

Coordinating Team

Mauricio Chacón | Latino Ministries Pastor
 Brandon Gaide | Young Adults Pastor
 Ginny Glass | Communications & Media Dir.
 Meliza Gómez | Contemporary Music Dir.
 Alf Halvorson | Senior Pastor
 Charles Hausmann | Traditional Music Dir.
 Kristin Huffman | Outreach Pastor
 Brett Hurst | Relationships Pastor
 Christyn Knoop | Adult Ministries Dir.
 Gena Kookon | Sr. Leadership Ministry Coor.
 Laura Miller | Youth Director
 Rick Myers | Caring Pastor
 Rachel Poysky | Children's Pastor
 Becky Riggs | Business Administrator
 Dave Steane | Executive Pastor
 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

Grace & Peace

In this Sunday school class, you'll study God's Word and its application to your life in a friendly atmosphere. Most of us are parents or empty-nesters, but all are welcome!

Sundays at 11:15 AM | Room 126

Drop in, or contact Pat and Debbie Perrin with questions: pdperrin@earthlink.net

Today's Chancel Flowers are given by

- Denise St. John and Paul Ehrsam, in celebration of their 10th wedding anniversary.
- Beth, Tricia, and Jimmy, in celebration of Jacquie's (Mom's) birthday.

Ministry Partners 2016

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

Souper Bowl of Caring is a global youth-led mission that raises money for people who are hungry and hurting. A Houston citywide food drive is held every February. Since 1990, hundreds of thousands of young people have experienced the joy and satisfaction of giving and serving, inspiring people of all ages to follow their generous example.
souperbowl.org

Spaulding for Children is an adoption, foster care, and post-adoption ministry helping to build nurturing families for children who have endured abuse, neglect, or abandonment. It specializes in placing older children, sibling groups, minority children, and children with physical, mental, or emotional disabilities.
spauldingforchildren.org

The Antioch Partners (TAP) equips and sends cross-cultural servants into the world who demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ in tangible ways. TAP's goals are to see people become followers of Jesus and to foster the formation of worshipping communities among the unreached.
theantiochpartners.org

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

OPERATING INCOME		
2016 Annual Budget	\$ 11,050,000	100%
Actual Income to Date (Oct. 2, 2016)	\$ 6,430,136	58%
Needed to Meet 2016 Budget	\$ 4,619,864	42%

Pictured: The Souper Bowl of Caring is a collaboration of NFL teams, congregations, schools, and compassionate individuals caring for others on Super Bowl weekend. Started in 1990, SBOC has generated more than \$110 million by mobilizing youth, with 100% of all donations going directly to food banks, soup kitchens, and other charities across the country. >





HIGHER GROUND
 Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

Coming Up at MDPC

Stephen Ministry Lunch & Learn
 MDPC's Stephen Ministry Program is looking for Christians who feel called to a caring one-on-one ministry. Join us for lunch and learn more about this exciting ministry! Instruction and practice in listening, Christian care giving, and other areas of caring ministry are provided during initial training, and in continuing education sessions.
Lunch & Learn: Sunday, Oct 23 | 12:30-1:30 PM
 Contact Beverly Fluke at bfluke@mdpc.org or 713-490-9542 to get more information and RSVP.

Lunch Connection
 A monthly small group for parents of children with special needs. A brief presentation by a community resource provider is followed by Q&A and discussion. Lunch will be provided. Come as you are!
Second Tuesday each month | Noon | MC 102
Oct 11 - Navigating the Special Education System in Public Schools
 For more information, contact Keri Mosk: km Mosk@mdpc.org or 713-490-9265

Volunteer & Eat
 Help feed others, then feed yourself! First assemble sandwiches for Kids' Meals, serving Houston preschoolers from families struggling with food insecurity, then grab a delicious meal at Wednesday Night Dinner. This week's menu includes blackened catfish or spaghetti & meat sauce (\$10); or a chicken taco entrée salad (\$8.50); or baked ham and mac & cheese casserole for the kids (\$4).
Wednesday, Oct 12 | 5:00 PM | Fellowship Hall
 Dinner is served until 6:30 PM.

Elementary Pizza Parties
 Come eat pizza & play games at your grade's Pizza Party! K and 1st grade partied in Sept, but there's lots of food and fun in store for other grades.
2nd & 3rd Grade: Sunday, Oct 23 | 12:30-2:30 PM
4th & 5th Grade: Friday, Nov 11 | 6:00-8:30 PM
 Contact Mallory Moore: m Moore@mdpc.org

Congregational Meeting
 Called by the Session of MDPC for the purpose of electing the Elder Class of 2019, electing the Nominating Committee for 2017, and electing a Pastor Nominating Committee to conduct multiple pastoral searches.
Sunday, October 23, following 9:45 AM Worship

Thanksgiving "Meal in a Bag"
 Help others celebrate Thanksgiving! Fill a grocery bag with items on a list provided by Outreach Ministries. These non-perishable food items, along with a bag of fresh produce and a turkey, will be given to a deserving Spring Branch family. You are welcome to enclose a note or greeting to the family.
Please return filled bags by Nov 7.
 Contact Maritza Pujols: mpujols@mdpc.org

Larger Than Life Houstonians
 Prime Timers presents Jim Parsons, Director of Special Projects for Preservation Houston.
Tuesday, Oct 18 | Parlor
Free Program: 10:30 AM | Lunch (\$9.50): Noon
 Your check is your reservation, due at the front office by Oct 12. Visitors are welcome for the program, but you must make a reservation to eat lunch.

Adopted and Foster Teens & Tweens
 This group is a time to connect and build friendships with other adopted and foster children, ages 12-18. There will be food, games, a movie, and more! Bring your favorite bean bag chair, blanket, and/or pillow. Registration is required.
Saturday, Oct 22 | 4:00-8:00 PM
 Contact Ann Rome: mdpcsafehaven@gmail.com

Women's Spiritual Retreat
 Get away from the hustle and bustle at a beautiful ranch in Brenham. There will one-on-one time with God, fellowship, yoga, a prayer walk, and time to connect with other women.
Saturday, Nov 12 | 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
 Registration: women.mdpc.org

MDPC MORNING WORSHIP

*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

8:30 AM SERVICE

GATHERING MUSIC		
WELCOME		Dave Steane
*SONGS OF PRAISE		
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE		Rick Myers
SONG OF RESPONSE		
STEPHEN MINISTER COMMISSIONING of Beverly Fluke		Rick Myers and Alf Halvorson
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE		
MESSAGE	<i>Higher Ground: Sermon on the Mount</i> (Matt. 6:1-6, 16-18)	Alf Halvorson
RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE		

9:45 AM SERVICE

WORSHIP INVITATION		Meliza Gómez
*CALL TO WORSHIP		
*MOMENT OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE		Rick Myers
SONG OF RESPONSE		
STEPHEN MINISTER COMMISSIONING of Beverly Fluke		Rick Myers and Alf Halvorson
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE		Rachel Poysky
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE		
MESSAGE	<i>Higher Ground: Sermon on the Mount</i> (Matt. 6:1-6, 16-18)	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 SERVICE

PRELUDE	<i>Church Sonata No. 9</i>	W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)
WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP		Dave Steane
CHORAL INTROIT	<i>Great Is Thy Faithfulness</i>	Vaclav Nelhybel (1919-1996)
*HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>The Church's One Foundation</i>	#442; Vs. 1, 2, 5 AURELIA
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE		Rick Myers
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from the United Church of Canada		
ANTHEM	<i>I Will Give Thanks Unto Thee, O Lord</i>	G. Rossini (1792-1868)/arr. White
STEPHEN MINISTER COMMISSIONING of Beverly Fluke		Rick Myers and Alf Halvorson
OFFERTORY	<i>The Heavens Are Telling (from The Creation)</i>	Franz Josef Haydn (1732-1809)
MESSAGE	<i>Higher Ground: Sermon on the Mount</i> (Matt. 6:1-6, 16-18)	Alf Halvorson
*HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing</i>	#466; Vs. 1, 4 AZMON
POSTLUDE	<i>Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven</i>	arr. Richard Warner (1909-1966)

Musicians in this service: Miriam Belyatsky, Rasa Kalesnykaite, violin; Cassandra Black, Sarah Bauer, Avery Rabon, Ben Schaefer, solos; Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ/piano

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.



Theology On Tap: Closer Than You Think...?

What do atheists really believe? What about humanists? And where do Christians agree/disagree? Come hear a panel of guests representing different belief systems answer questions about God, morality, worldviews, and more - followed by a large format discussion where you can text in questions of your own. Plus free craft beer and food! Open to young adults, 21-40-ish.

Tuesday, October 11 | Doors open 6:45, Discussion at 7:00
8584 Katy Freeway, 77024 (Look for the yellow signs)

Details: ya.mdpc.org



TOT IS OFFICIAL! CHECK US OUT:

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Celebrate Kristin



Join us
Sunday, October 16
4:00-5:30 PM

Celebrate Kristin Huffman's 19-year ministry at MDPC with reflections from friends and family.

Visit kristin.mdpc.org for details.

THE WELL: WOMEN'S SPEAKER SERIES

WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?

Join us at The Well, our semi-annual gathering for women of all ages and life stages to commune and connect. Hear a panel of real, honest women talk about how they learned of the ways God views them.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26
6:30-8:00 PM • CHAPEL (LIGHT SNACKS @ 6:00 PM)

For details and to RSVP, visit women.mdpc.org.
Childcare available by reservation; email childcare@mdpc.org.



TRUNK or TREAT

Sunday, October 30

3:00-5:00 PM | Ball Field & Parking Lot

Join other MDPC families to trick-or-treat from car trunk to car trunk and other family-friendly activities. Awards will be given for Best Costume, Best Decorated Trunk, and Best Candy. All are welcome! Please register if you are passing out candy, or signing your child up to participate...

Sign up at men.mdpc.org.



This is more than a presentation.

You'll come away with **practical, usable tools to instill life-long faith** in adolescents.

November 16 | 7:00 PM

Speaker **Brad Griffin of Fuller Youth Institute** has authored several Sticky Faith books. Free event; please RSVP at stickyfaith.mdpc.org.

Yes, I would like to register to be a 2017 Partner In Prayer!

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Fill out this form and turn it in at the Connection Center or the Front Office. You also can register online at pip.mdpc.org, or submit your information in person or via email to Caring Ministries. To do so or for more information, contact Annette Erickson at aerickson@mdpc.org or 713-490-9544.

If you currently are serving as a Partner In Prayer, you still will need to sign up to participate in 2017. Your personal prayer list will be available beginning January 8, 2017.





HIGHER GROUND

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
Pastor Alf Halvorson Preaching

This is the sixth message in Higher Ground, a series on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. In chapter 5 of His sermon, Jesus focused on how the believer is different in thought and action from the non-believer (the world). Here in chapter 6, Jesus focuses on how the real believer is different from the nominal Christian (hypocrite).

1. Jesus starts chapter 6 with the word "beware." In other words, *watch out*. It is a jarring start. What does verse 1 say we should watch out for or beware of?
2. Then Jesus shares three negative case studies of people practicing their piety in the wrong way. Verse 2 begins, "When you give alms..." Verse 5 says, "When you pray..." Verse 16 states, "And when you fast..." Not *if* for these three practices, but *when*. Jesus assumes all Christians will practice these devotions to God. Do you? Talk about your understanding of and opportunities regarding alms, prayer, and fasting.
3. Read verses 2-4, 5-6, and 16-18. What is identical and what is different? What take-aways do you have from Jesus' words?
4. Jesus says in Matthew 5:14-15 to "let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." But in chapter 6 it seems He is saying the opposite: to do everything in secret. Are both true? How? What did I say in my sermon to try to answer that question?
5. New Testament scholar Dale Bruner writes, "It is right to do good works in such a way that when people see them they think of God. It is dangerous to do good works so that when people see them they think only of us." React to that quote...
6. In Matthew's Gospel, the desire to be noticed by God is what the Christian Tradition calls "faith." How does this definition of *faith* differ from other definitions of faith you have heard? Who do you normally hope will notice you and your actions? If true faith were a growing desire to be noticed by God, what (if anything) would need to change for your faith to grow this week and beyond?

