



Resurrection

Metropolitan Community Church

January 31, 2010

Prelude

Joel Hammett

Our Community Gathers

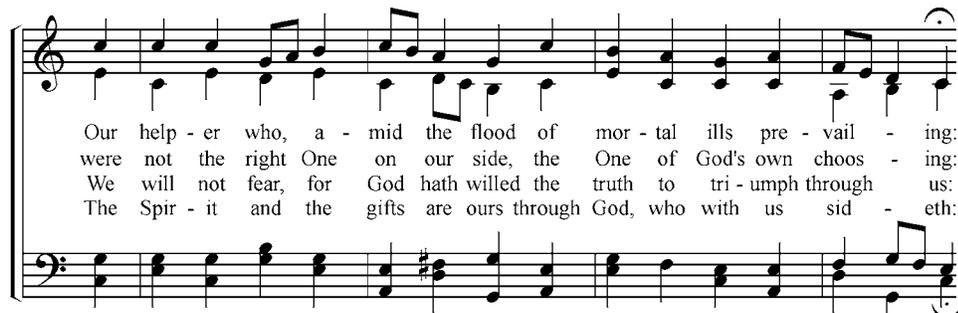
Rev. Janice Ladd & Mark Eggleston

+ Exchange of Peace

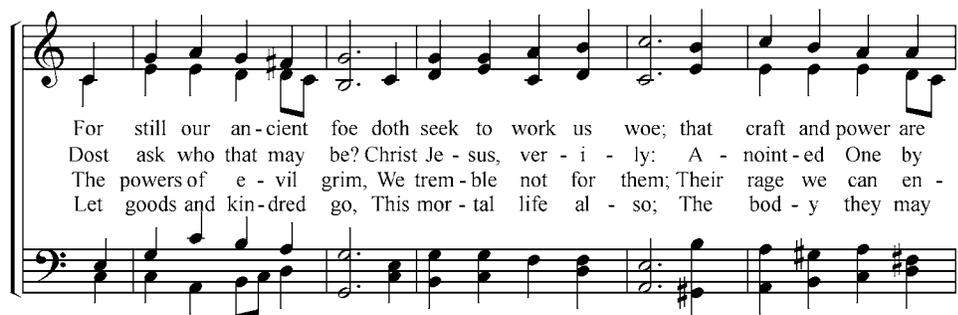
+ Hymn



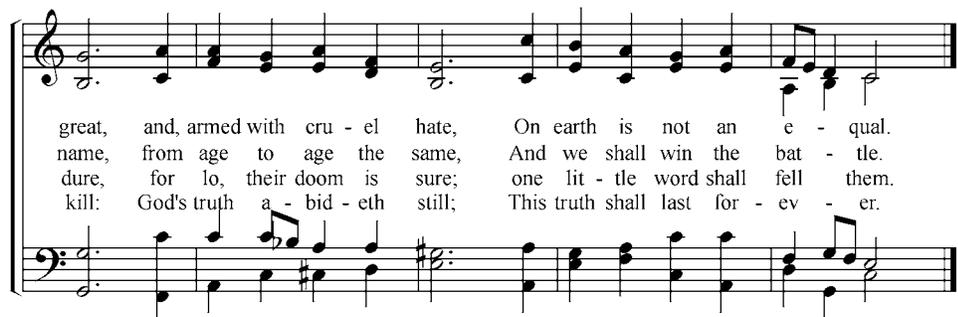
A might - y for - tress is our God, A bul - wark nev - er fail - ing;
 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be los - ing,
 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un - do us,
 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them a - bid - eth;



Our help - er who, a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing;
 were not the right One on our side, the One of God's own choos - ing;
 We will not fear, for God hath willed the truth to tri - umph through us:
 The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through God, who with us sid - eth:



For still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe; that craft and power are
 Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, ver - i - ly: A - noint - ed One by
 The powers of e - vil grim, We trem - ble not for them; Their rage we can en -
 Let goods and kin - dred go, This mor - tal life al - so; The bod - y they may



great, and, armed with cru - el hate, On earth is not an e - qual.
 name, from age to age the same, And we shall win the bat - tle.
 dure, for lo, their doom is sure; one lit - tle word shall fell them.
 kill: God's truth a - bid - eth still; This truth shall last for - ev - er.

+ Invocation

Rose Wall & Ron Drumm

+ Please rise in body or spirit.

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.

We Hear the Word

God has been at work across the millennia, as God is at work even now—unfolding new narratives with, through, and among particular people, who are often outsiders to the assumed faithful.

The good news that God bears through Jesus is concurrently jarring news, infuriating news to the temple stalwarts who push him, rush him out of the city to throw him headlong down the hillside. The good news is not the narrative they were used to, not what they expected from the living God, who had come once again to break through their calcified ways.

So it is with new narratives born of God.

In the midst of the global complexities of this era, this century, the church faces the daunting possibility—indeed, the reality—that God is unfolding a new narrative through the particularities of “outsiders,” of edge-people who come to God and bear witness to God through God’s actions in edge-places, and occasionally in temple settings. Deserts. Drought-wracked lands. Famine. Struggling widows. Dying children. Disbelieving commanders. Servants. Isaiah. Elijah. Elisha. Jesus.

David L. Ostendorf,
Feasting on the Word,
Fourth Sunday after
Epiphany, p.310.

First Reading

Trey Dreher (9 am)
Destiny Negron (11 am)

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Response to the Word

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

+ Second Reading

Brandon Jolley-Samples (9 am)
Kendall Phillips (11 am)

Luke 4:21-30

Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’ All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, ‘Is not this Joseph’s son?’ He said to them, ‘Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, “Doctor, cure yourself!” And you will say, “Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.”’ And he said, ‘Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s home town. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.’ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Anthem

Chris Plata

Remember When it Rained

Spiritual Encouragement

Susan Parker

Please Don't Go

Response to the Message

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

Making Ministry Happen

Elisa Vega-Burns

Offertory

HeavenSound Handbells

On Eagle's Wings

By Michael Joncas. Arranged by Douglas Wagner.

Communion

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

Introduction to Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Invitation to the Feast

Communion Songs

Here I Am, Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.
I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.
I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

Susan Parker

Our guest preacher today, Susan Parker, is a consultant, motivational speaker and author of *Walking in the Deep End*. Check out page 7 of the bulletin for her upcoming workshop entitled, *Purpose-Full Preparation: Job Search Strategies for a Tough Economy*, February 6, 10 am - Noon. Susan will also lead a Chalice Life Development series entitled, *Get Real: Creating a More Authentic Life* on Wednesdays, April 7-21, 7 - 8:30 pm.

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. If you desire a deeper partnering in prayer (intercessory prayer), prayer ministers are available at the Side Altar during communion. The Fishers Net Prayer Ministry is also available following both services to pray with you.

We Receive

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.

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.

One Bread, One Body

One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth, We are one body in this one Lord.
Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman and man, no more.

One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth, We are one body in this one Lord.
Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all.

One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth, We are one body in this one Lord.
Grain for the Fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one, for all.

One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth, We are one body in this one Lord.

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.

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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

+ Benediction

Rev. Janice Ladd

+ Postlude

Joel Hammett

Staff

Rev. Janice Ladd

Executive Pastor

RevJanice@ResurrectionMCC.org (x104)

Mark Eggleston

Director of Outreach

Mark@ResurrectionMCC.org (x106)

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 one month through three 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.

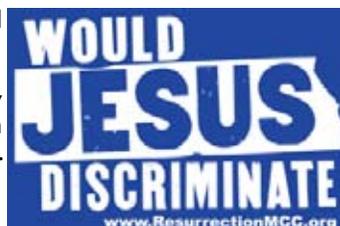
We believe in the saving grace of Jesus Christ and the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.

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!



The Chalice

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

Wednesdays

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

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

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!

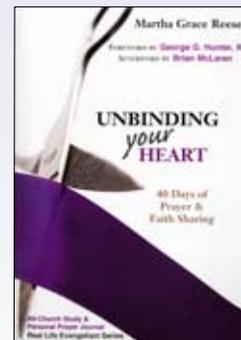
Co-facilitated by Denise Junious, Spiritual Growth & Education Team Lead, and Vickey Gibbs, Student in Ministry. Send questions to FourAgreements@ResurrectionMCC.org



Connection Groups

Coming Soon . . .

February 24 - March 31



Many of us are trying to figure out how to meet someone around here! How do you find potential friends? How do you begin conversations? You may want to check out Connection Groups. Join us for a six-week Lenten study of Unbinding Your Heart: 40 days Prayer and Faith Sharing! Unbinding Your Heart is an incredible small group study that focuses on untying the knots that keep us from living exciting lives in the Spirit. We will learn to unbind the Good News that God adores us and everyone else! The small group will provide an opportunity to share our love of God with one another, build relationships upon passion for our faith, and prepare ourselves to lead our congregation in boldly sharing God's love.

We hope to have everyone connected in this study during Lent: February 24 - March 31. We will have groups available every Wednesday night, many throughout the city at different times, and even an online group. Stop by the Gathering Place to sign up for a group. Let us know if you are interested in being a Connection Group Host. Training will be available on February 6, 2010.

"The heart of evangelism emerges from the interaction of these three sets of relationships: our personal relationships with God, healthy congregational relationships, and caring about people who don't have a conscious connection with Christ. The heart of evangelism is being in love with God, being part of a church you love and caring about other people who do not know that faith."

-- from *Unbinding Your Heart*
by Martha Grace Reese

OFFERINGS FROM
MEMBERS & FRIENDS...

Purpose-Full Preparation: Job Search Strategies for a Tough Economy



Saturday, February 6
10 am - Noon
Chapel

As 2010 begins, does a job search have you feeling more pressure than promise in the New Year?

Are you anxious that ...

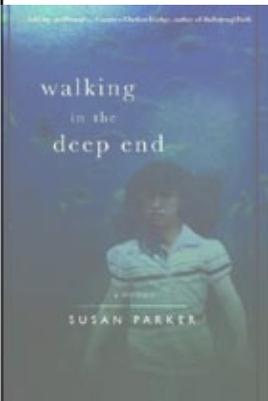
- The economic down-turn could leave you without a job in the New Year?
- The competition in an especially tough job market could overwhelm you?
- The last resume you prepared no longer reflects your skills and experience?

How might you best prepare for, begin, or manage a job search?

Listen to what Susan Parker has to say about job-hunting strategies for the new decade! A recruiter, consultant, motivational speaker, and author of *Walking in the Deep End*, Susan has over 20 years of experience providing career counseling and recruiting expertise across a wide-range of industries. Proficient in working with all levels of experience, from students to C-level executives, Susan is skilled at guiding others in purposeful preparation and job search strategies for a tough economy!

This inter-active workshop covers topics such as: interview preparedness, job hunting strategies, resume and cover letter writing, interview tips, and follow-up. Please bring your resume, as well as a job description/want ad for a position in which you might be interested.

**Remember: Planning,
Preparation and Practice are
the keys to success!**



LGBTQ AND FREE IN THEE!

Adventuring OUT in
Christian Discipleship

Saturday, February 13
10 am - 2 pm, Chapel

In his book *Don't Be Afraid Anymore* Rev. Troy Perry shares how he, like so many of us, had to wrestle with the questions "What does the Bible say about homosexuality?" and "What did Jesus say?" He writes, "They were questions that had to be answered with absolute correctness, but I needed to return to my Bible before I could give an adequate answer. Therefore, in that instant I said to myself, 'Troy, you know God loves you without a shadow of a doubt. You know you're God's child. You know God called you to the ministry and you know God told you to start this work. Now be able to defend what has been given you to do.'" During this foundational Life Development offering for those seeking to reconcile their experience of God with their understanding of Scripture, we will engage the Bible through the lens of our personal faith experience as we consider the six "clobber passages" in light of current scholarship and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Facilitated by Rev. Kristen. All are welcome.

FILM SCREENING

*Brother Outsider:
The Life of Bayard Rustin*

Saturday, February 20
7 pm, Sanctuary



A master strategist and tireless activist, Bayard Rustin is best remembered as the organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, one of the largest nonviolent protests ever held in the United States. He brought Gandhi's protest techniques to the American civil rights movement, and helped mold Martin Luther King, Jr. into an international symbol of peace and nonviolence.

Despite these achievements, Rustin was silenced, threatened, arrested, beaten, imprisoned and fired from important leadership positions, largely because he was an openly gay man in a fiercely homophobic era. Five years in the making and the winner of numerous awards, *Brother Outsider* presents a feature-length documentary portrait, focusing on Rustin's activism for peace, racial equality, economic justice and human rights.

*A discussion will be held following
the screening in the Gathering Place.*

LGBTQ Solutions for Living Well

Professional Services Provided at
Resurrection MCC Wellness Center



Women's Group Forming Begins Monday, February 1, 6 - 7:15 pm

*Focused on, but not limited to,
improving self-esteem, identity clarification and
establishing healthy relationships.*

Therapist: Tammy S. Fountain, LPC, ATR-BC
Call 832-863-8221 for an intake appointment.

There is hope for change, empowerment and living authentically!

*Connections: A 12-Session Psychoeducational
Shame Resilience Curriculum*

Tuesdays,
February 2 - April 20, 6-7:15pm

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.

Connections

A 12-Session
Psychoeducational
Shame-Resilience
Curriculum



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



New Men's Group Therapy

*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.*

Group open, space limited.
Mondays, 6:00 - 7:15 pm
Therapist: Michael Mann, LCSW

Call 713-446-8034
for an intake appointment.

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

IMANI VIDA DRUM CIRCLE

Saturday, February 6
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
www.meetup.com/DrummingCircle

Drum Circle is hosted monthly on the first Saturday.



Fishers Net Prayer Ministry:

A Dialogue with God

The warmth from a fire can be invigorating, mesmerizing and
a simple delight. I can spend hours just watching the flickering
flames jump and leap within and around each other, joining to
create larger flames and at times separating and then coming
back together. It is no wonder the Holy Spirit is depicted and
represented as a flame! The flame can also be a representative
of us all within the body of Christ. From time to time, I choose
not to attend church and other times I am so distracted by
un-godly forces from within and around that I forget or forgo
prayer. In such times I begin to feel cold and cut-off. When
this occurs, it is by the Grace of God I wake up to the flame
within that is yearning for more God-like surroundings. Just
as two or more logs will burn stronger and brighter together
but will smolder and stop burning when separated, the same
is true with the body of Christ. When we separate ourselves
from God and other believers, our own flame begins to go
out and leave us feeling cold.

This week, pray for those who have become separated and
detached from the body of Christ. Collectively pray that
the fire within us reaches out to others. Know that through
prayer we can and will become stronger, brighter and more
vigorous believers.

Dear Sustainer and Giver of Grace, help me be mindful of your
flame, within myself. Help me to acknowledge the times I have
separated from others and bring me back into the midst of
the Body. Thank you, oh God, for your true and never-ending
fire! I pray your flame within me continues to grow brighter
each day, igniting those and the world around me. Amen.

Do you have a prayer request? Send your requests to
Prayers@ResurrectionMCC.org. Postings are published each
week in a Praise and Prayer alert email, where others around
the country are praying collectively with you. To sign up for
Praise and Prayer alerts, go to our Web site and click on the
"In Need of Prayer?" link.

Growing stronger in Christ and realizing our Prayers together.

~ Fishers Net Prayer Ministry ~

CHURCH SIZE THEORY & CHOOSING A CORPORATE CHURCH PASTOR

by Rev. Elder Ken Martin



Church Size Theory begins with the simple observation that every aspect of a church's life changes according to its size. In order for a church to be healthy and grow—not just numerically but in its service to the larger community, its own infrastructure and the spiritual vitality of its members—the church's leaders, both professional and lay, must be aware of how church size affects the role of the pastor, the role of the board of directors, the style and content of worship, the amount and focus of programming, the adequacy of its facilities and the composition of its staff.

None of these is more important than the role of the pastor, which changes dramatically through the four size and culture categories used in Church Size Theory: the "family church" with average weekly attendance up to 50, the "pastor-centered church" from 50-150, the "program size church" 150-350, and the "corporate church" with average weekly attendance above 350.

Gary McIntosh, a respected pioneer in this new field, summarizes the changing role of the pastor by saying that the small church needs a "lover"; the medium size church needs an "administrator"; the large church needs a "leader". Some pastors are able to and enjoy leading churches through the different size transitions and are able to adjust to the different demands made on them as the church grows. Others find themselves much more comfortable and competent in one or two size categories. Unfortunately, many don't understand the different requirements of the different cultures that accompany size transitions causing frustration on the part of the pastor, dissatisfaction in the congregation and eventually an unhappy ending for the relationship between the two.

One of the great advantages of understanding the role of the pastor in terms of the congregation's size is that it allows the pastoral search process the opportunity to better match the needs and expectations of the church with the skills and interests of the pastor.

In a family church (up to 50), the pastor is usually part time or retired and functions as a chaplain. In a pastor-centered church (50-150), the pastor is the hub of the wheel. Everything centers around the pastor who coordinates all activities. By the time a church reaches program size (150-350), the primary emphasis of the pastor shifts from interpersonal relationships to planning, recruiting, training, supervising and evaluating. The shift is from creating and nurturing personal relationships to creating and nurturing leaders who can sustain successful programs.

The pastor of a corporate church (above 350), must be comfortable no longer being available to the congregation in any of those traditional pastoral roles. They must focus narrowly on the activities where their influence will have the greatest impact. These will be worship planning and sermon preparation, visioning, developing a high functioning staff and working with the governing board. Many experts say that up to 80% of the pastor's influence in the corporate church is in worship and so up to 80% of their time must be spent in worship preparation and preaching! They must have the personal charisma and gravitas to hold the respect and trust of staff and lay leaders, inspire the loyalty of the congregation, embody the church's vision for the congregation and the larger community and generate and sustain the energy and momentum for the church constantly to be moving forward. A pastoral search process prayerfully committed to finding this person goes a long way toward providing the church with the extended and stable pastorate needed in the corporate size church.

The Gospel Ensemble Presents

We Are The Ones We've Been Waiting For

February 21, 2010 at 4pm

Join Resurrection MCC's Gospel Ensemble and Friends as we share the many different forms of African American Gospel Music through song, drumming and praise dancing.

The music will be as varied as Sweet Honey in the Rocks', We Are The Ones We've Been Waiting For to Jonathan Nelson's Champions.

Come ready to sing, dance and maybe even shout!

Bingo Night at Big Tex Bingo!

Friday February 12, 7:30 pm

Bring your friends and family and join Resurrection for a night of fun! Over \$5,000 is given away nightly (bingo prizes and pull tabs). Big Tex offers a full service snack bar, daily food specials, beer, margaritas and more.

Resurrection MCC & Pride Charities are two of the organizations who share in the profits!

13030 Veterans Memorial Dr, Houston
www.bigtexbingo.com 281-586-0700

EQUALITY MINISTRY MEETING

Monday, February 1
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

Greetings Church Family!

At the SACM Forum last October, I presented the key metrics that were used to determine the 2010 projected annual revenue: 1) average weekly giving per person from tithes and offerings of \$28.75, 2) average weekly giving per person from the Imagine Campaign of \$5.49, and 3) average weekly attendance of 578 people. These metrics were derived by examining our trending calculations for 2006, 2007, 2008, and the first 30 weeks of 2009.

The 2010 projected average weekly attendance of 578 people was based on our vision for growth. The church continued to build up its mid-week worship and life development offerings, as well as launched connection groups at the end of 2009. These offerings and connection groups provide people with the opportunity to deepen their faith and increase their opportunity to be an intimate part of a growing, loving, and justice seeking community, as well as provide growth to our congregation.

However, what I did not - and could not - anticipate when I made the above assumptions was the loss of our Senior Pastor and Director of Worship in Q4. As such, when I examined the trending data for the 12 months ended December, 31, 2009, it became evidently clear to me that our projected revenue metrics for 2010 were extremely aggressive based on our current reality.

One of the promises that I made at the SACM Forum was that I would reduce the projected revenue for 2010 - in accordance with our bylaws - if my assumptions did not hold true. In keeping with this promise, the Board approved a reduction to the 2010 budget at the Board of Directors Meeting held this past Monday, January 25, 2010 per our current trending calculations (see chart below):

**Resurrection MCC
Attendance and Giving Trends**

	2009 52-Week Average	2010 Approved Proj. Rate	2010 Reduced Proj. Rate	% Rate Inc/(Dec)
General Tithes & Offerings				
Average Giving Per Person	\$26.54	\$28.75	\$27.07	-6%
% Increase or Decrease (-)	-8%	8%	2%	
Average Attendance per week	530	578	530	-8%
% Increase or Decrease (-)	4%	9%	0%	
Average Imagine Campaign Givin	\$4.11	\$5.49	\$4.11	-25%
% Increase or Decrease (-)	-60%	34%	0%	

The above reduced metrics resulted in a 16% decrease in projected annual income for 2010 (see table below):

Account Description	2010 Approved Total Budget	2010 Reduced Total Budget	% Inc/(Dec)
General Offerings	\$ 864,000.00	\$ 746,500.00	-14%
General Fund Fundraising	\$ 31,200.00	\$ 31,200.00	
Misc. Income	\$ 59,430.00	\$ 52,000.00	-13%
Imagine Campaign	\$ 165,000.00	\$ 113,300.00	-31%
Total Revenue	\$ 1,119,630.00	\$ 943,000.00	-16%



Sunday, March 14

Sam Houston Park

Check-In at 8 am. Walk begins at 10 am.

Join your Resurrection family as we continue the fight against HIV & AIDS.

To donate or join the team, visit

www.ResurrectionMCC.org

and click on the AIDS Walk Houston link!

The weekly projected need per this revised budget is \$15,956 for the General Fund and \$2,179 for the Imagine Fund. The Executive Team has reviewed their ministry areas and has re-adjusted their goals and objectives, and budgets accordingly. The Executive Team's number one goal is to keep our worship vibrant, our congregation growing in faith and community, and our outreach to our communities relevant.

Your role in all of this is to continue to serve this congregation through your prayers, presence, service and gifts. Please be sure to hold Resurrection MCC and its ministries in your daily prayers, as well as offer your presence in worship and spiritual growth opportunities, and give your time and financial support each week. Just think, if we all were to increase our weekly tithes and offerings by just a mere 15%, we could meet our original 2010 projected annual income need together.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at Treasurer@ResurrectionMCC.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Elisa J. Vega-Burns

Elisa Vega-Burns, Treasurer
Resurrection MCC Board of Directors





Pastoral Search Committee Open Meeting



Thursday, February 11
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Gathering Place



The Pastoral Search Committee will answer questions related to the Pastoral Search Committee Congregational Survey and/or the pastoral search process.



If you haven't already done so, please complete the Congregational Survey. If you did not receive the survey link via e-mail, you may find the link on the home page of our Web site.



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

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



Stewardship Thought for the Week

The purest giving has no other motive but to give. It seeks pleasure rather than gratitude, fun rather than sacrifice, sharing rather than barter.

~ Bel Kaufman

Advertise with us.

As low as \$25 / week.

Ads@ResurrectionMCC.org



Board Members on Duty

Elisa Vega-Burns & Tricia Phillips

Board Minutes Available Upon Request.

Flowers in the Sanctuary

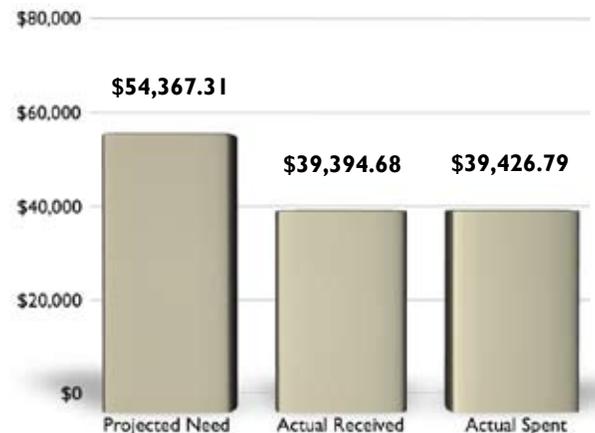
Consider donating flowers in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special day.

Sign up on the Flower Chart in the Welcome Area.

General Fund Financial Report

Week Ending January 24, 2010

Tithes & Offerings		Week	Year
01/24/10 9:00 am	132	\$3,521.50	\$9,531.55
01/24/10 11:00 am	342	\$4,628.14	\$19,939.67
01/20/10 6:30 pm	50	\$31.00	\$398.37
Special Services			
Online Giving		\$1,856.67	\$5,262.78
Other Contributions		\$345.00	\$2,333.77
Total	524	\$10,382.31	\$37,466.14
Other General Fund Income			
Fundraising		\$40.00	\$52.00
Miscellaneous		\$650.00	\$1,876.54
Total Received		\$11,072.31	\$39,394.68
Projected Need per Budget		\$18,358.26	\$54,367.31
Total Exceeded Need / (Did Not Meet Need)		(\$7,285.95)	(\$14,972.63)
Total Imagine Capital Campaign		\$1,508.34	\$11,029.34



This Week @ ResurrectionMCC.org

SUNDAY JANUARY 31

8:00 am Adeste Praise Band Rehearsal *Sanctuary*
9:00 am Sunday Worship / Susan Parker
 10:15 am Fisher's Net Prayer Ministry (Everyone Welcome) *Chapel*
 10:45 am Youth Ministries Program *Activities Building*
11:00 am Sunday Worship / Susan Parker
 1:30 pm HeavenSound Handbells Rehearsal *Music Room*

MONDAY FEBRUARY 1

6:30 pm Equality Ministry Meeting *Gathering Place*

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 2

1:00 pm US Census Testing *Gathering Place*
 6:00 pm US Census Testing *Gathering Place*
 7:00 pm Gospel Ensemble Rehearsal *Music Room*
 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal *Sanctuary*

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3

6:00 pm The Chalice: Community Gathering *Activities Building*
 6:30 pm The Chalice: Wednesday Worship *Activities Building*
 7:00 pm The Chalice: Four Agreements *Activities Building*
 7:00 pm The Chalice: Living the Questions II *Activities Building*

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 4

6:00 pm Pastoral Search Committee Meeting *Workroom*
 7:00 pm Resurrection Singers Rehearsal *Music Room*

FRIDAY OFFICE CLOSED FEBRUARY 5

No Events Scheduled.

SATURDAY OFFICE CLOSED FEBRUARY 6

9:00 am Creating a Life That Matters (class full) *Gathering Place*
 10:00 am Job Search Strategies (see ad, p. 7) *Chapel*
 10:00 am Out & Equal Meeting *Activities Building*
 3:00 pm Imani Vida Drum Circle *Gathering Place*

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 7

8:00 am Adeste Praise Band Rehearsal *Sanctuary*
9:00 am Sunday Worship / Rev. Janice Ladd
 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. Janice Ladd
 1:30 pm HeavenSound Handbells Rehearsal *Music Room*