caring, loving, helping people just like you!

The Care Team is ministry developed in partnership with Interfaith Care Partners and other congregations. Team members serve on this in-home support program as extended family and friends with Care Partners from congregation and community.

Care Partners are those members of the congregation or community with special needs. Needs include respite care for caregiver, emotional support during personal family crisis, assistance after hospitalization, or any other time of need in the Care Partner's life.

Our vision is to communicate God's unconditional love to all people through simple acts of kindness to members or our church family and community who have a need and seek our help. We believe the Christian community should reach out with loving hearts and helping hands to serve our community and church family members. We believe that by providing emotional, practical and spiritual support with an attitude of love and grace, we can create a positive change in the lives of individuals and their families. Through this form of Christian action, we envision a renewed hope in Christ and in the Christian community.

If you would like be a ministry team member, we meet on the first Sunday of each month, following the 11 am service in the Activities Building for lunch, training, and fellowship care and planning.

If you would like to be a Care Partner and have a special need please fill out a request sheet that is available at all the entrance to the sanctuary and place it in the box labeled, Care Team. For more information on giving or receiving care, contact Jason Wood, Director of Connections by email at Jason@ResurrectionMCC.org or call 713-861-9149 x105.

A Prayer for Ash Wednesday

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, the all-holy one, who gives us life and all things. As we go about our lives, the press of our duties and activities often leads us to forget your presence and your love. We fall into sin and fail to live out the responsibilities that you have entrusted to those who were baptized into your Son.

In this holy season, help us to turn our minds and hearts back to you. Lead us into sincere repentance and renew our lives with your grace. Help us to remember that we are sinners, but even more, help us to remember your loving mercy.

As we live through this Ash Wednesday, may the crosses of ashes that mark our foreheads be a reminder to us and to those we meet that we belong to your Son. May our worship and prayer and penitence this day be sustained throughout these 40 days of Lent. Bring us refreshed and renewed to the celebration of Christ's resurrection at Easter.

We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

Amen.

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.*

Most in Need of Canned Meat.



Advertise
with us.

As low as \$25 / week.

Ads@ResurrectionMCC.org

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.

Stewardship Thought for the Week

The word community has many connotations, some positive, some negative. Community can make us think of a safe togetherness, shared meals, common goals, and joyful celebrations. It also can call forth images of sectarian exclusivity, in-group language, self-satisfied isolation, and romantic naiveté. However, community is first of all a quality of the heart. It grows from the spiritual knowledge that we are alive not for ourselves but for one another. . . . The question, therefore, is not "How can we make community?" but "How can we develop and nurture giving hearts?"
 ~ Henri Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey*, 55.

Board Members on Duty

Goldie Brown & Georgette L. Monaghan

Board Minutes Available Upon Request.

Attention all EXCEL Weekend Graduates!

The Excel in Faithfulness Abunchovum team would like to cordially invite any graduate from the original EXCEL weekend retreat exercise to prayerfully consider attending the next step on our journey in EXCEL by registering to attend our next retreat March 6-8, 2009 at the Christian Renewal Center. To register and to find out more please visit our booth in the Gathering Place.

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Flowers in the Sanctuary

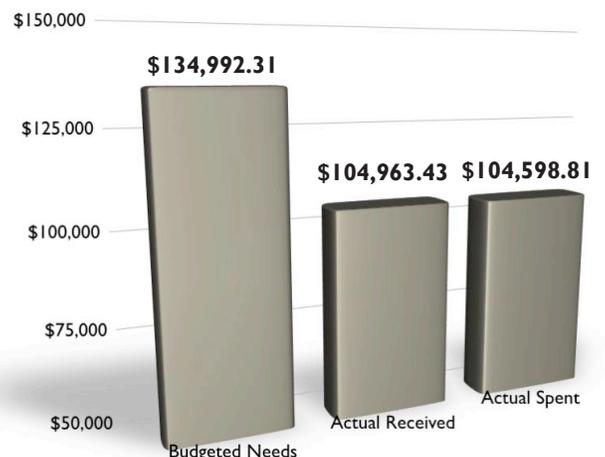
Consider donating flowers in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special day.

Sign up on the Flower Chart in the Welcome Area.

General Fund Financial Report

Week Ending February 22, 2009

			Week	Year
Tithes & Offerings				
2/22/09	9:00 am	134	\$3,320.00	\$27,731.95
2/22/09	11:00 am	343	\$5,735.05	\$50,549.31
2/18/09	6:30 pm	32	\$212.00	\$903.00
	Special Services		\$0.00	\$354.00
	Online Giving		\$921.67	\$6,606.72
	Other Contributions		\$933.33	\$15,026.26
	Total	509	\$11,122.05	\$101,171.24
Other General Fund Income				
	Fundraising		\$12.50	\$1,151.63
	Miscellaneous		\$110.00	\$2,640.56
	Total Received		\$11,244.55	\$104,963.43
	Budgeted Need		\$17,653.85	\$134,992.31
	Total Surplus / (Deficit)		(\$6,409.30)	(\$30,028.88)
Total Imagine Capital Campaign			\$1,433.34	\$17,573.34



This Week @ ResurrectionMCC.org

SUNDAY MARCH 1

- 9:00 am Sunday Worship / Rev. Dwayne Johnson**
 10:15 am Fisher's Net Prayer Ministry *Chapel*
 10:45 am Youth Ministries Program *Activities Building*
11:00 am Sunday Worship / Rev. Dwayne Johnson
 12:30 pm Second Family Care Partners Luncheon *Act Bldg #104*
 1:30 pm HeavenSound Handbells Rehearsal *Music Room*

MONDAY MARCH 2

- 6:30 pm Resurrection Singers Rehearsal *Music Room*
 6:45 pm Pride Band - Small Group Rehearsal *Chapel*

TUESDAY MARCH 3

- 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous *Gathering Place*
 7:00 pm Gospel Ensemble Rehearsal *Music Room*
 7:00 pm Lesbian Health Initiative *Wellness Center*
 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal *Chapel*

WEDNESDAY MARCH 4

- 6:00 pm The Chalice: Community Soup Supper *Activities Building*
 6:30 pm The Chalice: Spiritual Deepening *Sanctuary*
 7:00 pm The Chalice: Life Development Offerings
 7:00 pm Pride Band Rehearsal *Activities Building*

THURSDAY MARCH 5

No Events Scheduled.

FRIDAY OFFICE CLOSED MARCH 6

No Events Scheduled.

SATURDAY MARCH 7

- 11:30 am OWLS Luncheon *Gathering Place*
 1:00 pm Angels in Motion Rehearsal *Sanctuary*
 3:00 pm Drumming Circle *Gathering Place*
 7:30 pm Pride Band Concert *Sanctuary*

SUNDAY MARCH 8

- 9:00 am Sunday Worship / Rev. Janice Ladd**
 10:15 am Fisher's Net Prayer Ministry *Chapel*
 10:45 am Youth Ministries Program *Activities Building*
11:00 am Sunday Worship / Rev. Janice Ladd
 12:30 pm Unbinding Prayer *Chapel*
 1:30 pm HeavenSound Handbells Rehearsal *Music Room*