



Resurrection

Metropolitan Community Church

February 21, 2010

Prelude

Anthony White

How Majestic is Your Name
Michael W. Smith. Arrangement by Hayes.

+ Our Community Gathers

Rev. Kristem 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.

+ Invocation

Rev. Mona Lopez

+ Please rise in body or spirit.

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.

Isaiah 60:1-5a

Arise, shine, for your light has come! The glory of Our God is rising upon you! Though darkness shall cover the earth, and deep shadow covers the nations; upon you The Most High now dawns, and God's glory will be seen among you! Nations shall come to your light, and leaders of peoples to your bright dawn!

Lift up your eyes and look around: they all gather together, they come to you; your daughters and your sons come from far away, journeying into your open arms! Then you shall see and be radiant! Your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations shall be yours!

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

Jerry Reitz

Acts 9:1-19

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against Jesus' disciples, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as Saul was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' 'Who are you?' Saul asked. The voice answered, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Get up now and go into the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' Those who were travelling with him stood speechless; they heard the voice but could see no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. Christ appeared to him in a vision, saying, 'Ananias.' Ananias said, 'Here I am.' Then Christ said to him, 'Go at once to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. He is there praying. Saul had a vision that a man named Ananias will come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' But Ananias protested, 'I have heard from many about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. He is here now with the authority from the chief priests to bind all who call upon your name.' But Christ said to him, 'Go, for Saul is the instrument I have chosen to bring my Name to Gentiles and to rulers and before the people of Israel. I myself will show him how much he will have to suffer for the sake of my name.' With that Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Saul, my brother, I have been sent by Jesus Christ, who appeared to you on your way here, to help you regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

**We Hear
the Word**

Too often, we slip into treating church like a club. Then our faith slides into thinking first about church – about the building, the activities, the friends, the important life we've found there, the ministries we do. We know these ministries can lead to faith in God, a faith life, a prayer life. But while both the church part and the God part are important, we emphasize the less crucial of the two. God matters more than church. The purpose of sharing our faith – evangelism – is to help new people begin a life of relationship with God. Church supports that relationship. Going to church is not an end in itself. When we fail to focus on our relationship with God we get mixed up. Vivid faith lives come from keeping God in the primary place.

-- Martha Grace Reese
 "Why Do Evangelism?"
 in *Unbinding Your Heart*, adapted.

Anthem

Gospel Ensemble

Delivered

by Jeff Jacobs

Spiritual Encouragement

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

The Paul Problem

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

Charley Sellers

Offertory

HeavenSound Handbells

Nocturne in C Minor

Arranged by Nancy Hascall

Communion

Rev. Janice Ladd

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.

This Little Light of Mine made it into the American folk music tradition when it was found and documented by John Lomax in 1939.

Even though it has become a great anthem of the Civil Rights movement, it's not believed to have hailed from slave spirituals. It was, however, adapted for the Civil Rights Movement by Zilphia Horton (who also taught Pete Seeger *We Shall Overcome*) and other activists.

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 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 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 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. Janice Ladd

+ **Benediction**

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

Postlude

Anthony White

Call to Victory

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

Lent

February 24 - March 31

Connection Groups

*Please join us for an
exciting 6-week adventure!*

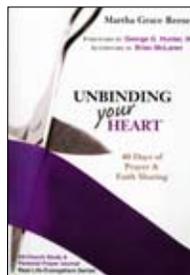
February 24 - March 31

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.



What is Lent?

Lent is a 40-day liturgical season that begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes on Easter. Sundays are not included in the 40-day count because every Sunday is a joyful celebration of Jesus' resurrection. Though not biblical, Lent has long been a tradition in the Christian Church, and it is thought that the tradition of the 40 days recalls the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness, fasting and being tempted by Satan (Matthew 4:1-11). Because of Lent's reflective and penitential nature, worship tends to be more solemn, and purple is the liturgical color of the season. As with many congregations, Resurrection holds mid-week worship services which include devotional activities to share the Lenten disciplines such as service, fasting and prayer in community with one another.

Palm Sunday begins the last week of Lent, known as Holy Week. Holy Week celebrations at Resurrection include: Wednesday – a Service of Discipleship featuring a simple invitational washing ritual based on John 13 ("Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet"); Thursday – a Liberation Seder Celebration featuring a community meal honoring The Last Supper and Jesus' institution of the Sacrament of Holy Communion with the mandate to serve one another in love; and a Good Friday Meditation on the Stations of the Cross commemorating Jesus' imprisonment, trial and crucifixion. Lent culminates on Easter with the celebration of Christ's Resurrection.

God became flesh in Jesus Christ. Jesus faced temptation, he suffered hunger and thirst, he suffered the agony of crucifixion. Jesus did not face these things so that we would be exempt from them, he faced these things so that we would have dignity in them. Jesus came in the flesh and dwelt among us, and suffered hunger and thirst and heat and cold and betrayal and loneliness, and finally also pain and agony and death upon the cross, and in this "journeying with/in humanity" he gave dignity to all who suffer. When, for a day or season, we are overcome by grief or despair and find that we cannot "snap out of it," when we usually rely on our own ability to "think positive" but we find we cannot just "look on the bright side of things" at some point, as Christians we find that Jesus meets us there! In hopelessness we find our hope in Christ and there we can endure unhappiness and sadness and loneliness, we can survive poverty and hunger and thirst; we can face mourning and grief and even death, because Jesus faced all those things! We come to know that Jesus brings life in the very place of death; we can face our own crucifixions in life, because we know that Jesus is "alive and well, his spirit is within us" because he died to live again!

Lent is a time to live our friendship with Jesus. Let us be bold to join him, fasting in the wilderness for forty days during Lent; let us live the journey of our faith – friends of Jesus, alive in God – through these weeks ahead.



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. **The survey will close at midnight tonight.** 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. However, they will need to be completed immediately and returned to us today 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.

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!

Church Leaders Needed

If you can communicate well with small and large groups, if you have good organizational skills, if you work well as part of a team, or if you have a financial or legal background, coupled with an interest and desire to spread God's unconditional love to all through Resurrection's efforts, you may have what it takes to be a part of Resurrection's Board of Directors or Lay Delegates.

Ask God if the time is now for you to be part of a dynamic team committed to moving Resurrection forward, and if the answer is "yes," act quickly. Applications are available at www.ResurrectionMCC.org and will be accepted until Wednesday, February 24.

Send any questions to Nominating@ResurrectionMCC.org

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



Semi-Annual Congregational
Forum March 7, 12:30 pm
Sanctuary

Semi-Annual Congregational
Meeting March 21, 12:30 pm
Sanctuary



Fishers Net Prayer Ministry:

A Dialogue with God

As a gardening enthusiast, I delight in the idea of digging in the dirt, picking the flowers, pulling weeds and especially harvesting the fruits of my labor. As in the North, it is expected that the cold winter winds will blow and almost all vegetation either dies or hibernates. But when this happens in the South, it is such a sudden shock and turn of events it makes this gardening enthusiast just want to sit down and cry. Prayer life can be related to the growing seasons. As when Spring arrives and the plants begin to flourish, we praise God for the beauty in it all. Then as the growing season continues and 'life is going along' we tend to forget to praise God for the continued bounty and goodness. And when Winter arrives and shrubs and flowers are replaced with sticks and dried leaves, just as when 'life is not going right', do we still praise? Do we forget to pray? As humans, it is hard to see what is not there, just as it is hard to see the green life within what seems to be a dead stick. Ironically, that is the Christian Faith, believing in the unseen. We are made to praise God, in all times, as God is with us in all our seasons.

Dear Creator and Sustainer God, this moment, this day, now; I praise you for your sustaining strength within me. I praise you in the Spring when I am experiencing new growth and excitement. I praise you in my Summer when I am growing strong and life is going well. I praise you in my Fall, when there are days when things don't seem to go my way. And I especially praise you in my Winter days, when life is seemingly not going well and parts of my life are broken. I praise especially during this broken time, as I know you live within me and soon I will have new life, a new outlook and see the joy in a friend's eyes when I share this glorious experience of having YOU in my life. Dear Heavenly Parent, thank you for the lesson of the seasons. I know through your teachings to live one day at a time, sharing your love with others. 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.



Landscape & Facilities Workday

Saturday, March 6

9 am - Noon

Join in service as we beautify our campus. Projects include gardening and selected interior work, carried out in an atmosphere of great fellowship.

RSVP & Questions to
Landscape@ResurrectionMCC.org



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 on 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.HOUSTONPRIDEAND.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




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Stewardship Thought for the Week

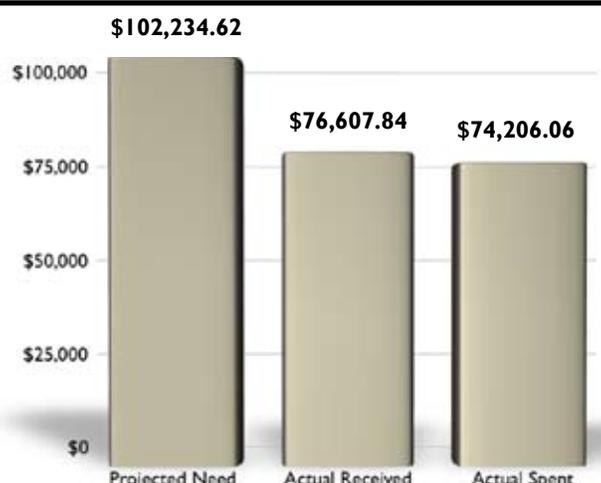
You will find, as you look back upon your life, that the moments that stand out, the moments when you have really lived, are the moments when you have done things in a spirit of love.

~ Henry Drummond

Board Members on Duty
Mary Wagner & Elisa Vega-Burns
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 14, 2010	
Tithes & Offerings		Week	Year		
02/14/10 9:00 am	106	\$2,877.00	\$17,248.96		
02/14/10 11:00 am	338	\$3,159.50	\$36,937.89		
02/10/10 6:30 pm	32	\$211.00	\$719.37		
Special Services					
Online Giving		\$1,713.51	\$10,107.99		
Other Contributions		\$470.00	\$6,178.77		
Total	476	\$8,431.01	\$71,192.98		
Other General Fund Income					
Fundraising		\$735.00	\$904.00		
Miscellaneous		\$6.72	\$4,510.86		
Total Received		\$9,172.73	\$76,607.84		
Projected Need per Budget		\$15,955.77	\$102,234.62		
Total Exceeded Need / (Did Not Meet Need)		(\$6,783.04)	(\$25,626.78)		
Total Imagine Capital Campaign		\$904.84	\$16,410.18		



This Week @ ResurrectionMCC.org

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

MONDAY FEBRUARY 22

6:00 pm	Board of Directors Meeting	Gathering Place
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TUESDAY FEBRUARY 23

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 24

8:00 am	Nonprofit Consulting	Gathering Place
6:00 pm	The Chalice: Community Gathering	Activities Building
6:30 pm	The Chalice: Wednesday Worship	Activities Building
7:00 pm	The Chalice: Unbinding Your Heart	Activities Building
7:00 pm	Houston Pride Band Tech Rehearsal	Sanctuary

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25

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

FRIDAY OFFICE CLOSED FEBRUARY 26

7:00 pm	Friday Night OUT	Cafe Adobe
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SATURDAY OFFICE CLOSED FEBRUARY 27

7:30 pm	Houston Pride Band Concert	Sanctuary
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SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28

8:00 am	Adeste Praise Band Rehearsal	Sanctuary
9:00 am	Sunday Worship / Denise Lippy	
10:15 am	Fisher's Net Prayer Ministry (Everyone Welcome)	Chapel
10:45 am	Youth Ministries Program	Activities Building
11:00 am	Sunday Worship / Denise Lippy	
12:30 pm	Season of Service Sign-Ups & Renewal	Activities Building
1:30 pm	HeavenSound Handbells Rehearsal	Music Room