



# Resurrection

Metropolitan Community Church

August 29, 2010

Prelude

Joel Palomares

*Draw Me Close*

by Michael W. Smith

Our Community Gathers

Rev. Janice Ladd  
Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechittini

+ 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

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechittini

+ 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

Giving assists us in our quest for God. We cannot “pay” our way to a closer relationship with God; whether giving aids us in our relationship with God or not depends upon our inner attitude. However, an unrestrained appetite for wealth or clinging too tightly to what we possess can hold us back and cause us paralysis in our following of Christ.

On the other hand, by giving generously, our beliefs and trust in God rise to tangible form. We become doers of the word and not only hearers. Giving makes following God real. We can live a God-related life or we can live without attention to God’s presence and will. The God-related life means our relationship with God influences all we do. When we seek to do the things God would have us do, including giving, our practice intensifies our love for the things God loves. Then the material possessions that can serve as a distraction or impediment to following Christ become an instrument for our serving Christ. They provide an opening, a way of following, a vocation. Generosity feeds our love for God.

~ Robert Schnase,  
*Five Practices of  
Fruitful Living.*

## First Reading

Cody Wells (9 am)  
Anases Vazquez (11 am)

### *Malachi 3:6-12*

For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished. Ever since the days of your ancestors you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, ‘How shall we return?’

Will anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you say, ‘How are we robbing you?’ In your tithes and offerings! You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me—the whole nation of you! Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. I will rebuke the locust for you, so that it will not destroy the produce of your soil; and your vine in the field shall not be barren, says the Lord of hosts. Then all nations will count you happy, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts.

## 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

Kendall Phillips (9 am)  
Jordan Marshall (11 am)

### *Matthew 6:19-25*

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

“The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

“No one can serve two masters; you will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

**Anthem**

Dr. Keith Yost

*My Tribute*  
Arr. Dino Kartsonakis

**Spiritual Encouragement**

Rev. Janice Ladd

*Church Alive: Extravagant Generosity*

**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.  
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We are the body of Christ.

**Making Ministry Happen**

Elisa Vega-Burns  
Treasurer & Board of Director

**Offertory**

John Allen, Pianist  
Rex Spencer, Cellist

*How Great Thou Art*  
arr. for piano and cello by John Allen

**Communion**

Rev. Pat Farnan

**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 in this one Lord.

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

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.

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.

## *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

We are standing in God's presence

We are standing in God's presence on holy ground.

+ **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Rev. Pat Farnan

+ **Benediction**

Rev. Janice Ladd

**Postlude**

Joel Hammett

**Opening Prayer**

*Strengthen me, O  
God, for the hard  
work of being  
honest with myself  
as I seek to practice  
Christ-centered  
generosity.*

~ Robert Schnase

**Daily Scripture  
Readings**

Sun - 2 Corinthians 9:11  
Mon - Exodus 35:5  
Tue - 1 Timothy 6:18-19  
Wed - John 3:16  
Thu - Malachi 3:8-10  
Fri - Matthew 25:14-30  
Sat - Romans 11:33-36

**Closing Prayer**

*Gracious God, teach  
me to be generous  
and joyful in my  
giving always.  
Amen.*

~ Robert Schnase

# CHURCH A LOVE: In My Life

Sunday, August 29-Saturday September 4  
Spiritual Maturity, Transformation and Application

Opening Essay

## Extravagant Generosity

Charles Frazier, in his novel of the American Civil War, *Cold Mountain*, introduces a minor character, a fiddler whose life is changed through an incident that causes him to look at his musical talents in a whole new way.

The fiddler is a drunk, who plays only for drink, and he knows only six songs. His military unit camps near a house where there's a powerful explosion. A young girl is severely burned in the explosion and is near death, and her father sends for a fiddler to help ease her way to heaven. The fiddler doesn't know what to do; he's afraid, and enters the dark cabin where the young girl suffers in excruciating pain. From her deathbed, she says, "Play me something." He plays a tune. "Play me another." The fiddler plays his drinking tunes slowly, thinking it more appropriate to the circumstances. Soon he has exhausted his small repertoire. "Play me another," she says as she struggles against the pain. "Don't know no more," he says. "That's pitiful," she says, "what kind of fiddler are you? Make me up a tune then." He marvels at such a strange request. It had never entered his mind to try such a thing. But he has a go at it. Soon the girl passes away. Her father thanks the fiddler for lifting her to heaven with his fiddle.

A transformation takes place, and the author writes, "Time and time again during the walk back to camp he stopped and looked at his fiddle as if for the first time. He had never before thought of trying to improve his playing, but now it seemed worthwhile to go at every tune..." Thereafter, he never tired of trying to improve his playing, and he went into taverns of every kind to study the sounds and methods of other musicians. He learned more than 900 tunes, and composed many of them himself. "From that day...on, music came more and more into his mind....His playing was as easy as a man drawing a breath, yet with utter conviction in its centrality to a life worth claiming."

Picture him looking at his fiddle as if for the very first time, realizing that he can change lives with it and that he can lift souls to heaven. Imagine the difference he made in the lives of people and the meaning that was added to his own life. That ordinary fiddle and the simple gift of music, when used for higher purposes, became sacred. When he discovered the gift he had been given, and the power of that gift to influence the world for good, he was changed.

We find something similar through the practice of Extravagant Generosity. Giving causes life. Before, our giving may have been arbitrary, perfunctory, haphazard, a little here and there. But when we discover the great difference generosity makes; place it in service to God; and use our resources to relieve suffering, strengthen communities, and restore relationships, then we look at giving entirely different. We look at our giving and see it as if for the first time. We discover that something as ordinary as our giving can help lift souls to heaven and change lives for the purposes of Christ. We want to improve our generosity at every turn until it becomes as easy as drawing breath.

Through our generosity, God can do extraordinary things. Through our giving, God's changes lives, and in changing them, transforms us.

~ Robert Schnase, *Five Practices of Fruitful Living*, p.135-136

# CHURCH ALIVE: Sacred Reading

Extravagant giving is a means of putting God first, a method for declaring to God and to ourselves the rightful order of priorities. When we practice it, we live with a more relaxed posture about money, less panicked and reactive. We take possession instead of being possessed. Money becomes a servant rather than our master. By provoking us to give, God is not trying to take something from us; God is seeking to give something to us.

~ Robert Schnase, *Five Practices of Fruitful Living*, p.123

By giving extravagantly, we participate in the ultimate self-giving nature we perceive in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. Transformation involves dying partially to the things we love. God gives us life. Our return gift is the giving of our whole selves to God. We give because we have received.

~ Robert Schnase, *Five Practices of Fruitful Living*, p.125

In our voluntarily giving away part of our wealth and earnings, we are saying, “I can spend all of this on myself, but I choose not to.” In that simple act, repeated and deepened with frequency and intentionality, we break the bonds of self-destructive acquisitiveness and become connected to God’s grace work in the world.

~ Robert Schnase, *Five Practices of Fruitful Living*, p.128

Tithing (giving a tenth of everything) provides a consistent and universal baseline, a theological and biblically faithful standard, that is nominal enough to allow people of nearly any income to meet without imposing great hardship and yet large enough to stretch us and to cause us to do the necessary reordering of our priorities that spiritually reconfigure our values.

~ Robert Schnase, *Five Practices of Fruitful Living*, p.130

Tithing provides a concrete way for us to take the words we speak, “God is Lord of my life,” and put them into practice. Our commitment becomes tangible; our giving becomes a way of putting God first, an outward sign of an inner spiritual alignment.

~ Robert Schnase, *Five Practices of Fruitful Living*, p.130

# CHURCH ALIVE: Spiritual Maturity and Application

All the way back to our ancestors of Abraham and Sarah, the practice of tithing has sustained growth in personal generosity. To tithe means to give a tenth and involves returning to God ten percent of our income—the first fruits of our lives—back to the Ultimate Giver of life. All things belong to God. All we have is temporary and will ultimately pass. We are merely stewards of that which we acquire or earn in our lifetime.

This week spend time and ask God for help in your Church Alive Commitment. Listen for God’s direction in the practice of the Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Spiritual Transformation, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity. If you haven’t done so, return your commitment card and begin the spiritual discipline of the tithe.

If you are new to faith, and the prospect of giving ten percent appears overwhelming, take time to grow into the practice over a few years. Give proportionately—a set percentage of income—until you mature to the tithe. If you are facing unusual hardship, overwhelming debt, the loss of employment, or some other adversity, give as you are able during this season. But as stability returns, move toward the tithe in small incremental steps. Giving opens us up for all that God holds for us as an open hand is to a friend. It will change your life.

If you have been an active follower of Christ and a member for ten, twenty, thirty or more years, and you have discovered the grace and love of God, participated in worship, matured through study, and offered yourself in mission and service, and all these have provided for you a sustaining faith, but you do not tithe, then prayerfully consider why this particular spiritual practice does not apply to you. Why have you avoided this practice while embracing the others? What makes this practice the exception? If it is because money seems too scarce, consider trusting God to replenish all you release back into God’s care through this spiritual offering. Just as in the other disciplines, your life will become abundant!

~ Rev. Janice Ladd

## CHURCH ALIVE: Over Lunch

**TODAY: Golden Island**

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

901 N Shepherd Dr  
Houston, TX 77008  
(713) 869-8698

## 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.

# MEET THE BOARD



## Elisa Vega-Burns Treasurer

People ask me all the time, "Why do you talk so much about money?" My response is usually, "Umm ... that would be because I'm the Treasurer and Treasurers, like, talk about money?" However, whenever I say that, I am actually doing myself and the members of this congregation a disservice because it's a defensive retort instead of a meaningful, authentic, articulate response regarding my attitude about giving and, more specifically, Christian stewardship.

As someone who gives generously of my time, spiritual gifts, and financial resources to this church, the following verses from Chapter 9 of 2 Corinthians have particular appeal to me as they perfectly convey, and completely encompass, what my response should be to the money question: Remember this, "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each person should give what they have decided in their heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." In these Bible verses, Paul is quick to point out that we should give cheerfully, that generous giving is an act of divine grace. It is only as God blesses us and enables us that we are able to give in the first place. As such, we should not only give cheerfully, but also recognize generous giving as a great privilege.

Christian Stewardship is a way of life in which we regard ourselves and our possessions as a trust from God to be used in God's service. This means that we are stewards or managers of everything that God has given to us: our time, our spiritual gifts, our possessions, our money, our whole lives. Christian Stewardship is not about making ends meet, but about looking to a growing, expanding church. It is not about giving only what is needed; it is about giving so generously that our giving has a touch of extravagance to it for "God loves a cheerful giver". This is the attitude of God's giving to us, and this is the message for our church.

As Treasurer of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Pastoral Search Committee, I practically live at the church. Being Treasurer has meant that I not only Chair the Budget Committee, but also that my presence is required on both the Fundraising Team and the Imagine Campaign Team. Being Chair of the Pastoral Search Committee has meant that I may need to be at the church three or four days in the same week. Originally I was resentful at what I perceived as the *taking* of my time. When I was resentful, I was blessed with resentment; congregants were distrustful of me and questioned my every move.

When I began to see the giving of my time as a blessing from God—that I am able to give freely of my time because God has blessed me with *life*—I began to receive blessings. Congregants started telling me how much they appreciated my efforts of behalf of the church. I began to receive warm smiles and even hugs and kisses. Gemma and I can both attest to the fact that the generous giving of our time to Resurrection MCC has resulted in a desire on our part to give more financially. We have already filled out our Church Alive Commitment Card, and plan to increase our giving substantially in 2011.

Generosity is arguably the highest form of Christian Stewardship. Christian Stewardship is a lifestyle based on the biblical belief that God is the rightful owner of everything we own, everything we are, and that we are stewards (i.e., caretakers) of what God has given us. So the stewardship question is: "What does God want me to do with what God has given me?" While the Bible gives a number of answers to this question, it gives special attention to one use in particular, and that is *giving*. Giving is a fitting response to God's gift of Jesus to us. Giving is a way of paying forward the redeeming love of God. When we are generous givers, we confirm God's generosity in our lives, or said another way, we are generous because God is generous with us.

Being a generous giver is not a matter of our having a spirit of good will. Being generous is not something we do out of our own doing. Being generous is God's gift to us. By sharing our generosity, we discover, richly and fully, the generosity with which God blesses us. We grow forward our capacity for generosity. God is generous with us so we can learn to be generous with one another. Thus, Christian Stewardship is generosity as we are stewards of God's grace and generosity.

## IMANI VIDA DRUM CIRCLE



Saturday  
September 4

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](http://www.meetup.com/DrummingCircle)

*Imani Vida Drum Circle meets on the first Saturdays of each month*



SEPT. 11, 2010 • 9 AM - NOON

Landscape and Facilities Work Days are times we get together to clean-up and maintain our church.

This Work Day, we are calling for "innies" with a "clutter-free" mentality to join us on Saturday, September 11 from 9 am – Noon. We will concentrate on a few rooms in the Activities Building and one room in the Main Building. We will be organizing decorations, clearing out books, making space, and oh yeah... having a good time with friends!

For our "outies" that just can't stay inside, light yard maintenance will be offered.

Please join us in the Activities Building at 9 am. Lunch (and laughs) will be served at Noon, so RSVP to [Joy@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto:Joy@ResurrectionMCC.org).



## 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](mailto:Masquerade@ResurrectionMCC.org)



Join us at Old MacDonald Farm in Humble after worship from 2 pm to closing and enjoy animals, playgrounds, a swimming pool and potluck picnic together! \$6 per person entrance fee, no one turned away!  
[www.oldmacdonaldshumble.org](http://www.oldmacdonaldshumble.org) RSVP to [Joel@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto:Joel@ResurrectionMCC.org)

# The Chalice

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

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1**

## Community Gathering

6:00 - 7:00 pm | Activities Building

*Bring a brown bag and purchase a drink or 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

### The Artist's Way 60-Day Tune-Up: Affirmations

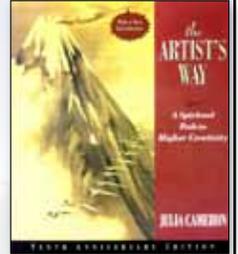
- I am a talented person.
- I have a right to be an artist.
- I am a good person and a good artist.
- Creativity is a blessing I accept.
- My creativity blesses others.
- My creativity is appreciated.
- I now treat myself and my creativity more gently.
- I now treat myself and my creativity more generously.
- I now share my creativity more openly.
- I now accept hope.
- I now act affirmatively.
- I now accept creative recovery.
- I now allow myself to heal.
- I now accept God's help unfolding my life.
- I now believe God loves artists.

~ from Julia Cameron, *The Artist's Way*

**OFFERING ONE**

**Week 10 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.

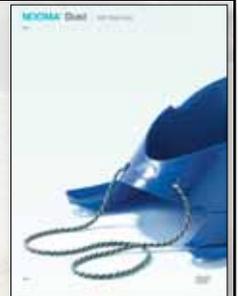
– from *The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity* by Julia Cameron

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 – "Dust"



**Believing in God is important, but what about God believing in us? Believing that we can actually be the kind of people we were meant to be. People of love, compassion, peace, forgiveness, and hope. People who try to do the right thing all of the time. Who act on the endless opportunities around us every day for good, beauty, and truth. It's easy for us to sometimes get down on ourselves. To feel "not good enough" or feel like we don't have what it takes. But maybe if we had more insight into the culture that Jesus grew up in and some of the radical things he did, we'd understand the faith that God has in all of us.**

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.

## LGBTQ Solutions for Living Well

Professional Services Provided at  
Resurrection MCC Wellness Center

**There is hope for change, empowerment and living authentically!**

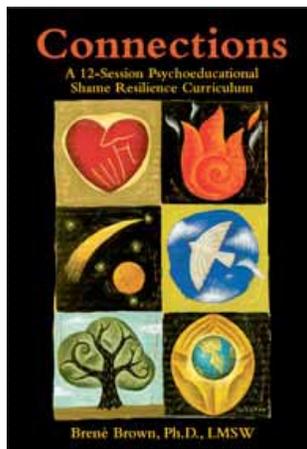
*Connections:*

A 12-Session  
Psychoeducational  
Shame-Resilience Curriculum

Saturdays beginning June 5  
10 - 11:15 am

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.



### Women's Group Psychotherapy

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

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



### 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



## TAKE 2.....SHARE 1

During the month of August, all Children & Youth kids, along with a parent or guardian, will be able to take home and share books from our children's book shelves. Just stop by Room 110 in the Activities Building after church each Sunday and browse our selection of books.

For each one you get for yourself, take one for a brother, sister, or friend!

Don't forget....they're yours to keep, but read one and share one!

## Church Leaders Needed

DO YOU:

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

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 are available online.  
The application deadline is September 15.

Send questions to [Nominating@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto:Nominating@ResurrectionMCC.org)

## AUGUST 29



### Fishers Net Prayer Ministry

*A Dialogue with God* by Ron Reeser

## SIMPLICITY!

Recently I heard a radio interview with two high brow restaurant owners. After years of serving and dining with the rich and famous, they woke up to the realization the food they grew up with, simple and so called peasant food, was real food with real flavor and made with real love.

Sadly, many people view prayer as this complicated, needing much preparation and deliberation before opening up into a dialogue with God. It does not. Prayer can be as easy as answering the phone or saying hello to a friend. This is also an example when we can learn from children; do you remember this prayer? 'God is great! God is good! Let us thank God for our food. Amen.' Simplicity! And as adults, we can 'adult' it up a bit.

Dear Friend, Provider God, thank you for hearing me in all my simplicity. Thank you for hearing me when I make things complicated. Thank you for showing me your greatness and goodness and yes, oh Lord, thank you for the food before me! 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](mailto: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.*



*Experts in  
Scenic Décor,  
A/V, Lighting,  
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for*

- ◆ Weddings
- ◆ Galas
- ◆ Meetings
- ◆ Parties
- ◆ Events, etc.

Angela Berrospe - (713) 863-9450 [www.techave.com](http://www.techave.com)

## 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!*




**713-822-8555**  
[www.SellingHomesInHouston.com](http://www.SellingHomesInHouston.com)

**Pamela Efferson, Realtor**

## COLORS Custom Painting and Design

**Done Right!** 713-775-9951

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Interior and Exterior Painting</li> <li>Color Consultation</li> <li>Sheetrock Repair/Custom Textures</li> <li>Accent Walls/Faux Finishes</li> <li>Nurseries/Murals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Front Door Restoration</li> <li>Pressure Washing</li> <li>Many Specialty Services Available</li> <li>High Standards/Friendly Service</li> <li>Free Estimates</li> </ul>
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**Kara N. Poole**  
[www.colorsdoneright.com](http://www.colorsdoneright.com)    [contact@colorsdoneright.com](mailto:contact@colorsdoneright.com)



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](mailto:sacredjourney2@aol.com)  
 713-304-9913



## Save the Date! Give yourself a Spiritual Boost!



**EXCEL Spiritual Weekend Retreat / September 3 – 5, 2010**  
 The Christian Renewal Center, Dickinson, Texas, \$125.00 pp

Life Changing ~ Spiritually Renewing ~ Christ Focused

“Living in Union with Christ”    [www.excelofthearmadillo.org](http://www.excelofthearmadillo.org)  
[excelinhouston@yahoo.com](mailto:excelinhouston@yahoo.com)    facebook @ Excelin Houston



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[Ads@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto:Ads@ResurrectionMCC.org)

### Board Members on Duty

Wayne Wiggins and Debbie Skelly

*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](mailto:Mark@ResurrectionMCC.org) or call 713-861-9149 x106.

General Fund Financial Report			Week Ending August 22, 2010	
Tithes & Offerings	Week	Year		
08/22/10 9:00 am	120	\$2,623.00	\$114,860.75	
08/22/10 11:00 am	340	\$4,000.00	\$210,007.39	
08/18/10 6:30 pm	45	\$8.00	\$2,938.70	
Special Services			\$1,388.75	
Special Anniversary Offerings			\$19,491.60	
Online Giving		\$960.00	\$53,329.36	
Other Contributions		\$630.00	\$36,592.92	
<b>Total</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>\$8,221.00</b>	<b>\$438,609.47</b>	
<i>Other General Fund Income</i>				
Fundraising		\$116.00	\$14,706.53	
Miscellaneous		\$587.68	\$46,312.15	
<b>Total Received</b>		<b>\$8,924.68</b>	<b>\$499,628.15</b>	
<b>Total Imagine Capital Campaign</b>		<b>\$940.00</b>	<b>\$56,351.22</b>	

### Stewardship Thought for the Week

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

~ Bel Kaufman

# This Week @ ResurrectionMCC.org

## SUNDAY AUGUST 29

9:00 am	Sunday Worship / Rev. Janice Ladd	
10:15 am	Fisher's Net Prayer Ministry	Chapel
10:45 am	Youth Ministries Program	Activities Building
11:00 am	Sunday Worship / Rev. Janice Ladd	
1:30 pm	HeavenSound Handbells Rehearsal	Sanctuary

## MONDAY AUGUST 30

No Events Scheduled

## TUESDAY AUGUST 31

No Events Scheduled

## WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 1

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

## THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 2

6:00 pm	Pastoral Search Committee Meeting	Workroom
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## FRIDAY OFFICE CLOSED SEPTEMBER 3

## SATURDAY OFFICE CLOSED SEPTEMBER 4

7:00 am	The Leukemia-Lymphoma Society Yard Sale	Outside
3:00 pm	Imani Vida Drum Circle	Gathering Place

## SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 5

9:00 am	Sunday Worship / Rev. Pat Farnan	
10:15 am	Fisher's Net Prayer Ministry	Chapel
10:45 am	Youth Ministries Program	Activities Building
11:00 am	Sunday Worship / Rev. Pat Farnan	
1:30 pm	HeavenSound Handbells Rehearsal	Sanctuary