



Resurrection

Metropolitan Community Church

May 3, 2009

Our Community Gathers

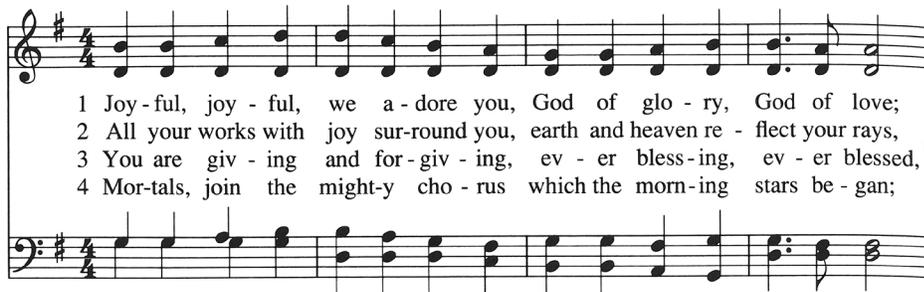
Rev. Dwayne Johnson & Kecia Bullock

+ Exchange of Peace

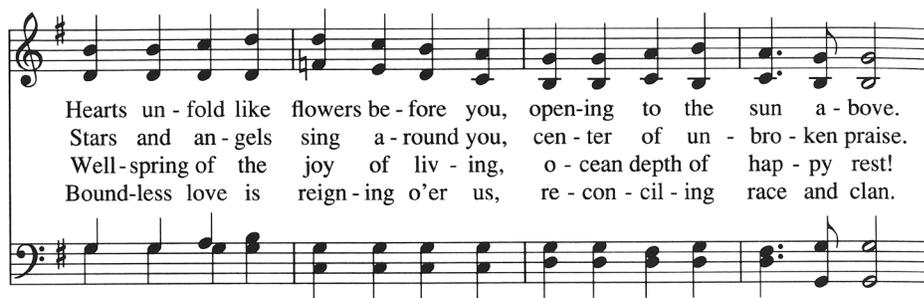
+ Opening Hymn

HYMN TO JOY

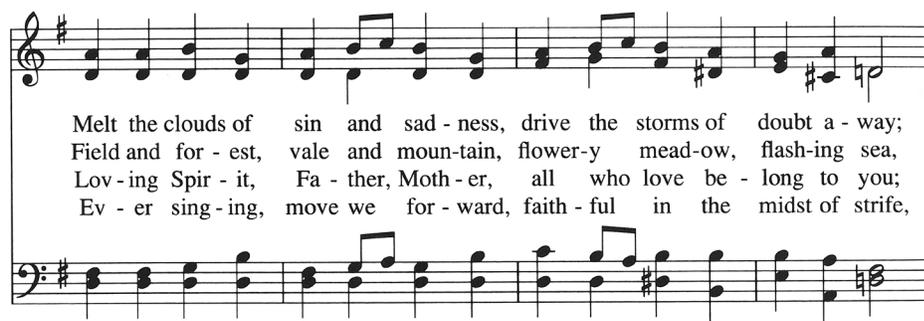
Joyful, Joyful We Adore You



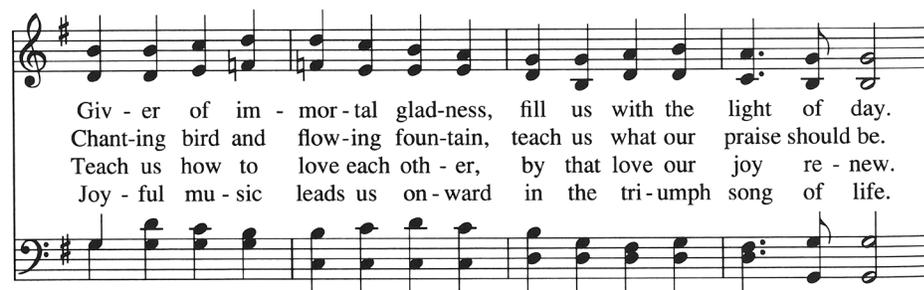
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love;
2 All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re - flect your rays,
3 You are giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blessed,
4 Mor - tals, join the might - y cho - rus which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you, open - ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round you, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
Bound - less love is reign - ing o'er us, re - con - cil - ing race and clan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the storms of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flower - y mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Lov - ing Spir - it, Fa - ther, Moth - er, all who love be - long to you;
Ev - er sing - ing, move we for - ward, faith - ful in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, teach us what our praise should be.
Teach us how to love each oth - er, by that love our joy re - new.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us on - ward in the tri - umph song of life.

+ Invocation

Rev. Mona Lopez

+ Please rise in body or spirit.

We Worship

Sung to the music of Beethoven's *Hymn to Joy*, this text is a perfect accompaniment to the Great 50 Days of Easter. It is a hymn of spiritual springtime as "hearts unfold like flowers. . ." The lyricist, Henry van Dyke, wrote the text in 1907, inspired by the glory of the Berkshires in Massachusetts. Henry van Dyke's distinguished career included service as Professor of English Literature at Princeton, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, President of the National Institute of Arts and Letters, and Chair of the committee that compiled the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship. When asked about his hymn, he described it as "a hymn of trust and joy and hope."

We Hear the Word

Mordecai prods Esther to act, emphasizing the importance of human actions in accomplishing God's purpose (a major underlying theme in Esther) and reminding her that as queen she does have power. Thus prodded, Esther springs into action; the reactor becomes the actor.

~ Sidnie Ann White,
The Women's Bible Commentary, 128.

First Reading

DeJuana Jernigan

Esther 4:12-17

When Mordecai heard Esther's reply, he wrote back the following response: "Don't fool yourself into thinking that, just because you are in the imperial palace, you will be the only Jewish person to escape. If you insist on remaining silent at this time, vindication and liberation will come to our people through another source, but both you and your family will surely die. Who's to say? - you may have come into the royal court for just this moment."

So Esther sent a message to Mordecai: "Bring together all the Jewish people in Susa now and fast for me. Do not eat or drink, day and night, for three days. After that, I will go the sovereign in defiance of the law. If I die, I die."

Mordecai went and carried out all of Esther's instructions.

Sung Response

**All: You came from heaven to earth
To show the way
From the earth to the cross
My debt to pay
From the cross to the grave
From the grave to the sky
Lord, I lift your name on high**

+ Gospel Reading

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

Matthew 5:13-16

You are the salt of the earth. Yet what if salt were to lose its flavor? How could you restore it? It would be fit for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. You don't build a city on a hill, then try to hide it, do you? You don't light a lamp, then put it under a bushel basket, do you? No, you set it on a stand where it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, your light must shine before others so that they may see your good acts and give praise to God in heaven.

Anthem

Gospel Ensemble

Be Blessed

Words & Music by Kurt Carr

Spiritual Encouragement

Rev. Elijah Nealy

Coming Out for Life

Making Ministry Happen

Debbie Skelly

Offertory

Jason Wood & Rico Sangel

I Need Thee Every Hour

Words by Annie Sherwood Hawks & Robert Wadsworth Lowry
Music by Robert Wadsworth Lowry

Communion

Rev. Dwayne Johnson

Introduction to Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Invitation to the Feast

Communion Songs

I Can Only Imagine

I can only imagine what it will be like when I walk by your side
I can only imagine what my eyes will see when your face is before me

I can only imagine

Surrounded by Your glory, what will my heart feel
Will I dance for you Jesus or in awe of you be still
Will I stand in your presence or to my knees will I fall
Will I sing hallelujah, will I be able to speak at all

I can only imagine

I can only imagine when that day comes and I find myself standing in the Son
I can only imagine when all I will do is forever, forever worship you
I can only imagine

Lord I Lift Your Name on High

Lord, I lift your name on high. Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life. I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way
From the earth to the cross my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave from the grave to the sky
Lord, I lift your name on high

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. 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.

Christ has died.
Christ has risen.
Christ will come again.

How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art, How great thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

+ **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Rev. Dwayne Johnson

+ **Benediction**

Rev. Dwayne Johnson

Postlude

Joel Hammett

**We Go
Forth**

Go from this place
to be the change you
want to see.

Happy 37th Anniversary, Resurrection MCC!



Dear Pastor Dwayne and Resurrection MCC Family,

Let me send lots of love and kisses to all of you on our 37th Anniversary of loving and up-lifting our community. As your oldest surviving former pastor and as one who knew and loved your founding pastor Rev. Bob Falls and your second pastor Rev. Jeri Ann Harvey, I am so proud of each of you and how you are expanding the outreach and testimony of our great church.

After leaving Resurrection MCC in 1985, I went on to interim at MCC of the Redwoods in Marin County California, and then interim at Golden Gate MCC in San Francisco. During that time I was also a social worker for the County and City of San Francisco. After that, I pastored First MCC Atlanta, and finally All God's Children, Minneapolis, Minnesota -- (next to my childhood home in St. Paul). At both of my final two pastorates, Rev. Dee Lamb installed me. Currently, my partner, Glenn, and I are in our nearly 18 year relationship and we are active in our beloved All God's Children MCC here in Minneapolis. So, on behalf of all your former pastors and my beloved Rev. Dee Lamb, who served with me from 1979-1985, I send God's blessings to each of you.

In closing, I could not write this letter without mentioning two of your present members - first of all a woman who was office manager the day I came to candidate - by the way, it was on the second day of my visit that Harvey Milk, a personal friend, was murdered and I had to return for his funeral. That is Annette Beal, what a blessing she and Carolyn Gay have been and are to us and my dear Len Shelton who was and probably still is on the board of directors. Thank You, Len, for all your love and service. Keep Looking Homeward my Angels!!

Love Ya!
Rev. Chuck Larsen
Third Pastor of Resurrection MCC

Staff

Rev. Dwayne Johnson

Senior Pastor

RevDwayne@ResurrectionMCC.org (x101)

Rev. Janice Ladd

Executive Pastor

RevJanice@ResurrectionMCC.org (x104)

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

Debbie Mansfield

Nursery Coordinator

Sara Navarro

Graphic Artist

Joel Palomares

Youth Ministries Program Coordinator

Joel@ResurrectionMCC.org

Steven Ponder

Sanctuary Choir Director

Ken Thompson

Audio Technician

Anthony White

Gospel Ensemble Pianist

Cassandra White

Gospel Ensemble Director

Jim Winslett

HeavenSound Handbells Director

Pepe Zuniga

Facilities Technician

Volunteer Staff Clergy

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.

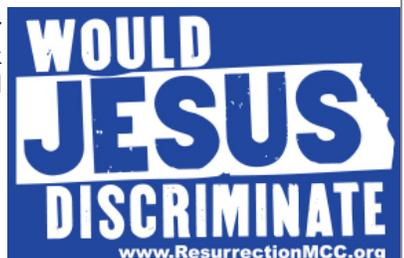
We believe in the saving grace of Jesus Christ and the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.

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!





Thanks to all who have contributed to the Imagine Capital Campaign to date. Your legacy gift makes a difference in the lives of others!

Please send any revisions to Craig Felderhoff, Director of Operations, Craig@ResurrectionMCC.org or 713-861-9149 x102.

The Chalice

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

WEDNESDAYS

*The Promise of the Cup:
Seeking the Presence of God
we become that which we seek.*

Community Meal
6:00 - 6:30 pm | Activities Building
simple supper, open to all

Spiritual Deepening
6:30 - 7:00 pm | Sanctuary
*new & ancient practices of prayer,
meditation & worship*

Life Development Offerings
7:00 - 8:30 pm
*three classes, many paths . . .
where will you journey?*

A Sip from The Chalice

Spiritual Deepening Practice

You can begin by sitting down in a comfortable position, closing your eyes. Sit with your back erect, without being strained or overarched. Take a few deep breaths, relax your body. Feel your energy settle into your body and into the moment.

Listen to these words of Scripture and gently allow yourself to perceive the anxiety and unease of the disciples who were shut in behind closed doors for fear of what was happening all around them:

While they were still talking, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. Jesus said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?"

See if certain associations emerge from your heart that connect you with this sense of anxiety and unease, fear of what is happening in the world about you.

Are you troubled? Are you unsettled by doubts rising in your mind?

Now listen to these words of Scripture and gently allow yourself to perceive the startling impact of Christ's compassionate interruption of any anxious or troubled thoughts:

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

Look at my hands and my feet. It is I, myself! Touch me and see ...

In the midst of their anxiety and troubled thoughts, Jesus interrupted the disciples with a very present peace. The disciples had not sought him, yet he, in his compassion, came. The disciples did not trust their experience of his presence, yet he, in his reassured them of his very real, down-to-earth, companionship in their lives. Jesus' presence, Jesus' promise was for them ... Jesus' presence, Jesus' promise is for you ...

Breathe in: "Peace..."
Breathe out: "Be present..."
Breathe in: "Peace..."
Breathe out: "Be present..."

When you feel ready, open your eyes ... to a new Peace.

Offering One

Open to All

THE OPEN DOOR MAY 6 | SANCTUARY

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 - Corner

Why is it that often when we get what we want, we still feel empty? We work so hard to succeed, but our lives just end up becoming more about us. Can success turn on us? Can we get caught up in a smaller world where our lives are all about the things that we want? Or is there another way to live? Where life is about more than just us. Where we see people in need and we do something about it. Where our world is expanding because we are sharing our success. And maybe in attempting to save someone else from their suffering, we find out that we are actually the ones being saved.

Offering Two

Open to All

SONG OF THE SOUL: SEEKING GOD THROUGH SONG & SCRIPTURE MAY 6, 13, 20 & 27 | CHAPEL

Enhance your spiritual journey through this exploration of uplifting Scriptural passages and songs of praise and worship that they have inspired! Through musical meditation and shared reflection we will share together as we seek a deeper relationship with God, find comfort and peace, increase our faith, and offer the love we find to all ...

Offering Three

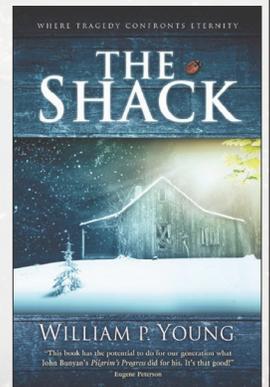
Open to All

THE SHACK: A GUIDED DISCUSSION MAY 6, 13, 20 & 27 | GATHERING PLACE

Join us for a guided discussion of this faith-themed, bestselling novel.

Universal themes of Suffering & Forgiveness, Justice & Mercy, Abandonment & Invitation, Anger & Love will be explored through the lens of this incredible novel about unspeakable loss, unimaginable healing and the quest for relationship with God.

All sessions open to anyone who is reading or has read *The Shack*!



Broadening Our Understanding: Beyond LGB...

by Flo Perry, Equality Ministry Team Lead

A commitment to sustaining a community in which the dignity of every individual is respected has been one of Resurrection MCC's core values -we've been talking about that for weeks as we prepared ourselves to become a certified Community of Respect. By signing the "Resolution of Respect," we pledged-among other things, "to be aware of my own biases and seek to gain understanding of those who I perceive as being different from myself."

While transgender people have long been a part of Resurrection, changes in the world and at Resurrection have given rise to an increased visibility of many in our transgender community. In providing a safe place for transgender people to express their gender identity and to come out and live in the fullness of who God has created them to be, it could be helpful to have a better understanding of the terms used when discussing transgender issues.

Creating A Common Language: Transgender

Gender: Socially constructed roles, behaviors, and attributes considered by the general public to be "appropriate" for one's sex as assigned at birth. Gender roles vary among cultures and along time continuums.

Gender Expression: Refers to all external characteristics and behaviors that are socially defined as either masculine or feminine, such as dress, mannerisms, physical characteristics and speech patterns.

Gender Identity: A person's innate, deeply felt psychological identification as male or female, which may or may not correspond to the person's body or assigned sex at birth (meaning what sex was listed on a person's birth certificate).

Gender Identity Disorder (GID) / Gender Dysphoria: A psychological diagnosis, recognized by the American Psychiatric Association, of severe distress and discomfort caused by the conflict between one's gender identity and one's sex at birth. Some people diagnosed with this condition identify as transsexual, but not all transsexual people have gender dysphoria or are diagnosed with GID. Furthermore, not all people with GID are transsexuals.

Genderqueer: Those rejecting binary roles and languages. Synonyms include androgynous.

Intersexed: One who is born with sex chromosomes, external genitalia or an internal reproductive system that is not considered "standard" for either male or female. At least one in every 2,000 children is born with mixed sexual anatomy that makes it difficult to assign sex. Sometimes, such people are termed hermaphrodites. The term hermaphrodite is an outdated clinical term and should be avoided. Although many intersexed people do not identify as transgender, many issues relating to transgender people overlap with those that affect intersexed people.

Sexual Orientation: The preferred term used when

referring to an individual's physical and/or emotional attraction to the same and/or opposite gender. **Sexual orientation is not the same as a person's gender identity.**

Sex Reassignment: Taking medical and legal steps to bring one's sex into conformity with one's gender identity.

Transgender: An umbrella term referring to a person whose gender identity or gender presentation is not stereotypical. Terminology related to the term transgender includes the following:

Cross Dresser: One who wears the clothing and accoutrements that are considered by society to be more appropriate for a gender other than the gender that person manifested at birth. Unlike transsexuals, cross dressers typically do not seek to change their physical characteristics and/or manner of expression permanently. Cross dressers have also been called transvestites. Transvestite is an outdated, clinical term and should be avoided.

Drag: Stylized performance of gender usually by female-bodied drag kings or male-bodied drag queens. This is not necessarily an expression of one's gender identity.

Transsexual: A person who identifies with the roles, expectations and expressions more commonly associated with a sex different from one he/she was assigned at birth. A transsexual often seeks to change his/her physical characteristics and manner of expression to satisfy the standards for membership in another gender (transition). This may or may not include hormone therapy and eventual sex reassignment surgery. Upon transitioning, transsexuals may call themselves male-to-female (MTF) or female-to-male (FTM) to acknowledge their change in appearance to match their gender identity. Whether a person is transsexual has no direct or predictable connection to his or her sexual orientation.

Transitioning: The process through which a person modifies his/her physical characteristics and/or manner of expression to satisfy the standards for membership in a gender other than the one he/she was assigned at birth. Some people transition simply by living as a member of the other gender, while others undergo medical treatment to alter their physical characteristics.

TransWoman or TransMan: Informal descriptors used relative to one's affirmed gender. Variants include trans, T*, trans person and trans folk.

– Adapted from
Human Rights Campaign (HRC)
& *The Advocate*, issue 999.

Resurrection MCC was proud to be a Platinum Sponsor of the 2009 Unity Banquet held Saturday, May 2, at 6:00 pm. The 17th annual event, sponsored by the Houston Transgender Unity Committee, is the largest of its kind in the U.S. Proceeds benefit scholarships for trans-identified students who are pursuing higher education.

Equality Ministry:

Developing a Common Language, Part 3

by Flo Perry, Equality Ministry Team Lead

In order to develop a common language, the Equality Ministry will provide the definition-and in some cases the context-of terms that are commonly used when discussing equality, diversity and inclusiveness so that our community is able to engage in meaningful dialogue around these issues. This common language will be developed over the course of 2009 through regular excerpts in the Sunday bulletin. These definitions were developed by the Anti-Defamation League.

Bias is an inclination or preference either for or against an individual or group that interferes with impartial judgment.

Anti-Bias is a term used to describe active commitment to challenging prejudice, stereotyping and all forms of discrimination.

Bigotry is an unreasonable or irrational attachment to negative stereotypes and prejudices.

Discrimination is the denial of justice and fair treatment by both individuals and institutions in many arenas, including employment, education, housing and political rights. Discrimination is an action that can follow prejudiced thinking.

Prejudice is pre-judging, making a decision about a person or group of people without sufficient knowledge and is frequently based on stereotypes.

Scapegoating is the action of blaming an individual or group for something when, in reality, the person or group is not responsible. It targets another person or group as responsible for problems in society because of the group's identity

Stereotype is an oversimplified generalization about a person or an entire group of people without regard for individual differences. Even seemingly positive stereotypes that link a person or a specific group to a specific positive trait can have negative consequences.

COMMUNITY OF RESPECT

A NO PLACE FOR HATE™ PROGRAM OF THE ADL

By signing this Resolution of Respect (available in the Gathering Place after services throughout May) you are taking personal responsibility for standing up against all forms of

prejudice and discrimination and committing yourself to creating a world that is a *Community of Respect*®.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Holy Union Preparation Seminar

Sunday, May 10, 12:45 - 3 pm
Act. Bldg #104

Are you and your partner thinking about having a Holy Union?

Designed to help couples discuss relationship matters while keeping Christ in the center of their relationship, this seminar is the recommended first step to having a Holy Union performed by Resurrection clergy.

To register, email Jason@ResurrectionMCC.org



Rev. Elijah Nealy

Rev. Elijah Nealy, an openly identified transgender man, has worked extensively with LGBT adolescents and adults in both pastoral and social service capacities for

the past 25 years. Ordained with Metropolitan Community Churches since the early 1990s, Rev. Nealy has served as a local church pastor in New Jersey as well as Regional Coordinator for MCC congregations in Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. Having previously served as Deputy Director for the LGBT Community Center in New York City, Rev. Elijah is currently in private practice as a clinical social worker and offers trainings, workshops, consultations and preaching engagements in a variety of venues.

Advertise
with us.

As low as \$25 / week.

Ads@ResurrectionMCC.org

**Connections First Impressions
Life Development Youth Ministries Programs
Worship & Altar Ministries**

Summer "Season of Service"
(June, July, August)

Volunteer TRAINING DAY

Saturday, May 23

Various Training Opportunities
Offered 9 am - 5 pm

Training: 9 am - Noon

Youth Ministries Programs Volunteers

Teachers & Assistants for a 3-Person Teaching Team

- Serve 1 Sunday a Month for 3 Months
- All Age Groups Available (Infants-Tweens)
- Training & Teaching Materials Provided

Training: 1 pm - 3 pm

First Impressions Volunteers

Welcome Team, Usher Team, Concierge Desk Hosts, Inspirations Gift Store

Training: 3 pm - 5 pm

Worship & Altar Ministries Volunteers

Altar Preparation, Communion Servers, Scripture Readers. All training provided.

0 - 100 years of experience welcome!

**RSVP to Jason@ResurrectionMCC.org
713-861-9149 x105**



Imagine Campaign Update

by Jennifer Riley & Wayne Wiggins
Imagine Campaign Co-chairs

As many of you know, one year ago we began a historical goal at this church, to raise 2 million dollars over the next 3 years. Right now, we are exactly 1 year down with 2 year remaining to make our goal. So far, we have received over \$983,000 in pledges and almost \$303,000 has already been given. For that, the *Imagine* Team and this church would like to Thank You. Please give yourself a hand!

We will dig deeper into the accomplishments that the *Imagine* Campaign has been able to afford this church, but I would like to mention just a couple.

- We have been able to hire Rev. Kristen as a full time director of Life Development who concentrates on the spiritual growth of our congregation.
- We have brought in a youth coordinator, Joel, who has helped to turn around our children's ministry, which is thriving with over 50 children on Easter Sunday!
- And, in case you somehow missed them, our new video screens and audio/visual equipment to help heighten our worship experience!

Even though we are off to an awesome start, we could easily achieve our full goal of 2 million dollars with 100% participation from everyone that is active at this church. Right now our participation rate is approximately 50% and our collection rate is 71% from those that have already made their pledges. We need 100% participation and 100% collection for this church to succeed and meet our goal of the full 2 million dollars! This would allow us to fulfill all of the goals that the *Imagine* Campaign set out to accomplish, including video broadcasting and the visionary updates to our welcome area and activities building next door!

This address is not just limited to new friends and members of the congregation, but to everyone that previously made a pledge. You can upgrade your pledge anytime you are able. For those of you that have not heard about this campaign before or that are joining us within the last year, we ask that become an important part of this amazing journey. We still have 2 years left to complete our goal and make ministry happen through your giving back!!! Pledge cards are available at every exit and you can get more information by asking Wayne Wiggins or Jennifer Riley, whose pictures are above!

We have recognized everyone that has given towards their pledge to the capital campaign in your worship bulletin this morning and we will add to that list with the new contributors. Please become part of history as we invite you to be a part of something special. It's about all of us!

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. Please return in offering basket or by mail.

Stewardship Thought for the Week

*How long we live is important to us;
how well we live is important to others;
how generously we live is important to all eternity.*

~ W.A. Ward

Board Members on Duty

Len Shelton & Mary Wagner

Board Minutes Available Upon Request.

LIFE DOESN'T STAND STILL AND NEITHER SHOULD YOUR INVESTMENTS.



Jennifer L. Riley, Financial Advisor
713-861-7225

www.edwardjones.com Member SIPC

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Increase OUR Imagine Campaign Fund



How can YOU increase OUR Imagine Campaign Fund?

Here's how...

Simply refer or use my services as your Realtor, to Buy or Sell a home. Once the transaction is complete a donation in your name will be made to the Imagine Campaign.

Together we can make a difference!

EXIT Complete Realty

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www.SellingHomesInHouston.com

Pamela Efferson, Realtor

Flowers in the Sanctuary

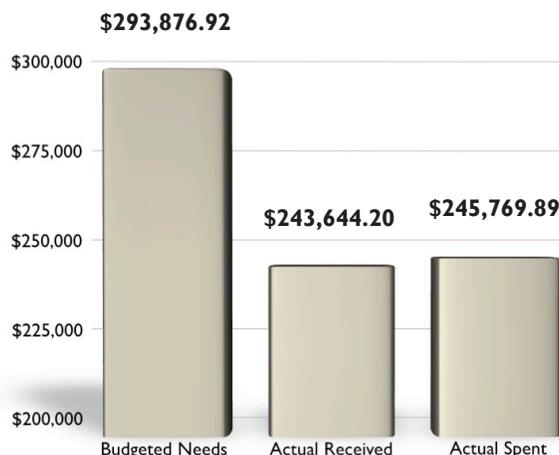
Consider donating flowers in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special day.

Sign up on the Flower Chart in the Welcome Area.

General Fund Financial Report

Week Ending April 26, 2009

			Week	Year
<i>Tithes & Offerings</i>				
4/26/09	9:00 am	143	\$2,242.00	\$58,147.55
4/26/09	11:00 am	420	\$5,056.67	\$120,896.08
4/22/09	6:30 pm	40	\$266.00	\$2,815.70
	Special Services	157	\$1,359.00	\$3,966.03
	Online Giving		\$797.61	\$18,514.11
	Other Contributions		\$3,466.67	\$32,114.38
	Total	760	\$13,187.95	\$236,453.85
<i>Other General Fund Income</i>				
	Fundraising			\$1,249.48
	Miscellaneous		\$110.86	\$5,940.87
	Total Received		\$13,298.81	\$243,644.20
	Budgeted Need		\$17,653.85	\$293,876.92
	Total Surplus / (Deficit)		(\$4,355.04)	(\$50,232.72)
Total Imagine Capital Campaign			\$5,379.00	\$42,147.02



This Week @ ResurrectionMCC.org

SUNDAY

MAY 3

- 9:00 am Sunday Worship / Rev. Elijah Nealy**
10:15 am Fisher's Net Prayer Ministry (Everyone Welcome) *Chapel*
10:45 am Youth Ministries Program *Activities Building*
11:00 am Sunday Worship / Rev. Elijah Nealy
12:30 pm First Impression Team Lead Lunch *Activities Bldg #104*
1:30 pm HeavenSound Handbells Rehearsal *Music Room*

MONDAY

MAY 4

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

TUESDAY

MAY 5

- 6:30 pm Lesbian Health Initiative *Wellness Center*
7:00 pm Gospel Ensemble Rehearsal *Music Room*
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal *Chapel*

WEDNESDAY

MAY 6

- 6:00 pm The Chalice: Community Meal *Activities Building*
6:30 pm The Chalice: Spiritual Deepening *Sanctuary*
7:00 pm The Chalice: Open Door (Open) *Sanctuary*
7:00 pm The Chalice: Song of the Soul (Open) *Chapel*
7:00 pm The Chalice: The Shack (Open) *Gathering Place*
7:00 pm Houston Pride Band Rehearsal *Activities Building*

THURSDAY

MAY 7

- 7:00 pm AA Steps Study (Open) *Chapel*

FRIDAY

OFFICE CLOSED

MAY 8

No Events Scheduled

SATURDAY

MAY 9

- 8:00 am Future Clergy *Gathering Place*
1:00 pm Angels in Motion *Sanctuary*

SUNDAY

MAY 10

- 9:00 am Sunday Worship / Rev. Dwayne Johnson**
10:15 am Fisher's Net Prayer Ministry (Everyone Welcome) *Chapel*
10:45 am Youth Ministries Program *Activities Building*
11:00 am Sunday Worship / Rev. Dwayne Johnson
12:45 pm Holy Union Preparation Seminar *Gathering Place*
1:30 pm HeavenSound Handbells Rehearsal *Music Room*