

Coordinating Team

Mauricio Chacón | Latino Ministries Pastor
Amy Delgado | Interim Outreach Director
Brandon Gaide | Young Adult Pastor
Ginny Glass | Communications & Media Director
Meliza Gómez | Contemporary Music Director
Alf Halvorson | Senior Pastor
Charles Hausmann | Traditional Music Director
Brett Hurst | Relationships Pastor
Christyn Knoop | Adult Ministries Director
Gena Kookan | Senior Leadership Ministry Coord.
Laura Miller | Youth Director
Rick Myers | Caring Ministries Pastor
Rachel Poysky | Children's Pastor
Becky Riggs | Business Administrator
Dave Steane | Executive Pastor
Kathryn White | Coordinating Music Director
Karen Winship | Human Resources Director

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

Nearly & Newly Marrieds



We are a community group comprised of young marrieds who get together every week to share life, pray for one another, and follow Jesus. We meet on Monday evenings at a home in the Memorial area. We are open to any young marrieds, engaged, or newly married couples.

Mondays, 7:00-9:00 PM | Memorial Area

Contact Andrew and Laura Miller with questions:
miller.andrewcraig@gmail.com

Christmas Eve Poinsettia Dedications • Purchase deadline is this Friday, December 16!

Visit flowers.mdpc.org to purchase Sanctuary and Chapel poinsettias (\$8.00 each) in honor or in memory of a loved one. Upon completion of the online order, you must make full payment by eCheck, or Credit or Debit Card. Please work through all the pages to reach the payment information page and submit your request.

If you prefer to make a payment by cash or "paper check," pick up a Christmas Poinsettia envelope from the Front Office or Connection Center. Poinsettias may be taken home after the Christmas morning service.

Ministry Partners 2016

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

WorkFaith Connection is a Christ-centered nonprofit helping people achieve economic self-sufficiency through job placement, job retention, and career advancement. It empowers clients to provide for themselves and their families emotionally, spiritually, and financially, stabilizing families and our community.

workfaithconnection.org

The Outreach Foundation is an independent Presbyterian global mission organization that focuses on the proclamation of the Gospel. It seeks to build the capacity of the church to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ by connecting U.S. Presbyterian congregations with global Presbyterian partners.

theoutreachfoundation.org

Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship (PFF) is privileged to help Presbyterians join in what God is doing in the world. PFF's goal is to see every ethnic group have its own church, reflecting its own cultural characteristics. It helps Presbyterian churches to have a global mission vision.

pff.net

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

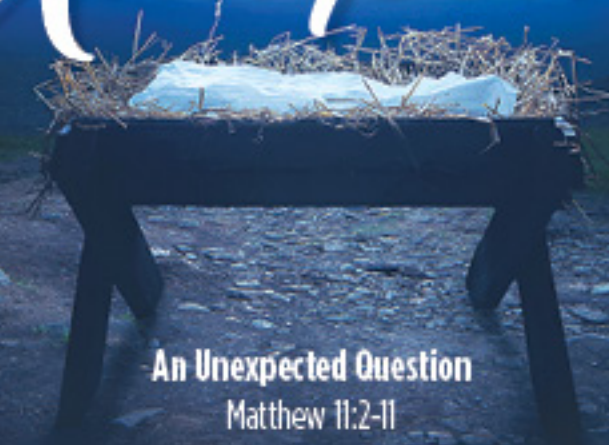
OPERATING INCOME

2016 Annual Budget	\$ 11,050,000	100%
Actual Income to Date (Dec. 4, 2016)	\$ 7,976,913	72%
Needed to Meet 2016 Budget	\$ 3,073,087	28%

Pictured: WorkFaith Connection is a Christ-centered organization encouraging disadvantaged job seekers in their hope for better futures. It equips them with the skills and beliefs to gain employment and lead healthy, productive, spiritually rich lives. WorkFaith's effectiveness is reinforced by its focus on maintaining long-term relationships with students. >



The Unexpected



An Unexpected Question
Matthew 11:2-11

Coming Up at MDPC

Roast & Toast of Brandon Gaide

Join us for chicken & waffles and to say goodbye to Brandon, in true Brandon-Gaide fashion. Bring your best impression, recollection of an awkward moment, or memory to share. We'll finish our time surrounding him and his family in prayer.
Sunday, Dec 18 | 12:30-2:00 PM | Amphitheater
PLEASE RSVP to Sarah for an accurate chicken & waffles count: stone@mdpc.org or text 832-605-8129

Baked Goods for Teachers

Surprise our Piney Point Elementary teachers and staff by donating home-baked cookies, brownies, and treats for their Christmas party. Bring items in disposable containers to the MDPC Front Office. Drop-off deadline: Noon on Weds, Dec 14 (Then join us at the school to assemble gifts at 1:00 PM.)
Contact Judy Hartman: judyhart@mdpc.org

Christmas Eve Poinsettia Dedications

\$8/dedication; details on the back of this bulletin.
Order by the Dec 16 deadline: flowers.mdpc.org

Family Mission Day

Come serve Houston with us on the MLK Day holiday! We'll bus out to work in the community.
Monday, January 16 | 9:00 AM-4:00 PM | \$10
Sign up today! register.mdpc.org

Concert Series: Bach's Christmas Oratorio

In this Christmas concert for the community, the gospel narrative comes alive in a new English edition of Bach's famous oratorio. Joyful congregational carols throughout the concert celebrate the season and Charles Hausmann's 10th anniversary at MDPC. All are welcome!
Sunday, Dec 18 | 6:00 PM | Sanctuary | Free
For Concert Series details, visit concerts.mdpc.org.

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
Dec 13 - Finding Joy and Avoiding Burn Out in Parenting Your Child with Special Needs
Contact Keri Mosk for more information: kmusk@mdpc.org, 713-490-9265

Parent Palooza Got a Facelift!

New this year: There are 3 tracks to choose from, for parents of elementary, middle school, or high school-aged children - so there's something for everyone!
Wednesdays, January 11 and 18 | 6:30-8:00 PM
Free event. Details and schedule: palooza.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 AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Christyn Knoop

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

MESSAGE *The Unexpected: An Unexpected Question (Matthew 11:2-11)*

Alf Halvorson

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

9:45 AM SERVICE

WORSHIP INVITATION

The Music Box Kids

*CALL TO WORSHIP

*MOMENT OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Rachel Poytsky

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

Dave Steane

MESSAGE *The Unexpected: An Unexpected Question (Matthew 11:2-11)*

Alf Halvorson

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Musicians in these services: Joe Garito, guitar; Meliza Gómez and Michael Middleton, worship leaders; Craig Oyster, keys; Asher Pudis, drums; Dennis Whitaker, bass

11:15 AM SERVICE

PRELUDE *O Come, All Ye Faithful and Joy to the World*

Cable/arr. White

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Dave Steane

*HYMN OF PRAISE *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Vs. 1, 6 | arr. John Rutter (b. 1945)

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OR PARDON

Laura Miller

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from The Apostles' Creed

ANTHEM *Lord of Creation, We Lift Up Our Voices (from Christmas Oratorio)*

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

OFFERTORY *Come Now With Gladness and Welcome the Morrow (from Christmas Oratorio)*

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

MESSAGE *The Unexpected: An Unexpected Question (Matthew 11:2-11)*

Alf Halvorson

HYMN OF RESPONSE *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

#9; Vs. 1 | Vesp Emmanuel

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Joy to the World*

arr. Don Hastad

Musicians in this service: John Parker, Danny Wilson, Leo Hernandez, trumpets; Oleg Chelpanov and Anastasia Sukhopara, violinists; Julio Sanchez, trumpet; Kathryn White, organist

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.

merry & bright

Music and Art Show

Wednesday, December 14 | Free Event
Begins at 6:30 PM

Celebrate the Christmas season with music and art! The evening will feature music led by Meliza Gómez. Reach art instructor Bridget Wolk will complete a painting on stage during the concert.

Open Today! Shop through
next Sunday, December 18.

Between Services | Chapel and Sanctuary Lobbies

Purchasing Mission Market Christmas cards for your friends and family can change lives. One hundred percent of the money received is sent to the MDPC ministry partner(s) of your choice, serving the needs of at-risk urban youth, homeless and food-insecure families, children living with disabilities, people without access to clean water, and children orphaned by AIDS.

Cards are available weekdays at the Front Office.

Mission Market
Christmas Cards

Kids' Meals Monthly Service Opportunity

Help us feed the nearly 2,200 preschool children Kids' Meals delivers to daily. MDPC volunteers are instrumental in providing one day's delivery per month! Please bring two loaves of white or wheat sandwich bread to the project.

Wednesday, December 14 | 5:00 PM

Contact Julie Hempel with questions:
hempeljulie@gmail.com

Holiday Worship!

Christmas Eve, December 24

Contemporary Family Service at 4:00 PM

Led by Rachel Poytsky and Alf Halvorson; nativity petting zoo in the Sanctuary Breezeway

Traditional Candlelight Services at 5:30 & 7:00 PM

Alf Halvorson preaching; seasonal music led by the MDPC Sanctuary Choir

Christmas Day, December 25

Traditional Service at 9:45 AM

Lots of Christmas carols and a brief devotional by Brett Hurst

New Year's Day, January 1

Blended Service at 9:45 AM

Dan Alkins preaching

The Unexpected

holiday.mdpc.org

MDPC concerts.mdpc.org

Concert Series

2016-2017

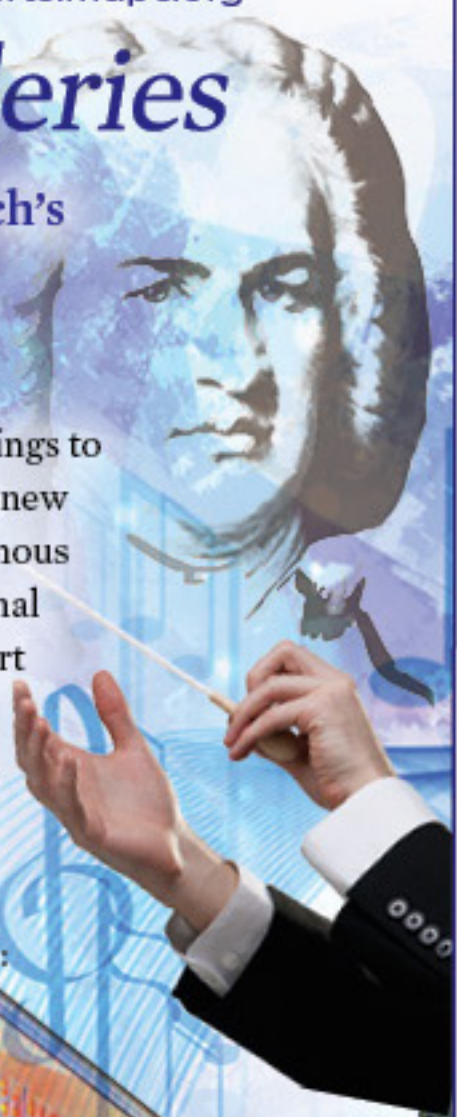
Johann Sebastian Bach's Christmas Oratorio

MDPC's Sanctuary Choir brings to life the gospel narrative in a new English edition of Bach's famous oratorio. Joyful congregational carols throughout the concert celebrate the season!

Sunday, December 18
6:00 PM | Sanctuary

Free admission.

Free childcare by reservation:
childcare@mdpc.org



FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Invite your friends and family!



MDPC

Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
11612 Memorial Drive | Houston, Texas 77024
mdpc.org | 713-782-1710

The Unexpected

An Unexpected Question

Matthew 11:2-11

This is the third in our Advent series, *The Unexpected*. Last week we looked at John the Baptist, an odd and unlikely messenger of the Savior. Now John is in prison; he is pressed by persecution and the prospect of death into doubt and uncertainty; and he asks Jesus *An Unexpected Question*.

1. In verse 2 of chapter 11 of Matthew, we find out that John is in prison. Read Matthew 14:3-12 to find out why he is incarcerated.
2. In verse 3 of chapter 11, John, through his disciples, asks Jesus a question. What is the question? Why do you think he asked it of Jesus?
3. Read Ezekiel 5:4 and Jeremiah 12:17. Based on those two verses, what did John expect the Messiah to do?
4. Jesus has John think about some other Old Testament verses: Isaiah 26:19, 29:18, 35:5-6, and 61:1-4. Read those texts plus Luke 4:18-19. Why did Jesus pick those verses over Ezekiel and Jeremiah? What do you think He was trying to explain to John, John's disciples, and us?
5. Read Matthew 11:4-6. Jesus says, "Go tell John what you hear and see." After the word "hear," you could insert Matthew chapters 5-7. After the word "see," you could insert Matthew chapters 8-10. So, as disciples, we have both Jesus' teaching to go by, as well as His actions/miracles. Why are both important? What conclusion does Jesus hope we will come to from *hearing* and *seeing*?
6. In verses 7-11 of chapter 11 of Matthew, Jesus lauds John the Baptist. What does Jesus say about John? And yet, in verse 11, He suggests that anyone born of the spirit is greater than John. How do you make sense of that part? What is Jesus getting at here?
7. I think John the Baptist was the greatest figure, according to Jesus, of the previous age. But Jesus ushers in a new age. It is like saying when automobiles were becoming popular at the beginning of the 20th century, "You are the greatest manufacturer of the horse and buggy era. But the junior mechanic in Henry Ford's auto plant is greater than you are." Have you ever thought that Jesus ushered in a new era that we still are living in today? He ushered in the Kingdom of God, which still is contested by many, but is expanding nonetheless. What does it mean for us to be citizens and ambassadors of that new Kingdom?
8. How might that reality change our focus, our allegiance, and our actions this Advent and Christmas?

