

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 Kookon | 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.

Register Today for

FALL RECREATIONAL REACH CLASSES!

Yoga • Art • Cooking for Kids • Piano
 • Voice • Ballroom Dancing • Strength
 Training • Ballet • Soccer • Basketball •
 Woodworking • and more!

...pick up a booklet for a full list of fun and
 education for both children and adults, or
 visit reach.mdpc.org.



The White Rose is in memory of

• Dr. Stanton Pollard Fischer, who passed away August 13, 2016.

Ministry Partners 2016

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

Prison Entrepreneurship Program connects business executives and prison inmates in a life-transforming program that fosters entrepreneurial passion through education and mentoring. Participants begin the program while still incarcerated, and continue to receive support and encouragement after their release.
pep.org

Pro-Vision ministers to disadvantaged youth on its campus in Houston's Sunnyside neighborhood. The facility includes a cultivated farm, track/basketball court, nature trail, and sports field. It works with students who are two grade levels behind, improving their self-perception by creating a community that emphasizes social skills, self-awareness, and a solid work ethic.
provisionschool.org

MDPC field partner **Rev. Dan McNerney** works with Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship, a ministry that seeks to bring the Gospel to unreached people groups all over the world. He has led MDPC members on mission in Egypt. Dan now leads friendship groups in Chicago in which Christians, Muslims, and Jews gather to dialogue on Kingdom life, reconciliation, and the teachings of Jesus.
newsfromthefrontier.com

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

OPERATING INCOME

2016 Annual Budget	\$ 11,050,000	100%
Actual Income to Date (August 21, 2016)	\$ 5,615,555	51%
Needed to Meet 2016 Budget	\$ 5,434,445	49%

Pictured: Your giving helps support Prison Entrepreneurship Program, which believes every inmate is a human being in need of a true second chance (which for many may actually be a legitimate first chance). A Baylor University report calculated that every dollar donated to PEP yields a 340% ROI due to avoided incarceration, increased child support payments, and reduced reliance on government assistance. >



Sunday, August 28, 2016



HIGHER GROUND
 Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

Coming Up at MDPC

Discover MDPC with Alf

Want to know more about MDPC? Attend this casual half-hour meeting to learn about who we are as a church family. Interested in membership? See below for an opportunity to join!
Today at 10:45 AM | Gathering Room

New Member Classes

The series is taught by the associate pastors and elders and includes a Saturday service project at one of our local mission partners.
Sundays, Sept 11-Oct 16 | 9:45-11:00 AM
 Please register: membership.mdpc.org

Labor Day Sunday & All-Church Lunch

Join us for a Labor Day lunch cooked up and served by the MDPC Pastors! A hamburger or two-hotdog plate is \$7.50 for adults, \$3.50 for a child's plate. Children's Sunday school and Youth Connection will meet as usual; adult Sunday school meets on a case-by-case basis, so check with your leader.
Next Sunday, Sept 4 | Lunch: 11:00 AM-1:15 PM

The River

An introductory Bible course for those exploring or new to the Christian faith. Learn how to read Scripture with an eye toward discovering who God is and how to know Him personally. All are invited to dip, dive, or cannonball into The River!
Wednesdays, Sept 7-Nov 16 | Noon | MC 126
 Register at register.mdpc.org

Companion: with bread

"I am the bread of life; those who come after Me will not hunger." Join other companions for this sermon-series small group to feast on Jesus' words from the Sermon on the Mount. Weekly *lectio divina*, plus centering prayer using Sunday's scripture.
Tuesdays, Aug 30-Nov 22 | Noon | Prayer Chapel
 Facilitated by *Martha Moore, Teacher-in-Residence*

BSD: Becoming & Being the Church

We will explore the development of the early church in Acts, then turn to 2 Timothy, in which Paul passes leadership to the next generation. BSD classes begin meeting September 8; offered at five days/times throughout the week to fit any schedule.
Find out more at one of our Welcome Coffees!
Thurs, Sept 1 | 9:30-10:30 AM | Fellowship Hall
Sunday, Sept 11 | 9:15-11:00 AM | MC 101
 Program details and registration: bsd.mdpc.org

The Music Box Kids' Choir

This ensemble is for all elementary school kids to learn about music fundamentals and choral singing in a fun and worshipful environment. They'll be featured in seasonal programs and even have an opportunity to lead Sunday worship!
Wednesdays, Sept 14-Nov 30 | 4:45-5:30 PM
 Contact *Meliza Gómez*: mgomez@mdpc.org

Venturers presents: The Political Climate in the U.S. and Texas

Speaker *Mark P. Jones, PhD*, is a political and public policy researcher, author, and media commentator.
Monday, Sept 12 | 6:00 PM | Westchase Hilton
 RSVP by September 7 to *Chuck & Linnie Edwards*:
 9350 Shady Lane Circle, 77063 (713-785-7115)

Blood Drive: Registering Today!

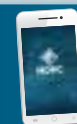
Pre-register in the Lobby today or next Sunday or at giveblood.org. Walk-ins are welcome.
Drive Day: Sunday, Sept 11 | 8:00 AM-2:00 PM

The Living Well: New Study for Women

In this Bible study led by *Charlotte Crawford*, women of all ages and stages of faith are invited to come and discover the freedom, peace, and joy that Jesus promises through the Gospel of John.
Wednesdays, Sept 14-April 5 | 6:00 AM
 More info and registration: women.mdpc.org



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



PLEASE place your cell phone in airplane mode upon entering worship so that the sound system will not experience interference. Thank you!

MDPC MORNING WORSHIP

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.

*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

8:30 AM SERVICE

WELCOME		Dave Steane
*SONGS OF PRAISE		
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE		Kristin Huffman
SONG OF RESPONSE		
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE		
MESSAGE	<i>Jesus' Sermon on the Mount</i> (Matt. 5:1-12)	Alf Halvorson
RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE		

9:45 AM SERVICE

WORSHIP INVITATION		Meliza Gómez
*CALL TO WORSHIP		
*MOMENT OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE		Kyle Collins
SONG		
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE		
MESSAGE	<i>Jesus' Sermon on the Mount</i> (Matt. 5:1-12)	Alf Halvorson
RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE		

Musicians in these services: Daniel Amaya, bass; Joe Gavito, guitar; Perla Gutierrez and Meliza Gómez, worship leaders; Daniel Martinez, keys; Asher Pudlo, drums

11:15 AM SERVICE

PRELUDE	<i>Chorale Prelude on "Hanover"</i>	Alec Rowley (1892-1958)
CHORAL INTROIT	<i>Behold Now, Praise the Lord</i>	Everett Titcomb (1884-1968)
WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP		Dave Steane
*HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty</i>	#489; Vs. 1, 2, 3 UNSER HERRSCHER
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OR PARDON		Kristin Huffman
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from the Apostles Creed		
*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE	<i>The Gloria Patri</i>	Hymn #579
ANTHEM	<i>A Hymn of Unity</i>	Howard Helvey (b.1968)
OFFERTORY	<i>The Beatitudes</i>	James Biery (b. 1956)/arr. White
MESSAGE	<i>Jesus' Sermon on the Mount</i> (Matt. 5:1-12)	Alf Halvorson
*HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>Come, Thou Almighty King</i>	#139; Vs. 1, 3 ITALIAN HYMN
POSTLUDE	<i>A Thornbury Fanfare</i>	Malcolm Archer (b.1952)

Musicians in this service: Emily Borling, guest organist; Charles Hausmann, conductor; Robert Walp, trumpeter

Know the Joy that Comes from Making Music Together

The MDPC Choir is seeking additional singers as we start the fall season. Our ensemble of singers ranges from novice to professional. Singing with a choir empowers your worship and your voice, and we encourage and invite your participation. Contact Tracy Stidam (tstidam@mdpc.org) for details, or come to a rehearsal:

Wednesdays, 7:00-9:00 PM | Choir Room

OTHER MDPC WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

11:00 AM FIFTH SERVICE: Join folks at Fifth for energetic worship, dynamic teaching, and casual community. Everyone is welcome! We meet in the Amphitheater. Visit fifthservice.mdpc.org for more.

11:15 AM SPANISH SERVICE: MDPC's Fuente Hispanic Ministries worships in the Chapel. For more information on Spanish and bilingual community events and programs, visit fuente.mdpc.org.



Is there someone YOU know who would make a great **MDPC ELDER?**

Deadline to nominate is tomorrow!

Nominations are currently underway, and we need your help in identifying members who possess the spiritual and leadership skills needed to serve on the **MDPC** Session.

Nominate at nominations.mdpc.org or turn in a printed form (available around campus) by Monday, August 29.

2 Opportunities to Support Local Kids and Schools!

MAM Back to School Drive

Providing uniforms or school-appropriate clothing plays a critical role in giving children the basics and the confidence they need to succeed! **Visit our table in the Breezeway** to give kids a great "Back to School."

\$20 Supply a belt, socks, shoes, and underwear

\$50 Purchase a new uniform and a pair of shoes

\$100 Outfit two children from head to toe

\$___ Your gift of any amount helps!



Help Students & Schools Grow and Succeed

Encourage a teacher, read to a second grader, become a mentor to a 6th grader. MDPC has three ministries inside public schools that tutor, mentor, and support and encourage teachers. We need more volunteers to help with all three of the schools.

Stop by the table in the Breezeway this morning to learn how you can get involved!

See today's insert for more info.



Walking the Mourner's Path™

TRANSFORM GRIEF INTO JOYFUL LIVING

An eight-week, Christ-centered grief program, guided by two trained facilitators.

September 14-November 2
3:30-5:00 PM | MC 116

Register at grief.mdpc.org, or with Beverly Fluke (713-490-9542).

Cheeseburger in Paradise

CELEBRATE THE BEGINNING OF MEN'S LIFE WITH CHEESEBURGERS, PIE, AND A VISIT FROM ALF!

Wednesday, August 31
6:45-8:00 PM | Parlor

Men's Life Bible Study for Men

Tuesdays, Sept 13-Jan 24
6:15-7:45 AM | Fellowship Hall

For details on and registration for both of these events, visit ml.mdpc.org.

Wednesdays with Alf



September 14-October 5



Start with Wednesday Night Dinner

Food service begins at 5:00 PM
Fellowship Hall

End with **Wednesday Bible Study**
6:30 PM | Amphitheater



MENTOR *or* TUTOR

You can Change the Life of a Child!

PANTHER PALS

Piney Point Elementary School

- **Read to First or Tutor Second Graders**
October-May (Training in mid-Sept.)
Tuesday or Thursday, 8:00-9:00 or 9:00-10:00 AM
- **School Volunteers:** Other opportunities to serve arise throughout the year - staff appreciation, campus projects, or seasonal activities.
- **Weekly Teachers' Workshop:** All are welcome! Come when you can and stay only as long as you can.
Monday, 1:00-5:00 PM

Contact Judy Hartman: judyehart@gmail.com, 832-563-7244

IMPACT

Spring Woods Middle School

- **Mentor Sixth Graders**
October-May, Monday-Friday
30 minutes/week, 11:00-11:30 AM (Day is flexible)
Training (choose one):
Wednesday, September 21 | 6:00-8:00 PM | Summit Room
Sunday, September 25 (Lunch provided)
11:15 AM-12:30 PM or 12:30-1:45 PM | MDPC Parlor
- **Volunteer for an Event:** Various dates and projects throughout the year. Contact Candy to learn more.

Contact Candy Provine: provinecc@gmail.com, 713-823-9002

HUG

Housman Elementary School

- **Tutor Second Graders**
September-April | One morning a week, 9:00-10:00 AM
Training (choose one):
Monday, September 19 (for Mon & Weds tutors)
Tuesday, September 20 (for Tues & Thurs tutors)
9:00-11:00 AM at Housman

Contact Laura Bushong:
lrbushong@att.net, 281-455-2780





HIGHER GROUND

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5:1-12

Pastor Alf Halvorson Preaching

drawing huge crowds, *He climbed* a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to Him, the committed, *climbed with Him*. Arriving at a quiet place, He sat down and taught *His climbing companions*.”

1. Have you ever heard a disciple of Jesus referred to as a “climbing companion”? Have you ever thought that Jesus wants to take you individually and as a community to “higher ground”? What does this idea stir up in you? Fear? Excitement? Hope? Something else? Explain...
2. Verses 3-11 contain the famous Beatitudes. There are nine of them. I tried to explain briefly what each phrase means from the Greek. I started, however, with the word “blessed,” or “happy,” and suggested that Jesus probably took the idea from Psalm 1. He will create a parable much like the one in Psalm 1 at the end of the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 7:24-27), but He suggests that we are “blessed” or “on the right path” when we are and do what?
3. It is interesting to me that the first four Beatitudes are about “being in trouble.” Namely, they deal with our needing help or being insufficient without God. They are receiving postures. However, the last five Beatitudes are more about “doing things for others—or what others might do to us.” What do you make of those different focuses by Jesus? Does the ordering matter? Why or why not? And which Beatitude is most natural and unnatural for you?
4. Describe the various forms persecution can take. Why are people persecuted for doing the right thing? Share a real example of this from your life, either as persecutor or persecuted.
5. I used an example from the book *Decisive* by Chip and Dan Heath regarding the 1970s and 80s rock star David Lee Roth. He developed a way to find out if the set-up crews at each venue had done all the work needed to prepare for his arrival. He used M&Ms as a tripwire to prevent disaster, to find out if they were on the right path. How are these nine Beatitudes like tripwires to remind us of the path Christ walked and wants us to walk?
6. Then I told a family story about the Halvorson’s Adventure hiking the Grand Canyon from rim to rim three years ago. What parallels to hiking does following Jesus have? Where does the image break down?
7. Are you, as Eugene Peterson’s *The Message* paraphrase puts it, one of Christ’s “climbing companions”? How are you personally, this fall, getting on the right path? What does it mean that Jesus is the Way/the Path? What prayer needs to be prayed? What group of climbers do you need to join? What additional training do you need to do or skill do you need to develop? What merciful act or peacemaking move do you need to take today?

