



Resurrection

Metropolitan Community Church

February 7, 2010

Prelude

Anthony White

+ Our Community Gathers

Rev. Janice Ladd
Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

+ Exchange of Peace

Hymn

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift every voice and sing, Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling seas.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our people sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered;
Out from the gloomy past, Till now we stand at last
Where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by thy might, Led us into the light,
Keep us for ever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
Shadowed beneath thy hand, May we for ever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

+ Invocation

Rev. Mona Lopez

+ Please rise in body or spirit.

We Worship

This hymn is known as the African American National Anthem. It places emphasis on the history of people of African descent, inclusive of their many triumphs and struggles. This great song is known across the world, but the history behind the song's creation and first performance is often unknown.

The piece was publicly performed first as a poem as part of a celebration of Lincoln's Birthday on February 12, 1900 by 500 schoolchildren at the segregated Stanton School in Jacksonville, Florida.

Principal James Weldon Johnson wrote the words to introduce its honored guest, Booker T. Washington.

The poem was later set to music by Mr. Johnson's brother, John, in 1905. Singing this song quickly became a way for African Americans to demonstrate their patriotism and hope for the future.

We Hear the Word

The holiness of God, judgment, hope, a people transformed by the Spirit of God: these are not only the core of Isaiah's message to Israel; they are the truths God first impressed on Isaiah himself. In his grand vision of God, Isaiah saw God filling the Temple and heard seraphs speaking of God's great holiness. Filled with unworthiness, Isaiah cried out, "Woe is me!" only to find a seraph touching his lips with a live coal from the altar of God, purifying him. "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" God asked. "Here I am; send me!" Isaiah replied. He went on to proclaim God's judgment on Israel for its continued unfaithfulness, and then to promise hope for release from the coming captivity and for the future of God's people. Through his vision of God's holiness, his confession of his own sin, and his acceptance of God's cleansing and call, Isaiah received the Spirit to guide him in offering many of the most moving and hope-filled words of the Bible. The Church sees many of Isaiah's prophecies ultimately fulfilled in the person and ministry of Jesus Christ, through whom God did "new things" and who came "to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners."

Richard J. Foster,
*The Renovare Spiritual
Reformation Bible,*
Isaiah Profile, p.991.

First Reading

Sharri McGlaughting (9 am)
Sharon Maudlin (11 am)

Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; in a robe whose hem filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of God's glory." The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke.

And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am one of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the Most High, the Lord of hosts!" Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of God saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

Response to the Word

This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine
Hallelujah

This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine
Ev'ry where I go I'm going to let it shine
Oh, ev'ry where I go I'm going to let it shine
Hallelujah

Ev'ry where I go I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

+ Second Reading

Joe Davis (9 am)
Michael Fernandez (11 am)

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you— unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and God's grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Anthem

Gospel Ensemble

Encourage Yourself

Spiritual Encouragement

Rev. Janice Ladd

Start from the Beginning

Response to the Message

All in my house I'm going to let it shine.
Oh, all in my house I'm going to let it shine
Hallelujah

All in my house I'm going to let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
I'm not going to make it shine. I'm just going to let it shine.
I'm not going to make it shine. I'm just going to let it shine.
Hallelujah

I'm not going to make it shine. I'm just going to let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Making Ministry Happen

Jason Wood

Offertory

Resurrection Singers

God of Wonders

by Marc Byrd & Steve Hindalong. Arranged by CC.

Communion

Jason Wood

Introduction to Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Invitation to the Feast

Communion Songs

Let us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread together on our knees.
Let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink the cup together on our knees.
Let us drink the cup together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees.
Let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

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.

In the summer of 1964, about a thousand young Americans, black and white, came together in Mississippi for a peaceful assault on racism.

"They had to be prepared to go to jail, they had to be prepared to be beaten, and they had to be prepared to be killed," says Freedom Summer veteran Hollis Watkins. It came to be known as Freedom Summer, one of the most remarkable chapters in the Southern Civil Rights movement.

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.

Oh, Freedom

Oh freedom, oh freedom, oh freedom over me
And before I'd be a slave I'll be buried in a my grave
And go home to my Lord and be free

There'll be singin', there'll be singin', there'll be singin' over me
And before I'd be a slave I'll be buried in a my grave
And go home to my Lord and be free

Oh freedom, oh freedom, oh freedom over me
And before I'd be a slave I'll be buried in a my grave
And go home to my Lord and be free.

God is So Good

God is so good. God is so good, God is so good, God's so good to me!
God cares for me, God cares for me, God cares for me, God's so good to me!
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, God's so good to me!

I Shall Not be Moved

If I trust God ever, I shall not be moved;
God will fail me never, I shall not be moved,
Just like a tree that's planted by the waters, I shall not be moved.

I shall not, I shall not be moved; I shall not, I shall not be moved;
Just like a tree that's planted by the waters, I shall not be moved.

On God's word I'm feeding, I shall not be moved;
God's the One that's leading, I shall not be moved,
Just like a tree that's planted by the waters, I shall not be moved.

I shall not, I shall not be moved; I shall not, I shall not be moved;
Just like a tree that's planted by the waters, I shall not be moved.

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine
Hallelujah

This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

+ **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Jason Wood

+ **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)

Cassandra White

Director of Worship (part-time, interim)

Gospel Ensemble Director

Cassandra@ResurrectionMCC.org (x109)

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

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



Ash Wednesday

February 17

ASH WEDNESDAY

Return to Me with All Your Heart

7 PM, SANCTUARY

Yet even now, says Our God, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love ... Joel 2:12-13

Enter into this Season of Lent listening to the call of God's heart in your heart: "Return to me, return to my love..." Join us for this traditional ritual imposition of the ashes framed by a beautiful contemplative liturgy.

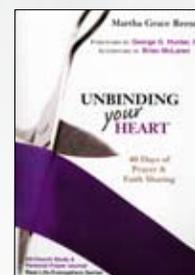
Lent

February 24 - March 31

Connection Groups

Please join us for an exciting 6-week adventure!

February 24 - March 31



Join us for a very special, all-church study of *Unbinding Your Heart*. "This book is about untying the knots that keep us from living exciting lives" ... with God and with each other. "It's about unbinding the Good News that God adores us and everyone else, that God has shown this to us through Jesus Christ." It's also a prayer journal with many forms of classic Christian prayer included in the daily prayers that accompany the study.

We are calling this rich small group experience an 'E-vent' and we would love to have you as part of one of these groups. You can share in the group experience with no pressure to "do" anything other than read each week's chapter, do the daily prayer exercises and attend six meetings.

People in churches across the country are excited about what is happening in their congregations through their 'E-vents': deeper relationships with God, a rich, meaningful personal prayer life, and a new sense of God's activity in their lives. People are saying they can be more 'real' with others as their relationship with God grows ... and that this extends to relationships within their families and with people in every area of their lives.

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.

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.*



AS WE TRANSITION

Since the Town Hall Meeting that was held on January 3, 2010, the Pastoral Search Committee has been working diligently to develop a congregational survey to determine what you—the congregation—desire in a new senior pastor; and your thoughts and feelings about our church. By now, most of you—if not all of you—should have received the 10-15 minute anonymous survey via e-mail. In order for us to tabulate the results in a timely manner, we ask that you complete the survey as soon as possible. However, if you need more time to complete the survey, please complete it no later than Sunday, February 21, 2010. It is so important that we hear from every member of our congregation. Your input is essential to the pastoral search process, so we thank you in advance for your time and cooperation in completing the survey.

If you did not receive the survey link via e-mail, you may find the link on the Pastoral Search Process page of our Web site, which can be accessed from the home page. For those of you without a computer and/or Internet access, please use the computer in Inspirations to complete the survey, using the Pastoral Search Process link on the home page of our Web site. For those of you who are unable to complete an electronic version of the survey due to age, disability, or some other factor, we have a limited number of paper copies. These paper copies will be made available from me on Sundays and from Mark Eggleston during the week. However, they will need to be completed immediately and returned to us in a sealed envelope so that they can be entered electronically into SurveyMonkey.

The Pastoral Search Committee will share a summary of the survey results with the congregation at our next Town Hall Meeting to be held on Sunday, March 14, 2010 at 12:30 pm in the Sanctuary. In the interim, if you have any questions regarding the congregational survey or would like to find out more about the pastoral search process, we invite you to attend an open meeting of the Pastoral Search Committee to be held on Thursday, February 11, 2010 at 6:30 pm in the Gathering Place. If you have questions but cannot attend our open meeting, please do not hesitate to contact us. You may e-mail your questions or comments to PastoralSearchCommittee@ResurrectionMCC.org. We welcome any and all comments that you may have.

In conclusion, I'd like to direct you to an article written by Rev. Elder Ken Martin entitled "Church Size Theory & Choosing a Corporate Church Pastor" on page 9 of this Sunday's bulletin. Rev. Elder Martin facilitated our Town Hall Meeting on January 3, 2010 and is the Pastoral Search Committee's point of contact and consultant for our pastoral transition. His article summarizes how church size affects the role of the senior pastor. One of the great advantages of understanding the role of the senior pastor in terms of the congregation's size is that it allows the Pastoral Search Committee the opportunity to better match the needs and expectations of the church with the skills and interests of the pastorate needed in the corporate size church.

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
6 - 7:15 pm

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



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

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



Fishers Net Prayer Ministry:

A Dialogue with God

"Mirror mirror on the wall, I've become my parent after all." I first heard this when I was in my thirty-somethings and it was scary. Have I become my father? Have I become my mother? The question today is, "When will we become our parents?" In that, when will we begin to reflect our heavenly parent: God; Christ; the Holy Spirit? When will the society we live in see the reflection of God in the mirror? Recently I attended a prayer vigil and not only saw but felt the face of God. The reason for the prayer vigil was to honor the life of a beloved child of God who had been brutally murdered. I did not know this person nor did many who attended the vigil. It did not matter. What mattered was that people of God came together to show the world the reflection of God, a reflection which shines love and light to all Gods people everywhere. Even in the midst of the valley of death, God is here with us; Even those that are harmed are with God, and God is with those who attend such vigils.

When we come together as children of God, we peacefully and forcefully show God's love and light to the world. When we pray individually and collectively, we connect to our source energy and enable ourselves to shine more and more brightly. Just imagine if all had an authentic relationship with Christ! The only prayer vigils we would attend would be vigils of joy.

Dear Sustainer and Giver of Grace, help me this week to shine. Help me this week to reach out to others giving of YOU from within myself. I praise you for your Light within me. I praise you for my Being. Help me always to shine and to become the mirror you intend me to be, a reflection of your peace, love and light. 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!

SEASON OF SERVICE

Sign-Ups & Spiritual Renewal

Sunday, February 28

12:30 - 2 pm, Activities Building

Prepare to Share!

Calling all new and returning volunteers for Connections, First Impressions, Life Development, Youth Ministries Program and Altar Ministries!

All volunteers are invited to sign-up and "prepare to share" their gifts...

- Teachers, Assistants, Nursery Angels
- Welcome Team, Ushers, Concierge, Inspirations
- Communion Servers, Prayer Ministers, Scripture Readers

Join Rev. Kristen and Jason for sign-ups, ministry updates, and a time of spiritual renewal as we commit our time and talents to God's peoples for this Spring! Lunch will be provided so please RSVP to Jason@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, and making some adjustments for growth.

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%

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




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!



**Friday Night OUT
February 26, 7 pm**

Join us for dinner this month at Cafe Adobe

7620 Katy Fwy @ Silber
713-688-1700
www.cafeadobe.com

Join our group on Facebook: Resurrection MCC Friday Night Out
RSVP to FridayNightOUT@ResurrectionMCC.org

HOUSTON PRIDE BAND
PRESENTS

Flights of Fancy



TICKET SALES
BENEFITING
HOUSTON
BUYERS CLUB

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2010, 7:30PM
RESURRECTION METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH
2025 W. 11TH STREET
TICKETS AVAILABLE
@ WWW.HOUSTONPRIDEBAND.ORG



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

What wonderful people you find when you look at the world in a broad, generous, friendly spirit.

~ Horace Rutledge



DAVID LORMS
INSURANCE AGENT



FARMERS
Home • Auto • Life
Flood • Commercial
Health and More
Habla Español

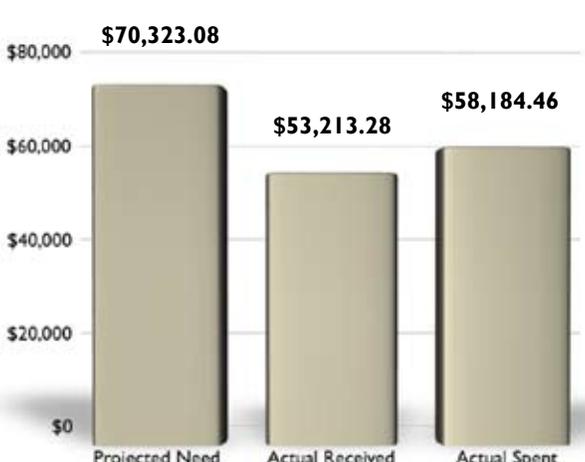
713-688-8669
www.farmersagent.com/dlorms

Board Members on Duty
Edwin Kelley & Len Shelton
Board Minutes Available Upon Request.

Flowers in the Sanctuary
Celebrating our 9th Anniversary!
Joy and Kecia
Love you - Always!

General Fund Financial Report **Week Ending January 31, 2010**

		Week	Year
<i>Tithes & Offerings</i>			
01/31/10 9:00 am	94	\$2,843.00	\$12,374.55
01/31/10 11:00 am	312	\$7,287.00	\$27,226.67
01/27/10 6:30 pm	45	\$56.00	\$454.37
Special Services			
Online Giving		\$1,620.00	\$6,882.78
Other Contributions		\$1,200.00	\$3,533.77
Total	451	\$13,006.00	\$50,472.14
<i>Other General Fund Income</i>			
Fundraising			\$52.00
Miscellaneous		\$812.60	\$2,689.14
Total Received		\$13,818.60	\$53,213.28
Projected Need per Budget		\$15,955.77	\$70,323.08
Total Exceeded Need / (Did Not Meet Need)		(\$2,137.17)	(\$17,109.80)
Total Imagine Capital Campaign		\$2,841.00	\$13,870.34



Projected Need	Actual Received	Actual Spent
\$70,323.08	\$53,213.28	\$58,184.46

This Week @ ResurrectionMCC.org

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

MONDAY FEBRUARY 8

No Events Scheduled.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 9

8:00 am	Nonprofit Consulting	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 10

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 11

6:00 pm	Pastoral Search Committee Open Mtg	Gathering Place
7:00 pm	Resurrection Singers Rehearsal	Music Room

FRIDAY OFFICE CLOSED FEBRUARY 12

7:30 pm	Bingo Night at Big Tex Bingo (see ad, p. 8)	Big Tex Bingo
---------	---------------------------------------------	---------------

SATURDAY OFFICE CLOSED FEBRUARY 13

9:00 am	Creating a Life That Matters (class full)	Gathering Place
10:00 am	LGBTQ and Free in Thee!	Chapel

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 14

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