



# Senior Adults

seniors.mdpc.org

Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church • Houston, Texas

November 2021

Presented by  
Venturers at MDPC



## How Thanksgiving Came to Be

Speakers Lisa Pennington & David Furlow

## National Museum of Funeral History

Followed by Lunch at Spanish Flowers

**L**isa and her husband, David, both history buffs and both retired attorneys, will tell the story of what the first Harvest Festival that we know as Thanksgiving was like. They will also reveal why it was held in the fall of 1621, who attended, and how this led to 50 years of peaceful cooperation between the English Pilgrims and the indigenous Wampanoag tribe. Lisa is a descendant of several Mayflower Pilgrims.

**Monday, November 1, 2021**

6p Social Hour • 7p Dinner Served  
Fratelli's Ristorante (1330 Wirt Road, 77055)

*Dinner reservation details on the enclosed form.*

**J**oin us to visit the wide variety of exhibits on the world's funeral cultures from ancient Egypt to modern times. Some highlights are Fantasy Coffins from Ghana, Presidential Funerals, Japanese Funerals and their latest exhibit: Jazz Funerals of New Orleans.

After our visit we will take a short ride to Spanish Flowers Mexican Restaurant, which has an extensive, affordable, yummy menu!

**Tuesday, November 16, 2021**

9:10am Board Bus at MDPC, 9:30 Depart

12:45pm Lunch Reservation

RSVP to Tammy Allyn by Nov 9:

832.816.6254 or [uwphoto.2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uwphoto.2@sbcglobal.net)



## Save the Date: BINGO with Encore Fellowship!

Plan to be there for a fun evening at Bingo in the Heights on **Thursday, January 27, 2022**. More information will follow.

To join our mailing list and receive an emailed invitation in late December, please email Betsy Chalmers at [betsychalmersfarver@gmail.com](mailto:betsychalmersfarver@gmail.com) Learn more about this event, as well as other upcoming events at [encore.mdpc.org](http://encore.mdpc.org).

## Venturers President's Message

As we head into November, we have another fine program to present to you with Lisa Pennington, a Mayflower Descendant, and David Furlow, her husband, an avid historian. They will join us in authentic Pilgrim attire, and I can attest that they are interesting speakers. Come and learn where your Thanksgiving feast originated!

It turns out that I descended from the Pilgrim, John Howland, who managed to fall off the Mayflower on the voyage over the North Atlantic. Luckily for me, he managed to grab a rope trailing the Mayflower and was pulled back aboard. This probably explains my clumsy streak. ☺ Here I am in my Pilgrim attire.



Put the Christmas Party on your schedule for December 6. Cindy Cochran has arranged a great instrumental quartet to entertain us with a variety of music with some Christmas carols included. Look forward to great fun and fellowship together!

Your 2021-2022 President, Bart Henson  
713.780.2138 or [bartshenson@gmail.com](mailto:bartshenson@gmail.com)

## Save the Dates!

### Venturers Christmas Party Monday, Dec 6 • 6:00pm

At Fratelli's, with music and entertainment by the fabulous Cypress Winds Quartet. Celebrate our Christ's birth with fellowship, delicious dining, and song! Opportunities to participate in the Giving Tree will be available even if you are unable to attend.

### Prime Timers Christmas Party Wednesday, Dec 15 • Load Bus at MDPC 10:15am

To celebrate the Christmas season, the Prime Timers are planning a trip to Brookwood! (Note the change of day of the week.) We will arrive with time to look around at all the beautiful decorations and shop the gift shop before our 1:00pm luncheon reservation.

## Pastor's Corner: Mauricio Chacón

In April 2007, my wife Gladys and I came to Houston, leaving behind our children, grandchildren, friends, and sisters and brothers in Christ at a wonderful church in the San Francisco Mission District. We started work right away, searching for people in restaurants, stores, visiting apartments; we knocked on many doors, and we were able to gather many people - 30 by May! At that time, we didn't have a place to worship, so my house became that place. Then we moved to Spring Woods Middle School, where they graciously opened their doors for us to celebrate worship.



A few months later, we rented a church building, where we continued our worship and were able to offer Sunday School for children and adults. Meliza Gómez came to lead us with her beautiful voice and form a youth group. Later that year (2008) we opened our food pantry; this new ministry helped us to connect with the needs of the community. We started to have conversations with Dave Peterson about the possibility of moving to the MDPC campus. In 2011 we moved, bringing our food pantry with us. With this transition our congregation grew larger as many people from the south of Westheimer, Spring Branch, and other neighborhoods joined us. What a blessing!

Our church membership has grown, as has the food pantry. We now distribute food every Saturday to more than 400 families, giving us abundant opportunities to share the Gospel. Many families are becoming members of our church and we continue helping immigrants from different countries. Last month, the Session received 11 new members from Venezuela.

Today, I realize why the Lord called me to come to Houston and especially to come and serve as Associate Pastor in this church of which I am grateful to be part. I also thank the Lord for bringing two of my children to live in Houston; now six of my grandchildren are living here, too! To God be the glory.