

RESURRECTION

Volume 8 Issue 02

Metropolitan Community Church

March 2006

by Rev. Dwayne Johnson, Pastor

Sometimes I wonder whether or not we take our name for granted. Resurrection. It is not just a word. And it is not just a name. We throw words and phrases around all the time, not recognizing their real power.

Resurrection: have we really gotten in touch with what a powerful concept that is?

Resurrection is about coming back to life. And with Christ, resurrection is always a possibility. With resurrection, the old dies and something new is born. Resurrection is about new direction: new life.

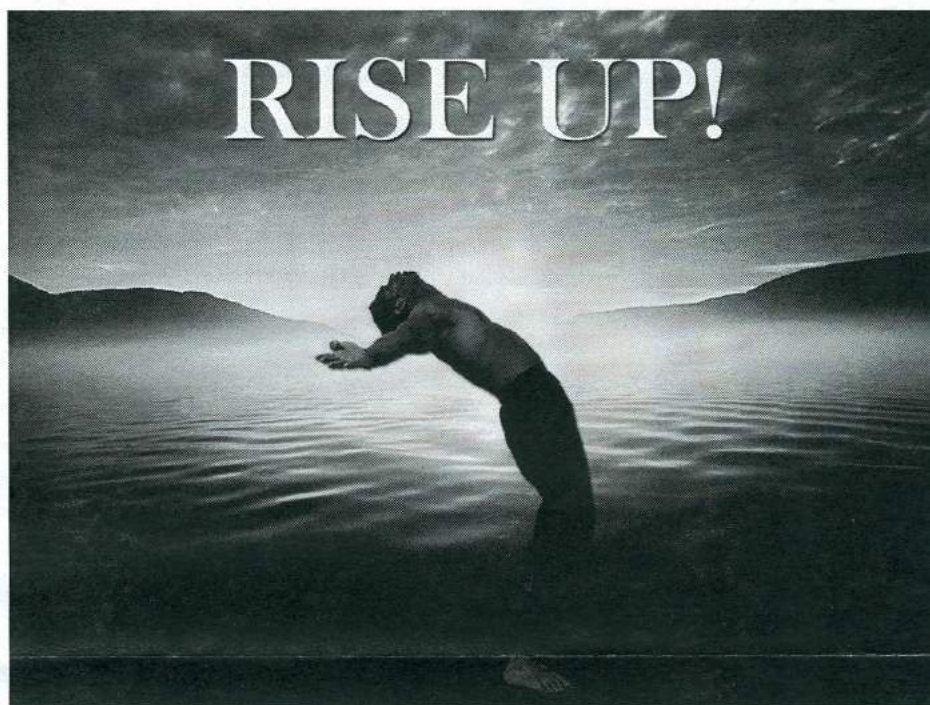
Sometimes, I try to *imagine* what it was like in Houston before Resurrection was founded in the early seventies. I *imagine* GLBT people who had given up on church, and even more sadly, God, because they felt excluded. I *imagine* others who still faithfully attended church, but were afraid to serve in leadership positions. Others attended church with their partner, but sat in different locations out of fear of being discovered. It is sad to *imagine* that such was once a reality. It was a reality of spiritual isolation, in many cases spiri-

tual death.

The founding of Resurrection MCC was an act of spiritual life. It opened the door to spiritual life for GLBT people. Now, there are several churches in the Houston area where GLBT can openly serve and worship. Yet Resurrection was the first and remains the most visible and aggressive in outreach to the GLBT community.

The theologian Karl Barth said, "*The dominant question people are asking as they enter the doors of the church sanctuary is, 'Is it really true?'*" The spiritual writer James Chatham builds on this question, noting that people enter the church asking, "*Can I find new life? Is there some meaning that can redeem the struggle of my daily world? Is there a worthwhile purpose behind the disputes? Can I become less angry, less upset, less volatile? Can I forgive more easily? Can I love more fully, have fun more joyfully?*"

“*When Jesus rose from the dead it was a miracle that changed history. When Resurrection MCC was founded in the 70s it was a miracle that changed lives.*”



Can I relate to people more meaningfully? Can I give myself away and thereby find myself?"

Each week we seek to meaningfully address such questions. They are questions of life. And life is what we are all about!

April 16th is Easter Sunday. Plan to be here. Invite your family. Invite your friends. Indeed, we will celebrate the Resurrection of Christ at 6:30 AM, 9 AM and 11 AM. Yet we will take that celebration even further by looking at the unique role we play in sharing the message beyond usual conventions and conditions.

When Jesus rose from the dead it was a miracle that changed history. When Resurrection MCC was founded in the 70s it was a miracle that changed lives. And lives are still being changed. Thank God we don't need to *imagine* a Houston without Resurrection.

And just *imagine*. . . even the name of our church is a miracle!

**Resurrection
Metropolitan
Community Church**

2025 W. 11th St.
Houston, TX 77008

Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Office: 713-861-9149
FAX: 713-861-2520

churchoffice@resurrectionmcc.org
www.resurrectionmcc.org

Worship Schedule
Sundays at 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Nursery
Sundays at 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Adult Sunday School
10 a.m.

Clergy
Rev. Dwayne Johnson,
Pastor ext. 105

Rev. Janice Ladd
Executive Pastor
ext. 104

Rev. Wayne Moore
Pastor of Celebration
ext. 109

Staff Clergy
Rev. Rick Elliott
Rev. Mona Lopez
Rev. Tracye Ruffin

Ministry Support
Vickey Gibbs, ext. 105
Assistant to the Pastor
Diane Jasso, ext. 106
Director of Communications

Sheryl Parrish, ext. 107
Director of Operations

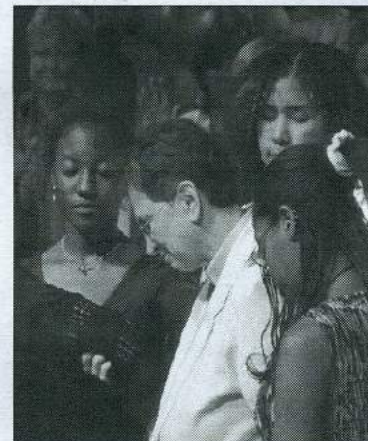
Ken Thompson, ext. 111
Audio/Video Assistant

Resurrection MCC is a Christian Church with a primary outreach to the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgendered community. Our mission is "To demonstrate God's unconditional love to all people through Christian action." We are members of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, founded by the Rev. Troy D. Perry in Los Angeles, CA, on October 6, 1968.



"God, In Your Grace, Transform Our World"

The sermon below was delivered on February 20, 2006 by The Reverend Nancy L. Wilson, Moderator of the Metropolitan Community Churches, during the only worship service conducted solely by LGBT people and their allies at the Ninth Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Porto Alegre, Brazil.



Abbreviated version of sermon text:

This week, more than 4,000 people have gathered under one of the most diverse, inclusive "tents" the world has ever seen: Christians from 347 denominations literally from around the world, observers and friends from other religious traditions, have gathered! We are worshipping, praying, studying the Bible, listening to each other, engaging some of the most pressing concerns that face our ever-shrinking globe today, entering into conversations across barriers with courage and hope. We've come together to learn, to teach and to be in wonder and awe at the transforming grace of God.

Metropolitan Community Church comes to the WCC (World Council of Churches) as a denomination/movement of people who have been healed and transformed by the powerful touch of a living Savior, whose mercy and love have reached where the institutional church would not and could not reach. We bring good news to the WCC, good news of spiritual healing and of "turning the world upside down" that is happening every day among LGBT people, our families and friends, and people living with HIV/AIDS.

It is our experience in MCC that the Christian Church as a whole, and in the majority, is very reluctant to have the conversation about justice, inclusion and human sexuality. The fact that this WCC Assembly is actually having such a conversation is a major breakthrough. The fact that our new General Secretary, Dr. Samuel Kobia, is willing to speak out about HIV/AIDS, tell his own story of his family, and encourage dialogue around human sexuality is an act of courage and a sign of hope. We are grateful for his leadership.

And why are we here? Why are there visible LGBT and LGBT-friendly people at the

Assembly? Why are we offering workshops, worship and making our presence felt?

First of all, we are here because we do not wish to be segregated or isolated — we are seeking community and fellowship. We are here because we belong here, in the wider community of Christians who are seeking to be engaged in the world that "God so loved" and because we have a lot to learn from the many members and friends of the WCC. There is so much going on all over the world that we need to understand.

More than that, we are here because:

We seek justice for our people world-wide, just basic human rights. The organization "Human Rights Watch" recently published an 81 page paper entitled "Hated to Death" that documents the murders of gay men in Jamaica. In the last 18 months, twelve gay men have been murdered, some of them HIV/AIDS workers and community organizers. No one has been held responsible; and no one in the government, university or the churches is speaking up, offering support or shelter or help. We are here to publicly call on the WCC and its member churches to repudiate violence against people for their sexuality or their HIV status. Our people need help, desperately, in Jamaica, and in many other places all over the globe.

We are here seeking justice for our families. LGBT people have families, and in many places in the world, we face injustice, hatred and violence on a daily basis. The laws of most countries discriminate against our relationships, our children, our families.

We are here to encourage the churches to do justice within their own communities when it comes to people with HIV/AIDS, and those

(continued on page 2)

who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

But, truthfully, we did not come just to ask for help, though we do need help. *We came, even more, because we have so much to offer to the wider Church and global community:*

1) We have a passion for the gospel of Jesus Christ, because it is that good news that has set us free, and redeemed and transformed us. We have a story to tell — of lives that have been saved, blessed, made whole! Jesus is among us and with us as we claim our sonship and daughtership in the community of faith! We have a testimony about the power of the Holy Spirit to raise up a church, a movement, new communities filled with hope and love. We bring a story of renewal and revival in a moment when the church most needs it!

2) We have come out! And we have all been changed and transformed by the experience of coming to terms with our identities. Our suffering, our struggles, have been a source of grace and spiritual growth. We have come out of isolation into community, out of self-hatred, in some cases, to a sense of healthy self-esteem. We are ready and able to help others in their coming out processes. We are ready to help the church come out of its denial, homophobia and AIDS-phobia. Coming out itself never killed anyone, but *not* coming out is deadly.

3) Another way of saying this is that we have embraced truth-telling with new vigor. The U.S. military has a policy about lesbians and gays called "Don't ask, don't tell." This is an insidious policy that does not work, and only encourages dishonesty and division. In many ways, it is also the policy of much of the Christian Church. The only way to exist as an LGBT person in most of the churches is to hide one's sexuality in a web of shame and secrets. This hiding is rewarded, while those who tell the truth are punished. It is a sick, broken system that prevails at the highest levels of the church. It is alien to the Holy Spirit and to Jesus Christ, who said, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free."

4) We offer laughter and humor. One of the ways LGBT people have his-

torically coped with our oppression and suffering, is to find humor and to give the gift of laughter. One of my favorite stories during the years of AIDS activism in the U.S., when the LGBT community in particular were protesting the government's inaction about AIDS, taking it to the streets. As the federal marshals were preparing to arrest us, we noticed they were wearing large, yellow rubber gloves (in ignorant fear of contracting AIDS through casual contact). Protesters shouted out "Your gloves don't match your shoes! Your gloves don't match your shoes!" It was hard even for the federal marshals not to laugh. Laughing at the ridiculousness of AIDS-phobia and homophobia has often given us a sense of our own common humanity and freedom in the midst of our struggles.

5) There are millions of gifted, talented, LGBT people all over the world, in the church, who have so much to offer for "tikkun olam" — the repair of the world. None of us, especially not the young people among us, want to waste any more of our time debating about our sexuality. Young people in MCC, and in the wider LGBT community, are committed to living and modeling "the holy integration of sexuality and spirituality." We want to offer our minds, hearts, bodies and spirits to the unfinished work of the realm of God here on earth. We want to help "make poverty history," and offer our voices and hearts and souls to the work of peace and justice-making for all people. We don't want to be ghettoized, or hidden in closets, or fragmented any longer. Just as Jesus invites us to the table, just as we are, we challenge all churches to follow his example.

We come to this "holy ground" of meeting at the Ninth Assembly of the World Council of Churches, filled with hope and love. We expect to make many new friends, to have moments of encouragement as well as discouragement. We expect to leave here with a new level of commitment to the common ecumenical movement, and with a deeper sense of our unfinished mission.

May the Grace of God, shown so powerfully in Jesus, and manifested in the Holy Spirit, inspire us all as we go forth. Amen!

Resurrection MCC's Lenten Study Begins Thursday, March 2nd!

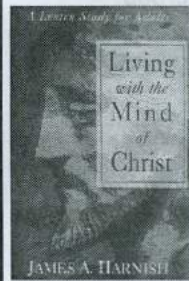
The six week study will be held on Thursday evenings at 6 PM, in the Gathering Place. Rev. Janice Ladd will be the study leader and will be using the book "**Living with the Mind of Christ**" by James Harnish. The book can be purchased in the Resurrection

Inspirations Bookstore on Sundays.

Each session features a scripture reference, a personal reading and questions for personal reflection and group discussion; suggestions for ways to

deepen the Lenten journey or a focus for the coming week are also included.

This study is based on Philippians 2:1-11 ("Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus..."). The goal is to discover what it might look like for us, in very practical ways, to live with the mind of Christ.



Yoga Meditation Classes

March 2nd through April 8th
Thursdays (7 - 8 PM)
Saturdays (9:30 - 11 AM)

Cost: \$20 per Six-week Session

"Through a combination of yoga and meditation, individuals will be guided to achieve harmonious states of being which foster positive life qualities such as good health, a calm and stress-free mind, and enthusiasm."

Resurrection



The Seniors' Ministry at Resurrection MCC (the OWLS) exists to offer Spiritual, Familial, and Social activities for members and friends of Resurrection in regularly scheduled events that address the interests, needs, and challenges of the participants in the group.

Calling All OWLS For A Field Trip!

**Wednesday, March 15th,
at 12:30 PM.**

On March 15th, Resurrection's OWLS will visit the **Chua Quan Thau Buddhist Temple** (Texas Guandi Temple) at 2089 Milby, near the University of Houston. We will meet at the church at 12:30 PM and carpool to the temple. The custom of taking shoes off before entering the temple will be observed. This is a sign of respect.

Admission is free but donations are accepted. After our self-guided tour, we will have lunch at Niko-Niko Greek Restaurant, 2520 Montrose.

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*Kindness is something you have received and have
to pass on in order to keep.—Anonymous*



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"It's Relationships, Saints!"

by Rev. Janice Ladd, Executive Pastor

Easily the best-known line in politics over the past decade is: "It's the economy, stupid!" Bill Clinton's campaign manager coined the phrase in an effort to keep the candidate focused during the long election campaign. Well, when looking at developing a growth plan for the church, a plan that will help Resurrection MCC impact lives, homes, our community and our world I think we can sum it up as: "It's relationships, saints!"

Our mission as a congregation is to spread the truth about God's unconditional love for all people through Christian social action. We can only accomplish that mission through *relationship*. We must begin with a true integration of God's love into our individual lives and from that place of healing we can integrate love into our relationships with each other. If our religion is not about relationship, it is what Martin Luther King, Jr. would call, "dry-as-dust religion." One relationship at a time, one connection at a time, we will transform the world.

In January and February, every leader of the church developed a personal growth plan that looked at their connection to God, self, and others and how that translates into ministry. I am proud to announce that the next phase of development and support to our leaders has been set for March 25th. On that Saturday these leaders—the Board of Directors, full-time staff, clergy, Lay Delegates, and Ministry Coordinators—come together for the first session of a newly developed leadership program. This program will be centered on the concept of

servant leadership. Servant leadership is the willingness to extend oneself and meet the needs of another human being so they can become the best they are capable of becoming. Gandhi once said, "We must become the change we wish to see in the world." At Resurrection, we realize that if we want to see healthy relationships in the world, we must begin by developing healthy relationships with and among ourselves.

This leadership program will become an annual training to teach us how to polish, liberate and enable the giftedness of others. The training workshops will begin with an overview of the leadership structure at Resurrection.

Every team member is a vital part of the whole and every ministry is interconnected. Therefore relationship building will be key to the training exercises. We will study the differences between leading vs. managing; authority vs. power; and serving vs. demanding as we examine various leadership styles. Skills such as clean communication and conflict resolution will also be explored. We are committing our resources to provide our leaders with the tools they need to accomplish the various ministries of the church. The tool they need to motivate and activate others to accomplish our mission is healthy relationships.

One relationship at a time, one connection at a time we can change the world because: it's relationships saints!



Remember!

Congregational Forum

Sunday, March 5th,
at 12:30 PM, in the Sanctuary.

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting!

Sunday, March 19th,
at 12:30 PM, in the Sanctuary.

2006 AIDS WALK HOUSTON

**March 12, 2006
at 8 AM
Sam Houston Park**

Register for AIDS Walk Houston
at
aidswalkhouston.org

To join the **Resurrection** team
go to aidswalkhouston.org.

Click **Register**

Click on **Join a Team**

Select **Resurrection MCC** from
the dropdown list.

Fill in personal **information** to
register.

Children of GLBT Parents



Let's Talk...

Children of GLBT parents have different obstacles to face at school and elsewhere because of the structure of their family. This workshop will provide them a safe place to talk freely.

They will also be given exercises and activities to work on which will help them process and talk about some of the things they experience because they have two mommies or two daddies.

Join us on Saturday, April 29th, from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM, in the Gathering Place. For information, email wellness@resurrectionmcc.org

Rothko Chapel Partners With Resurrection

THE STRUGGLE FOR TRUTH:

VOICES FROM THE MARGINS

By Rev. Dwayne Johnson, Pastor

I am thrilled to announce the results of a recent meeting with a community leader that will move us forward in our community leadership.

I met with Alice McCarthy, Director of Development and Community Relations for Rothko Chapel. We discussed our shared values of mutual respect related to the differences among religions, faiths, and belief systems.

On **Wednesday, March 15th, at 7:30 PM** a special program will be presented at Rothko Chapel entitled, **"The Struggle for Truth: Voices from the Margins."** Resurrection MCC has been invited to join as one of the co-sponsors of this event.

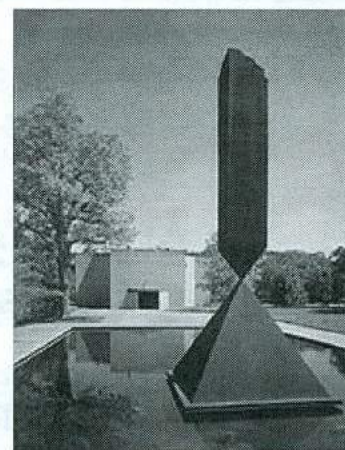
This is an exceptional opportunity for Resurrection to join with a well-respected Houston institution renown for its support of equality and diversity. This partnership extends the message that Resurrection is taking a leadership role in following Jesus' teaching to love our neighbors. Being willing to understand is a key component of truly loving—loving as Jesus taught.

The program will deal with religion and homosexuality and be addressed by four gay and lesbian theologians. Organized religions have often marginalized and discriminated against GLBT people. This program will provide an opportunity to learn

and promote inclusiveness among all people—GLBT, straight, believers and seekers. The goal is to make a positive public impact by promoting dialogue and greater understanding within the Houston community.

I'm excited that one of the panelists is MCC's own Dr. Robert Goss, Senior Pastor of MCC Church in the Valley in North Hollywood. He is the author of *Jesus ACTED UP: A Gay and Lesbian Manifesto*. He is a challenging writer and teacher known for creating dialogue that may push buttons. Yet the result is often a greater understanding of truth.

I hope to see many of you at what will prove to be an exciting discussion and a challenging evening.



The Rothko Chapel, founded by John and Dominique de Menil, was dedicated in 1971 as an intimate sanctuary available to people of every belief.

The Chapel has two vocations: contemplation and action. It is a place alive with religious ceremonies of all faiths, and where the experience and understanding of all traditions are encouraged and made available. Action takes the form of supporting human rights, and thus the Chapel has become a rallying place for all people concerned with peace, freedom, and social justice throughout the world.



Art of Living 6-Day Course

**May 4th - 9th
In the Gathering Place**

Thursday 6:30 - 9 PM
Friday 6:30 - 9 PM
Saturday 10 AM - 4 PM
Sunday 2 - 6 PM
Monday 6:30 - 9 PM
Tuesday 6:30 - 9 PM

In this fast paced age, where stress and depression are widespread, their toll on physical and mental health can be extremely high. Stress, anxiety and depression are known to be significant factors in the progression of a wide spectrum of illnesses ranging from cancer and HIV-1 infection, to asthma and cardiovascular disease.

Sudarshan Kriya® and its accompanying practices (SK&P) are time-honored stress management/health promotion techniques whose health benefits are validated by modern medical science.

Independent research has shown these practices can significantly:

- Reduce levels of stress (reduce Cortisol - the "stress" hormone)
 - Reduce cholesterol
 - Relieve anxiety and depression (mild, moderate and severe)
 - Increase antioxidant protection
 - Enhance brain function (increased mental focus and faster recovery from stressful stimuli)
 - Enhance health and well-being
- SK&P has many features which recommend it for the promotion of health: it is *free of unwanted side defects, cost and staff effective, holistic, self empowering, and easy to learn and practice.*

There is a fee required to attend this course.

For information and to register, contact the Wellness Ministry at wellness@resurrectionmcc.org or call 831-338-8529.



**It's Time To Get Ready
For The**

**4th Annual
Resurrection MCC
Golf Classic**

**April 29, 2006
Hermann Park Golf Course**

We need **VOLUNTEERS** to help with pre-tournament and day of tournament tasks, **SPONSORS** and **DONATIONS** for giveaways.

Contact: Penny Nolan, 713-501-8398 or acrspenny@aol.com



Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Parenting Information & Discussion Workshop

March 21st, 6:30 PM

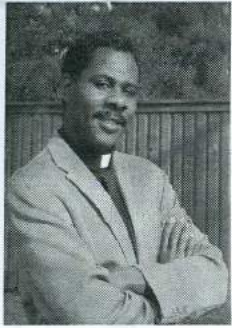
or

March 25th, 10:30 AM

There are many ups and downs that parents face as they nurture and care for their children. Addressing these issues and others that are specific to the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender (GLBT) community will help bring awareness, education and support to those who attend.

Following the educational piece of this workshop, participants will be asked to share and dialogue about their personal experiences and have their questions addressed.

Join us on **March 21st, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM or March 25th, from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM, in the Gathering Place.** Child care will be provided.



Greetings In The Name Of Our Redeemer!

by Rev. Wayne Moore, Pastor of Celebration

As you read this, my prayer is that you are wrapped in the warm embrace of Christ, our Sovereign and Savior. My goal as Pastor of Celebration is to facilitate the release of people in their gifts - to help nurture depths of worship that will draw all people into God's magnificent, loving presence!

I believe worship to be the core priority in our daily lives. I believe that we indeed serve a resurrected Christ, and because of that resurrection, we are free! Free to worship, free to praise, free to be called people of God! God is so exciting and our worship should reflect that excitement! I love that God has built within us the need to worship; it is this supreme union that our existence craves. *Worship is inclusive not exclusive!* Everyone can worship.

Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church has been very privileged to have God's favor and beautiful anointing upon them. The leadership of this church has continued to lead you towards intimate relationship with God, while building relationships with each other.

My prayer is that we leave each worship celebration having experienced

such heavenly levels of worship that we can never remain the same. My heart as the Pastor of Celebration is to live and work in perfect unity so that the power of God's presence is released in our church, in our city, state and nation so all may be touched by God's glory.

Our corporate worship experiences are very exciting times and the way we worship should not just be a religious weekly event. Rather, we can be changed to live a lifestyle of worship no matter where we are in our day. Like the woman who poured out costly fragrant oil, we also bring our costly worship as a sacrifice of praise to God.

David, the ultimate psalmist, spoke in 2 Samuel 24:24 on the value of worship offerings. He so beautifully declared, *"I will not bring before my God that which costs me nothing."* Let us decide today at Resurrection MCC to be a house of praise, a place that declares that we will not bring anything less than our best to our God and Sovereign!

I pray that you will join me in wholeheartedly, sacrificially, deliberately, with devotion, passion, conviction and reverence, worship our God in Spirit and in Truth.

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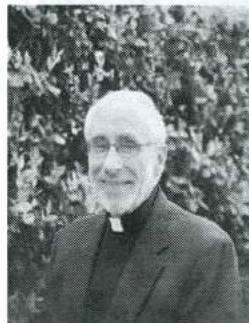
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For His Many Years Of Service.**

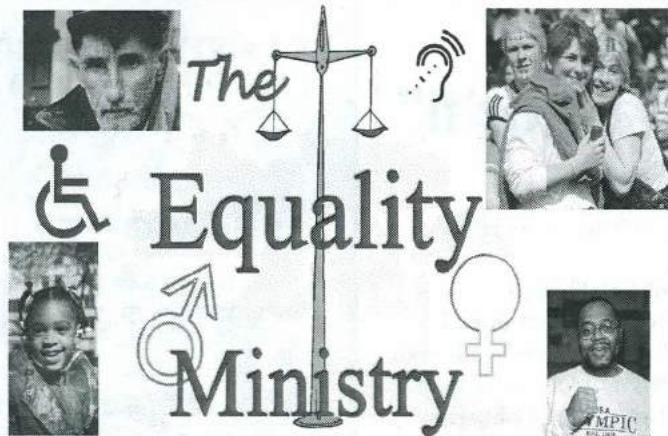
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**Sundays at 10 a.m.
In the Lease Space**

**Leader:
Rev. Mona Lopez**



The Equality Ministry would like to remind everyone to vote in the primaries on Tuesday, March 7th.

Many people say that they don't think that just one more vote counts. Here is just some historical evidence to the contrary.

- In 1999, Leslie Byrne was elected to the Virginia Senate by 37 votes, less than one vote per precinct.

VOTE
IT'S YOUR RIGHT!

- Loretta Sanchez was elected to Congress from California by less than 4 votes per precinct in 1996.
- John F. Kennedy's margin of victory over Richard Nixon in 1960 was less than one vote per precinct.
- One vote per precinct passed woman suffrage in California in 1911.
- John Nance Garner (Vice President under F.D.R.) tried to get the prickly pear voted in as the state flower of Texas while he was a state legislator, but it lost to the bluebonnet...by one vote.

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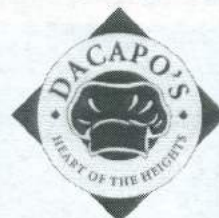
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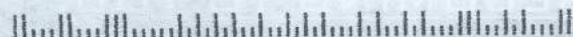
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Resurrection MCC

March Events

*** Thursday, March 2nd ***
Lenten Study, 6 PM
(see page 3)

March 2nd - April 8th
Yoga/Meditation Class,
Thursdays 7-8 PM
Saturdays 9:30-11 AM
(see page 3)

Saturday, March 4th
Membership Class, 10 AM

*** Sunday, March 5th ***
Semi-Annual Congregational Forum!
(see page 4)

*** Sunday, March 12th ***
AIDS Walk, 8 AM
(see page 5)

*** Wednesday, March 15th ***

"Struggle For Truth..." Presentation, 7:30 PM
Rothke Chapel (see page 5)

Wednesday, March 15th
OWLS Field Trip, 12:30 PM
(see page 4)

*** Sunday, March 19th ***
Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting!
(see page 4)

Sunday, March 21st or 25th
Parenting Workshop, 6:20 PM or 10:30 AM
(see page 6)

UPCOMING Events

*** Saturday, April 29th ***
4th Annual Golf Classic
(see page 6)

Saturday, April 29th
"Let's Talk" Workshop, 10:30 AM
(see page 5)

RESURRECTION

Volume 8 Issue 03

Metropolitan Community Church

April/May 2006

Celebrate 34 Years of Resurrection Ministry

Meet The New Moderator

by Rev. Dwayne Johnson, Pastor



Catch the Third Wave!

On October 6, 1968 Rev. Troy Perry held the first Metropolitan Community Church worship service in his living room in Huntington Park, California. Resurrection MCC was not far behind with similar beginnings: our first worship service was in a Montrose apartment in December of 1972.

Through the years our history intersected with Rev. Perry's history and the history of our Fellowship. Rev. Perry was a frequent guest in Houston. Rev. Troy Perry recently retired as the first and only Moderator of MCC.

We now enter a new phase of our story with the newly elected Moderator **Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson**. Rev. Elder Wilson was elected Moderator at the General Conference in Calgary last July. Now, in her first year in office, Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson is visiting Resurrection for our 34th Anniversary Celebration on April 29 and 30.

Rev. Wilson describes MCC as a movement of three waves. She says, "The **First Wave**, the founding wave, was nearly 15 years of wild, expansive, amazing, sometimes reckless growth. Our **First Wave** was marked by great turbulence, highs and lows, enormous opposition and persecution, theological shouting matches, and finding our identity."

The **Second Wave**, according to Rev. Wilson, lasted more than 20 years. "It followed on the heels of feminist experiments and bold calls for dealing with our racial and cultural challenges."

The **Second Wave** also brought HIV and AIDS. Rev. Wilson observes: "For a community so young, even tender, it was nothing less

than astonishing the way people threw themselves, heroically, into the footpath of this disease: caring for the sick and dying, and comforting partners, friends and families. We buried an inordinate number of members, pastors and lay leaders. The rest of us tried not to be buried by grief and exhaustion. That MCC did not collapse under the weight of it all is a miracle."

Rev. Wilson describes the **Third Wave** as an opportunity to do God's work in "an unfinished world." She says, "Here we are, on the brink of something—something palpable—way beyond mere survival... There is so much left to do... So many who *still* do not know. People of all ages, races, cultures, languages, genders, who *still* do not know that God loves them and created them to be "fruitful" and to have abundant life. Jesus lived and died and rose because he wanted us to live abundantly and to give abundantly of ourselves."

On our 34th Anniversary Sunday, April 30, you will have an opportunity to be inspired by Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson as she guest preaches at 9AM and 11AM. I have heard Rev. Elder Wilson preach at many conferences as well as when she was Pastor of MCC Los Angeles. She is an electrifying and challenging preacher. Don't miss her powerful message for us.

Rev. Wilson is not only a great preacher, she is warm and accessible in her style. Following the 11AM service the Board of Directors will serve you at a very special Taste of Resurrection meal prepared by our Loaves and Fishes ministry. Then, comes **Meet the Moderator**. You will have an opportunity to ask questions to get to know your new Moderator. You will have an opportunity to share your dreams for our worldwide movement and how Resurrection is a part of this movement. You will have an opportunity to ask her any questions.

I'm excited that Resurrection MCC is a part of something bigger than ourselves. I'm excited that our passion meets the world's needs. Rev. Wilson says, "We are needed: our hands, our hearts, our creativity. All the lessons we learned and lived in MCC's **First Wave** and in the **Second Wave** are still desperately needed in our world today."

Our 34 years of ministry in Houston give us cause to celebrate. They are also a challenge to us to continue to "Catch the Wave" with faithful passion and renewed energy.

**Resurrection
Metropolitan
Community Church**

2025 W. 11th St.
Houston, TX 77008

Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Office: 713-861-9149
FAX: 713-861-2520

churchoffice@resurrectionmcc.org
www.resurrectionmcc.org

Worship Schedule

Sundays at 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Nursery

Sundays at 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Adult Sunday School
10 a.m.

Clergy

Rev. Dwayne Johnson,
Pastor ext. 105

Rev. Janice Ladd
Executive Pastor
ext. 104

Rev. Wayne Moore
Pastor of Celebration
ext. 109

Staff Clergy

Rev. Rick Elliott
Rev. Mona Lopez
Rev. Tracye Ruffin

Ministry Support

Vickey Gibbs, ext. 105
Assistant to the Pastor

Diane Jasso, ext. 106
Director of Communications

Sheryl Parrish, ext. 107
Director of Operations

Ken Thompson, ext. 111
Audio/Video Assistant

Resurrection MCC is a Christian Church with a primary outreach to the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgendered community. Our mission is "To demonstrate God's unconditional love to all people through Christian action." We are members of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, founded by the Rev. Troy D. Perry in Los Angeles, CA, on October 6, 1968.

Come Out And Play!



A Resurrection member relaxing at the 2005 Golf Classic

4th Annual Resurrection MCC Golf Classic

April 29, 2006

Hermann Park Golf Course

This year's Golf Classic is dedicated to the memory of Jane Taylor.

We need **VOLUNTEERS** to help with pre-tournament and day of tournament tasks, **SPONSORS** and **DONATIONS** for giveaways.

For more informatio and to register,
call Penny Nolan, 713-501-8398 or email acrspenny@aol.com

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TRANSGENDERS—Say It OUT Loud!!

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IN "TRANSAMERICA"

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FEMALE GRAND MARSHALL OF
2006 PRIDE PARADE!

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"TRANSGENERATION"
SERIES!

**Tuesday, April 25th, at 7 PM
In The Gathering Place!**

Leaders of the transgender community share some of their
life experiences and answer questions about issues
facing the transgender community today.

Speakers include:

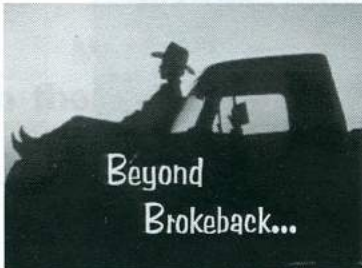
DR. JANE RUDD and DR. PEGGY RUDD formed the Delta Chapter of Tri-Ess in Houston.
DR. PEGGY RUDD has written 5 books dealing with transgender issues.

ROSE WALK is a member of several transgendered organizations as well as
past president of GCTC (Gulf Coast Transgender Community).

SANDY GOSWELL has been a member of several transgendered organizations and
helped form STAG (Some Transgenders Are Guys).

Can You Feel It!

By Rev. Janice Ladd, Executive Pastor



There is excitement in the air! Can you feel it? The Season of Lent at Resurrection has been nothing short of inspirational. The journey began at the Ash Wednesday service where something was quite different at the altar.

The cross, which normally sets at a distance, had been brought down and leaned against our communion table. At the foot of the cross was a

“*Resurrection is
RISING UP
to new life!
Resurrection is
RISING UP
to new challenges!*”

desert pool of rock and sand. The symbolism of the 40-day passage in the wilderness was hard to miss. But as you got closer and allowed yourself to *experience* the cross, you found an oasis of water surrounded by light. What a radiant image of hope for the road ahead. And that was just the beginning.

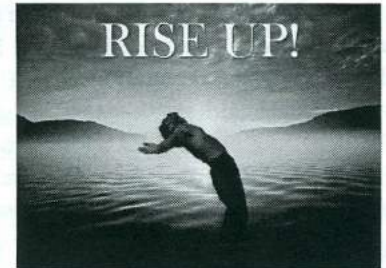
Then for five Sundays, Rev. Dwayne brought powerful messages from his “Beyond Brokeback” series. He took the tragic story of Jack and Ennis and showed us all through



scripture how a relationship with God can keep us from settling into old paradigms of fear.

He challenged us to move from thinking we are cursed to knowing we are a blessing. We were invited to progress from a position of exclusion to become a place of inclusion. And when we feel we are asked to be silent, we are to stand as a bold witness. Our journey from immobilization to action and isolation to connection will empower our lives, our church, and our community.

During the “Beyond Brokeback” series, the music within the services took on a spiritual essence that was



almost tangible. Healing began in our church and in our individual lives. I have spoken to so many whose lives have been impacted during this time. Some people took the Lenten challenge to give up something or they took on something new or even attended the Lenten group study. In their willingness to be vulnerable and open, many found God met them there in a brand new way.

I simply cannot wait until Holy Week and Easter. Resurrection is **RISING UP** to new life! Resurrection is **RISING UP** to new challenges!

Yes, there is excitement in the air! Can you feel it?

Make A Commitment To Connect!

Attend A Spiritual Gifts Class

Sunday, May 5, at 1 PM
Saturday, August 5, at 10 AM
Sunday, November 5, 1 PM

Veronica Franklin, Scott Easterly and Paul Spiller will lead this workshop called “Who Am I?” The workshop is designed to help participants identify their Spiritual Gifts and discover their personal passions for ministry. This workshop is offered to everyone — members, friends, and visitors. To attend, just call 713-861-9149 ext. 100 and leave your name.

Attend A New Members Class

Sunday, June 11, at 1 PM
Saturday, September 2, at 10 AM
Sunday, November 19, 1 PM

Rev. Janice Ladd guides the participant to learn the mission, vision, and values of Resurrection MCC, to discover our connection to the world through our affiliation with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, and to join this family in purpose, service, and fellowship. To register, call 713-861-9149 ext 104.

Are You SPRY?

The Montrose Counseling Center and Legacy Community Health Services now have a senior program, called SPRY. "SPRY" stands for **Seniors Preparing for Rainbow Years**.

The Montrose Counseling Center is one of 11 organizations nationwide to receive a grant award from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to provide mental health services to older adults in need. Under the grant, the SPRY Program will be able to provide FREE professional mental health and support services for GLBT persons who are age 60 and older, including assessment, peer support, counseling, case management, and psychiatry.

According to The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, several studies of nursing home administrators, Area Administration on Aging directors, and of other health care providers, show widespread homophobia among caregivers.

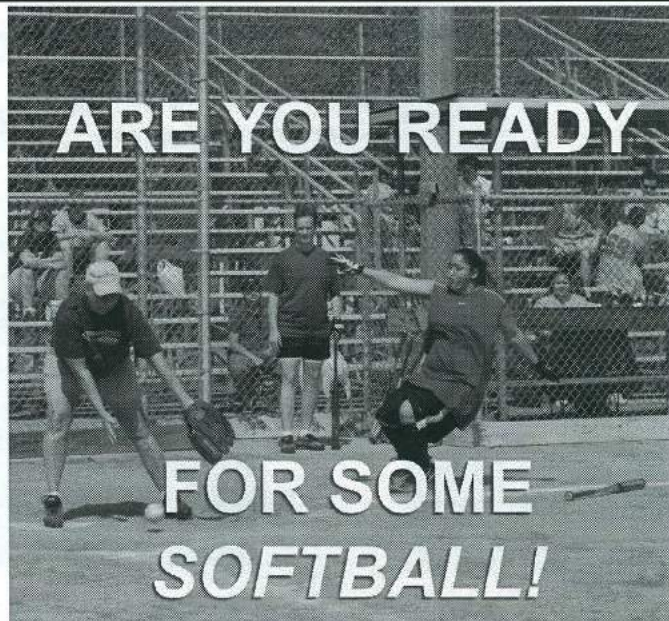
In addition, many GLBT seniors grew up in a time when sexual orientation was considered either a crime or a mental illness, and in an era when people just didn't discuss personal issues/problems with outsiders. Many continue to stigmatize mental health.

The Task Force concludes that, "many (GLBT seniors) retreat back into the closet, reinforcing isolation." And isolation is an issue facing all seniors. Growing older may be a difficult and lonely time for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender seniors. But you are not invisible, and you shouldn't have to go back into the closet, just because you are getting older and may need help.

If you would like to find out more about the SPRY Program or meet with an outreach worker who can help you with a needs assessment, call **Montrose Counseling Center at 713-529-0037 (and press 0) or call Legacy Community Health Services at 713.830.3025.**

If you call Montrose Counseling Center, you may either tell the receptionist that you would like to speak with a SPRY outreach worker, or go ahead and schedule an intake with a licensed therapist. After the intake, you will be assigned to a counselor and/or case manager who will contact you to schedule an appointment that is convenient for you.

If you prefer, you may leave a confidential message at the Legacy Community Health Services number, and someone will call you back.



Come Out And Cheer For Your Resurrection Angels!

Resurrection Angels Softball Team Spring 2006 Schedule

Sunday, April 23rd

- 4 pm - Ya Ya Sisters vs Resurrection Angels (Field 1)
- 5 pm - Resurrection Angels vs Illusions (Field 1)

Sunday, April 30th Mid-Season Tournament

Sunday, May 7th

- 4 pm - Resurrection Angels vs Foul Play (Field 1)
- 5 pm - Resurrection Angels vs Vortex (Field 1)

Sunday, May 21st

- 4 pm - AssistHers vs Resurrection Angels (Field 1)
- 5 pm - Resurrection Angels vs Ya Ya Sisters (Field 2)

Sunday, June 4th

- 4 pm - OC vs Resurrection Angels (Field 1)
- 5 pm - Resurrection Angels vs High Frequency (Field 4)

Sunday, June 11th

- 4 pm - Blaze vs Resurrection Angels (Field 1)
- 5 pm - Illusions vs Resurrection Angels (Field 1)

All regular games will be played at

Slo-Pitch City

1826 Gault Rd, Houston, TX 77039

(281) 442-7003



Art of Living 6-Day Course

**May 4th - 9th
In the Gathering Place**

Thursday- 6:30 pm - 9 pm
Friday- 6:30 pm - 9 pm
Saturday- 10 am - 4 pm
Sunday- 2 pm - 6 pm
Monday- 6:30 pm - 9 pm
Tuesday- 6:30pm - 9 pm

There is a fee required to attend this course.

For information and to register, contact the Wellness Ministry at wellness@resurrectionmcc.org or call 832-338-8529.

"This is an interactive workshop of 18 hours spread over 6 days. Extremely effective and revolutionary techniques are taught which help an individual deal with the day-to-day stresses of life, thereby promoting a better quality of life and increased happiness and peace. The highlight of the course is the revitalizing breathing process known as the Sudarshan Kriya®, which releases stress and toxins at the physical, mental and emotional level, promoting better health on all these levels."

Calling all Children!

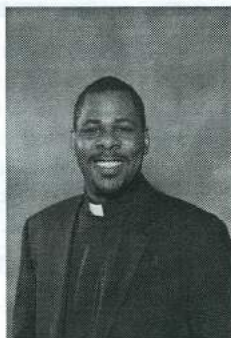


The children's choirs will be presenting the musical "We're Goin' Fishin" on June 11th!

Rehearsals will begin on **Sunday, April 23rd, at 10:15 AM, in the activities building.**

All children are invited to participate!

Come get "caught up" in God's love!



I Am Blessed By You...

by Rev. Wayne Moore, Pastor of Celebration

Wow! Resurrection is definitely a place in which God dwells! I have just completed my first full month here, and I stand in awe of the way that God works in and through the lives of each of you. I am blessed to be able to serve here and look forward to many more days of service.

There are many exciting things on the horizon for Resurrection MCC, and I invite you to get involved. Celebration is on the *MOVE!*

Please mark your calendars for May 21, 2006. Our 11 AM service will be designated as Youth Sunday. We are reaching out to the Gay/Straight Alliances in the area high schools, and the LGBT Student Organizations in the area colleges and universities. This is going to be an exciting service in which I hope we see our seats overflowing with young people.

We also have Houston Pride coming up quickly! We are planning to be an exciting and demanding presence in the parade and welcome your participation as well. We are still in need of volunteers in every aspect of the Pride festivities; so if you are interested in helping, please **contact me at 713-861-9149 ext. 109.**

Another exciting event that I hope you will plan to attend is a concert! **Clark Erickson and I will be in concert on Saturday, April 29th, at 7 PM,** as a part of the 34th Anniversary Celebration weekend. Clark is a native Houstonian, a brilliant pianist and composer. Currently Clark is on staff at the University of North Texas and is the staff pianist for Promise MCC in Dallas, Texas. Clark has been a featured pianist for

such artists as Maynard Ferguson and Diane Schuur. This will be an event that you will not want to miss.

In my daily reading today, God spoke through the words of the prophets and the psalmists. In particular, Moses and David; in reading in Exodus, Moses, realizing his need for God, makes a very special plea of God. Moses says to the Almighty in Exodus 33:15, ***"If Your Presence does not go with us, do not send us from this place".***

Those words sprang off of the pages of my tattered Bible and into my spirit. **THAT NEEDS TO BE MY DAILY PRAYER!!! God, if Your Presence does not go with me, than I am going to just stay put!** I began to focus on what life would be like without the Presence of God, and this is what I saw.

Without God's Presence, there would be dimness, never light; silence, never sound; music without a tune; despair in place of hope; fear instead of love; evil conquering good. The very thought of a day, an hour, a minute, a second without Jehovah Shammah (Hebrew meaning the Lord is there) is more than frightening....it is devastating.

The peace that I feel in knowing that God is always with me is enough to make me say daily, ***God, if Your Presence does not go with me, than I am going to just stay put!*** God I thank You, for Your Presence, in my life and in the life of our church.

Wow! Resurrection is definitely a place in which God always dwells!



Saturday, May 13th
11:30 AM to 1:30 PM
In the Gathering Place

The Wellness Ministry will be providing pizza.

**YOU MUST register attendance with
wellness@resurrectionmcc.org.**

Hallelujah! Praise God in the holy house of worship, and under the open skies; Praise God for awesome acts of power, and for magnificent greatness; Praise with a blast on the trumpet, praise by strumming soft strings; Praise God with castanets and dance, and with banjo and flute; Praise God with cymbals and a big bass drum; with fiddles and mandolin. Let every living, breathing creature praise GOD! Hallelujah! (Psalm 150)



ARE YOU READY TO SHARE YOUR GIFTS?

HAS YOUR INSTRUMENT BEEN STORED IN THE CLOSET FOR FAR TOO LONG?

**RESURRECTION'S
MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEEDS
YOU!**



We are exploring the possibility of forming an orchestra and are seeking all instruments, strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion. I encourage you to pray about how you can help to enhance the worship here at Resurrection MCC with your gift of music.

If you are interested, please, please, please email

Rev. Wayne Moore at
revwm@resurrectionmcc.org or call
713-861-9149 ext. 109

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presenters: Robin Bressie and friends

May 27, 2006
11AM - 3 PM

To register, email wellness@resurrectionmcc.org

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DON GILL

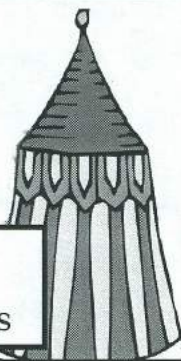
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Resurrection MCC

April Events

Sundays
April 23rd - June 11th
Angels Softball Spring Schedule
(see page 4)

*** Tuesday, April 25th ***
"Say It OUT Loud!" presentation, 7 PM
(see page 2)

*** Saturday, April 29th ***
4th Annual Golf Classic, 8 AM
(see page 2)

*** Saturday, April 29th ***
34th Anniversary Concert! 7 PM
(see page 5)

*** Sunday, April 30th ***
34th Anniversary Special Guest
MCC Moderator Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson
9 AM & 11 AM

Meet the Moderator, 12:30 PM
(see page 1)

May Events

Sunday, May 5th
Spiritual Gifts Class, 1 PM
(see page 3)

May 4th-9th
Art of Living Workshop
(see page 5)

Saturday, May 13th
GLBT Parent Social, 11:30 AM
(see page 6)

Sunday, May 21st
Youth Sunday, 11 AM
(see page 5)

Saturday, May 27th
LOVE Workshop, 11 AM
(see page 6)

UPCOMING Events

*** Sunday, June 11th ***
Children's ... & 11 AM