

Coordinating Team

Mauricio Chacón | Associate Pastor for Fuente
 Brandon Gaide | Associate Pastor for Next Gen
 Ginny Glass | Communications & Media Dir.
 Meliza Gómez | Contemporary Music Dir.
 Alf Halvorson | Senior Pastor
 Charles Hausmann | Traditional Music Dir.
 Kristin Huffman | Associate Pastor for Outreach
 Brett Hurst | Relationships Minister
 Christyn Knoop | Adult Ministries Dir.
 Gena Kooken | Sr. Leadership Ministry Coor.
 Laura Miller | Youth Ministries Dir.
 Rick Myers | Associate Pastor for Caring
 Rachel Poysky | Children's Ministries Dir.
 Becky Riggs | Business Administrator
 Dave Steane | Executive Pastor & Head of Staff
 Kathryn White | Coordinating Music Dir.
 Karen Winship | Human Resources Dir.

Dave Peterson | Pastor Emeritus
 Gary Bowker | Pastor Emeritus

MDPC Foundation

For information, contact Business Administrator
 Becky Riggs at briggs@mdpc.org or 713-953-2570.



The Red Rose is in Honor of

- Lillian Johanna Sanchez, born March 23, 2016, to Brittany Cooksey and Jose Sanchez. She is the granddaughter of Robin and Dennis Cooksey and the great-granddaughter of Pat Weinberg.

Ministry Partners 2016

This week, we ask that you please pray for these partners in ministry that MDPC assists with your support:

Faithwalking is a ministry that serves Christians seeking to live a fully integrated, missional life, building missional communities where they live and work. There are now 50 such communities across Texas, in corporations, public schools, impoverished neighborhoods, and prisons.

faithwalking.us

FamilyPoint Resources empowers children and families in the Nottingham Park area of West Houston to overcome the cycle of poverty. Its programs include a community library; after-school educational enrichment; art, theater and dance classes; and a full schedule of summer activities and camps.

familypointresources.com

Faith Ministry serves the poorest of the poor in the *colonias* of Reynosa and Miguel Aleman in Mexico. It builds homes, provides medical care and education, and teaches locals about Jesus Christ. Faith Ministry welcomes teams to work alongside them and show the love of Jesus to these communities.

faithministry.org

Walking the Mourner's Path

On April 5, seven participants completed this spring's Walking the Mourner's Path. During the eight-week course, each was prayed for daily by a prayer partner. Shown at left are the participants in the front row with their prayer partners behind them. Each participant also was given a prayer shawl made by MDPC's Knitting for Missions group. The program concluded with a Chapel communion service led by Rick Myers and a supper afterwards.

For information on the next class and other grief support services at MDPC, contact Rick Myers at rmyers@mdpc.org or 713-490-9545.



MDPC
 Loving God. Proclaiming Christ. Living Generously. Engaging All.
 11612 Memorial Drive | Houston, Texas 77024 | mdpc.org | 713-782-1710

Sent

By the Savior

Sunday, April 24, 2016

Sent: To Athens

Acts 17:16-21 | Alf Halvorson Preaching



We Love Our Teachers & Leaders!

MDPC wants to show our appreciation to the men and women who lead our children's, youth, and adult classes and life groups throughout the year. We truly are a better community, "engaging all" with the love of Christ, because of you. You and your family are invited to stop by the Fellowship Hall this morning for a breakfast treat and to let us say *Thank You!*

Today, anytime between 9:15-11:45 AM | Fellowship Hall

The Parish Starts Today

A new Sunday class dedicated to growing together in our understanding of God and His purposes for our lives. Open to all young adults. Starts next week, so everyone will be new!

This morning at 11:15 AM | Room 101

Informational Meeting

This meeting is intended to keep you up to date about MDPC's journey through the Denominational Discernment Process. Guest speakers are planned, and the Discernment Team will share information about its plan moving forward. Please attend *one* of the two options.

Tuesday evening, April 26, 7:00-9:00 PM OR Saturday, April 30, 2:00-4:00 PM

Youth Sunday 2016: A Celebration & Commissioning

Join us for a morning of worship led by our youth and to hear about what God is doing in the lives of our students. Let us come together to celebrate the commitments we made to our children in Baptism and Confirmation.

Next Sunday, May 1, at the 8:30, 9:45, and 11:15 services

Graduation Luncheon

Graduates and their families are invited to join MDPC Youth for a luncheon honoring the class of 2016. This event is open to the class of 2016 and immediate families.

Sunday, May 1 | 12:15 PM | High School Room | \$12/person; Free for graduates

Today is the deadline to register! Visit youth.mdpc.org.

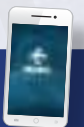
Join Seekers Class for a New Study on Daniel

Today this class for adults (40s-50s) begins a RightNow Media course, "Thriving in Babylon" by Larry Osborne. These are confusing times for Christians. How can we spiritually survive in an increasingly hostile environment? And is there any hope for the next generation? Though Daniel lived thousands of years ago, he has much to teach us today.

New Study Begins Today | Sundays, 11:15 AM | Room 103

Contact Carmen Petzold with questions: carmenphd6@aol.com

PLEASE silence or place your cell phone in airplane mode upon entering worship. Thank you!



MDPC MORNING WORSHIP

*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

8:30 & 9:45 AM SERVICES

WELCOME Dave Steane (8:30), Meliza Gómez (9:45)

***SONGS OF PRAISE**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE** Kristin Huffman (8:30), Brett Hurst (9:45)

SONG OF RESPONSE (8:30)

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

MESSAGE *Sent: To Athens* Alf Halvorson

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

Musicians in these services: Joe Gavito, guitar; Meliza Gómez and Michael Middleton, worship leaders; Craig Gysler, keys; Asher Pudlo, drums; Dennis Whittaker, bass

11:15 AM TRADITIONAL SERVICE

PRELUDE *Variations on Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* David N. Johnson (1922-1987)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Kristin Huffman

CHORAL INTROIT *Sing to God with Gladness* Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

***HYMN OF PRAISE** *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* #446; Vs. 1, 2, 3 | AUSTRIAN HYMN

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from Romans 8

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *The Gloria Patri* Hymn #579

ANTHEM *Speak, O Lord* arr. John Ferguson (b. 1941)

OFFERTORY *How Lovely Are the Messengers (from St. Paul)* Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

MESSAGE *Sent: To Athens* Alf Halvorson

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* #387; Vs. 1, 2 | BRADBURY

POSTLUDE *Allegro* César Franck (1822-1890)

Musicians in this service: Charles Hausmann, Sanctuary Choir conductor; Kathryn White, piano/organ

11:15 AM SPANISH SERVICE

MDPC's Fuente Hispanic Ministries worships in the Chapel. For more information on Spanish-language and bilingual community events and programs, visit fuente.mdpc.org.

5:00 PM FIFTH SERVICE

MDPC's Fifth Service is a worshipping community that encourages a more casual atmosphere and an intimate worship experience. Join them Sundays in the Chapel. Visit fifthservice.mdpc.org for more info.

VISITORS: If you are visiting MDPC today, we are delighted that you have come to worship with us! Allow us to welcome you personally at the Connection Center located in the Sanctuary Lobby.

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP? For inquiries on how to become a member of MDPC, contact Diann Turet at dturet@mdpc.org and join one of our New Member Classes that run throughout the year.

THE WELL: WOMEN'S SPEAKER SERIES

WHAT IS THE DESIRE OF YOUR HEART?

Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart. - Psalm 37:4

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27
6:30-8:00 PM • CHAPEL



MDPC Women

CELEBRATE

CINCO DE MAYO

With All-Church Lunch!

Next Sunday, May 1
11:00 AM-1:15 PM | Fellowship Hall

Entrée (\$10):

Beef or Chicken Fajitas served with Refried Beans, Mexican Rice, Flour Tortillas, Chips & Salsa

Entrée Salad (\$8.50): Grilled Shrimp Caesar

Children's Menu (\$4): Hamburgers

Everyone is welcome!



Beethoven's 9th Symphony, Choral Movement and Bernstein's MASS
Charles Hausmann, Conductor



Sunday, May 1 | 6:00 PM | Sanctuary

MDPC Concert Series
2015-2016

Two of Ludwig van Beethoven's and Leonard Bernstein's greatest masterworks will be paired in a concert featuring the combined forces of the Sanctuary Choir and Soloists of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church and the Kirkland Upper School Choir, Cindy Harrison, Director, and a professional orchestra.



The Venturers at **MDPC** present

Houston Endowment

Improving Life for the People of Houston



Ann Stern, President & CEO

Houston Endowment is a philanthropic foundation that donates \$75 million annually to help equalize opportunities for Houstonians. They support and promote arts and culture, education, the environment, health, and human services.

Monday, May 2

Social Hour at 6:00 PM | Dinner & Program at 7:00 PM

RSVP deadline is **Tuesday, April 26.**

Pick up a flier for registration details.



Donate Blood



Save Lives



Drive Date: Sunday, May 8
8:00 AM-2:00 PM
Fellowship Hall

Pre-register today or on May 1 in the Sanctuary Lobby or at giveblood.org.

This helps the Blood Center schedule enough technicians—but walk-ins on the day of the drive (May 8) are welcome!



MDPC

Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church

The MDPC Discernment Process

The Decision to Enter Discernment

Through a congregational vote on February 22, 2015, MDPC made a decision to enter the Discernment Process, allowing us to step back and evaluate whether or not to leave the PC(USA) and affiliate with a different Presbyterian Denomination.

MDPC is now in our Season of Discernment. A process has been developed to facilitate prayerful and thoughtful dialogue that will enable us to discern God's good and perfect will for MDPC as it relates to that final decision.

The Discernment Team

With the approval of Session, Senior Pastor Alf Halvorson has put together a group of respected and committed members who is shaping the content and tone of our conversation. Those who have agreed to serve are **Chris Arend, Mary Lee Going, John Hartman, Melinda Jackson, Buz Jochetz, Lydia Junek, Andrew Miller, Robin Sturgis, John Van Osdall, Brett Wagner, and Alf Halvorson, and Paul Nazarian**, a representative from Presbytery of New Covenant.

This Team has developed a schedule of events designed to inform the congregation regarding key issues; give members and various groups the opportunity to share information from differing viewpoints; and deliver feedback to the MDPC Session regarding MDPC members' desired Presbyterian Denominational Affiliation.

The Event Calendar

Most of these events are open to the entire congregation, with the exception of the **Round Table Talks**, which are designed specifically for MDPC members.

Prayer Sessions

- Open to All
- No Registration Needed
- Childcare Provided
- Attend as Many as Possible

➤ **Wednesdays, April 13 & 20; May 4, 11, 18, & 25**

6:45-7:30 PM | Chapel

As we move through the Discernment Process, a series of Elder-led Prayer Sessions will be offered. These are times to seek God's voice and will, using selected Scripture and guided personal prayer. The sessions are **open to all**, and will take place on Wednesday evenings at 6:45 in the Chapel. Childcare is provided.

Round Table Talks

- Members Only
- Registration Required
- Childcare Provided by Reservation
- Choose **ONE** of the Two Options

~~Tuesday, April 14~~ | 7:00-9:00 PM | Fellowship Hall—

~~Saturday, April 16~~ | 10:00 AM-12:00 PM | Fellowship Hall—

➤➤ **Tuesday, May 3** | 7:00-9:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

➤➤ **Saturday, May 7** | 10:00 AM-12:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

Round Table Talks are a time for members to listen to their tablemates, share opinions with those at different tables, and answer questions posed to them by a moderator. The May Talks will be more dialogical in nature than the first two Talks. Attendance at the Round Table Talks is restricted to **members only**.

Register for the event and childcare at roundtables.mdpc.org. Please note: Round Table Talk registration closes 24 hours prior to each event; childcare registration closes 48 hours prior to each event; and check-in will open 30 minutes before the event.

Informational Meetings

- Open to All
- No Registration Needed
- Childcare Provided

These first two Informational Meetings will serve to update the congregation on the Discernment Process, and will feature speakers and a written Q&A. They are similar, so you may only want to attend one of the two.

➤➤ **Tuesday, April 26** | 7:00-9:00 PM | Sanctuary

- **Rev. Dr. Jim Davis**, Pastor, First Pres. Church, Kingwood, TX (ECO)
- **Rev. Dr. Theodore Wardlaw**, President, Austin Pres. Theological Seminary (PCUSA)

➤➤ **Saturday, April 30** | 2:00-4:00 PM | Sanctuary

- **Rev. Dr. Blair Monie**, Professor, Austin Pres. Theological Seminary
- **Josephine Harrington**, Past Moderator, Presbytery of New Covenant and Commissioner, 221 General Assembly of the PC(USA) in June 2014. (ECO)

➤➤ **Monday, May 9** | 7:00-9:00 PM | Sanctuary

The May informational meeting will create a forum for dialogue, and an opportunity for MDPC's leadership, lay and pastoral, to offer comments relative to our options. There will be time for Q&A.

To keep you fully informed about steps taken throughout the Discernment Process, all event dates are included, with past dates crossed off. The information presented here is current as of **April 21, 2016**. For complete details and up-to-date information, visit discernment.mdpc.org.

Sent

By the Savior

Sent: To Athens

Acts 17:16-21

Alf Halvorson Preaching

This is the fourth in a series of messages called “Sent By the Savior.” Paul is in Eastern Europe—Greece. In the previous couple of chapters, he has been imprisoned, beaten up, run out of town, chased from Beroea, and now has been dropped off in the great city of Athens.

1. What do you do when you are in a new big city and have some time to kill? Do you explore? Stay in the hotel? What do you like to see and do?
2. What distressed Paul as he walked around Athens (vs. 16)? What did he do about it, according to verses 17-18?
3. I shared that the Epicureans believed that everything that happened, happened by chance. The gods were remote, if they existed. With death came extinction, nothingness—no eternity, no judgment. So, for them, pleasure was the chief end of life. I shared that the Stoics believed that everything that happened was fated by the gods and that one had to accept their lot. Live in harmony unemotionally with what is around you. When you die you will be absorbed back into god like a drop of water in the ocean. Feelings were bad; acceptance of your lot was key. Do you know any modern day Epicureans and Stoics? Describe them. Can you imagine being sent to them?
4. According to verses 19-21, Paul is taken to the Areopagus (Mars Hill), before the court and its 12-person council. He is in between the Agora (the market) below and the Parthenon above. Read his speech in verses 22-31. What surprises you about what he says? What impresses you?
5. I talked in my sermon about how Paul knew his audience and spoke to their questions and concerns. What are examples of that, in your mind?
6. God is sending you somewhere. How well do you know the questions and concerns of your grandkids, your friends, your neighbors, your workmates, your _____? You fill in the blank.
7. I ended my sermon by pondering the three responses of the people who heard what Paul said (verses 32-34). Some mocked, some said *we will hear you again* (either as a delay tactic or because they genuinely needed more time), and some became believers. Are you prepared and open for those three responses to you and your faith and your faith-sharing?
8. What is your takeaway from Paul being sent to Athens?

