

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 Kooken | 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



Quest Class - The Gospel, Four in One

Led by an inspiring team of teachers, including Rev. Harry Slye, Quest Class is a welcoming community of all ages. This year the class is delving deeply into the four Gospel accounts to better understand the best news of all time: the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Sundays at 9:45 AM | Parlor

Drop in, or contact Pattie Barrett with questions:
pattieslp@yahoo.com, 713-784-1273

Today's Chancel Flowers are given

- in honor of Virginia Upchurch's 94th birthday, and the birth of her great-granddaughter, Grace Martha, with love from Martha Blecher, Molly Tipton, and families.
- by Bob Lemer, in memory of his beloved wife, Joyce Lemer.

Ministry Partners 2016

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

SIRE Therapeutic Equestrian Center improves the quality of life for disabled individuals through horseback riding. Equestrian therapy improves muscle tone, balance, and coordination, and increases cognitive skills while building feelings of self-reliance and accomplishment. Students benefit socially and emotionally as they develop relationships with volunteers and bond with the horse.

sire-htec.org

Spring Branch Family Development Center enhances the well being of local families through a multi-agency collaboration that provides health, educational, recreational, and social services. They are located in an area with a largely Hispanic population. More than 6,000 residents live in 1,500 apartment units within walking distance of the Center.

sbfdc.org

Berea Bible Institute, a small Bible college in Monterrey, Mexico, educates young leaders in Scripture. Students are ingrained with a love for serving and for teaching their communities to reach out in service in kind. Each year, graduates are sent to remote parts of Mexico where they lead churches and teach the sacrificial love of Christ through the way they live.

institutoberea.org

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

OPERATING INCOME

2016 Annual Budget	\$ 11,050,000	100%
Actual Income to Date (Oct. 9, 2016)	\$ 6,560,573	59%
Needed to Meet 2016 Budget	\$ 4,489,427	41%

Pictured: Spring Branch Family Development Center maximizes the impact of its collective of service providers by bringing their work together. This commitment to collaboration provides clients with the best, most comprehensive services possible, all in one location, and enables each agency to work at top efficiency and serve as much of the community as possible. >



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

Sunday, October 16, 2016



HIGHER GROUND

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

Coming Up at **MDPC**

Kristin Huffman Ministry Celebration

Our celebration of Kristin and her 19 years of ministry at MDPC is this afternoon. See you there!
Today, 4:00-5:30 PM | Fellowship Hall

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.

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: mmoore@mdpc.org

Pie Love You

MDPC Women are teaming up with Tallowood to help Jesus Said Love, which shares Christ's love with women in the commercial sex industry. Your ingredient donations help JSL share its transformative mission with area businesses by treating employees to pie and a message. Here's how to help:

Oct 23-Nov 13: Donate canned pumpkin, 5-oz cans evaporated milk, metal pie pans, cash for crusts.

Thursday, Nov 17, 10:00 AM-Noon: Pie assembly at Tallowood, with Sally Collier of JSL.

Questions: Amanda Grace at acaldwell@mdpc.org

Girls' Getaway: Early Bird Discount

A weekend of fun, connecting, and good eating!
February 24-26 | Mill Creek Ranch in Canton
 \$100 before Oct 31 (\$140 after): register.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, Oct 23, following 9:45 AM Worship

Thanksgiving "Meal in a Bag"

Help others celebrate! Fill a grocery bag from a list provided by Outreach Ministries. These non-perishables, along with a bag of fresh produce and a turkey, will be given to a deserving Spring Branch family.

Please return filled bags by Nov 7.

Contact Maritza Pujols: mpujols@mdpc.org

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

Wednesday Bible Study

Join Executive Pastor Dave Steane for a four-week study on 2 Timothy, written around 67 AD by the Apostle Paul. Writing to a young apprentice named Timothy, Paul offers encouragement and instruction for the continued expansion of the Gospel and health and well-being of the Christian church.

Wednesdays, Oct 19-Nov 9 | 6:30 PM | Amphitheater

Concert Series 2016-2017 Begins

Mercury, a downtown orchestra, plays Bach's Goldberg Variations as you've never heard it before, arranged for strings.

Saturday, Nov 5 | 2:30 PM | Chapel

Tickets start at just \$19 and may be purchased at the door or at mercuryhouston.org. For more about the MDPC Concert Series, visit concerts.mdpc.org.



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

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		Kristin Huffman
SONG OF RESPONSE		
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE		
MESSAGE	<i>Higher Ground: Sermon on the Mount</i> (Matt. 6:7-15)	Alf Halvorson
RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE		

9:45 AM SERVICE

WORSHIP INVITATION		
*CALL TO WORSHIP		
*MOMENT OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE		
SONG OF RESPONSE		
THIRD GRADE BIBLES		
Ellison Marie Anderson	Casey Krueger	Evelyn Seidensticker
Thomas Alan Beck	Caroline Faye Kubitza	Rebecca Survant
Caroline Bonner	Ben Allan Marshall	Major Reeford Tarwater
Abby Grace Culpepper	Anna Gayle Masucci	James Everett Taylor
Harrison K. Enszer	Shamblin Reynolds Melcher	Elliott Grace Wagner
Jackson Joseph Holz	Brinklee Michels	Carlton Walton
Brayden Wade Johansson	Margaret Paterson Napier	Aiden Charles Fox Woodbury
Kenley Nicole Kieschnick	Marguerite Epperson Rigdon	
Carter King	Ava Claire Romero	

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE		
MESSAGE	<i>Higher Ground: Sermon on the Mount</i> (Matt. 6:7-15)	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>Hymn of Praise</i> <i>He's Got the Whole World In His Hands</i>	Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) arr. Moses Hogan (1957-2003)
WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP		
CHORAL INTROIT	<i>If God Himself Be for Me</i>	Michael Costello
*HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>To God Be the Glory</i>	#485; Vs. 1, 2 TO GOD BE THE GLORY
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON		
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from The Apostle's Creed		
ANTHEM	<i>Psalm 103</i>	James Mulholland (b.1935)
THIRD GRADE BIBLES		
Ella Nicole Bailey	Garrett Green	Andrew Moreton
Campbell Grace Bradford	David M. Hinde	Makenna Mosk
Trey Edwards	Matthew P. Kukulja	
Clarissa Escamilla	Maxwell McKee	
OFFERTORY	<i>The Lord's Prayer</i>	Albert Hay Malotte (1895-1984)
HYMN OF PREPARATION	<i>Lord, I Want to Be a Christian</i>	#372; Vs. 1, 3 I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN
MESSAGE	<i>Higher Ground: Sermon on the Mount</i> (Matt. 6:7-15)	Alf Halvorson
*HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us</i>	#387; Vs. 1, 3 BRADBURY
POSTLUDE		
	<i>Fanfare</i>	Jacques Lemmens (1823-1881)

Musicians in this service: Charles Hausmann, conductor; Ben Schaefer, soloist; Kathryn White, organist/pianist

THE WELL: WOMEN'S SPEAKER SERIES

WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?

Join us at The Well, a semi-annual gathering for women of all ages and life stages to commune and connect. Hear from Michelle Collins, Carol Harris, Sara Kuhn, and Anji Moore as they 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.

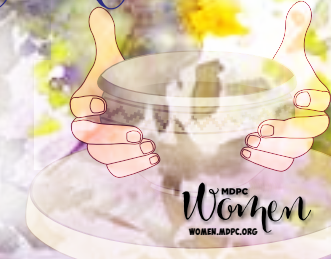


Women's Spiritual Retreat

Get away from the hustle and bustle of Houston and connect with other women and with Jesus at a beautiful ranch in Brenham, Texas.

Saturday, November 12 | 9:00 AM-5:00 PM | Cost: \$20

Register at women.mdpc.org, or contact Amanda Grace Caldwell for more information (acaldwell@mdpc.org, 713-490-0931).

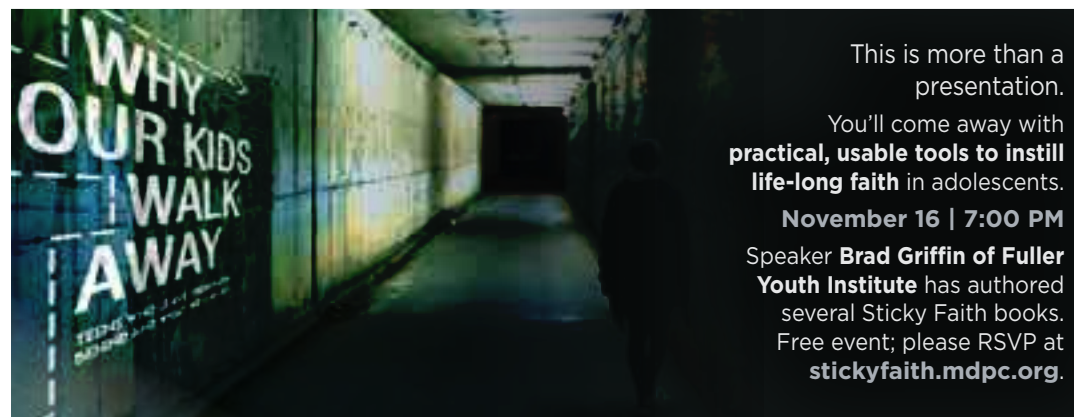




Larger than Life Houstonians

with Jim Parsons of Preservation Houston

Tuesday, October 18 • Fellowship Hall
Free Program 10:30-Noon
\$9.50 Lunch Noon
Pick up a flier for reservation details.



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 6:7-15
Pastor Alf Halvorson Preaching

This is the seventh sermon in Higher Ground, our series on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Last week we talked about alms (giving to the poor), prayer, and fasting. This week Jesus goes into more details on *prayer*, and next week Jesus will flesh out *giving* more fully. Jesus is a master of simplicity. He covers an immensely complex

issue (prayer) in just a few verses, and the Lord's Prayer is just over sixty words. More is not necessarily better here.

1. In verse 7, Jesus first says what not to do when praying. What is His advice? And what does He say the Gentiles use for their justification of using many words in prayer?
2. In verse 8, Jesus explains why the Gentiles are wrong. What is Jesus' reason why lots of words are unnecessary? Give an example from your own life as a parent or a child to corroborate Jesus' answer...
3. Jesus says in verse 3, "Pray then in this way." In other words, pray like this, use this framework, or have these areas as your model. Jesus does not say we have to use these exact words in a rote fashion. Why is that helpful advice? What happens (or doesn't happen) when you just recite the prayer without thinking or meaning anything?
4. There are two symmetrical parts to the prayer: vertical and horizontal. And three petitions (asks) in each of the two separate parts. What are the three vertical petitions in verses 9 and 10? What are the three horizontal petitions in verses 11 through 13? What is different about the two parts? What hits you about the topics covered? Is there anything that you think should have been covered but is not addressed? Why do you think it is left out?
5. There is special attention by Jesus on the topic of forgiveness. He covers the petition in verse 12, but then expands the conversation in verses 14 and 15. Why do you think this is such a big deal to Jesus? What happens when you and I don't take His advice?
6. I took a forty-year-old youth skit by Pastor Clyde Lee Herring and tried to update his initial work for today to use as an expanded illustration. As I prayed through the prayer and dialogued with God, what struck you? What stuck with you? What is God trying to get through to you about prayer in general, and about your issues in particular?
7. How might this teaching on prayer and this template of prayer change the way you pray? How might it change the way you live out your Christian faith?

