

# MANGER OF OUR HEARTS

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CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE  
DECEMBER 24 | 7 PM

## 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)

### Joel Hammett

Organist & Accompanist

### Rev. Mona Lopez

Volunteer Staff Clergy

RevMona@ResurrectionMCC.org

### Debbie Mansfield

Nursery Coordinator

### Sara Navarro

Graphic Artist

### Joel Palomares

Youth Ministries Program Coordinator

Joel@ResurrectionMCC.org

### Steven Ponder

Sanctuary Choir Director

### Anthony White

Gospel Ensemble Pianist

### Cassandra White

Gospel Ensemble Director

Cassandra@ResurrectionMCC.org

### Jim Winslett

HeavenSound Handbells Director

### Jose I. Zuniga

Facilities Technician

Jose@ResurrectionMCC.org

## Worship

Sunday, 9 & 11 am / Wednesday, 6:30 pm

Children & Youth Worship  
Sunday, 11 am

Nursery  
Sunday, 9 & 11 am

## 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. Because of our faith we are called to: do justice, show kindness, and live humbly with God (Micah 6:8); explore life's questions with open hearts and minds; raise our voices in sacred defiance against exclusion, whether religious, political or systemic; reach out to those with no hope; equip new generations of remarkable, far-reaching spiritual activists.

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!**



Prelude

Joel Hammett

Our Community Gathers

Rev. Dwayne Johnson & Rev. Janice Ladd

+ Exchange of Peace

+ Hymn

*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!

## We Gather

From many places we gather here. This is a high point of our week. We see our friends. We make new friends. And we spend time with The Friend -- the loving Christ who meets us where we are, as we are. In this Sanctuary we worship and through worship the courage within us is kindled to inspire courageous living beyond this place.

# Advent

As we begin the Christian Year, we also celebrate the Holy Season known as Advent. It is a time when we prepare ourselves for the coming of our Messiah. Advent means "Coming." We celebrate the days of Advent in expectation and preparation for Christ's arrival.

Through the centuries, Christians have observed a time of waiting and expectation before celebrating the birth of the Savior at Christmas. The Advent season is a time for reflection and preparation, but its mood is joyful.

As it proclaims the revelation of God's love as expressed in Christ's birth in a humble stable, Advent makes innkeepers out of all of us, asking each of us to make room for the arrival of Christ, the Light of the World. We anticipate the Light of Christ with the ritual lighting of a candle in the Advent Wreath on each Sunday of the season. The circle of candles in a wreath reminds us of the eternal Presence of God, while the colors of the candles – three purple and one pink – symbolize the Sovereignty of Christ who rules with hope, peace and love, bringing joy into our world. The large white candle in the center is known as the Christ candle, and points to Jesus as the Christ, the Light of the world. The flame of each new candle in Advent reminds us that something Holy is happening in our midst . . . and that more is still to come.

## + Lighting of the Christ Candle

CC

### Musical Meditation

Rico Sangel

#### *Mary, Did You Know?*

## + Congregational Invocation

ALL: Holy One, we experience your presence among us in the light of Christ that shines for all. Your grace appears, bringing salvation for all! So we sing to you a new song, declaring your glory and marvelous works among us. Great are you: Wonderful Counselor! Bearer of Peace! O Emmanuel, how greatly are you to be praised! This night we shall see a Great Light; we will not be afraid! With the multitude of heavenly hosts, we praise God and say, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace for all God's creation!" For our hope, peace, joy, love and light is in you: Emmanuel; God-with-us; the provider of even more than we can ask or imagine.

### Baptism

Grace McMasters Czarnik

### First Reading

Terry Smith

#### *Colossians 3:12-17*

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as God has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of Jesus, giving thanks to God the Heavenly Parent through him.

## Response to the Word



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

*Luke 2:1-20*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration, and it was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!'

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 the Lord 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.

**Anthem**

Gospel Ensemble

*Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child*

Words & Music by David Phelps

**Spiritual Encouragement**

Rev. Dwayne Johnson

*Manger of Our Hearts*

**Reflection on the Message**

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

**We Hear the Word**

Truly Jesus is born to us and for us. By locating the birth story at the registration under Quirinius, Luke is placing it firmly in the realm of "everyday Joes" and "everyday Marys" who are trying to understand ordinary lives in light of the extraordinary news of the gospel. These people need a savior, and God has provided one.

Though we are the ones who are properly positioned to receive the newborn king, we are not the ones who really understand him or are called upon to announce his arrival. That belongs to the shepherds, to those who have fallen off, or never entered, the economic hamster wheel that so engrosses the rest of us. Because the shepherds have nothing of interest to the emperor, they are free to glorify and praise God fully and without reservation.

Weary like Mary and Joseph, we are longing to learn structures of meaning that reach beyond our daily concerns for survival and compliance with life's many demands and decrees. Unfamiliar teachers, until now marginalized and ignored like the shepherds, will show us the way. But because Jesus himself is the way, we are welcomed not as strangers but as expected guests.

Michael S. Bennet, *Feasting on the Word: Christmas Eve*, p 120.

## 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.

During Communion you will be offered bread and cup with a brief blessing.

We use grape juice for the cup so that all may participate.

*Receive God's sufficient grace - the gift of freedom in God's love.*

## 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.

## Making Ministry Happen

Eve Messina  
Board of Directors

## Offertory

Sanctuary Choir

### *The First Noel - Pachelbel's Canon*

Arranged by Michael Clawson

## Communion

Executive Team

Introduction to Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Invitation to the Feast

## Communion Songs

### *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.

### *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, great news of joy we bring."

The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.  
For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets bards foretold,  
when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and all the world send back the song which now the angels sing.

### *Emmanuel*

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, your name is called Emmanuel;  
God with us, revealed in us; your name is called Emmanuel.

### *Jesus, Name Above All Names*

Jesus, name above all names;  
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.  
Emmanuel, God is with us;  
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

*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.

*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, alleluia to our king;  
Christ, the Savior, is born, Christ, the Savior, is born.

+ **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Executive Team

**Going Forth**

Angels in Motion

**Benediction**

Rev. Dwayne Johnson

**We Go Forth**

God's love cannot be contained within the walls of this Sanctuary. Take the love of Christ from this place into your homes, neighborhoods and communities.



**Shared Ministry & Farewell Celebration**

**Sunday, December 27**  
12:30 pm, Activities Building  
*Lunch catered by*  
*The Spaghetti Warehouse*

Join us as we gather to remember over 13 years of shared ministry with Rev. Dwayne.

Write a farewell message in his "blessings book."

Have your photo taken with Rev. Dwayne.

# The Chalice

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

## No Chalice on December 30

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

### Community Gathering

6:00 - 6:30 pm | Activities Building  
*bring a brown bag or enjoy a light snack  
while you meet new friends.*

### Wednesday Worship

6:30 - 7:00 pm | Activities Building  
*spiritual encouragement, song, and prayer*

### Life Development Offerings

7:00 - 8:30 pm | Activities Building  
*three classes, many paths . . .  
where will you journey?*

### A Sip from The Chalice

Spiritual Deepening Practice

#### From The Four Agreements:

Don't take anything personally - Nothing others do is because of you. What others say and do is a projection of their own reality, their own dream. When you are immune to the opinions and actions of others, you won't be the victim of needless suffering.

#### From the Gospel of Matthew:

Do not judge so that you will not be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.

Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

And whatever city or village you enter, inquire who is worthy in it, and stay at his house until you leave that city. As you enter the house, give it your greeting. If the house is worthy, give it your blessing of peace. But if it is not worthy, take back your blessing of peace. Whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you go out of that house or that city, shake the dust off your feet.

**Read these passages through with openness, curiosity. Note your reflections.**

Consider someone with whom you feel negatively engaged: resentment or judgment or fear or something like these is complicating your relationship. What insight might your reflection hold for you in this situation?

Take a walk for 5 minutes simply repeating, "I am truly doing by best right now, and I am good enough ... I am truly doing by best right now, and I am good enough ... I am truly doing by best right now, and I am good enough..."

Affirm freedom from judgment in your relationship to yourself and with others throughout the day. Live forth harmony and integrity.

## Offering One

Open to All

### LIVING THE QUESTIONS II

JANUARY 6 - FEBRUARY 10

Living the Questions is an exciting, intellectually rigorous, video-based conversation exploring Christianity in the new millennium. Encouraging questions and unsettling answers, this series is for engaged seekers desiring authentic engagement with the Christian faith. Segments include conversations with leading Christian scholars and ministers, sermon and lecture clips, digital stories illustrating aspects of an evolving faith, and concrete spiritual practices and disciplines. This season we will consider such topics as: Jesus as Prophet; The Myth of Redemptive Violence; and Reclaiming Faith. This series facilitated by members of the Spiritual Growth and Education Team can be experienced as independent segments or as an ongoing conversation.

## Offering Two

Open to All

### SOUL EXPRESSIONS

JANUARY 6 - FEBRUARY 10

Through the ages, people have expressed their feelings and thoughts about the Divine in a multitude of ways – in words, pictures, music, dance, ritual, and so on. In this series of classes we will explore the expressions of the human soul in our Christian tradition through two of those avenues – writing and visual arts. In each session, we will experience a selection of the work of a particular writer or artist. We will have an opportunity to respond through drawing, writing, and sharing in groups, or a combination of these. Our own art and writing will be based not on any external rules or standards, but on the needs of our own souls – to reach out to our fellow humans and to our God. NO PREVIOUS ART OR WRITING EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED. Please join us for any or all of these 6 sessions. Art supplies and paper will be provided. *Facilitated by Spiritual Director Cathleen Sheil.*

## Offering Three

Open to All

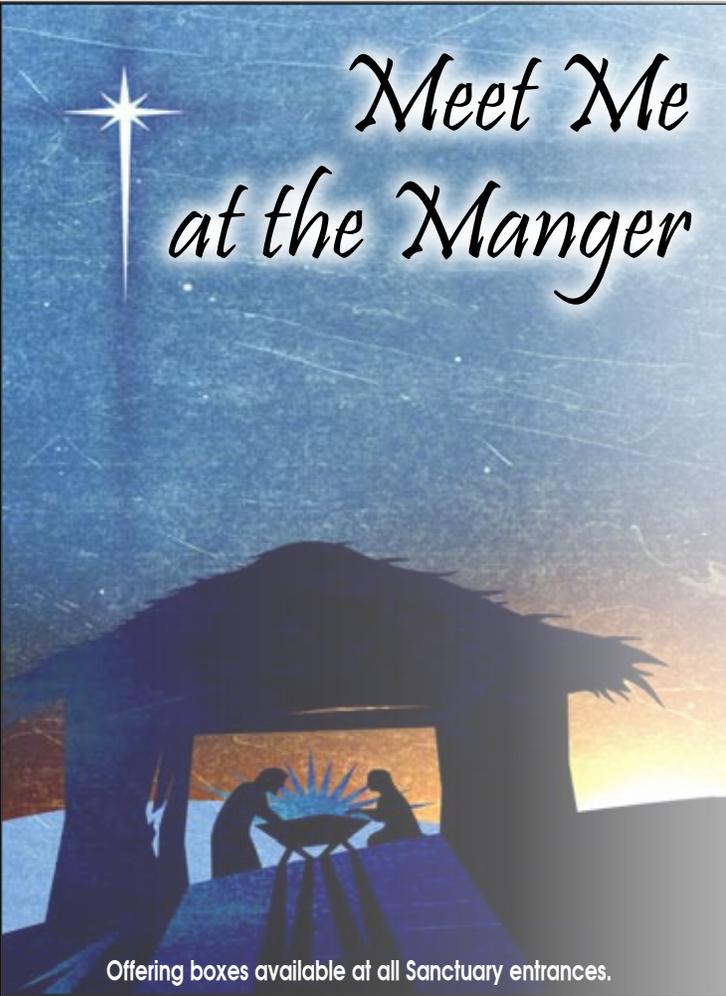
### THE FOUR AGREEMENTS

JANUARY 6 - FEBRUARY 10

With the practice of The Four Agreements we free ourselves from the chaos and conflict which arises when our thoughts, feelings and actions are at odds with our spiritual intentions. Very simply, we ask ourselves: Am I honoring myself and others with my word? Do I take responsibility for my beliefs and my choices, and understand that the choices of others indicate their realities and not mine? Am I open to seeing and hearing beyond the confines of my personal perceptions? Where can I increase my attention to these practices and thus my honor for all life? Living with greater harmony, freedom and integrity is the intention and the result of these practices. Join us!



*Co-facilitated by Denise Junious, Spiritual Growth & Education Team Lead, and Vickey Gibbs, Student in Ministry.*



# Meet Me at the Manger

Offering boxes available at all Sanctuary entrances.

Church Family,

As we find ourselves in a moment of transition, I encourage each of you to stand strong in your faith and remain obedient to God's word. Let's keep in mind that God speaks to us in the 'wilderness' so that we may reach the actual blessing that has been prepared for us.

Galatians 6:10 "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers".

I believe Meet Me at the Manger is the perfect opportunity for our church family to do good for all people. The theme for this year's Meet Me at the Manger is 'opportunity born'. The invitation is to offer a financial gift that is at least \$1 more than what you spent for any gift. Meet Me at the Manger is an opportunity from God, born to all of God's children. Please join me in a season of committed giving and obedience, as we work together to receive God's blessings in 2010.

May God Bless You

Tricia Phillips  
Board Member

## Christmas Eve Communion Service

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 7 PM**

All are invited as we welcome the Light of the World, with Rev. Dwayne bringing his final message as Senior Pastor of Resurrection MCC.



Resurrection  
Metropolitan Community Church

## Kwanzaa

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 6 PM**

All are welcome to join this celebration of traditional African values of family, community responsibility, commerce, and self-improvement.

## Shared Ministry & Farewell Celebration

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 12:30 PM**

Share with us as we celebrate over 13 years of ministry together and bless Rev. Dwayne as he goes forth in his call to Washington, DC.



Rev. Dwayne Johnson  
Senior Pastor

Where diversity is both our gift and our passion. • [www.ResurrectionMCC.org](http://www.ResurrectionMCC.org) • Worship: Sundays, 9 & 11 am / Wednesdays, 6:30 pm  
Children & Youth Program / Friends & Fellowship / Holy Union / Sermon Podcast • 2025 W. 11th St. @ T.C. Jester, Houston 77008 / 713-861-9149

# Kwanzaa

## A Celebration of Family, Community & Culture

**Saturday, December 26  
6 pm, Activities Building**

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 Kwaaida (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 additional details about Kwanzaa, visit [www.ResurrectionMCC.org](http://www.ResurrectionMCC.org) and click on the Kwanzaa link. Please RSVP to [Kwanzaa@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto:Kwanzaa@ResurrectionMCC.org).

# New Members' Class

**Saturday, January 9**

**9 am - 12 noon**

**Chapel / Breakfast Served**

Join us to discuss the mission, vision, and values of Resurrection MCC, to discover our connection to the world through our affiliation with the Metropolitan Community Churches, and to join this family of faith in purpose, service, and fellowship!



To register, contact Jason Wood,  
[Jason@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto:Jason@ResurrectionMCC.org)  
or 713-861-9149 x105.

Download the Spiritual Gifts Assessment  
from [www.ResurrectionMCC.org](http://www.ResurrectionMCC.org)

Join Us in a Celebration of  
Family, Community & Culture

# Kwanzaa

**Saturday, December 26  
6 pm, Activities Building**



Join us for a  
meal and time  
of celebration.

Please RSVP to:  
[Kwanzaa@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto:Kwanzaa@ResurrectionMCC.org)

## IMANI VIDA DRUM CIRCLE

**Saturday, January 2  
3 - 4:30 pm, Gathering Place**

This group is open to ALL, and requires no prior experience with drumming. Join us!

For more information, contact Denise Junious.  
[DrumCircle@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto:DrumCircle@ResurrectionMCC.org)  
[www.meetup.com/DrummingCircle](http://www.meetup.com/DrummingCircle)

*Drum Circle is hosted monthly on the first Saturday.*



## Pastoral Search Committee Town Hall Meeting



**Sunday, January 3  
12:30 pm, Sanctuary**



The Pastoral Search Committee, joined by Rev. Elder Ken Martin, will present information on the pastoral transition process for our next Senior Pastor. We'll be discussing how church size plays a role in this process, as well as presenting an initial pastoral search timeframe. A time for questions will be held following the presentation.



# We Can Do It!



## I Want You!

Do you have a smile, a hello, and 20 minutes a month?  
That's all it takes to be a part of the Welcome ministry.

Contact Donna at  
[Welcome@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto:Welcome@ResurrectionMCC.org)

## Legacy Tree Donations



Please consider donating towards the planting of memorial trees at Resurrection MCC. These memorial trees will help beautify our campus and provide ecological benefits while honoring our loved ones. Contact Craig Felderhoff at [Craig@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto:Craig@ResurrectionMCC.org) for pricing and more information.

## EQUALITY MINISTRY MEETING

**Monday, January 11  
6:30 pm, Gathering Place**

Join our new team lead, Ryan Rolston, as we discuss recent accomplishments and exciting upcoming activities!

Questions or to Sign up:  
[Equality@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto:Equality@ResurrectionMCC.org)



# NEW YEAR

**Have Your Decked Halls Turned Into  
Dark Caves This Holiday Season?**

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

It is not uncommon to experience loneliness, grief, sickness, unemployment, or financial distress during what is supposed to be the happiest time of the year. Any one of these challenges is apt to make you feel as if you have entered a dark cave. Take heart you are not alone in the cave!

**Chris De John delivers a message entitled:  
The Cave**

# WORSHIP ARTS

Resurrection MCC is so blessed to have a number of groups to minister at our worship services. Auditions are not required, but a desire to worship and share is. Feel free to visit any rehearsals to see which group might be the right place for you to serve.

## 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

Directed by Steven Ponder, 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

Thursdays • 7 pm

Directed by CC, this small vocal ensemble serves as both a corporate worship leadership team for congregational song, and sharing through a wide variety of styles of music. Reading music is very helpful and regular rehearsal participation is required.

## ANGELS IN MOTION

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.

## ADESTE PRAISE BAND

Sundays • 8:00 am

Directed by Jason Wood, this group will provide corporate leadership in worship through accompanying congregational song and pieces from other ensembles. Moderate to advanced level of proficiency on your instrument required.

If you have interest in any of these groups, please email [Worship@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto:Worship@ResurrectionMCC.org)

## Get Connected to a First Impressions Ministry

### Concierge Desk

**Wendy Hand**

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

*Do you like to help people feel welcome and included?*

We need loving, warm and friendly people to serve at the Concierge Desk, located in the Gathering place, before and after both Sunday Worship Services! This desk helps welcome new friends, provide them with a free gift, and help them get connected.

### Inspirations Coffee Cafe & Gift Shop

**Ana Tarver**

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

Looking for new friendly faces and volunteers for this ministry! Provide outstanding customer service in an atmosphere of fellowship for people to make connections.

### Second Family Care Partners

**Kristia Ammerman**

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

This care team acts as extended family and friends, offering emotional, practical, and spiritual support. Meets for lunch first Sundays of the month at 12:30 pm.

### Ushers

**Dave Mathis**

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

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

### Welcome Team

**Donna McRoberts**

[Welcome@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto>Welcome@ResurrectionMCC.org)

*Do you like helping people feel special and welcome the moment they arrive to the church?*

We want to welcome people to the church and help them get to where they need to go. Team members are positioned at every door and sidewalk, greeting people with a smile and kind word, offering directions or answering questions.

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

## 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.**



## LOVE MAKES A FAMILY: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People and Their Families

A touring photo-text exhibit created by the award-winning **Family Diversity Projects**.  
Photos by Gigi Kaeser and interviews edited by Peggy Gillespie.

**ON DISPLAY NOW  
IN WELLNESS CENTER & GATHERING PLACE**

Photographs by Gigi Kaeser depict a variety of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people and their families of all races in familiar family settings. The photos are accompanied by text edited by Peggy Gillespie from in-depth interviews she conducted with each family member — including children like Liza—who speak candidly about their lives, their relationships, and the ways in which they cope with the realities of prejudice, bias, and intolerance on a day-to-day basis.

**Sponsored by Resurrection Wellness Center**



## AS WE TRANSITION

As we prepare ourselves for the changes and transitions we will undergo together in 2010, the Board of Directors wants to share with you an update on our transition process.

On November 14, Rev. Elder Lillie Brock met with the Board of Directors and the Executive Team. This retreat, planned months in advance with an anticipated focus on the relevance of church size, provided us with an opportunity to discuss the future of Resurrection MCC. We were extremely blessed to have Rev. Elder Brock's expertise available to us regarding our transition and pastoral search. Rev. Elder Brock recommended that our congregation would best be served by moving forward utilizing our existing staff, rather than calling in an Interim Pastor. As such, Rev. Janice and Rev. Kristen will deliver our Spiritual Encouragement each Sunday. Assistance from MCC clergy and other guests will be used as needed. Prioritizing use of our own clergy and staff supports continuity and continued momentum as Resurrection responds to the Spirit's leading during this season.

Regarding the questions which have been posed about the pastoral search process, our established Church structure provides us with a representative democracy; our members have elected a Board of Directors to serve and represent the entire body. In response to the recommendation and guidance of our denominational elders, the Pastoral Search Committee will make use of our existing representative democracy as it calls forward the five members of the Board of Directors whose terms continue through the whole of 2010: Karla Johnson, Debbie Skelly, Elisa Vega-Burns, Mary Wagner, and Wayne Wiggins. In addition, Mark Eggleston and Jason Wood will represent the Executive Team on the Pastoral Search Committee.

Congregational participation is critical in this process. As such, the Pastoral Search Committee invites you to attend a town hall meeting on Sunday, January 3, immediately following our 11 am service. The purpose of this meeting is for the Pastoral Search Committee to listen directly to your requests and concerns, as well as to answer any questions you have regarding this process. Each voice in our community of faith matters a great deal to us and we hope you will attend.

We are committed to an expedient and thorough executive search process. Please pray with us as we discern which candidate to present for congregational vote.

During this time of transition and opportunity, we ask for your continued support of Resurrection ministries. Your faithful attendance and consistent giving will be crucial to our church. As God moves among us, let us remember that God has great plans for our church and is caring for us on this journey. Together we can make 2010 a year to remember: a year of spiritual maturity and grace.

## LGBTQ Solutions for Living Well

Professional Services Provided at  
Resurrection MCC Wellness Center

### Connections

A 12-Session  
Psychoeducational  
Shame-Resilience  
Curriculum



Revised and Expanded  
Brene Brown, Ph.D., LMSW

**There is hope for change, empowerment  
and living authentically!**

*Connections:*

*A 12-Session Psychoeducational Shame  
Resilience Curriculum*

Facilitated by Tammy S. Fountain, LPC, ATR-BC

Call 832-863-8221

Course developed by Brene Brown, PhD,  
LMSW, researcher, educator & writer. Learn  
to identify and overcome shame through  
exercises, handouts and lecture.

In order to provide a safe place for  
discussion and healing from experiences unique to people  
of sexual orientation or gender identity difference,  
group limited to LGBTQ participants.

### Women's Group Now Forming

Mondays, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Therapist: Tammy S. Fountain, LPC, ATR-BC

Call 832-863-8221

### Adolescent Group Psychotherapy

Saturdays, 12:00 - 1:15 pm

Therapist: Tammy S.  
Fountain, LPC, ATR-BC

Call 832-863-8221



### New Men's Group Therapy *The Gentlemen's Club*

*Are you stressed out, worried, or  
depressed? Struggling to balance a job and  
a family without everything falling apart?*

*This group provides a safe space to talk  
about issues affecting men today, ranging  
from relationships/family issues, financial/  
job related stress, depression, anxiety, grief,  
and major life changes.*

\$40 per group.

Group open, space limited.

Mondays, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Call Michael at 713-446-8034

Therapist: Michael Mann, LCSW

Individual, family, and couples therapy available.  
Request MCC Rates.

Michael Mann, LCSW / 713-446-8034  
Adolescents & Adults

Tammy S. Fountain, LPC, ATR-BC / 832-863-8221  
Children, Adolescents & Adults

## 'Tis the Season of Giving

2009 has been a difficult year for us all. The severe recession has impacted us financially, emotionally, and to a certain extent, spiritually. Many of us have not only lost jobs, income and the value of our savings and investments, but also the sense of confidence and faith we had when things were stable and growing. Understandably, when faith is challenged, an institution such as Resurrection MCC, which is supported by faith-inspired giving, experiences a reduction in giving.

In the face of such reality, we have taken the painful, but prudent, course of reducing our expenses substantially. We have rethought just about every aspect of our operation—from our open hours to the way we use and maintain space to the size of our staff and breadth of our programs. You should expect no less of us.

On the other hand, I hope you'll agree with me that it is exactly our faith that enables us to see true priorities and to continue to be the generous and adventurous spiritual home we believe God is calling us to be. We're still open for prayer, worship and loving service most days of the year. We put the worship of God at the very heart of our open house of God. We offer the highest quality music, Sunday after Sunday. We teach the faith and study together in several settings every week. Our population of families with children—and the support we offer them—is growing. We serve increasing numbers of the poor and underserved with our food pantry. To make all that possible with a reduced budget requires staff and volunteers to work harder and smarter. And they do.

However, there is only so much all this change and hard work can support. So, I ask you to do three things, as acts of faith:

- Pray as often as you can for the mission and faithful integrity of Resurrection MCC.
- Come when you can—to Sunday worship, above all, or to a weekday service or class or volunteer opportunity.
- Please make a year-end gift above and beyond your usual weekly or monthly contribution.

Congregation, we need your prayers. We need your presence. We need your financial support. In that order.

Wishing you a blessed holiday season,

Elisa J. Vega-Burns  
Treasurer, Board of Directors



Providing Spiritual Direction for individuals and groups at Resurrection MCC.  
 Sliding Scale fees available for Resurrection members and friends.  
 First session is free.  
 Cathleen Sheil, MA  
 Certified Spiritual Director  
 sacredjourney2@aol.com  
 713-304-9913



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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!*  
**suzanne anderson** PROPERTIES  
 713-822-8555  
 www.SellingHomesInHouston.com

Pamela Efferson, Realtor

**Stewardship Thought for the Week**

*Reaching one person at a time  
 is the best way of reaching all the world in time.*

~ Anonymous

**Advertise with us.**

As low as \$25 / week.

Ads@ResurrectionMCC.org

**Board Members on Duty**  
 Vicki Hopper & Karla Johnson  
 Board Minutes Available Upon Request.

**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 December 20, 2009	
<i>Tithes &amp; Offerings</i>		<b>Week</b>	<b>Year</b>		
12/20/09 9:00 am	163	\$5,220.00	\$160,845.89		
12/20/09 11:00 am	489	\$5,290.94	\$322,269.20		
12/16/09 6:30 pm	27	\$42.00	\$4,574.32		
Special Services			\$6,225.90		
Online Giving		\$3,783.62	\$69,453.59		
Other Contributions		\$2,287.00	\$136,767.22		
<b>Total</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>\$16,623.56</b>	<b>\$700,136.12</b>		
<i>Other General Fund Income</i>					
Fundraising		\$885.00	\$4,117.65		
Miscellaneous		\$1,253.00	\$62,343.62		
<b>Total Received</b>		<b>\$18,761.56</b>	<b>\$766,597.39</b>		
<b>Projected Need per Budget</b>		<b>\$17,653.85</b>	<b>\$848,207.69</b>		
<b>Total Exceeded Need / (Did Not Meet Need)</b>		<b>\$1,107.71</b>	<b>(\$81,610.30)</b>		
<b>Total Imagine Capital Campaign</b>		<b>\$1,655.34</b>	<b>\$110,143.74</b>		

Category	Amount
Projected Need	\$848,207.69
Actual Received	\$766,597.39
Actual Spent	\$734,370.51

# This Week @ ResurrectionMCC.org

## SUNDAY DECEMBER 27

- 8:00 am Adeste Praise Band Rehearsal *Sanctuary*
- 9:00 am **Sunday Worship / Members of Gospel Ensemble**
- 10:15 am Fisher's Net Prayer Ministry (Everyone Welcome) *Chapel*
- 10:45 am Youth Ministries Program *Activities Building*
- 11:00 am **Sunday Worship / Members of Gospel Ensemble**
- 12:30 pm Shared Ministry & Farewell Celebration *Activities Bldg*
- 1:30 pm HeavenSound Handbells Rehearsal *Music Room*

## MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED DECEMBER 28

*No Events Scheduled*

## TUESDAY DECEMBER 29

*No Events Scheduled*

## WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 30

*No Events Scheduled*

## THURSDAY DECEMBER 31

- 7:00 pm **New Year's Eve Service / Chris DeJohn**

## FRIDAY OFFICE CLOSED JANUARY 1

*No Events Scheduled*

## SATURDAY OFFICE CLOSED JANUARY 2

*No Events Scheduled*

## SUNDAY JANUARY 3

- 8:00 am Adeste Praise Band Rehearsal *Sanctuary*
- 9:00 am **Sunday Worship / Members of Gospel Ensemble**
- 10:15 am Fisher's Net Prayer Ministry (Everyone Welcome) *Chapel*
- 10:45 am Youth Ministries Program *Activities Building*
- 11:00 am **Sunday Worship / Members of Gospel Ensemble**
- 12:30 pm Second Family Care Partners Luncheon *Activities Building*
- 1:30 pm HeavenSound Handbells Rehearsal *Music Room*