



TEACHABLE
MOMENTS
FAITH FROM FISHING
Matthew 4:18-22

Sunday, Jan 16, 2022

Matthew 4:18-22

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

8:30 SERVICE

Welcome & Call to Worship		Beth Case
Songs of Praise	<i>Come, Now Is the Time to Worship Be Thou My Vision</i>	
*Prayer of Confession & Assurance		Dan Aikins
Service of Officer Ordination and Installation		
Song of Preparation	<i>Believe for It</i>	
Message	<i>Faith from Fishing</i>	Alf Halvorson
Song of Response	<i>My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less</i>	

9:45 SERVICE

Welcome & Call to Worship		Meliza Gómez
Baptism of Barrett William Trevino, son of Xavier and Ginny Trevino		
Meet & Greet	Michael Middleton (in-person), Beth Case (online)	
Song of Praise	<i>Look to the Son</i>	
Moment of Confession & Assurance		Amy Delgado
Songs of Preparation	<i>Believe for It / None but Jesus</i>	
Message	<i>Faith from Fishing</i>	Alf Halvorson
Song of Response		Cornerstone

Musicians in these services: Asher Pudlo, drums; Jaime Arroyo, keys; Uvaldo Callejas, bass;
Chris Parrott, guitar; Michael Middleton & Meliza Gómez, Worship Leaders

11:15 SERVICE

Prelude	<i>Adagio in G Minor</i>	Tomaso Albinoni (1671-1751)
Welcome & Call to Worship		Beth Case
Choral Introit	<i>Praise</i>	Alec Rowley (1892-1958)
*Hymn of Praise	<i>Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation</i>	#417; Vs. 1, 4 REGENT SQUARE
*Prayer of Confession & Affirmation of Faith		Amy Delgado
Anthem	<i>Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus</i>	Dan Forrest (b.1978)
Moment of Prayer		Beth Case
Anthem of Preparation	<i>Greater Love Hath No Man Than This</i>	John Ireland/arr. White
Message	<i>Faith from Fishing</i>	Alf Halvorson
*Hymn of Response	<i>Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore</i>	#377; Vs. 1, 3 PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

Postlude	<i>Finale from Symphony No. 6</i>	Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)
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Musicians in this services: Cassandra Black and Nate Thompson, soloists;
Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ

SERMONNOTES

To view the sermon archive, visit sermons.mdpc.org.

TEACHABLE MOMENTS FAITH FROM FISHING

Sunday, Jan 16, 2022

[Matthew 4:18-22](#)

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

Is this a joke? Is Pastor Alf really going to talk about fishing during his sermon? John Calvin, our spiritual father wrote, “Nature is the theater of the divine.” In other words, we can know about and see God’s work and leading through that which God has created in our world. Also, at least one-third of the disciples were professional fishermen. They wore Bass Pro hats. Why did Jesus call them in particular? No other profession gets that kind of preference or favoritism. And then there is Jesus’ challenge to Peter and Andrew, James and John, “Follow Me, and I will make you fish for people.” How can discussing fishing help us grow in our faith and possibly even lead others to become Jesus followers?

1. What is your favorite hobby and why? What function does this hobby serve in your life?
2. What is your experience with fishing? Did you have a relative or friend who took you fishing? What are your memories around those experiences? Are they positive or negative? I talked about my grandfather’s rustic cabin on the Mississippi River in Wisconsin and how a college friend gave me an outlet after I severely injured my left knee playing basketball. Fishing served a connecting role with others at that time; it also served as a solitary endeavor where I could think and listen for God by myself. Is there an activity or activities that serve those purposes in your life? What are they? When do you tend to turn to them? Are they regular disciplines or only sporadic pursuits?
3. Jesus spent a lot of time on or around the Sea of Galilee. Some of His most profound teaching or miracles take place there, like Mark 4:35-41, Matt. 14:22-33, and John 21:1-21, just to name a few. Read those passages quickly and ponder: Why do water and fishing play such a prominent role in the life and teaching of Jesus? Of the Gospel?
4. Read Matthew 4:18-22. It makes it seem as if Jesus meets them for the first time and calls them to follow out of nowhere. But we know from the other Gospels that these potential disciples had seen Jesus, heard Him teach, and had previous interactions with Him. Still, it is a jarring passage to imagine them leaving one known profession and life and then deciding right there to follow Jesus into another calling. Have you ever sensed God leading you away from something known and familiar to something unknown but exciting and meaningful? What was it? How is that “calling” playing out?
5. I talked in my message about three insights regarding faith I learned from walking streams near the Mississippi River with a college friend, fishing for brown and rainbow trout. I’ve been trying to live those insights out in different ways in the various seasons of my life. Which point spoke the most to you right now? Why? What change might it necessitate in your life or opportunity might it open up if you take it?
6. Jesus’ challenge to the four disciples at the Sea of Galilee was, “Follow Me, and I will make you fish for people.” What fishing skills might you need to apply to your inviting, challenging, or offering Spiritual Food to others that they might be *caught* (in the best sense of that term) by the Spirit and find life and hope in Christ?



Sun, Jan 16, 2022

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

To see more events at **MDPC**, visit events.mdpc.org.

GIVING: Weekly financial updates will be printed here after the 2022 budget is approved by Session in January.

[Give Online](https://give.mdpc.org)
give.mdpc.org



Sat & Sun, Feb 26 & 27

Church in the City is when MDPC leaves the pews to serve our city! There are project options on both Sat and Sun. For details and registration, visit citc.mdpc.org.



NEW DATES:

Thu, Jan 20-Mar 10 • 4:30pm

Are you grieving, wondering if you'll ever feel joy again? You're not alone. Our grief recovery program begins this Thu. Learn more at grief.mdpc.org.



Sat, Jan 29 • 9:00-11:30am

Invest a few hours on a Saturday morning into the lifelong relationship with your kids! A free light breakfast is included. Sign up at dadpal.mdpc.org.



Want to learn more about our partners and play a crucial role in MDPC's radical giving? We'd love to have you on one of our outreach committees! Email Melissa Peter (mpeter@mdpc.org) for more information.



Wed, Feb 2 • 6:00-8:30pm

Dan Gerhartz's mastery of light and anatomy transform his paintings into powerful visual experiences. Don't miss this free live demo by the artist in the MDPC Amphitheater.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS:

Carol Kasper passed away December 30, 2021.

Don Kerr passed away January 5, 2022.

Remember Our Mission Partners on the Front Lines of Ministry

Each week, we pray for three of **MDPC's** local and global mission partners. During these difficult days, our partners truly covet your prayers! Visit partners.mdpc.org to find this week's (three) prayer recipients.

Sun, Jan 9, 2022

New Officer Installation

Today, we install 17 new Officers to our Session. These new Elders and Deacons will play a vital role in the ministries and administration of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church. Please pray for energy, wisdom, and discernment as they help guide us through the next three years and beyond.

DEACON BIOGRAPHIES | CLASS OF 2024



Karen Austin

Second Family & Mobile Meals

Karen has been a member of MDPC for 28 years. She went to Kilgore College where she was a Rangerette and enjoyed that honor and experience. She worked in the commercial real estate industry in San Antonio and Houston for over 20 years. Karen was blessed when she met her husband, Greg, and they were married in the MDPC Chapel 25 years ago. They have four adult children together and one-year-old twin granddaughters. They have attended church and the

various activities for many years, and their children participated in the youth groups and mission trips. Karen has volunteered in many areas of the church and currently is the co-director of Second Family/Mobile Meals. She knows she was called to be the Deacon of Caring Ministries because Jesus knows how much she loves to help people and He knew this would be a challenge for her. She accepted this challenge and feels honored to be the Deacon of the ministry she has been working with for several years.



Nancy Blurton | *Worship (Choir)*

Nancy and her husband, Jerry, have been married 52 years and have been in Houston and members of MDPC for about 25 years. They are blessed with three adult children and six grandchildren. Nancy has served in many roles at MDPC and in the community including Youth Elder, elementary and middle Sunday School teacher, Summer Celebration co-leader, Sanctuary Choir member, Bible Study Fellowship leader, BSD participant, IMPACT mentor, and volunteer working with Alzheimer Gatherings. She also has worked

on mission trips to Guatemala with Faith in Practice and with Transitions. After graduation from the University of Oklahoma, she moved to Texas to teach elementary school students in Dallas. Music has always been a central part of her life and she is anxious to fulfill her newly established role of Deacon for Worship and Choir. This will provide a challenge to serve God and the members of MDPC as we continue the ministry of Jesus Christ.



Penny Bryant | *Caregivers & Dementia*

A native Californian, Penny Heap Bryant moved to Houston in 1970 when her husband's architectural firm was hired to do the master plan for The Woodlands. Penny taught elementary school in California, Japan, and Hawaii before spending 28 years at Memorial Drive Elementary in Spring Branch ISD. After her first husband died, she married Jim Bryant and was ultimately one of his caregivers until he passed away in 2020. Penny has always been a Presbyterian, accepted Christ as a teenager, and joined MDPC 25 years

ago. She has been and is a HUG tutor, Outreach committee member, and Word and Worship leader. She serves on the Board of The Willbern Heritage Scholarship Foundation, The Buckingham's Resident Council, and is Co-chairman/Treasure of The Buckingham Foundation. She lives with her two rescue dogs, Anderson Cooper and Bear Bryant, exercises regularly, reads daily, and photographs any and everything. Penny believes that God has called her to be a Deacon in Caregivers and Dementia because of her interest and experience, and she is looking forward to faithfully serving MDPC and the community.



David Harkins | *Relationships (Men's)*

David, a native Houstonian, graduated from Texas A&M University with a Finance degree, and works as a Wealth Management Advisor. David is a frequent and sought-after speaker on investment planning for retirement, which has been a primary business focus for him and his team for decades. David and his wife, Sue, have three children, Zachary, Rachel, and Jack, and dog, Bo. David is a current youth leader (known affectionately by the kids as "Dave the Wave") and has participated in a variety of confirmations,

retreats, and mission trips. He is enthusiastically involved with volunteering and fundraising for organizations such as MD Anderson, Child Advocates, Blueprint Ministries, and other volunteer work.



CC Roberts | *Welcoming*

Clortis (CC) is married to Oliver Anthony Roberts. CC accepted Christ at an early age. Her father was a minister, and she was taught to love and respect all. She loves working with people and has a special love for children. She has taught in Children's Ministries at MDPC, and also has worked with various other MDPC ministries. CC has won numerous awards for community service. Wherever God leads her, she will follow with grace, love, and kindness.



Lisa Shelfer | *Adult Discipleship (Prayer)*

Lisa and her husband, David, have been members of MDPC since 1987. They are the parents of two grown sons, Mark and Brian, and grandparents to six wonderful children.

Lisa is a retired teacher of the hearing impaired and worked in many different school districts over her 22-year career after graduating from TCU. She has served as an Elder in Equipping Ministries, as a Stephen Minister, and has been a member of the Seekers Sunday School class. Bible study with several different groups has been a very important part

of her life. Lisa loves to needlepoint, garden, and read. She is excited about her call to

work as a Deacon in Caring Ministries focusing on Partners in Prayer. This ministry is one of the cornerstones established at the founding of MDPC and Lisa is looking forward to supporting and expanding ways that we as disciples of Jesus Christ can continue to pray for one another.



Laura Tingleaf

Kaleidoscope/Special Blessings

Laura is married to MDPC member, Drew Tingleaf, and is the proud mother of Claire, a senior in college; Gregory, a sophomore in college; and Luke, a sophomore at Memorial High School in the Life Skills Program. Laura grew up attending Catholic school and church. After getting married, she and Drew attended the Episcopal Church before finally joining MDPC 12 years ago so their kids could participate in the strong youth program. Laura graduated from the

University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston with a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy, and she taught elementary Sunday school when her youngest was in kindergarten. She worked in physical rehabilitation for 10 years before staying at home to raise her children. Laura has served on the PTA board, National Charity League board, Spring Branch Education Foundation board, and volunteered at many school functions. She feels called to serve as a Kaleidoscope Deacon, where she can share and relate to families that are raising a child with special needs. She looks forward to the challenge of furthering her faith through helping others.

ELDER BIOGRAPHIES | CLASS OF 2024



Rick Bradford | *Youth Discipleship*

Rick is the grateful and proud husband of Carla and father to Bennett, a college freshman, and Campbell, an 8th grader. Rick's faith journey began when he accepted Christ in middle school, but he did not truly start following Christ until participating in one of MDPC's first Alpha programs, almost 20 years later. Since marrying Carla and joining MDPC, Rick has participated in Sunday school classes, taught elementary Sunday School, co-led a youth Life Group, participated in middle school mission trips, and

volunteered in Youth Ministries over the last two years. He has also participated in a men's small group from MDPC for 15 years. Rick has worked as an engineer, a business and IT consultant, and now in corporate IT. Both of Rick's children have grown up participating in MDPC children and youth programs. Having seen the way God uses MDPC to impact his family and many others, Rick feels called and privileged to serve as a Youth Elder. He is committed to helping MDPC continue training our youth in the way they should go.



Tom Braschayko | *Local Outreach*

Tom and his wife, Marcia, joined MDPC in 1991. Their son, Andre, was active in MDPC Youth activities and mission trips, and is now pursuing his career in Dallas. Tom had a long career in the energy industry and has since been actively volunteering in MDPC Outreach activities. Tom knows that his salvation comes through his faith in Jesus Christ. He is grateful for the love of the MDPC community, and has experienced the Holy Spirit's presence as a leader in Men's Life, an Elder for Stewardship/Generosity, a member/

chair of staff/pastor nominating committees, and a teacher in The Galaxy, Summer Celebration, and adult Sunday School/Wednesday night classes, as well as through participation in BSD, Word and Worship, small groups for men and for married couples, Spring Branch/Hunger Outreach Committee, Fuente Food Pantry, Church in the City, and Bless Friday activities. Tom's heart for service drives his acceptance of the call to Session for Local Outreach. He is keen to be involved in directing and observing the impact of MDPC's generosity in the community.



Mariel Braun | *Local Outreach*

Mariel grew up in Houston, Texas and has called MDPC her church home since early childhood. A graduate of Texas A&M, Mariel is a Certified Financial Planner™ and provides financial guidance and wealth planning/management to individuals and families. She is a member of The Parish young adult Sunday school class, MDPC Young Adult Lead Team, has volunteered on mission trips, and served in Children's Ministries. Mariel enjoys hiking, cooking, gardening, travel, and spending time with her dog, Murphy. A desire to give

back led Mariel to serve on the Spring Branch/Hunger Outreach Committee in 2021, giving her new appreciation for the work our mission partners are doing locally.

Mariel accepted the call to serve as a Local Outreach Elder and is excited to support and further the work of the Church's mission to others.



Bob Davis | *Treasurer Elect-elect*

Robert "Bob" Davis was born in Houston and moved or transferred with his father and family to many states before graduating from the University of Kentucky and ending up back in Houston - for good. He, his wife, Rebecca, and his 12-year-old son, Jonathan, live in Spring Valley and have attended MDPC for the last three years. Bob has been a Bible Study Fellowship member for 18 years and was a children's leader for six of those 18 years. At MDPC, Bob and Rebecca became faithful members of the Daily Bread Sunday School

class, where Bob has occasionally begun to "substitute" teach. For the last two years, he has served on the Spring Branch/Hunger Outreach Committee. Bob works within the insurance and construction industry as a surety bonding agent. When he is not working, he is with his family, most likely watching his son play football and baseball, or slowly learning how to fish. Bob has had a lifelong passion for aviation and is a licensed commercial pilot for multiple fixed-wing aircraft types and helicopters.



Bob Holloway | *Clerk Elect-elect*

Bob and his wife, Cindy, have been married for 30 years have been BLESSED to be MDPC members for 28 of those years. He has two stepsons and four grandchildren who live in Denver and Las Vegas, so the Holloways travel there often. Bob has been active at MDPC participating in many of programs, teaching, and serving as the Stewardship/Generosity Elder. Bob and Cindy have been very active in international mission work with both Free Wheelchair Mission and Faith in Practice. They have been blessed to go to China, Uganda, Peru, and Chile with Free Wheelchair Mission, and twice to Guatemala with Faith in Practice. Bob was a founding board member of the Outreach Center of West Houston and the Houston Barnabas Group. He is also an active supporter of other non-profits including SEARCH, CanCare, Children International, The Pocket Testament League, GROUNDWIRE, Memorial Assistance Ministries, Houston Food Bank, Alpha Houston, and First Liberty. Bob graduated from The University of Texas

at El Paso with a BBA in Finance and was honored to serve in the Air Force, which included a tour in Vietnam. He retired in 2020 after working for forty-six years as a Commercial Insurance Broker. Bob and Cindy enjoy traveling and are glad to see the reopening trend in travel opportunities. Bob considers the call to accept the position of Clerk an honor and certainly a personal growth opportunity to serve God and MDPC with a Purpose.



Kay Lynn Kuper | *Personnel Elect-elect*

Kay Lynn Kuper has attended MDPC since 1988. She grew up in the Presbyterian church, knowing the love of Jesus through devoted and kind Sunday School teachers, and a congregation who lived the word of God in the community. Kay Lynn graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Music Education degree, emphasis in piano and voice. She has two sons, J and Collins, who grew up at MDPC and live in Boerne, Texas with their wives and Kay Lynn's six grandchildren. She is the sole proprietor of Kuper

Resources Inc, a talent acquisition business, and the coordinator for Baker Mediation LLC, a mediation and arbitration firm. She has previously served as an Elder at MDPC in the Equipping area, as an at-large member of the Personnel Committee, and as an elementary Sunday school teacher. As an Elder assigned to the Personnel Committee, Kay Lynn is excited to again work to help the staff as they minister to the needs of the congregation, and to give back to the church she calls home.



Leigh McLeroy

Adult Discipleship (Bible Study)

Leigh joined MDPC in the summer of 2019 after serving 14 years at City of Refuge EPC. She is a published author, writer, and Bible teacher, a long-time Houstonian, and the founder of Words That Work LLC, a full-time writing consultancy that creates content for businesses, non-profits, and faith-based organizations. At MDPC Leigh is a Partner in Prayer, a volunteer in Caring and Women's ministries, and a teacher for Word and Worship and the Crossroads

Sunday school class. She is a graduate of Texas A&M University (BS in Journalism) and Houston Baptist University (MA in Cultural Apologetics) and a spiritual director-in-training through Leadership Transformations' Selah Spiritual Direction program. Leigh enjoys spending time with family and friends, watching Astros baseball and Aggie football, reading, traveling, and learning, and is especially grateful for the opportunity to invest more deeply in God's Kingdom by supporting the work of Adult Discipleship and Bible Study at MDPC.



Kathy Redden

Caring (Vision & Planning)

Kathy Redden has been a member of MDPC for 40 years. She has two children, Forrest and Rebecca, and three grandsons. They are a precious gift she cherishes. Kathy has been involved in many ministries here at MDPC, serving as both a Deacon and an Elder. She is a Stephen Minister and a small group leader for Word and Worship, both of which she truly enjoys. She has had the privilege, too, of participating in Faith in Practice mission trips to

Guatemala. She stays involved in her community as well, volunteering on the boards of Brazos Presbyterian Homes, UT Health School of Nursing – PARTNERS, and Houston Bar Association Auxiliary. A nurse by profession and a nurturer by nature,

MDPC has provided many opportunities to serve. She has a heart and a calling to serve in Caring Ministries and looks forward to seeing God's hand in directing this essential ministry.



Dillon Shindler | *Worship & Music*

Dillon grew up attending MDPC from a young age. He went through Confirmation at MDPC as an 8th grader, after which he became involved with the high school youth programs. He attended The University of Texas at Austin as a music performance major for string bass, where he then pursued and received a degree in Music Business from the Butler School of Music. Dillon stayed in Austin for a few years before finding his way back home to MDPC, where he and his wife, Danielle, were married by Pastor Alf. They now have a little girl, Amelia, who was baptized at MDPC last year. Dillon professionally works within the music business, where he establishes and fosters community cohesion through cross-cultural collaborations within the arts in regions all over the world. In his free time, Dillon enjoys spending time with family, golf, and flying.



Bill Swenson | *Generosity*

Bill and his wife of almost 40 years, Sandy, have been MDPC members for over 20 years. Sandy and Bill have two grown children, a son-in-law, and two grandchildren. Bill accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior while growing up in a small Presbyterian Church in Austin. Bill graduated from UT Austin and UH Law School and retired as General Counsel of Hilcorp Energy Company in 2018. Bill served six years on the Board of Directors of Memorial Assistance Ministries and has spent the last year serving on MDPC's Outreach Committee for Children, Family, and Housing. Through this service, Bill has come to appreciate the importance of MDPC's dollar-for-dollar giving and the continued need to support our outreach partners. God has blessed Bill and his family in so many ways and he feels a strong call to serve MDPC as an Elder on the Generosity Committee and is looking forward to this opportunity.