



Resurrection

Metropolitan Community Church

August 1, 2010

Prelude

Joel Hammett

O God, Our Help in Ages Past
by Arr. Baldrige

Our Community Gathers

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini
Mark Eggleston

+ Hymn

We are the Church Alive



1. We are the Church A-live, Christ's pres-ence on this earth; We
 2. We are the Church A-live, Our faith has set us free; No
 3. We are the Church A-live, All praise to God on high. Cre-

give God's Spi-rit bo-dy in the act of our new birth. As
 more en-slaved by guilt and shame we live our li-ber-ty! We
 a-tor, Sav-ior, Com-fort-er! We laud and mag-ni-fy Your

yield-ed o-pen chan-nels for God's de-scend-ing dove, We
 fol-low Christ's ex-am-ple and free-dom now pro-claim, De-
 name, Al-might-y God of love; Pray, give us life that we May

shout and sing, with joy we bring God's all in-clu-sive love.
 stroy-ing myths of doubt and fear in Je-sus' might-y name.
 be your Church, the Church A-live, For all e-ter-ni-ty.

+ Invocation

Joy Jolley

+ Please rise in body or spirit.

Church Alive

Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, like all MCCs around the world, is founded on the basic core values of inclusivity, community, spiritual transformation, and social justice. The Holy Spirit breathed into this denomination the truth that everyone, every single person, is a beloved child of God. And when you get it in your heart, mind, and soul that you are beloved by the source of life, the source of love, then as Jesus said, "you will do even greater things!"

Throughout August we will reflect on how to step out with intentionality and bring our core beliefs to life through our daily spiritual practices. We will renew our call to be the Church Alive so that we can participate in God's transformational love for the world.

We will study five practices, grounded in our core beliefs that will guide us in our call to be the Church Alive: Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Spiritual Transformation, Compassionate Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity. These practices open our heart—to God, to others, to a life that matters, a life rich with meaning, relationship, and contribution. They help form us so that we may bring that forward as the Church Alive: Christ's presence on this earth!

We Listen

Every person we admire, respect, and desire to emulate for their spirituality, wisdom, graciousness, service, and generosity at some point explicitly and dramatically, or unknowingly and gradually, decided to let God in. They said Yes to God's love, and opened the door to allow God in. They didn't have all their beliefs figured out, and maybe they still don't, but in their pattern of receiving, God stopped merely being an idea and became personal for them, an element of their daily lives, a resident in their heart. They accepted God's acceptance of them, and allowed this truth to shape and change them ...

~ Robert Schnase,
*Five Practices of
Fruitful Living*

First Reading

Vickey Gibbs (9 am)
Gemma Burns (11 am)

Psalm 107:1-9, 43

O give thanks to the Holy One, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of our God say so, those who have been redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town; hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. Then they cried to the Holy One in their trouble, and God delivered them from their distress; they were led by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town. Let them thank the Holy One for this steadfast love, for these wonderful works to humankind. For God satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry are filled with good things. Let those who are wise give heed to these things, and consider the steadfast love of our God.

Musical Interlude

We Are the Body of Christ

One heart, one Spirit, one voice to praise you.

We are the body of Christ.

One goal, one vision: To see you exalted. We are the body of Christ.

And to this we give our lives to see you glorified.

One heart, one Spirit, one voice to praise you.

We are the body of Christ.

+ Second Reading

Kedric Brown (9 am)
Wayne Wiggins (11 am)

Luke 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But Jesus said, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then Jesus told them a parable: "The land of a rich owner produced abundantly. And the owner thought, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then the owner said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

Anthem

Gospel Ensemble

God's Preparing Me
by Carol Antrom

Spiritual Encouragement

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

Church Alive: Radical Hospitality

Musical Interlude

We Are the Body of Christ

One heart, one Spirit, one voice to praise you.
We are the body of Christ.
One goal, one vision: To see you exalted. We are the body of Christ.
And to this we give our lives to see you glorified.
One heart, one Spirit, one voice to praise you.
We are the body of Christ.

Making Ministry Happen

Darrin Brindle

Offertory

Gospel Ensemble

There's a Liftin' of the Hands
words and music by Tim Johnson

Communion

Cassandra White

Communion Songs

Come Just as You Are

Come just as you are, Hear the spirit call
Come just as you are, Come and see
Come receive, come and live forever.

Life everlasting and strength for today
Taste the living water and never thirst again

More Precious than Silver

Lord, you are more precious than silver.
Lord, you are more costly than gold.
Lord, you are more beautiful than diamonds,
and nothing I desire compares with you.

**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.

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

We Sing

We sing as a body during the distribution of the elements. If you do not wish to sing, please be in an attitude of prayer for those who wish to meditate during this time.

We Go Forth

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

Prayer

If you are in need of prayer support, you can find prayer partners available during our time of communion or after worship in the right wing of the Sanctuary. You can also release your prayers to God by placing them in the Prayer Wall.

One Bread One Body

(chorus)

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

Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman and man, no more. *(chorus)*

Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all. *(chorus)*

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one, for all. *(chorus)*

Take My Life

Holiness, holiness is what I long for. Holiness is what I need.
Holiness, holiness is what You want from me.
Faithfulness, faithfulness is what I long for. Faithfulness is what I need.
Faithfulness, faithfulness is what You want from me.

So take my heart; conform it. Take my mind; transform it.
Take my will; conform it to Yours, to Yours, oh Lord.
Righteousness, righteousness is what I long for. Righteousness is what I need.
Righteousness, righteousness is what You want from me.

So take my heart; conform it. Take my mind; transform it.
Take my will; conform it to Yours, to Yours, oh Lord.

Holy Ground

We are standing on holy ground,
and I know that there are angels all around.
Let us praise Jesus now,
We are standing in God's presence on holy ground.

+ **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Cassandra White

+ **Benediction**

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

Postlude

Joel Hammett

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

by Isaac Watts Arr. Carol Tornquist

THE PRACTICE OF RADICAL HOSPITALITY

Opening Prayer

Dear God,
Ask and I will give
time to be with you;
Seek and I will make
space for you;
Knock and I will open
the door to you.
With your grace,
Amen.

~ Rev. Kristen
Klein-Cechettini

Daily Scripture Readings

Sun - John 5:1-14
Mon - Luke 19:1-10
Tue - 2 Corinthians 12:9
Wed - Mark 2:1-12
Thu - John 4:4-30
Fri - Ephesians 2:8-10
Sat - John 8:1-12

Closing Prayer

My Lord God
I have no idea where I
am going. I do not see
the road ahead of me. I
cannot know for certain
where it will end. Nor
do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think
I am following your will
does not mean that I am
actually doing so. But I
believe that my desire to
please you does in fact
please you. And I hope
that I have that desire
in all that I am doing. I
hope that I will never do
anything apart from that
desire. And I know that if
I do this you will lead me
by the right road though I
may know nothing about
it. Therefore will I trust
you always though I may
seem to be lost and in the
shadow of death. I will
not fear, for you are ever
with me, and you will
never leave me to face my
perils alone.

~ Thomas Merton

CHURCH A LOVE: In My Life

Sunday, August 1 - Saturday, August 7
Spiritual Maturity, Transformation and Application

Opening Essay

Radical Hospitality

If I asked you to tell me about your relationship with God, what would you say?

Many times – and for many years, myself – our response to this simple question is something along the lines of a list of our “uns”: how we are unworthy, unable, uncertain, unskilled, unavailable, unfaithful, uninterested, unwilling, unprepared, unready ...

Here’s the deal: God wants in.

We can talk about how we don’t read the Bible, or how we are full of bad habits, or how we’ll never be able to forgive our father, or how we don’t pray as we ought to... We can discuss how we are compulsive or controlling or riddled with anger... We can share our faith struggles, like how we aren’t sure we can accept that Jesus was God, or that we’re not sure we believe it’s okay to be gay and Christian, or that we’re not sure how to love our neighbors as ourselves ... We can confess that we don’t seem to experience what other people experience during worship, that we’ve had an abortion, or that we know we should stop drinking but we can’t... We can argue that we just aren’t comfortable around poor people, or those of different cultures, or that we just can’t let go of our childhood teachings ... We can admit how mad we are at God for letting our mom die, or how unlovable we are for not missing her, or how we want to believe in all this God stuff but we just *can’t* ...

We can talk about, discuss, struggle, confess, argue, and explain how and why we are closed off from God but eventually it will come down to this: will we open the door? Will we loose the chains of our reasons and fears and failings and release the deadbolts of our doubts and justifications and limitations – all that we secretly (or not so secretly) believe is wrong about us or with us that keeps the door shut between us and God? Will we pause a moment in our sad, hurt, fearful, confused, angry, guilty recitation of why God won’t can’t couldn’t wouldn’t shouldn’t hasn’t let us in to risk hearing the sound of God knocking and to realize the locks are on the inside of the door?

Here’s the deal: God wants in.

In with all of our doubts and imperfections and resentments and sorrow; in with all of our petty bad habits and howling regrets; in with all of our most savage hopes and most boring defects of character ... in. God wants in. With us. Just as we are. All of us. For real.

Listen: grace is the sound of God knocking. Will we open the door?

~Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

CHURCH A L V E: Sacred Reading

I do not at all understand the mystery of grace – only that it meets us where we are but does not leave us where it found us.

~ Anne Lamott, *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith*

Accept that you are accepted ... Grace helps us face the truth about ourselves, to embrace it rather than run from it; and by embracing this truth and offering it to God, we discover that God knows the truth about us and still loves us, and that God will shape us from this day forward anew. God's been waiting for us, desiring us to let [God] in. Can we accept that we are accepted?

~ Robert Schnase, *Five Practices of Fruitful Living*

There is nothing we can do that will make God love us more. There is nothing we can do that will make God love us less.

~ Philip Yancy, *What's So Amazing About Grace?*

It is the sufficiency of grace that ended my fear and trembling. My salvation had never depended on my striving and my struggle. It wasn't about keeping a perfect record or earning a gold star. It wasn't even about my accepting God. Salvation came in knowing that God accepted me.

~ Philip Gulley & James Mulholland,
If God Is Love: Rediscovering Grace in an Ungracious World

A radical encounter with the grace of God may not solve everything overnight, but many things will remain beyond our ability to solve until we at least take the first step of accepting the grace of God and inviting God's love in.

~ Robert Schnase, *Five Practices of Fruitful Living*

CHURCH A L V E: Spiritual Maturity and Application

For this week take at least 1 symbolic yet real action to "let God in" each day ...

- Set an extra place at your dining table, as you pray grace invite God to join you.
 - When you come home, intentionally leave a door open for God to follow you in.
 - Put a small candle in a coffee mug, and light it to welcome God to join you as you have your own morning cup.
 - Place a light blanket or throw on your bed, welcome God's presence in your rest.
 - Play music that "speaks God's voice" to you during your day, listen as to a friend.
- Talk back – share in a real conversation with God.

~ Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

CHURCH A L V E: Over Lunch

TODAY: Lola

1102 Yale St, Houston TX 77008
www.eatlola.com

Join our Board Members after Sunday Worship in August to enjoy a meal, discuss the sermon series and meet new friends.

Looking Ahead:

- Full Board on August 8 at **Resurrection MCC**
- Karla and Wayne on August 15 at **Juanita's Mexican Restaurant**
- DeJuana and Mary on August 22 at **Java Java Cafe**
- Tricia and Elisa on August 29 at **Golden Island**

Executive Team

Rev. Janice Ladd

Executive Pastor

RevJanice@ResurrectionMCC.org (x104)

Mark Eggleston

Director of Outreach

Mark@ResurrectionMCC.org (x106)

Joy Jolley

Director of Operations (Interim)

Joy@ResurrectionMCC.org (x102)

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)

Professional Stipend

Joel Hammett

Organist & Accompanist

Debbie Mansfield

Nursery Coordinator

Sara Navarro

Graphic Artist

Sara@ResurrectionMCC.org (x112)

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

Volunteer

Rev. Mona Lopez

Volunteer Staff Clergy

RevMona@ResurrectionMCC.org

Worship

Sunday, 9 & 11 am

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 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 & 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 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. Metropolitan Community Churches, founded in 1968, is a human-rights movement and ministry operating as a Christian denomination in 22 countries around the world. MCC is an international advocate for vulnerable people in places where religious orthodoxy, sexism, and homophobia can result in violence and death.

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. We embrace four core values:

Core Values

Inclusion

Love is our greatest moral value and resisting exclusion is a primary focus of our ministry. We want to continue to be the conduits of a faith where everyone is included in the family of God, and where all parts of our being are welcomed at God's table.

Community

Offering a safe and open community for people to worship, learn and grow in their faith is our deep desire. We are committed to equipping ourselves and each other to do the work that God has called us to do in the world.

Spiritual Transformation

Providing a message of liberation from the oppressive religious environment of our day or to those experiencing God for the first time is what guides our ministry. We believe that when people are invited to experience God through the life and ministry of Christ, lives will be transformed.

Social Action

Working to talk less and do more, we are committed to resisting the structures that oppress people and standing with those who suffer under the weight of oppressive systems, being guided always by our commitment to Global Human Rights.

EQUALITY MINISTRY MEETING



**Monday, August 2
6:30 pm, Gathering Place**

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

Questions or to Sign up:
Equality@ResurrectionMCC.org

IMANI VIDA DRUM CIRCLE

**Saturday
August 7**



**3 - 4:30 pm
Gathering Place**

Gaining popularity across the country, some drum circles celebrate heritage, customs, and ethnic traditions, but all are outlets for people expressing a primal urge that drives their spirit, as they drum amidst camaraderie and fun. Drumming is not only fun, it induces deep relaxation, lowers blood pressure, and reduces the stress which contributes to nearly all disease and life-threatening illnesses. Drumming puts the mind, body and spirit in a place of rest and strengthens wellness! The drum circle is open to ALL, and requires no prior experience with drumming. Join us! If you want more information, contact Denise Junious, DrumCircle@ResurrectionMCC.org, or visit www.meetup.com/DrummingCircle

Imani Vida Drum Circle meets on the first Saturday's of each month

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for Masquerade Ball Fundraiser Planning Committee

This team will assist with preparations for our Masquerade Ball on Saturday, October 30, 2010.

For questions and to volunteer, contact Tricia Phillips at Masquerade@ResurrectionMCC.org

Landscape & Facilities

"Season of Service"

Sign-up on August 15 in the Activities Building for something new... A "Season of Service" for our campus!

This is a new way for you to lend a hand to help maintain and clean our church home.

Serve once a month for three months!

Outside Work: Drop by when you can, or when staff is on campus to weed-eat, trim tree limbs, or trim shrubbery. Materials supplied when staff is present.

Inside Work: Drop by when staff is on campus to vacuum, clean windows, or clean glass. All materials supplied.

*What a way to help out on your own time!
What a way to help your church!*

For additional information, e-mail Joy@ResurrectionMCC.org

DISCOVERING MY SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Wednesdays, August 4 & 11, 7 - 8:30 pm
Gathering Place

As a community, we are interrelated and interdependent, much like the human body. Finding our part in the body comes from discovering and utilizing our spiritual gifts. The goal of this class is to help participants discover and develop their spiritual gifts, place them in meaningful ministry opportunities that best suit their unique gifts and abilities, and stimulate creativity in God's gifted people for the purpose of developing new ministries. Join us and find your unique fit in the body of Christ as we build up our community. RSVP and questions to Connections@ResurrectionMCC.org

ADULT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

"Gospelled!" The Red-Letter Whiteboard Scripture Sessions

- Friday, August 6, 6:30 pm, Gathering Place
- Saturday, August 7, 9:30 am - 2:30 pm, Gathering Place

One whiteboard, a bunch of Bibles, and four Gospels in four hours – what would Jesus say?! That's what we plan to find out as we open our minds, our mouths, and our Bibles in this exciting conversation with Christ through "red-letter" passages in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John! The Scripture Sessions are designed with those new to the Bible and those interested in letting the Bible be new to them again. Discovery-based, interactive and exploratory, instruction is grounded in the conviction that through the animation and guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Bible is truly a living Word – one divinely designed for ongoing conversations with God! Join us for the Friday Introduction and the Saturday Sessions as we jump in and get Gospelled! All are welcome! RSVP and questions to RevKristen@ResurrectionMCC.org



SEASON OF SERVICE

Sign-Ups & Spiritual Renewal

Sunday | August 15 | 12:30 - 2 pm | Activities Building

No Experience Required!

Come and see all the ways you can get involved in ministry and then step out and try it on for three months! Join Rev. Janice, Rev. Kristen and Ministry Team Leads for sign-ups, ministry updates, and a time of spiritual renewal as we commit our time and talents to God's people this Fall!

All new and returning volunteers are invited to sign-up and share their gifts...

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

Lunch will be provided so please RSVP to Connections@ResurrectionMCC.org.

The Chalice

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4

Community Gathering

6:00 - 7:00 pm | Activities Building

Bring a brown bag or purchase a snack from Inspirations Coffee Cafe while you meet new friends.

Life Development Offerings

The Artist's Way Open Door Discussion

7:00 - 8:30 pm | Activities Building

SIP FROM THE CHALICE

Rules of the Road

Useful in dealing with any form of criticism:

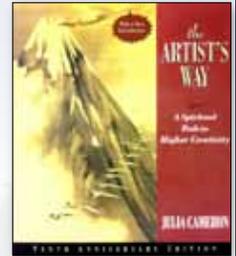
1. Receive the criticism all the way through and get it over with.
2. Jot down notes to yourself on what concepts or phrases bother you.
3. Jot down notes on what concepts or phrases seem useful.
4. Do something very nurturing for yourself—read an old good review or recall a compliment.
5. Remember that even if you have made a truly rotten piece of art, it may be a necessary stepping-stone to your next work. Art matures spasmodically and requires ugly-duckling growth stages.
6. Look at the criticism again. Does it remind you of any criticism from your past—particularly shaming childhood criticism? Acknowledge to yourself that the current criticism is triggering grief over a long-standing wound.
7. Write a letter to the critic—not to be mailed, most probably. Defend your work and acknowledge what was helpful, if anything, in the criticism proffered.
8. Get back on the horse. Make an immediate commitment to do something creative..
9. Do it. Creativity is the only cure for criticism.

-- excerpted from The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity by Julia Cameron

OFFERING ONE

Week 6 of 12 : Open to All

The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity



For most of us, the idea that the creator encourages creativity is a radical thought. We tend to think, or at least fear, that creative dreams are egotistical, something God wouldn't approve of for us ... This thinking must be undone. No matter what your age or your life path, whether making art is your career or your hobby or your dream, it is not too late or too egotistical or too selfish or too silly to work on your creativity. What we are talking about is an induced – or invited – spiritual experience: we undertake certain spiritual exercises to achieve alignment with the creative energy of the universe.

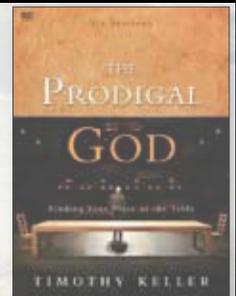
-- from The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity by Julia Cameron

The Artist's Way is a spiritual workshop aimed at freeing people's creativity. Based upon the popular book by Julia Cameron, Rev. Kristen and Juanita Hicks will facilitate this 12-week course in discovering and recovering your creative self. The Artist's Way is for everybody! No artistic skill or experience is necessary! Purchase of the book and participation in the majority of the 12 sessions is encouraged but not required. RSVP and questions to RevKristen@ResurrectionMCC.org or 713-861-9149 x104.

OFFERING TWO

Ongoing: Open to All

Open Door Discussion – "The Prodigal God"



Join us for this new 6 - part open door discussion mini series. Based on Luke 15!

Pastor and New York Times bestselling author Timothy Keller opens your eyes to the powerful message of Jesus' best-known—and least understood—parable. The Prodigal God is a revelation of the very heart of the gospel: God's radical love for people of every kind. Dr. Keller helps you glean insights from each of the characters in Jesus' parable: the irreligious younger son, the moralistic elder son, and the Heavenly Parent who lavishes love on both. The Prodigal God will challenge the devout and the skeptic alike to see Christianity in a whole new way.

The Open Door Discussion Series is a facilitated open discussion which uses the short NOOMA films and other Flannel DVDs as a jumping-off place for personal reflection and shared engagement with our journeys of faith and spiritual growth. The Open Door Discussions are not classes; they are opportunities for us to gather and share our spiritual lives with one another. All are welcome to attend one, some, or all sessions of this DVD-Based Faith Discussion Series! RSVP and questions to RevKristen@ResurrectionMCC.org or 713-861-9149 x104.



Pastoral Search Committee Update

July 22, 2010

Application packets have been received!

The Pastoral Search Committee has begun the applicant review process. This phase of the pastoral search process is scheduled to be completed by August 30, 2010.

Please continue to pray for our patience, discipline, wisdom and discernment to nominate the right person for election to Resurrection MCC Senior Pastor. As always, if you have any questions regarding the pastoral search process, please feel free to contact us at PastoralSearchCommittee@ResurrectionMCC.org.

Yours in Christ,
The Resurrection MCC Pastoral Search Committee

Church Group Defends Transgender Widow And Upholds Equality in Family Law

Houston, Texas, July 23, 2010 - Thomas Araguz III died a hero's death in July of this year, battling a fire as a Captain in the Wharton Volunteer Fire Department.

His widow, 35 year old Nikki Araguz, now faces a dual tragedy. In addition to mourning the loss of her husband, she must fight for the inheritance benefits most legally wed couples take for granted.

Citing a previous Texas case, Littleton v Prange {1999}, Mr. Araguz' mother and former, legally divorced wife are seeking to invalidate Thomas' and Nikki's legally recognized marriage claiming that Nikki is not a woman, and thus strip her of inheritance and insurance benefits. Currently, Nikki's assets are frozen, while all parties wait for an unspecified court date.

"On behalf of Metropolitan Community Churches," said The Rev. Nancy Wilson, Moderator of the global faith movement founded to serve as a spiritual home for all people, "I want to extend my heartfelt condolences to Nikki and to all of the family and loved ones of this blended family. This is a tragedy compounded by the sad and wrong-hearted prejudices of our society, and I sincerely hope and pray that all of Thomas' family members will be able to come together to mourn and plan for the future together, as families should be able to do at such a time of loss."

Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, the Houston-based congregation of MCC, added its support for Mrs. Nikki Araguz through Director of Outreach, Mark Eggleston, saying, "Our community of faith fully and unconditionally supports the love and life that Nikki and Thomas shared, and stands with Nikki as she fights to preserve not only the memory of her marriage to Thomas, but its legality and consequent rights."

"We join our voice today," Mr. Eggleston continued, "to those of the Transgender Foundation of America as well as Frye and Associates, the law firm representing Nikki, in calling for the court to both adjudicate this case in deference to recent case law, recognizing court ordered gender change as definitive proof of identity, and to dismiss the case in favor of Nikki's inheritance standing."

"Grieving the loss of a loved one is tragedy and burden enough," concluded The Rev. Wilson, "but to have to defend your right to exist and fall in love on top of that, is more than any human being should have to bear. I want to call on people of faith everywhere today to join me in praying for Nikki and her extended family, and to do whatever we each can do to support the day when gender identity and sexual orientation are no longer used to destroy families."

For more information on the case, go to www.tgctr.org.

Church Leaders Needed

DO YOU:

- Communicate well with small and large groups?
- Have good organizational skills?
- Work well as part of a team?
- Have a financial or legal background?
- Have a desire to spread God's unconditional love?

If so, you may have what it takes to be a part of Resurrection's Board of Directors or Lay Delegates!

Ask God if now is the time for you to be part of a dynamic team committed to moving Resurrection forward. If the answer is "YES," applications will be available online on August 15. The application deadline is September 15.

Send questions to Nomating@ResurrectionMCC.org

AUGUST 1



Fishers Net Prayer Ministry

A Dialogue with God by Ron Reeser

What? An elephant in the room!

Everyone has experience with the big blue elephant in the room – you know that unconceivable subject we tend to ignore. The subject that is so touchy, so uncomfortable we turn away, change the conversation or worse yet, turn our back on God.

What if that elephant was a nudging from God? What if God placed something on your heart, mind, and soul and yet you still did not want to face it? What if. What if. What if. Enough already! Sometimes God, through life experiences, places elephants in the middle of our living rooms where we can no longer ignore them. The elephant gets in the way of social activities and even blocks the view of the TV! We have Roach-be-gone, is there an Elephant-be-gone where with one spray, life goes back to normal?

Sometimes, we must face the Elephant; but how? Through prayer; prayer connects us to God and opens the pathway to true communications so that when any obstacle gets in our way, even those we see but do not wish to confront, a door is opened and the obstacle starts to dissipate and is removed.

Dear Creator Sustainer Mother Father God, thank you for listening to me. Thank you for speaking to me. Help me to confront the elephant in the room. Remove the fear, remove the anxiety and provide clarity. Allow me to hear you, even when I am not still. Oh, Lord, I cry out for your divine interaction now and always so that the elephants in my life will dissipate. In your many names. Amen.

If you need prayer for yourself or someone you know, please join us each Sunday in the Chapel between services or near the Prayer Wall after 11 am for one-on-one personal prayer.

You can also send an email to Prayers@ResurrectionMCC.org or place a note in the Prayer Request box located in the Narthex. When a request is received, it is immediately prayed over by the Fishers Net Prayer team and once a week, a Prayers and Praises email blast is sent to more than 347 people praying together.

Growing stronger in Christ and realizing our Prayers together.

Save the Date! Give yourself a Spiritual Boost!



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Stewardship Thought for the Week

To have complete understanding of philanthropy, we must acknowledge that is a combination of service to human-kind, motivated by love for one another.

~ John Korb

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Ads@ResurrectionMCC.org

Board Members on Duty

Wayne Wiggins and Eve Messina
Board Minutes Available Upon Request.

Flowers in the Sanctuary

Consider donating flowers in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special day. Email the date and message to Mark@ResurrectionMCC.org or call 713-861-9149 x106.

General Fund Financial Report				Week Ending July 25, 2010	
<i>Tithes & Offerings</i>		Week	Year		
07/25/10 9:00 am	121	\$4,647.02	\$101,761.11	\$480,000	\$469,217.33
07/25/10 11:00 am	315	\$3,855.10	\$186,310.19	\$418,571	\$449,014.84
07/21/10 6:30 pm	39	\$25.00	\$2,862.70	\$357,143	\$379,079.54
Special Services			\$1,388.75	\$295,714	
Special Anniversary Offerings			\$19,491.60	\$234,286	
Online Giving		\$1,410.00	\$47,482.47	\$172,857	
Other Contributions		\$1,245.00	\$33,292.92	\$111,429	
Total	475	\$11,182.12	\$392,589.74	\$50,000	
<i>Other General Fund Income</i>					
Fundraising		0	\$13,995.63		
Miscellaneous		\$1,135.37	\$42,429.47		
Total Received		\$12,317.49	\$449,014.84		
Projected Need per Budget		\$15,955.77	\$469,217.33		
Total Exceeded Need / (Did Not Meet Need)		(\$3,638.28)	(\$20,202.49)		
Total Imagine Capital Campaign		\$727.50	\$52,068.38		

This Week @ ResurrectionMCC.org

SUNDAY AUGUST 1

9:00 am **Sunday Worship / Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini**
 10:15 am Fisher's Net Prayer Ministry *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*

MONDAY AUGUST 2

6:30 pm Equality Ministry Meeting *Gathering Place*

TUESDAY AUGUST 3

7:00 pm Gospel Ensemble Rehearsal *Music Room*
 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal *Sanctuary*

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 4

6:00 pm The Chalice: Community Gathering *Activities Building*
 7:00 pm The Chalice: Open Door Discussion *Activities Building*
 7:00 pm The Chalice: Artist's Way *Activities Building*
 7:00 pm Discovering My Spiritual Gifts *Gathering Place*

THURSDAY AUGUST 5

7:00 pm Resurrection Singers Rehearsal *Music Room*
 6:30 pm Pastoral Search Committee Meeting *Workroom*

FRIDAY AUGUST 6

OFFICE CLOSED

6:30 pm Adult Vacation Bible School *Gathering Place*

SATURDAY AUGUST 7

OFFICE CLOSED

9:30 am Adult Vacation Bible School *Gathering Place*
 3:00 am Imani Vida Drum Circle *Gathering Place*

SUNDAY AUGUST 8

9:00 am **Sunday Worship / Cassandra White**
 10:15 am Fisher's Net Prayer Ministry *Chapel*
 10:45 am Youth Ministries Program *Activities Building*
11:00 am **Sunday Worship / Cassandra White**
 12:30 pm Second Sunday Friend-Raising Brunch *Activities Building*
 1:30 pm HeavenSound Handbells Rehearsal *Music Room*