



Resurrection

Metropolitan Community Church

February 14, 2010

Prelude

Joel Hammett

Gift of Finest Wheat

Schmoltze, Composer

+ **Our Community Gathers**

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

Mark Eggleston

+ **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.

We Worship

Songs were an integral part of the American civil rights movement. Singing inspired large groups of people at church meetings, street demonstrations, and marches. Many of the songs were traditional hymns and spirituals with lyrics that had several layers of meaning and expressed a desire for freedom. Other hymns and spirituals were given new words to emphasize the struggle for more specific issues such as voting rights.

What we now call Black History Month originated in 1926, founded by Carter G Woodson as Negro History Week. The month of February was selected in deference to Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln who were both born in that month.

+ **Invocation**

Rev. Mona Lopez

+ Please rise in body or spirit.

We Hear the Word

As Christians in a secular age and an age of religious pluralism, how are we to act with boldness? Paul does not prescribe a certain speech ... What he does encourage is a boldness that comes from being vulnerable. One of the boldest things we can do as believers is to be transparent with others about the faith to which we cling. For some, this transparency may involve mentioning the word "church" in a conversation with someone who is skeptical of all things religious. For others, it may mean rearranging our lives, releasing the grip on earthly illusions of security, and engaging in conversations about these choices. The bold act of being transparent is by its very nature a two-way vulnerability. The same vulnerability that prompts us to open our mouths and boldly share our stories also prompts us to open our ears. In the hearing of another – bold listening – we may be changed.

-- Callista S. Isabelle,
*Feasting on the Word,
Transfiguration
Sunday, 2 Corinthians
3:12-4:2*

First Reading

Loyal Kletzein (9 am)
Darren Terry (11 am)

2 Corinthians 3:12 - 4:2

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness! We are not like Moses, who covered his face with a veil to keep the Israelites from gazing at the radiance as it faded away. For their minds had been dulled with misunderstanding, and to this day the same veil remains whenever we hold to old beliefs, since only in Christ are these set aside. For whenever anyone turns to Our God, the veil is removed. For Christ is of the Spirit, and where the Spirit of Our God is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from Our God, through Christ, in the Spirit.

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice deceit or to falsify God's word; but by speaking openly of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

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

Georgette Monaghan (9 am)
Chris DeJohn (11 am)

Luke 9:28-36, 37-43a

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud.

Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen. On the next day coming down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then one in the crowd shouted, 'Teacher, I beg you to look at my only child! Suddenly a spirit seizes, and all at once my child shrieks! Thrown into convulsions, my child foams at the mouth; the spirit mauls violently and will scarcely leave my child alone! I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.' Jesus answered, 'You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your child here.' Even as the child came, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the child, and reunited the family. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

Anthem

Sanctuary Choir

Morning has Broken

Arranged by Rick Powell

Spiritual Encouragement

Ryan Rolston

A Mountain Top Experience

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

Tracy Schulz
Nominating Committee

Offertory

Forever Blest

Free
by Bill & Gloria Gaither

Communion

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

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 Listen

God's movement in our hearts and in the interweaving of our lives is revealed in our shared stories of faith journeying. Team Lead of our Equality Ministry, Ryan Rolston joins us today to share some of her life experiences and how they have shaped her faith. Featured in the documentary "Equality U", Ryan's story of being "outed" at Oklahoma Baptist University, "hitting bottom" in her solitude, and then rising again with transformed Christian faith is a powerful message of Resurrection. Ryan is presently preparing for the State Bar Exam and lives her passion in the world as an advocate for at-risk youth.

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.

I Shall Not Be Moved is a traditional American folk song whose lyrics probably stretch back to the slave era, although there is no indication of when the song was written or who wrote it. It is a spiritual song that was adapted by the activists of the 1930s, with lyrics changed to "We Shall Not Be Moved." "We Shall Overcome" was similarly altered as both songs were shaped to take on the collective voice in protest rather than remaining in the original singular voice.

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**

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

+ **Benediction**

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

Postlude

Joel Hammett

To Thee, Lord Jesu, Thanks We Give

Bach, Composer

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!



ASH WEDNESDAY

Return to Me with All Your Heart

7 PM, SANCTUARY

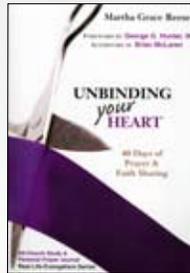
Yet even now, says Our God, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love ... Joel 2:12-13

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.

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.

Get Connected to a First Impressions Ministry**Concierge Desk****Wendy Hand**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

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

Second Family Care Partners**Kristia Ammerman**SecondFamily@ResurrectionMCC.org

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

Ushers**Dave Mathis**Ushers@ResurrectionMCC.org

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

Welcome Team**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 or 832-971-0354.



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 Elisa Vega-Burns 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 questions regarding the congregational survey or would like to find out more about the pastoral search process, but cannot attend the Town Hall 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, we urge you to read 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.

FILM SCREENING *Brother Outsider : The Life of Bayard Rustin*

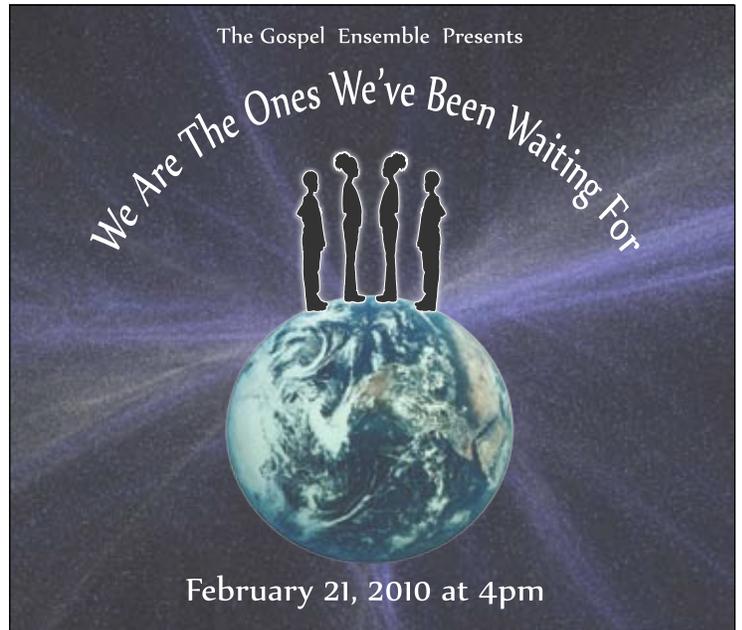


Saturday, February 20
7 pm, Sanctuary

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.



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!

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

Thank you for your hearty applause last Sunday when the announcement was made regarding my acceptance of the Director of Worship position. Although it is a part-time position, I understand that true Worship is a full-time experience.

As we gather at various times to Worship together, its important to me that we are able to carry the experience of Worship into our daily lives.

I am honored to be able to collaborate with highly qualified, skilled individuals who enjoy what they do. My team and I are committed to creating meaningful worship every Sunday.

Please continue to hold us up in prayer.

Peace,
Cassandra White



Fishers Net Prayer Ministry:

A Dialogue with God

"THE PURPLE COW"

I NEVER saw a Purple Cow, I never hope to see one;
But I can tell you, anyhow, I'd rather see than be one.

I must admit, during prayer time, odd things pop up in my mind. Recently it was the remembrance of when I was child, about 4 or 5, when I made a purple cow out of construction paper. There was even blue grass and an orange sun. Little did I know that there was a poem entitled The Purple Cow, by Gelett Burgess. I remembered how proud I was of my purple cow and placed it on the wall of my bedroom, because I knew it was the best cow in the world for it was the only one like it. Perhaps even as a child, I knew I was different from others as proclaimed in Psalm 139:13-14 "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made..." We are all fearfully and wonderfully made. Every one! Just as there are no two snow flakes, there are no two people alike. Yet, we are all made in God's image.

God knows you. God knows me. And God wants to have a conversation with each and everyone one of us, on our own level. If you feel you don't know how to pray, because you try to mimic what you have read or overheard others pray, just remember the purple cow, a unique individual, just as God made you.

Dear Creator Mother Father God, I come before you today, now, in this place just as I am. I come to you with an open heart to hear your calling for me. Help me now, this week and always to be open and honest. I praise you for making me just as I am.. I praise you for hearing my every call. Dear Lord, please be with me this week as I reach out away from myself and lift others up. Help me this week to open my mind, heart and soul wider to hear your voice. In Jesus name. 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.

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.



Food Pantry

by Appointment

713-861-9149 x103

**Nonperishables Needed:
Canned Meats, Vegetables,
Fruit, Juice, Soup, Pasta,
Rice, Beans**



IMANI VIDA DRUM CIRCLE

Saturday, March 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.

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 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




Advertise with us.

As low as \$25 / week.

Ads@ResurrectionMCC.org

Stewardship Thought for the Week

Until one is able to give oneself to something or to someone, one will never be able to give much of anything else.

~ Anonymous

Board Members on Duty

Debbie Skelly & Karla Johnson

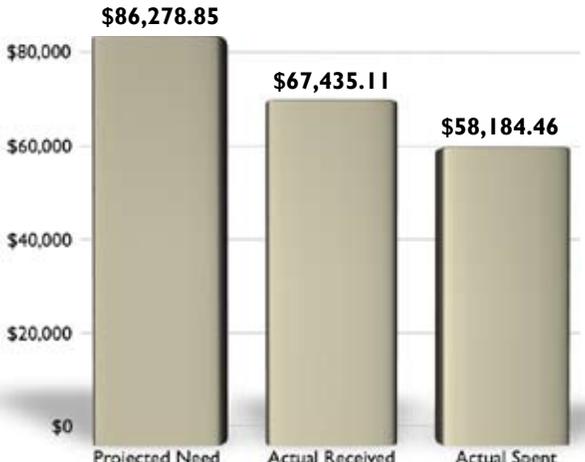
Board Minutes Available Upon Request.

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 February 7, 2010**

		Week	Year
<i>Tithes & Offerings</i>			
02/07/10 9:00 am	113	\$1,997.41	\$14,371.96
02/07/10 11:00 am	312	\$6,551.72	\$33,778.39
02/03/10 6:30 pm	38	\$54.00	\$508.37
Special Services			
Online Giving		\$1,511.70	\$8,394.48
Other Contributions		\$2,175.00	\$5,708.77
Total	463	\$12,289.83	\$62,761.97
<i>Other General Fund Income</i>			
Fundraising		\$117.00	169.00
Miscellaneous		\$1,815.00	\$4,504.14
Total Received		\$14,221.83	\$67,435.11
Projected Need per Budget		\$15,955.77	\$86,278.85
Total Exceeded Need / (Did Not Meet Need)		(\$1,733.94)	(\$18,843.74)
Total Imagine Capital Campaign		\$1,635.00	\$15,505.34



Projected Need	Actual Received	Actual Spent
\$86,278.85	\$67,435.11	\$58,184.46

This Week @ ResurrectionMCC.org

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

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED FEBRUARY 15

No Events Scheduled.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 16

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 17

8:00 am	Nonprofit Consulting	Gathering Place
7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service	Sanctuary

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 18

8:00 am	Nonprofit Consulting	Gathering Place
6:00 pm	Pastoral Search Committee Meeting	Workroom
7:00 pm	Resurrection Singers Rehearsal	Music Room

FRIDAY OFFICE CLOSED FEBRUARY 19

No Events Scheduled.

SATURDAY OFFICE CLOSED FEBRUARY 20

9:00 am	Creating a Life That Matters (class full)	Gathering Place
7:00 pm	Film Screening: Bayard Rustin (see ad, p. 7)	Sanctuary

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 21

8:00 am	Adeste Praise Band Rehearsal	Sanctuary
9:00 am	Sunday Worship / Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini	
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. Kristen Klein-Cechettini	
1:30 pm	HeavenSound Handbells Rehearsal	Music Room
4:00 pm	Gospel Ensemble Concert (see ad, p. 7)	Sanctuary