

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

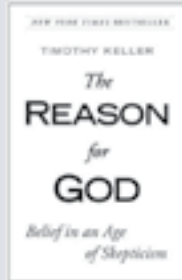
For information, contact Business Administrator
 Becky Riggs at briggs@mdpc.org or 713-953-2570.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY

A great time to join!

Next Sunday, the Pathways Class (for women of all ages) begins a new study on Tim Keller's *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*. This highly acclaimed book addresses the frequent doubts that skeptics and non-believers bring to religion.



Using literature, philosophy, anthropology, pop culture, and intellectual reasoning, Keller explains how the belief in a Christian God is, in fact, a sound and rational one.

Sundays, 9:45 AM | Room 116
New study begins September 11

Contact Mary Jo Holloman:
mjhollo@sbcglobal.net or 713-882-8905

Today's Chancel Flowers are given

- in memory of Vi and Bill Livingston, by their children.
- in celebration of the marriage of Sarah Bauer and Timothy Roy.

The White Rose is in memory of

- Roy Trice, Sr., who passed away August 26, 2016.
- Susan Young, who passed away August 29, 2016.

The Red Rose is in honor of

- Molly Jane Mueck, born August 12, 2016, to Kara and Colby Mueck. She is the granddaughter of Jana and Chase Canfield.

Ministry Partners 2016

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

Rebuilding Together Houston is Houston's largest community outreach organization working to preserve affordable home ownership. It provides home repair services at no cost to low-income homeowners in need, such as the elderly, disabled, veterans, and victims of natural disasters.
rebuildingtogetherhouston.org

Redeemed Ministries identifies and responds to the needs of women who are commercially exploited for sex in Houston and surrounding areas. It partners with federal, state, local, and non-governmental agencies to provide services directly to victims of domestic sex trafficking.
redeemedministries.com

MDPC Field Partner Dr. M practices and teaches dentistry while sharing the Good News of Jesus with tribes living in abject poverty in South Asia. There, the 98% Muslim population has the least amount of dental care in the world. Please pray for the ministry and his family's health as they continue working in their community.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

OPERATING INCOME

2016 Annual Budget	\$ 11,050,000	100%
Actual Income to Date (August 28, 2016)	\$ 5,728,251	52%
Needed to Meet 2016 Budget	\$ 5,321,749	48%

Pictured: We want so badly to believe that everyone has someone out there who loves them and who's rooting for them. Sadly, that isn't always the case. With your support, Redeemed Ministries works with victims of sex trafficking to show them what healthy love looks like and that it's possible for them. It operates a safe house in central Texas, with a year-long program through which rescued women can begin restoration and rehabilitation. >



HIGHER GROUND

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

Coming Up at **MDPC**

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

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.
Wednesdays, Sept 7-Nov 16 | Noon | MC 126
 Register at register.mdpc.org

Bible Study Discussion Welcome Coffee

BSD begins meeting Sept 8. Classes are offered five days/times throughout the week to fit any schedule! Find out more at next weekend's Welcome Coffee:
Sunday, Sept 11 | 9:15-11:00 AM | MC 101
 Program details and registration: bsd.mdpc.org

Luke Gordon Ordination Service

All are invited to the ordination of former MDPC Youth Director, Luke Gordon. Reception to follow.
Sunday, Sept. 11 | 5:00 PM | Sanctuary

Venturers: 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 Sept 7 to The Edwards: 713-785-7115

The Music Box Kids' Choir

Elementary school kids will learn about music and singing in a fun and worshipful environment. They'll be 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

Blood Drive Next Sunday!

Walk-ins are welcome and encouraged.
Sunday, Sept 11 | 8:00 AM-2:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

Tabletalk (Published by Ligonier Ministries)

Ligonier is a sound Reformed ministry of Dr. R.C. Sproul. Each Tabletalk contains articles by today's best teachers, pastors, and theologians, plus a month's worth of devotionals. Between the topical articles and exegetical Bible Studies, there is more than enough to encourage a deeper walk with the Lord in a nicely-sized booklet that fits in your Bible.
Pick one up in Sept at the Connections Center!

Lunch Connection

A monthly small group for parents of children with special needs. Our NEW FORMAT includes a brief presentation by a community resource provider as well as time for discussion and questions. Lunch will be provided. Come as you are!
Second Tuesdays, 12:00-1:00 PM | MC Room 102
Sept 13: Helping Your Child with Special Needs Build Friendships That Last
Oct 11: Navigating the Special Education System in Public Schools
 Contact Keri Mosk with questions: kmosk@mdpc.org

Noche de Sabor

MDPC's Fuente Ministries invites you to a celebration of Hispanic culture. Come experience the many traditions and cultures represented here in our church. ¡Todos son bienvenidos!
Saturday, Sept 17 | 6:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

MDPC Dads Coffee & Kolaches

Join other dads for a cup of coffee and a kolache. Bring your kids to snap a picture in our homemade photo booth, complete with fun props!
Sunday, Sept 18 | 10:45-11:30 AM | Breezeway

Prime Timers: Books Are Here to Stay!

Whether you're in a book club or just enjoy a great story from time to time, come meet Valerie Koehler, owner of Blue Willow Bookshop, for book recommendations and to learn why books are here to stay!
Tuesday, Sept 20 | Parlor
Free Program: 10:30 AM | Lunch (\$9.50): Noon
 To have lunch, your check must be received by Sept 14. More information is at seniors.mdpc.org.



MDPC MORNING WORSHIP

Congregational Meeting

MDPC Session has called a congregational meeting for the purposes of calling the Rev. Rachel Poysky as Associate Pastor for Children's Ministries; calling the Rev. Brett Hurst as Affiliate Associate Pastor for Relationship Ministries; approving the revised MDPC by-laws, dated August 22, 2016; and dissolving the call between MDPC and the Rev. Dr. Kristin Huffman, effective October 16, 2016.

Sunday, September 18, following 9:45 AM Worship | Sanctuary

*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

8:30 AM SERVICE

WELCOME		Kristin Huffman
*SONGS OF PRAISE		
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON		Brett Hurst
SONG OF PREPARATION		
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE		
MESSAGE	<i>Jesus' Sermon on the Mount</i> (Matthew 5:13-20)	Alf Halvorson
RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE		

9:45 AM SERVICE

WORSHIP INVITATION		Meliza Gómez and Tara Reynolds
*WORSHIP MUSIC		
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE		Laura Miller
*SONG		
WELCOME		Kristin Huffman
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE		
MESSAGE	<i>Jesus' Sermon on the Mount</i> (Matthew 5:13-20)	Alf Halvorson
RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE		

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

11:15 AM SERVICE

PRELUDE	<i>Happy Land (Early American Tune)</i>	G. Shearing (1919-2011)
WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP		Kristin Huffman
CHORAL INTROIT	<i>With a Voice of Singing</i>	Martin Shaw (1875-1958)
*HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>Called as Partners in Christ's Service</i>	#343; Vs. 1, 2, 3 BEECHER
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON		
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from Romans 8		
CHORAL ANTHEM	<i>This Is the Day</i>	John Rutter (b. 1945)
OFFERTORY	<i>Keep Your Lamps</i>	arr. Andre Thomas (b.1952)
MESSAGE	<i>Jesus' Sermon on the Mount</i> (Matthew 5:13-20)	Alf Halvorson
*HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing</i>	#538; Vs. 1, 2 SICILIAN MARINERS
POSTLUDE	<i>Agincourt Hymn</i>	John Dunstable (1390-1453)

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

MORE ON MDPC SUNDAY MORNINGS

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.

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.

Everyone Is Welcome to Today's

All-Church Lunch

★ Labor Day Sunday ★

MDPC Pastors and staff
are cooking and serving!

\$7.50 Adult Plate • \$3 Child Plate
\$20 for 2 Adults & 3 Kids (12 and under)



...Dress Casual for Church, Stay for Lunch...

MDPC's All-new 2016-2017 Bible Studies



Tuesdays at 6:15 AM | Sept. 13-January 24
men.mdpc.org



Wednesdays at 6:00 AM • Sept. 14-April 5
women.mdpc.org

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).

Wednesday Night Bible Study for Boys and Girls!

FOR GIRLS!

Gems & Jewels
Finding Treasure in God's Word

Begins Wednesday, September 14
5:30 to 6:30 PM | The Galaxy
3rd-5th grade girls who'd like to know more about the Bible and Jesus.

FOR BOYS!

SCUBA
Dive Deeper into Your Faith

Begins Wednesday, September 14
6:30 to 7:30 PM | The Galaxy
3rd-5th grade boys who'd like to dive deeper into their faith.

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

The Book of Jonah





HIGHER GROUND

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5:13-20

Pastor Alf Halvorson Preaching

This is the second in a series of messages on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Last week we looked at the 9 Beatitudes, or Blessings, or "You're on the right path if"s. Right from the beginning of His sermon, Jesus was clear to reveal what life looks like when God is in control, when the Kingdom of heaven comes down to earth, when disciples/apprentices/climbing companions of Jesus embrace and then display Christ's love and life. Jesus was such an outstanding preacher that He offered two illustrations, two visual aids, two pictures to bring His initial 9 points home.

1. In verses 13-16 of Matthew chapter 5, what two illustrations does Jesus use? If you were summarizing verses 1-12, what images might you use and why?
2. I shared that there were at least two uses of salt in the ancient world. What were they? How might Christians be both of those things? And what might be an example of salt "losing its taste"?
3. Jesus makes a point that "you are the salt of the *earth*." And, "you are the light of the *world*." Why didn't Jesus just say that we are to be salt and light of the church? Why the *world* specifically? How in general do you think Christians do in that regard? And how about MDPC specifically?
4. We are to be light, and light which is not hidden. How do Christians hide the light of Christ? How have you hidden your light? Where might Christ be asking you to be salt or light?
5. To Jesus, verses 17-20 are a natural extension of His illustrations regarding salt and light. How is that so in your mind? Psalm 119:11 and 105 might provide a clue...
6. The Message paraphrase translates verses 19-20 this way: "*Trivialize even the smallest item in God's law and you will only have trivialized yourself. But take it seriously, show the way for others, and you will find honor in the kingdom. Unless you do far better than the Pharisees in the matters of right living, you won't know the first thing about entering the kingdom.*" How is God's Word salt and light to you?
7. I love the quote from Mark Twain that says, "The parts of the Bible which bother me the most are not the parts I don't understand, but the parts I do. Because then I am challenged to put the parts I understand into practice." Jesus seems to be suggesting that the Scribes and Pharisees were great with "talk," but not so good with their "walk." What specific step will you take this week to apply some aspect of Matthew 5:1-20? Write it down on a card; keep it in your pocket or on your fridge or dashboard. Pray for an outlet. Celebrate when you "walk it out."

